



UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN DUTA WACANA  
FAKULTAS TEOLOGI

**Online International Conference on Theology**

## **“Hope in Hopelessness: Theological Responses in Times of Despair”**

**Faculty of Theology, Universitas Kristen Duta Wacana, Indonesia**

**August 3-5, 2026**

### **Call for Papers**

Many people are experiencing uncertainty, disappointment, and difficulties in this current global era. Distortion of truth, ecological damage, dehumanization, violence, and challenges in digital communications are causing a crisis of trust and heightened anxiety in various parts of life. Caught between hope and hopelessness, we navigate the space in-between, aiming for a better life despite our awareness that we struggle against a host of obstacles. Though tempted to despair, we are called to build resistance and resilience in imagining alternative futures, especially when false hope is promulgated by the religious traditions we have encountered, traditions to which we may belong.

This international conference aims to engage multiple perspectives, including from interfaith contexts, on how theology is responding to the current global challenges. The purpose is to reaffirm the beauty of difference by engaging, from an interdisciplinary standpoint, the possibility of having hope in times of despair. Accordingly, the conference provides space for cross-contextual conversations to strengthen theological discourse in today’s context of hopelessness. It is open to participants from various fields who have contributed to global engagements on the subject of “hope in hopelessness” through related writings. Space is granted for both appreciation and critical insight. With this understanding, three questions will be explored:



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- What critical perspectives in theology vis-à-vis “hope in hopelessness” are being articulated today?
- How can resistance and resilience be built into the space that opens between hope and hopelessness in the dynamics of their relation?
- To what extent can reflections on “hope in hopelessness” open up spaces for actionable response in times of despair?

## Registration

Participation in this international seminar is FREE OF CHARGE. Registration period: January 1 – July 1, 2026

## Keynote Speakers

### Day 1 - August 3, 2026

#### Session 1

- Prof. Sharon Bong, Ph.D.  
Professor of Gender Studies  
Monash University, Malaysia
- Dr. Grant Nixon  
Assistant Professor of Contemporary Theology  
Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Ekumene, Indonesia

### Day 2 - August 4, 2026

#### Session 2

- Prof. Boyung Lee, Ph.D.  
Professor of Practical Theology  
Ilf School of Theology, USA
- Prof. Septemmy E. Lakawa, Th.D.  
Professor of Mission Studies and Trauma Theology  
Sekolah Tinggi Filsafat Teologi Jakarta, Indonesia
- Mai-Anh Le Tran, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Religious Education and Practical Theology  
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, USA



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## Day 3 - August 5, 2026

### Session 3

- Prof. Robert Setio, Ph.D.  
Professor of Biblical Hermeneutics  
Universitas Kristen Duta Wacana  
Indonesia
- Ekaputra Tupamahu, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of New Testament  
Portland Seminary and George Fox University  
USA

### Session 4

- Prof. Fatimah Husein, Ph.D.  
Professor of Interreligious Dialogue, Religion, and Social Media  
Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Kalijaga  
Indonesia
- Anjeline Okola, M.A.  
Programme Coordinator of Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network  
World Council of Churches  
Kenya

### **Participants**

Scholars, students, clergy, interfaith dialogue practitioners, researchers, and anyone interested in the theme “Hope in Hopelessness: Theological Responses in Times of Despair.”

### **Expected Outputs**

- Conference Proceedings
- Selected papers that meet the criteria will be facilitated for publication in GEMA THEOLOGIKA (a SINTA-indexed journal). However, authors of selected papers are still required to follow the journal’s publication procedures.



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## Proposal

Please submit your proposal, including the requested information outlined in the following table, to: <https://bit.ly/AbstractSubmission-TheologyUKDW>

Name/s	
Affiliation/s	
Location/s	
Email/s	
Title of Paper	
Abstract (150-200 words)	

### Originality & Exclusivity:

- Submissions must be original work. By submitting an abstract to this conference, you affirm that it is not currently under review for publication, nor has it been accepted for presentation at any other conference at the time of your submission.
- The author/s of the abstract must be the same as the author/s and presenter/s of the paper

### Abstract Content:

We strongly encourage abstracts to include a clear and concise thesis statement or central research argument. Your abstract should communicate the core claim, purpose, or question your presentation will address.

### Our Contact

WhatsApp : Martha (+62 812-3864-8425)

Email : [internationalconference\\_theology@staff.ukdw.ac.id](mailto:internationalconference_theology@staff.ukdw.ac.id)

## **Paper Submissions**

Full paper length : 5,000-8,000 words  
Format : Chicago Manual of Style, 17th Edition  
Language : English

## **Timeline**

February 28, 2026 : Closing date for call of abstracts  
March 15, 2026 : Announcement of selected abstracts  
April 15 – June 30, 2026 : Full paper submissions  
August 3-5, 2026 : Conference

### **Day 1 – Monday, August 3, 2026 (Jakarta Time, GMT+7)**

16:30 – 17:00 Opening Zoom  
17:00 – 17:30 Opening Ceremony  
17:30 – 18:30 Keynote Speaker 1, 2  
18:30 – 19:00 Discussion  
19:00 – 19:30 Break/Dinner  
19:30 – 21:00 Parallel Session 1 (2/3 Groups, each consisting of a maximum of 3 speakers)  
21:00 – Closing (announcement, etc.)

### **Day 2 – Tuesday, August 4, 2026 (Jakarta Time, GMT+7)**

07:30 – 08:00 Opening Zoom  
08:00 – 09:30 Keynote Speaker 3, 4, and 5  
09:30 – 10:00 Discussion  
10:00 – 10:30 Break  
10:30 – 12:00 Parallel Session 2 (2/3 Groups, each consisting of a maximum of 3 speakers)  
12:00 – 13:00 Break/Lunch  
13:00 – 14:30 Parallel Session 3 (2/3 Groups, each consisting of a maximum of 3 speakers)  
14:30 – Closing (announcement, etc.)



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**Day 3 – Wednesday, August 5, 2026 (Jakarta Time, GMT+7)**

07:30 – 08:00 Opening Zoom

08:00 – 09:00 Keynote Speaker 6, 7

09:00 – 09:30 Discussion

09:30 – 10:00 Break

10:00 – 11:00 Keynote Speaker 8, 9

11:00 – 11:30 Discussion

11:30 – 12:30 Break/Lunch

12:30 – 14:00 Parallel Session 4 (2/3 Groups, each consisting of a maximum of 3 speakers)

14:00 – Closing Ceremony



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