



INDONESIA  
**JAKARTA'S  
GIRLS**  
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Kids at the Jakarta MRT station, a fast external metro system that opened a year ago to reduce traffic congestion in Jakarta.

## **INDONESIA - JAKARTA'S GIRLS**

### **From activism to radicalisation, the battle of Indonesian young women**

- ▶ Indonesia is the fourth most populated country on the planet and 87% of the population is of Islamic faith.
- ▶ Radical movements are gaining in popularity and strength, including among young people.
- ▶ Islamic extremists are threatening religious freedoms as well as, above all, the rights of women.
- ▶ A mosaic of stories of young Jakarta women: NGO activists, journalists, writers, musicians, radicalised women and fashion influencers.
- ▶ The politics plays out on Instagram: both for Islamic proselytism, as well as the fight for civil rights.

#GENERALNEWS #GENDER #RELIGION #LIFESTYLE #EDUCATION



Kathrin Honesta, illustrator.



The music group Zirah, composed exclusively of young women. A rarity in Indonesia.



Muslim students during exercises for the celebrations to mark the Prophet's birthday, November 9th.



Young women and men playing basketball in the immense Merdeka Square located in the centre of Jakarta.

Indonesia is the fourth most populated country on the planet, with a population of over 270 million people. Home to hundreds of ethnic groups spread across the thousands of volcanic islands, it's the nation with the highest number of Muslims in the world: 87% of the population is of Islamic faith.

Over the last twenty years, radical movements have put down strong roots within Indonesian society and are currently gaining in popularity and strength, including among young people. This was underlined by a survey carried out in 2019 by the Alvara research agency, according to which Indonesians between 14 and 29 years old hold much more extreme views and positions compared to the older sections of the country's population. A situation which doesn't just pose a threat to the religious freedoms of minority religions, but also for those of women: conservative Muslims believe the woman's role is to look after the family and, with the help of Islamist legislators, they are impeding their emancipation in a variety of ways, despite the battles being fought by feminist movements.

This reportage recounts how many young women (Muslim or otherwise) are experiencing the emergence of these radical movements, the threats they are being subjected to and what they're doing to fight back. Stories of women activists fighting for their rights by becoming members of NGOs, of women carrying out cultural professions (journalists, writers, musicians) and making their contribution towards a liberal and open society, and of others who have embraced the radical trend and turned it to their advantage, like the Islamic fashion influencers, for example.

A mosaic of testimonies to understand what's really happening in Indonesia and the consequences that the emergence of radicalism might bring to a country whose population is both enormous and young at the same time, a country where Instagram is a key platform for both Islamic proselytism and the fight for civil rights.



Students at SSR Jakarta (School of Sound Recording) in their dorms, 105 young men and women from all over Indonesia took an intensive animation course funded by the government (including travel and accommodation) for a month.



A punk music concert in Jakarta.



Ancol beach, Jakarta.



A music concert on the top floor of the Rossi Music, a historical rehearsal room in Jakarta.



Elma and Nikita, journalists for the online feminist magazine *Magdalene*.



Sandra Robles, Director of SSR Jakarta (School of Sound Recording). The courses offered include: sound design and engineering and creative media.



SSR Jakarta (School of Sound Recording), the courses offered include: sound design and engineering and creative media.



Infinity Mirrored Room at Museum Macan, Jakarta.



Students in Merdeka Square.



Abigail Limuria, Co-Founder and Co-Writer of *Lalita*, a book that celebrates and highlights the lives of Indonesian women.



A student at SSR Jakarta (School of Sound Recording) during the final exams of the intensive animation course.



Journalists from the editorial staff of the weekly magazine *Tempo*, which was closed while the Suharto regime was in power.



Female students at SSR Jakarta (School of Sound Recording) during the final exams of the intensive animation course.



Friends on the Jakarta waterfront: Ancol beach.



A music concert on the top floor of the Rossi Music, a historical rehearsal room in Jakarta.



Rika, activist, has launched a campaign against harassment on public transport and in public places.



M Bloc Space, a new space dedicated to culture and events in south Jakarta, the "cool" zone.



A couple on their engagement day.

POST PICKS

POST

A city  
sn't a city  
without  
independent  
bookshops."

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