

## ABSTRACT

Gender inequality is one of the important issues that occur in America in various aspects, one of them being the religious aspect. Islam is a fast-growing religion in America and one of the religions that have real gender inequality issues. Muslim women in America not only accept different treatment in society due to religious background but also to racial background. The emergence of Amina Wadud, a lady imam with an African-American background, brought a new thought about the status of women in Islam.

This study aims to reveal the thoughts and opinions of Amina Wadud that prompted her action to become a lady imam in America and the challenges faced by her when she fought for justice for Muslim women. This research is an American post-nationalist approach with liberal feminism theory by Rosemarie Tong. The method used in this study is a qualitative method with primary data sources from the book *Qur'an and Women: Re-reading the Sacred Text from a Woman's Perspective* by Amina Wadud and secondary data sources from books, theses, articles, and online sources.

First, the results of this study are Amina Wadud's background as an African-American woman who is considered a second class in society affects her mindset to fight for women's rights in Islam which is not consistent with the Qur'an. Amina Wadud argues that every human being has the same rights regardless of gender. Amina Wadud re-interpreted the Qur'an and gave the equality of women and men in her interpretations with the hermeneutic method. Second, Amina Wadud experienced strong rejection from the Muslim community in America when she became an *imam* in a mixed congregation Friday prayer. This rejection did not restrain her determination to keep fighting for equality in Islam.

**Keywords:** gender equality, Islam, Amina Wadud, lady imam