



# Fatwa of the Wahdah Islamiyah Sharia **Council regarding Guidelines for Friday** Prayers during the Covid-19 Pandemic: **An Academic litihad Perspective**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

The Covid-19 pandemic disrupted religious practices worldwide, posing significant challenges to maintaining communal worship while adhering to public health mandates. This study examines the fatwa issued by Wahdah Islamiyah, an Indonesian Islamic organization, which permitted the replacement of Friday prayers with Zuhr prayers at home during the pandemic. The fatwa demonstrates the adaptability of Islamic jurisprudence, leveraging progressive ijtihad to address unprecedented challenges. The study aims to explore the theological, jurisprudential, and methodological underpinnings of the fatwa, highlighting its alignment with magasid shari'ah (objectives of Islamic law) and its implications for contemporary Islamic thought. Using a qualitative approach, the research analyzes primary and secondary sources, including Quranic verses, Prophetic traditions, figh principles, and public health data. A multidimensional framework was employed to assess the integration of theological reasoning with interdisciplinary insights. The findings reveal that Wahdah Islamiyah's fatwa successfully balances religious obligations with public welfare by prioritizing harm prevention and public health. Grounded in classical jurisprudence, the fatwa reflects a dynamic application of Islamic law that incorporates sociological and scientific perspectives. It highlights the potential of smaller Islamic organizations to contribute to adaptive jurisprudence and demonstrates the relevance of progressive ijtihad in addressing global crises. This study contributes to the discourse on contemporary Islamic jurisprudence, offering a model for integrating traditional principles with modern realities. It underscores the need for interdisciplinary collaboration in crafting legal frameworks that respond to evolving societal challenges while preserving the integrity of Islamic law.

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academic ijtihad; Islamic jurisprudence; maqasid shariah; pandemic; public health; religion; worship

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#### INTRODUCTION

The onset of the Covid–19 pandemic in early 2020 brought unprecedented disruption to global societies, affecting health systems, economies, and cultural practices (Clemente–Suárez et al., 2021; Ibn–Mohammed et al., 2021; Tang et al., 2022). Particularly in Indonesia, the pandemic significantly altered religious observances, creating unique challenges for communal worship practices such as Friday prayers (Salat Jum'at). Traditionally conducted in mosques as an obligatory congregation, Friday prayers symbolize the core of Islamic religious life. However, government–mandated social distancing and restrictions on large gatherings necessitated reevaluation of such practices. The pandemic's effect on religious obligations not only disrupted conventional rituals but also raised pressing theological and jurisprudential questions on balancing communal religious duties with public health imperatives (Andriansyah, 2022a; Arrasya & Grayman, 2021; Nubowo, 2022; Nurhayati et al., 2022; Winarni, 2022). Against this backdrop, Islamic jurisprudence had to adapt to contemporary challenges, invoking ijtihad—independent reasoning grounded in Islamic law—to navigate uncharted terrains of religious practice during a public health crisis.

Literature on the intersection of religion and public health highlights a growing need for adaptive jurisprudence in the face of global emergencies. Several studiesunderscore the dynamism and flexibility of Islamic law to address emerging societal needs through contemporary methodologies (Elmahjub, 2019; Rohayana, 2022; Taufiki & Putra, 2022). In this regard, the concept of progressive ijtihad emerges as a critical tool in resolving issues not explicitly addressed in classical texts. Proponents like Auda (2022) emphasize the necessity of integrating religious frameworks with scientific and sociological insights to ensure that Islamic law remains relevant in modern contexts (Adinugraha et al., 2020). Furthermore, the adaptation of traditional religious practices during pandemics has been explored in comparative contexts, such as Christian and Jewish congregational adaptations (Ben-Lulu, 2021; Holleman et al., 2022; Jacobi et al., 2022; Mahiya & Murisi, 2022; Pillay, 2020), offering broader insights into how faith communities navigate similar challenges. However, Islamic-specific case studies

addressing Covid-19 remain limited (Suyadi et al., 2020; Yezli & Khan, 2020), warranting further exploration into how Muslim communities reconcile traditional practices with modern exigencies.

The central research problem revolves around reconciling the obligation of Friday prayers with the health mandates of the pandemic. Islamic law traditionally mandates Friday prayers as *fardu 'ain*, or individual obligations, which cannot be easily substituted or omitted without sufficient cause (Henkel, 2005; Muhayati et al., 2022; Roza & Tanjung, 2022). However, the extraordinary nature of the pandemic prompted scholars and Islamic organizations to explore temporary measures, such as replacing Friday prayers with Zuhr prayers at home. This solution required robust theological, social, and public health justifications to balance the objectives (maqasid) of syari'ah—protecting religion, life, and community welfare.

Existing solutions to this problem have generally relied on frameworks grounded in classical jurisprudential methods. For instance, the use of *maslahah* (public interest) and *darurah* (necessity) principles has been pivotal in Islamic legal discourse to address unprecedented challenges. Jurists like Ibnu Qayyim al-Jauziyyah have long emphasized the importance of adapting Islamic rulings to changing times, places, and circumstances, underscoring that preserving public welfare often necessitates innovative applications of Islamic law (al-Jauziyyah, 1991). The interplay between classical principles and contemporary realities forms the basis for solutions that prioritize community safety while upholding Islamic obligations.

A review of prior studies reveals significant contributions to the conceptual framework underlying this issue. Wahbah al-Zuhaili (2006) highlights the importance of multidisciplinary approaches, incorporating insights from social and health sciences into Islamic jurisprudence. These methodologies, termed as *ijtihad istislahi* (Kusumastuti et al., 2022; Sulaiman et al., 2019), employ public interest reasoning to reconcile religious practices with broader societal needs. However, the literature lacks comprehensive analyses of how these frameworks are operationalized in specific contexts, such as the Covid-19 pandemic. Notably, organizations like Wahdah Islamiyah, a smaller but influential Islamic group in Indonesia, have pioneered such approaches by issuing fatwas that address the challenges of pandemic-era worship.

Wahdah Islamiyah's fatwa on replacing Friday prayers with Zuhr prayers serves as a case study of adaptive Islamic jurisprudence in action. Drawing on Quranic verses, Prophetic traditions, and fiqh principles, the organization employs a multidimensional approach to justify this temporary measure. The fatwa integrates theological reasoning with insights from public health guidelines, reflecting an innovative model of Islamic legal adaptation. This approach aligns with recent scholarly discourse on the need for



"fresh ijtihad," as articulated by Abdullah (2019) and Auda (2022), which advocates the expansion of Islamic legal thought to incorporate interdisciplinary methodologies.

Despite these advances, gaps remain in understanding the practical implications and reception of such fatwas within diverse Muslim communities. Questions persist regarding the consistency of these rulings with broader Islamic jurisprudence, their impact on religious observance, and their potential to inform future crises. Moreover, the broader application of Wahdah Islamiyah's methodologies to other aspects of Islamic law during emergencies remains underexplored.

The present study aims to address these gaps by critically analyzing Wahdah Islamiyah's fatwa within the broader context of contemporary Islamic legal thought. By examining its underlying methodologies, contributions to adaptive jurisprudence, and alignment with magasid sharia, this research offers a comprehensive evaluation of how Islamic law responds to global emergencies. The study contributes novel insights by situating Wahdah Islamiyah's fatwa within the evolving discourse on progressive ijtihad, highlighting its implications for both theory and practice. In doing so, it seeks to bridge the gap between traditional jurisprudential frameworks and modern interdisciplinary approaches, offering a model for future adaptive responses in Islamic law.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

## The Concept and Evolution of Ijtihad in Contemporary Contexts

litihad, a cornerstone of Islamic jurisprudence, has historically been employed to address new challenges not explicitly outlined in foundational Islamic texts. Its dynamic nature allows jurists to interpret legal principles in light of changing societal circumstances. Classical scholars, including Ibnu Qayyim al-Jauziyyah, emphasized that the rulings of Islamic law (sharia) are subject to alteration based on time, place, and situational needs (al-Jauziyyah, 1991). This foundational principle underscores the adaptability of Islamic law to diverse contexts.

In contemporary settings, ijtihad is increasingly applied to address complex, multidimensional issues such as pandemics, globalization, and advancements in science and technology. Scholars have underscored the importance of an integrative approach to ijtihad that incorporates insights from social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences (Abdullah, 2015; Rafikov & Akhmetova, 2020; Shaffat, 2021). This approach, often termed progressive ijtihad, expands the scope of classical jurisprudence to include solutions that align with modern realities.

## The Role of Magasid Shariah in Adaptive Jurisprudence

The objectives of Islamic law, or magasid sharia, provide a framework for evaluating and prioritizing the outcomes of legal rulings. Protecting religion, life, intellect, lineage, and property are core objectives that guide the application of sharia principles in varied contexts. When unforeseen crises such as pandemics arise, the emphasis often shifts towards safeguarding life and community welfare, as stipulated in Quranic and Prophetic teachings.

Modern scholars advocate for utilizing maqasid sharia as a philosophical lens to adapt Islamic legal frameworks to contemporary challenges (Auda, 2022; Duderija, 2014; Nouman et al., 2021; Raquib, 2015). By prioritizing overarching objectives over literalist interpretations of legal texts, jurists can develop rulings that preserve both the spirit and the practicality of Islamic law. In the context of public health crises, this approach enables measures such as social distancing and suspension of communal religious activities to mitigate harm while upholding core religious values.

## Multidimensional Approaches in Islamic Jurisprudence

A critical development in contemporary Islamic law is the adoption of multidimensional approaches that integrate insights from various disciplines. Progressive ijthad relies on interdisciplinary methodologies to address issues that transcend traditional religious boundaries (Hamid, 2024; Maulidi, 2015; Rabbani, 2021). For example, some scholars also highlight the importance of blending theological reasoning with sociological and scientific perspectives to ensure legal rulings remain relevant and applicable in diverse contexts (Auda, 2008; Keri et al., 2022; Rofii, 2014).

The pandemic has demonstrated the need for such integrative frameworks. Scholars and organizations have turned to health science and epidemiology to inform religious rulings, highlighting the interplay between faith and empirical evidence. This collaboration reflects a shift towards holistic methodologies that accommodate both spiritual and practical considerations, ensuring the continuity of religious obligations in a manner that aligns with public health imperatives.

#### Public Health and Religious Adaptations: A Comparative Perspective

The interplay between public health and religious practices during crises has been studied extensively across faith traditions. Research on Christian and Jewish responses to the Covid-19 pandemic reveals parallel efforts to adapt communal worship practices. For example, virtual services and remote participation have emerged as alternatives to traditional gatherings, preserving community bonds while adhering to health guidelines (Andriansyah, 2022b; Bryson et al., 2020; Langer, 2021; Margolis, 2021; Oxholm et al., 2021; Parish, 2020).

In Islamic contexts, the challenge of balancing communal worship with public health has been met with innovative interpretations of religious obligations. The concept of *darurah* (necessity) has played a pivotal role in justifying temporary adjustments (Aris, 2011; Idris & Ramli, 2018; Mustofa, 2019; Napitupulu et al., 2021), such as

replacing Friday prayers with Zuhr prayers at home. These adaptations highlight the universality of religious flexibility in responding to crises while underscoring the unique methodologies employed in Islamic jurisprudence.

## Wahdah Islamiyah's Contribution to Contemporary Islamic Law

Wahdah Islamiyah, a prominent Islamic organization in Indonesia (Chaplin, 2018; Perdana & Panambang, 2019; Saddang et al., 2018; Saleh M, 2018; Tajuddin, 2013), has emerged as a key player in developing adaptive jurisprudence during the pandemic. Its fatwa on replacing Friday prayers with Zuhr prayers (Dewan Syariah Wahdah Islamiyah, 2020) exemplifies the application of progressive ijtihad within a multidimensional framework. The fatwa draws on Quranic principles, Prophetic traditions, and classical fiqh to address the unique challenges posed by Covid-19. This approach aligns with the broader discourse on *ijtihad istislahi*, which prioritizes public interest and harm reduction (Ansori, 2022; Bakar et al., 2021; Irawan et al., 2020). By incorporating insights from public health and epidemiology, Wahdah Islamiyah demonstrates the potential of Islamic law to address contemporary issues without compromising its foundational principles. The fatwa's integration of theological reasoning and scientific evidence serves as a model for future jurisprudential efforts to navigate global crises.

#### **METHOD**

## **Research Design and Approach**

This study employs a qualitative research design, focusing on library research methods to analyze the fatwa issued by Wahdah Islamiyah regarding Friday prayer guidelines during the Covid-19 pandemic. Qualitative research, as noted by Abdullah (2022), is particularly well-suited for exploring normative frameworks, theological constructs, and the dynamic interplay of religious principles with contemporary social contexts. A sociological-normative approach is applied, enabling a comprehensive understanding of how Islamic jurisprudence adapts to societal challenges, particularly within the framework of maqasid sharia (objectives of Islamic law).

### **Data Sources and Collection**

The study relies on primary and secondary sources. Primary data are derived from the official fatwa issued by Wahdah Islamiyah, as documented in its 2020 decree on pandemic worship guidelines. Secondary data include a wide range of scholarly literature on Islamic jurisprudence, interdisciplinary approaches to ijtihad, and public health responses during pandemics. Relevant Quranic verses, Prophetic traditions, and classical figh principles are also reviewed to provide theological context. Additionally,

contemporary studies on adaptive jurisprudence and multidimensional methodologies serve as crucial references to situate the fatwa within broader academic discourse.

## **Analytical Framework**

The analysis adopts a descriptive-analytical framework aimed at critically examining the theological, social, and scientific dimensions of Wahdah Islamiyah's fatwa. This method allows for an in-depth exploration of the fatwa's underlying principles and its practical implications for Muslim communities during the pandemic. By emphasizing the interplay between normative Islamic principles and contemporary scientific insights, the framework facilitates a holistic evaluation of how the fatwa aligns with magasid sharia and addresses the dual imperatives of safeguarding public health and fulfilling religious obligations.

## Normative Analysis of Ijtihad and Fatwa Development

Central to this study is the examination of *ijtihad istislahi* (public interest-based reasoning) as employed by Wahdah Islamiyah. The normative analysis focuses on how this method integrates maslahah (public interest) and *darurah* (necessity) to justify temporary adjustments in religious practices. Theoretical contributions from scholars like Ibnu Qayyim al-Jauziyyah are pivotal in understanding the adaptability of Islamic law, particularly his assertion that legal rulings must reflect changing circumstances to achieve justice and welfare (al-Jauziyyah, 1991).

## **Multidimensional Approach in Methodology**

The study highlights the role of a multidimensional approach in Wahdah Islamiyah's fatwa formulation. This approach combines theological reasoning with insights from social and health sciences, aligning with contemporary calls for interdisciplinary methodologies in Islamic jurisprudence (Abdullah, 2022). By analyzing epidemiological data, public health guidelines, and sociocultural contexts, the fatwa reflects a comprehensive response to the pandemic's unique challenges. The analysis evaluates how this integration enhances the fatwa's credibility and effectiveness in addressing both spiritual and practical concerns.

## **Validity and Reliability**

To ensure the validity and reliability of the analysis, the study incorporates cross-references to established jurisprudential principles and contemporary scholarly discourse. The inclusion of diverse perspectives—from classical Islamic texts to modern scientific research—reinforces the robustness of the conclusions drawn. Furthermore, the study critically assesses the coherence of Wahdah Islamiyah's fatwa with the overarching principles of maqasid sharia, ensuring that the findings align with both theoretical and practical dimensions of Islamic law.

## **Comparative Analysis**

A comparative dimension is incorporated to situate Wahdah Islamiyah's fatwa within the broader landscape of Islamic responses to the pandemic. This includes examining rulings from other Islamic organizations and comparing methodologies employed to address similar challenges. By juxtaposing these approaches, the study identifies unique contributions and potential limitations in Wahdah Islamiyah's framework, offering insights into its applicability across diverse Muslim contexts.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

## A Brief History of Wahdah Islamiyah

The establishment of Wahdah Islamiyah traces its roots back to the complex socio-political challenges faced by Indonesian Muslims during the 1980s. This period witnessed significant political tensions within the Muslim community, prompting a group of young Muslim activists in Makassar to initially engage in individual da'wah (Islamic proselytizing) activities. Over time, these efforts evolved into collective da'wah initiatives aimed at societal transformation amidst the prevailing political challenges faced by religious communities. These activities took place during an era when Pancasila was enforced as the sole ideological foundation for all Islamic organizations under Indonesia's New Order regime. The focus of these da'wah activities was centered on mosques, serving as the primary hubs for religious outreach (Jurdi, 2007).

Wahdah Islamiyah was officially established on April 14, 2002, in Makassar. Prior to adopting its current name, it was known as Yayasan Fathul Mu'in, founded on June 18, 1988. Over time, the organization underwent several name changes: it became Yayasan Wahdah Islamiyah (YWI) in 1998 and later Yayasan Pesantren Wahdah Islamiyah (YPWI) in 2000. During its second General Assembly, the name was officially changed to Wahdah Islamiyah (Abbas & Darmawijaya, 2022; Samsuddin et al., 2020).

As an Islamic mass organization, Wahdah Islamiyah adheres to the principles of Ahlussunnah wal Jama'ah in its practices. Its members align themselves with the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad, adhering to his teachings both outwardly and inwardly, in words and deeds. Despite its commitment to these principles, Wahdah Islamiyah has faced criticism and negative perceptions from segments of society, often being labeled as a puritanical or radical Islamic movement. These challenges have been met with patience by its members, who view such perceptions as opportunities to strengthen their resolve in promoting Islamic values.

Wahdah Islamiyah remains dedicated to addressing societal issues through its focus on education, social welfare, economic development, and health. Over time,

these efforts have helped the organization gain recognition as an Islamic mass organization that engages with contemporary societal challenges.

## Overview of Wahdah Islamiyah's Fatwa

On March 19, 2020, Wahdah Islamiyah issued a fatwa in the form of a Decree and Appeal from its Sharia Council. The fatwa provided guidelines on worship practices and responses to the Covid-19 pandemic, grounded in the Quran, Prophetic traditions (hadith), and principles of Islamic jurisprudence (figh) (Dewan Syariah Wahdah Islamiyah, 2020).

The first basis for the fatwa refers to the Quranic command to exercise caution against calamities, including contagious diseases, as emphasized in Surah Al-Hadid (57:22):

"No disaster strikes upon the earth or among yourselves except that it is in a register before We bring it into being. Indeed, that, for Allah, is easy."

The second basis derives from a hadith of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), narrated by Bukhari from Usamah bin Zaid: "If you hear of an outbreak of plague in a land, do not enter it; and if it occurs in a land where you are, do not leave it."

The third foundation incorporates principles of figh:

- 1. "Difficulty brings ease" (al-mashaggah tajlib al-taysir).
- 2. "Harm must be prevented before benefit is sought" (dar' al-mafasid muqaddam 'ala jalb al-masalih).
- 3. "What is permitted in emergencies is determined by the extent of the necessity" (ma ubih lil-darurat yuqaddar biqadariha).

Regarding Friday prayers, the fatwa permitted their replacement with *Dhuhr* prayers during the pandemic, emphasizing *maslahah* (public welfare) as the core objective of Islamic law. This aligns with the views of Ibn Qayyim in *I'lam Al-Muwaqi'in*: "The Sharia is based on the welfare of the people."

The fatwa reflects ijtihad istislahi, prioritizing public welfare and harm prevention through methodologies like maslahah mursalah (unrestricted public welfare) and sadd al-dhara'i (blocking harmful means). This comprehensive approach ensured contextual relevance for guiding worship practices during the pandemic.

Wahdah Islamiyah employs a multidimensional methodology in formulating its fatwa. This approach integrates traditional Islamic jurisprudence with contemporary insights from public health and social sciences. By consulting epidemiological data and adhering to government health directives, the organization demonstrates the adaptability of Islamic law to modern challenges. This interdisciplinary methodology

reflects progressive ijtihad, where religious rulings are informed by diverse fields of knowledge to achieve comprehensive solutions.

The fatwa significantly impacted religious practices during the pandemic, particularly among Muslim communities affiliated with Wahdah Islamiyah. By permitting Zuhr prayers at home, the ruling ensured that religious obligations were not entirely suspended while minimizing the risk of viral transmission. This approach balanced individual religious duties with collective welfare, aligning with the principle of proportionality in Islamic law.

The fatwa also provided detailed guidelines for its implementation, including:

- Encouraging community members to prioritize safety and adhere to health protocols.
- Recommending virtual platforms for religious sermons and educational activities to maintain spiritual engagement.
- Advising individuals to resume normal Friday prayers once public health conditions improved.

These practical measures reflect the fatwa's sensitivity to both spiritual needs and public health requirements, ensuring its relevance and applicability.

## **Comparative Analysis with Other Islamic Organizations**

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted religious practices worldwide, and Indonesia, with its diverse Islamic organizations, has seen varied responses to the situation, particularly regarding Friday prayers. Two of the most prominent Islamic organizations in Indonesia, Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) and Muhammadiyah, have articulated their views and guidelines concerning the performance of Friday prayers during the pandemic, reflecting their theological interpretations and social responsibilities.

Nahdlatul Ulama, as the largest Islamic organization in Indonesia, has emphasized the importance of adhering to health protocols while maintaining religious obligations. During the pandemic, NU leaders issued guidelines that allowed for the continuation of Friday prayers under strict health measures, such as physical distancing and the use of masks. This approach was informed by the Indonesian Ulama Council (MUI), which provided fatwas that supported the conditional resumption of congregational prayers, including Friday prayers, as long as the spread of COVID-19 was controlled in specific areas (Efrinaldi, 2022; Nurhayati & Nasution, 2020; Rahvy & Ridlo, 2021). The NU's response highlighted a balance between maintaining religious practices and ensuring the safety of the community, reflecting a pragmatic approach to worship during a health crisis.

Conversely, Muhammadiyah took a more stringent stance, advocating for the suspension of Friday prayers in favor of performing them at home. This organization

issued a fatwa that allowed for the replacement of Friday prayers with Zuhr prayers, emphasizing the need for public health and safety over traditional practices (Afkarina, 2022). Muhammadiyah's approach was rooted in a strong commitment to the preservation of life, aligning with Islamic teachings that prioritize health and well-being. Their guidelines also included recommendations for online religious activities and virtual gatherings, which reflected an adaptation to the circumstances imposed by the pandemic (Abidin, 2020).

The differing responses of these organizations can be attributed to their theological underpinnings and historical contexts. NU, with its traditionalist orientation, tends to emphasize the communal aspects of worship, which is integral to its identity. Thus, while it supported health protocols, it also sought to maintain a connection among congregants through modified practices (Riyanta et al., 2022; Setiawan et al., 2022). In contrast, Muhammadiyah's reformist perspective often prioritizes rationality and public health, leading to a more cautious approach that favored individual worship over communal gatherings during the pandemic (Abidin, 2020; Afkarina, 2022).

Public perception and adherence to these guidelines varied widely among the Muslim community in Indonesia. Some individuals expressed resistance to the suspension of Friday prayers, viewing it as an infringement on their religious rights. This resistance was particularly evident in areas where traditional practices are deeply ingrained (Fauzi et al., 2021; Sarnoto & Hayatina, 2021). Studies indicated that many worshippers continued to gather for Friday prayers despite official recommendations, reflecting a complex interplay between faith, community, and public health (Nurrahmi et al., 2022).

Moreover, the role of local government and health authorities in enforcing these guidelines was crucial. In many instances, local leaders collaborated with religious organizations to disseminate information about COVID-19 and to encourage compliance with health protocols during religious gatherings (Noor & Saefulloh, 2023; Wibowo et al., 2023). This collaboration was essential in fostering a sense of community responsibility and collective action against the pandemic, as religious leaders often hold significant influence over their congregations.

The pandemic also prompted a reevaluation of religious practices beyond Friday prayers. Both NU and Muhammadiyah engaged in extensive community outreach, providing education on health protocols and distributing essential supplies such as masks and sanitizers (Abbasi et al., 2021; Abidin, 2020). These efforts were part of a broader strategy to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the community while reinforcing the social responsibility of religious organizations in times of crisis.

The responses of Nahdlatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic reflect their distinct theological perspectives and social

responsibilities. While NU sought to adapt traditional practices to align with health protocols, Muhammadiyah emphasized the necessity of prioritizing public health over communal worship. The varied responses highlight the complexities of religious observance during a global health crisis and the critical role of religious organizations in guiding their communities through such unprecedented challenges.

Above comparative analysis highlights the unique features of Wahdah Islamiyah's fatwa. While many Islamic organizations issued similar rulings during the pandemic, Wahdah Islamiyah's emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration and its focus on maqasid shari'ah distinguish its approach. Wahdah Islamiyah's explicit integration of scientific evidence and its use of progressive ijtihad set a precedent for adaptive jurisprudence. This distinction underscores the organization's commitment to bridging traditional Islamic principles with modern realities. It also highlights the potential for smaller Islamic organizations to influence broader jurisprudential discourse through innovative methodologies.

#### CONCLUSION

This study examines the fatwa issued by Wahdah Islamiyah during the Covid-19 pandemic, which allowed replacing Friday prayers with Zuhr prayers at home. The fatwa demonstrates how Islamic jurisprudence can adapt to unprecedented challenges by integrating traditional principles with contemporary methodologies. Grounded in Quranic and Hadith-based guidance, as well as figh maxims, the fatwa prioritizes public welfare and harm prevention, aligning with the objectives of Islamic law (maqasid sharia).

By employing a multidimensional approach that incorporates public health data and sociological insights, Wahdah Islamiyah exemplifies the potential of progressive ijtihad. This method ensures that religious obligations remain relevant in modern contexts while addressing pressing societal concerns. The fatwa's implications extend beyond the pandemic, offering a framework for navigating future crises.

The study contributes to the existing body of knowledge by highlighting the capacity of smaller Islamic organizations to influence jurisprudential discourse through innovative methodologies. It underscores the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in contemporary Islamic law and sets a precedent for adaptive jurisprudence that balances spiritual and practical needs.

## **Limitations of the Study**

While this study provides a comprehensive analysis of Wahdah Islamiyah's fatwa, several limitations must be acknowledged. First, the reliance on textual and theoretical analysis may not fully capture the lived experiences of Muslim communities that

implemented the fatwa. Empirical data on its reception and effectiveness in mitigating pandemic-related risks could provide valuable insights.

Second, the study's focus on a single organization limits its generalizability. Wahdah Islamiyah's methodologies, while innovative, may not reflect the broader spectrum of Islamic jurisprudence in Indonesia or globally. Including perspectives from other Islamic organizations could offer a more holistic understanding of adaptive jurisprudence during the pandemic.

Lastly, the study does not explore long-term impacts of the fatwa on religious practices. Future research could examine whether temporary adjustments during crises influence permanent changes in worship patterns or jurisprudential approaches.

#### **Recommendations for Future Research**

Future studies could address the limitations identified by incorporating empirical data to evaluate the fatwa's implementation and impact on Muslim communities. Surveys, interviews, and case studies could provide nuanced insights into the practical outcomes of such rulings.

Additionally, comparative analyses of fatwas issued by different Islamic organizations could offer a broader perspective on how Islamic law adapts to global crises. This approach would help identify best practices and common challenges in progressive ijtihad.

Exploring the long-term implications of pandemic-era jurisprudence could also be valuable. Investigating whether temporary adjustments lead to lasting changes in Islamic legal thought or worship practices could shed light on the evolving nature of Islamic jurisprudence.

Finally, interdisciplinary studies that bridge Islamic law, public health, and sociology could further enhance the understanding of how faith-based communities navigate complex crises. Such research would contribute to a more comprehensive framework for adaptive jurisprudence in an increasingly interconnected world.

#### **Author Contributions**

Conceptualization: S.N.M. & Y.; Data curation: S.N.M. & Y.; Formal analysis: S.N.M. & Y.; Funding acquisition: S.N.M. & Y.; Investigation: S.N.M. & Y.; Methodology: S.N.M. & Y.; Project administration: S.N.M. & Y.; Resources: S.N.M. & Y.; Software: S.N.M. & Y.; Supervision: S.N.M. & Y.; Validation: S.N.M. & Y.; Visualization: S.N.M. & Y.; Writing – original draft: S.N.M. & Y.; Writing – review & editing: S.N.M. & Y. All the authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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#### **Institutional Review Board Statement**

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#### **Informed Consent Statement**

Informed consent was not required for this study.

## **Data Availability Statement**

The data presented in this study are available upon request from the corresponding author. The data are not publicly available because of the institution's policies.

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#### **Conflicts of Interest**

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

# Declaration of Generative AI and AI-Assisted Technologies in the Writing Process

During the preparation of this work the authors used ChatGPT, DeepL, Grammarly, and PaperPal in order to translate from Bahasa Indonesia into American English, and to improve clarity of the language and readability of the article. After using these tools, the authors reviewed and edited the content as needed and take full responsibility for the content of the published article.

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