



Safeguarding Young Lives: The Critical Role of Government in Addressing Sexual Violence Against Children in Indonesia

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Abstract

Sexual violence against children is an urgent issue that has become a global concern, including in Indonesia. Although the Indonesian government has issued various policies and regulations to address this issue, implementing the policies and regulations still faces significant obstacles. These include the establishment of a Regional Technical Service Unit for the Protection of Women and Children (UPTD PPA), training programs for relevant institutions, and educational campaigns for the prevention of sexual violence against children. However, the prevalence of sexual violence against children remains alarmingly high, with over 11,000 cases reported in 2022. The main factors contributing to the high rate of child sexual abuse are weak law enforcement, lack of coordination between institutions, and cultural barriers that hinder understanding and education about child protection. Additionally, resistance to implementing the Child Protection Law highlights the gap between policy formulation and practical law enforcement. In order to minimize the incidence of sexual violence against children, this study emphasizes the necessity of greater collaboration among the society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, and the government. The research further highlights the need to raise awareness of the significance of children's rights and sexual violence prevention. Key recommendations include strengthening the implementation of the policies and regulations, improving law enforcement, and enhancing the capacity of law enforcement institutions in order for child protection policies to be implemented more effectively and efficiently.

Keywords: Sexual Violence Against Children, Child Protection Policy, Child Protection Law, Law Enforcement, UPTD PPA



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INTRODUCTION

Children are one of the most anticipated gifts for many people. They are the ones who will replace our role in the world because they are the next generation of families and countries. Protecting children should be the responsibility of all parties. Constitutionally, it may be the state's duty, but it is morally obligatory to anyone. In order for children to become excellent and competitive, human resources, protection, and supervision from the entire society are required. According to UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) definition, a child is an individual between the ages of 0 and 18.¹ As a state of law, every country, especially Indonesia, needs to ensure and protect the freedoms of individuals and children. From the moment of their birth, individuals are entitled to their human rights. The Convention on the Rights of the Child identifies four primary pillars of children's rights: the right to life, the right to protection, the right to grow and develop, and the right to participate. These rights are grounded in the principle of non-discrimination, and every decision must prioritize the best interests of the

¹ United Nations. (n.d.). Convention on the rights of the child, Part 1 Article 1. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child> (Accessed on 20 November 2024).



child.² "Every child has the right to live, grow up, and develop as well as the right to protection from violence or discrimination," according to Article 28B, paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution. In Indonesia, sexual violence against children remains a significant challenge, the cases continue to surface, highlighting gaps in prevention, protection, and law enforcement. Children, as vulnerable members of society, require comprehensive protection that involves both preventive measures and immediate intervention when abuse occurs. Moreover, children are still in a period of physical and mental growth, and the occurrence of sexual violence on them will have a severe psychological impact on their growth and development. Safeguarding children's rights is a moral and legal obligation of Indonesia as it is a state of the rule of law. Enacting and enforcing laws in support of the victims ensures that the perpetrators are held accountable. The necessary act of government intervention to provide victims with the care, rehabilitation, and stability needed to head and reintegrate into society.

Children are very vulnerable to being targeted by society, making it very easy for them to become victims of violence, exploitation, or neglect, which is a violation of their rights. Sexual violence is one of the most familiar examples of human rights violations against children. Children are frequently the targets of sexual violence for many reasons, including:

1. Children are weaker and more defenseless.
2. Morality in society.
3. Parents' awareness and control over preventing crimes against children remain poor.³

Sexual violence can be classified as sexual harassment. The term "sexual harassment" was coined in 1970 and came from a variety of interrelated fields, including psychology and law.⁴ Sexual violence is a general term used to describe any unwanted sexual activity and includes any act of violence, coercion, or manipulation, regardless of the relationship with the victim. According to ECPAT (End Child Prostitution in Asia Tourism) International, Sexual violence against children is defined as a relationship or interaction between a child and an older or more cognitively developed individual, such as an adult, sibling, or stranger, in which the child is used as a means of gratifying the sexual desires of the perpetrator.⁵ Another name for sexual violence against children is child abuse. In many instances, child sexual abuse frequently go unreported. The case tends to remain kept a secret, and neither both the perpetrator nor the victim ever discusses it,⁶ even the victims are threatened to keep quiet. In order to build a qualified and empowered generation and dismiss concerns about future generations being lost, children must be encouraged to be eager and willing to learn. Unfortunately, children do not have a safe place in this world, even where they are supposed to explore and learn about the world, as sexual violence could happen anytime and anywhere. Sexual violence can be excessively traumatizing to both children and adults.

According to the Women and Children Protection Online Information System (SIMFONI PPA), sexual violence is the most prevalent kind of violence that children in Indonesia are likely to face in 2024, and the number of occurrences of sexual violence against children is rising

² UNICEF. (n.d.). Setiap anak berhak. <https://www.unicef.org/indonesia/id/setiap-anak-berhak> (Accessed on 16 october 2024).

³ Disemy Humaria B, dkk, "Kekerasan Seksual Pada Anak: Telaah Relasi Pelaku Korban dan Kerentanan Pada Anak", Jurnal Psikoislamika, Volume 12, Issue 2, 2015, p. 5. <https://doi.org/10.18860/psi.v12i2.6398>

⁴ Young, J. L., & Hegarty, P. (2019). Reasonable Men: Sexual Harassment and Norms of Conduct in Social Psychology Feminism and Psychology, 29(4), 453–474. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0959353519855746>

⁵ Naebklang, M. (n.d.). Tanya & jawab tentang eksploitasi seksual komersial anak (Ramlan, Trans.; Irwanto, Ed., p. 17). 328 Phayathai Road, Bangkok 10400, Thailand.

⁶ Mariyona, K. (2022). Upaya Pencegahan Dampak Kekerasan Seksual Terhadap Remaja Putri Usia 13-15 Tahun di SMPS PSM. Human Care Journal, 7(2), 425-429.



drastically—each year with the total victims of sexual assault on children in 2024 will reach 7,623 cases. This number was followed by physical violence with 3,039 cases, psychological violence with 3,019 cases, neglect with 911 cases, exploitation with 169 cases, and trafficking with 91 cases.⁷ The Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) received 1,193 reports of violations against child protection throughout 2024 until June. The highest cases of child-specific protection are 116 cases of children who are victims of sexual violence, and many other cases are not reported.⁸ Given this issue, the government, as a vital policymaker and law enforcer, plays a crucial role in taking action to address sexual violence within society, mainly due to the increasing number of sexual violence against children cases. The efforts taken by the government to combat sexual violence involve implementing several measures to reduce and combat sexual violence, and implementing laws governing sexual violence, which provide a legal framework for safeguarding children's rights and well-being. This law emphasizes the state's responsibility to ensure protection from various forms of violence, including sexual violence, but their implementation often remains suboptimal. This underscores the necessity for tighter oversight of the efficacy of current regulations and more concerted initiatives. The rise in sexual violence is evidenced by the numerous new cases that continue to emerge. It shows that children, even in schools, homes, and anywhere, still are not safe. This makes children unable to develop in the appropriate environment. This unrest should encourage the government and the state to take a much better role and implement the applicable laws properly.

Legal Problem Statement

Based on the background above, the problems that will be discussed in this paper:

1. What are the current policies and measures implemented by the government to address sexual violence against children in Indonesia?
2. How effective are the existing government measures in reducing incidents of sexual violence against children in Indonesia?

RESEARCH METHODS

This paper uses a normative research method, a research with an approach based on legal materials. Library materials, legal concepts, and relevant laws and regulations which are used as the legal basis for child protection are examined. This study uses secondary data from a variety of sources, including reports, rules, documentation, and previous research discoveries. This research focuses more on the case approach and the statutory approach. All laws and regulations that are pertinent to the legal issues as part of the discussion are reviewed in order to implement the statutory approach. To apply the case approach, cases involving sexual violence against children are examined.

DISCUSSION AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

The current policies and measures implemented by the government to address sexual violence against children in Indonesia

⁷ GoodStats, "Kekerasan seksual pada anak jadi ancaman besar di 2024." <https://data.goodstats.id/statistic/kekerasan-seksual-pada-anak-jadi-ancaman-besar-di-2024->FLZNL#:~:text=Jumlah%20korban%20kekerasan%20seksual%20terhadap%20anak%20di%20tahun,dengan%20169%20kasus%20dan%20trafficking%20sebanyak%2091%20kasus. (Accessed on 16 October 2024).

⁸ Medcom.id. (2024, Juli 24). KPAI terima 1.193 laporan pelanggaran terhadap perlindungan anak sepanjang 2024. <https://www.medcom.id/pendidikan/news-pendidikan/8N00yAYK-kpai-terima-1-193-laporan-pelanggaran-terhadap-perindungan-anak-sepanjang-2024> (Accessed on 16 October 2024).



The role of government in the development of the nation and the country is indispensable. The government's function is to serve the society without the intention of making a profit. Its main priority is to meet the needs of society rather than bureaucratic standards.⁹ The government's primary responsibility is to enact regulations that provide comprehensive protection for children from sexual violence. Child sexual exploitation is a profoundly concerning global issue.¹⁰ This issue is also prevalent in Indonesia, where numerous cases of sexual violence occur in both girls and boys. To combat sexual violence against children the government has begun implementing a number of laws and measures. It is in charge of resolving incidents of sexual violence and other types of child sexual abuse under the relevant legal and regulatory framework, namely:

Law No. 35 of 2014 on the Amendment of Law No. 23 of 2002 on Child Protection.

Law No. 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection obligates the government to protect children; this is contained in Article 5 number 12, Article 20, and Article 21. Furthermore, it regulates the prohibition of engaging acts of sexual violence or obscenity against children. Regulated in article 76D states that "Every person is prohibited from committing violence or threats of violence to force a child to engage in sexual intercourse with him/her or with another person." and 76E "Every person is prohibited from committing violence or threatening violence, forcing, deceiving, committing a series of lies, or persuading a child to commit or allow obscene acts to be committed." Furthermore, the provisions for those who violate or commit criminal acts as referred to in articles 76D and 76E are regulated in article 81 which states:

- (1) Every person who violates the provisions as referred to in Article 76D shall be punished with imprisonment for a minimum of 5 (five) years and a maximum of 15 (fifteen) years and a maximum fine of Rp5,000,000,000.00 (five billion rupiah).
- (2) Criminal provisions as referred to in paragraph (1) shall also apply to Every Person who intentionally commits deceit, a series of lies, or induces a Child to have sexual intercourse with him/her or with another person.
- (3) In the event that the criminal offense as referred to in paragraph (1) is committed by a parent, guardian, caregiver of the child, educator, or education personnel, the punishment shall be increased by 1/3 (one-third) of the punishment as referred to in paragraph (1).

Article 82

- (1) Every person who violates the provisions as referred to in Article 76E shall be punished with imprisonment for a minimum of 5 (five) years and a maximum of 15 (fifteen) years and a maximum fine of Rp5,000,000,000.00 (five billion rupiah).
- (2) In the event that the criminal offense as referred to in paragraph (1) is committed by parents, guardians, caregivers of children, educators, or education personnel, the punishment shall be increased by 1/3 (one-third) of the punishment as referred to in paragraph (1).

For those who violate Article 76D, they will be sentenced to a minimum of five years and a maximum of fifteen years in prison, with a fine of up to five billion rupiahs. An additional penalty of one-third of the maximum sentence as specified in paragraph (3) will be imposed if the perpetrator of sexual violence is a parent, caregiver, or educator. A violation of Article 76E

⁹ D. I. Maulana & I. Fadhilah, "Peran pemerintah dalam upaya perlindungan anak dari kekerasan seksual di wilayah Kota Surabaya," *Jurnal Ekonomi, Manajemen dan Akuntansi* 2, no. 9 (2024): 410.

¹⁰ Mark Kavenagh, Nicholas Hua, and Christine Wekerle, "Sexual Exploitation of Children: Barriers for Boys in Accessing Social Supports for Victimization," *Child Abuse and Neglect* 142, no. P2 (2023): 106129, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2023.106129>.



also carries the same penalties: a prison sentence of at least five years and up to fifteen years, a fine of up to five billion rupiahs, and an additional one-third penalty if the perpetrator of the sexual violence is a parent, caregiver, or educator as stipulated in Article 82.

Indonesian Criminal Code

The Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP) also specifies provisions prohibiting acts of child sexual abuse, which are stipulated in Articles 289-293 as follows:

1. Article 289 "Any person who by using force or threat of force forces someone to commit or tolerate obscene acts, shall, being guilty of factual assault of the chastity, be punished by a maximum imprisonment of nine years." This article addresses situations where a person is coerced through force or threat into performing or allowing obscene acts. The provision emphasizes that any forced or involuntary participation in such acts is considered an assault on the victim's dignity and chastity. This article underlines the criminality of coercive sexual conduct, assigning it a significant penalty of up to nine years in prison.
2. Article 290 "By a maximum imprisonment of seven years shall be punished: 1st, any person who commits obscene acts with someone who he knows that he is unconscious or helpless; 2nd-ly, any person who commits obscene acts with someone who he knows or reasonably should presume that he has not yet reached the age of fifteen years or, if it is not obvious from her age, not yet marriageable; 3rd-ly, any person who seduces someone whom he knows or reasonably should presume that he has not yet reached the age of fifteen years or, if it is not obvious from the age, is not yet marriageable, to commit or tolerate obscene acts or to have carnal knowledge, out of marriage, of a third party." This article specifies penalties for committing obscene acts under various vulnerable conditions, with the intent of protecting individuals unable to consent or fully understand the implications of the act. Identifying three distinct categories of vulnerable victims: a) Unconscious or helpless individuals, b) Minors under fifteen years of age, and c) Unmarriageable persons. The uniform seven-year maximum sentence for these offenses suggests legislative equivalence in the gravity of exploiting these different forms of vulnerability.
3. Article 291 (1) if one of the crimes described in Articles 286, 287, 289, and 290 results in a serious physical injury, a maximum imprisonment of twelve years shall be imposed." (2) if one of the crimes described in Articles 285, 286, 287, 289 and 290 results in death, a maximum imprisonment of fifteen years shall be imposed. This article increases penalties if sexual crimes covered by articles 285, 286, 287, 289, and 290 result in severe injury or death, recognizing the additional harm done in such cases. In cases of serious physical injury, the punishment can be extended to twelve years. If the act results in the victim's death, the penalty rises to a maximum of fifteen years.
4. Article 292 "Any adult who commits any obscene act with a minor of the same sex whose minority he knows or reasonably should presume, shall be punished by a maximum imprisonment of five years." This article addresses sexual acts between adults and minors of the same sex, carrying a five-year maximum sentence. The law presumes that adults should recognize when someone is a minor and apply penalties if they engage in such acts.

Law No. 12 of 2022 on Sexual Violence Crimes

The Sexual Violence Crimes Law was designed to eliminate sexual violence in Indonesia and reduce the number of cases. The Sexual Violence Crimes Law categorizes sexual violence into nine categories with broader definitions that may have a more significant impact on perpetrators as outlined in Article 4, paragraph (1). Additionally, the Sexual Violence Crimes Law protects victims, victims' families, and witnesses, along with rights stipulated under the law. It also offers rehabilitation for perpetrators who fall within the specified categories.



Presidential Regulation No. 9 of 2024 On the Implementation of Education and Training For The Prevention and Handling of The Criminal Act of Sexual Violence.

This Presidential Regulation is a regulation aimed at strengthening the government's actions to stop and address sexual violence in Indonesia. This regulation serves as an essential foundation in developing the capacity of law enforcement officers, educational institutions, and the general society to engage in preventing and handling cases of sexual violence actively. The implementation of education and training regulated in this Presidential Regulation covers various parties directly or indirectly involved in handling sexual violence. In its steps to address cases of sexual violence against children, the government not only enforces regulations and laws as a legal foundation but also develops prevention programs and policies that are considered capable of suppressing cases of sexual violence against children. These programs are (1) conducting research and data collection on child exploitation, (2) carrying out advocacy with relevant stakeholders, (3) conducting training for institutions regarding preparation in handling problems related to sexual violence against children, (4) organizing socialization of the prevention of sexual violence against children with workshops, campaigns, or education in various social media, (5) facilitating special therapy for perpetrators and victims of child sexual abuse, (6) enhancing the capacity of social workers to handle cases, (7) strengthening comprehensive guidance on efforts to suppress sexual violence against children.¹¹ The government has established various child protection institutions that continue to transform in order to deal with child-related issues, including sexual violence against children.¹² Additionally, the government has established Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and organizations responsible for government affairs in child protection.¹³

Efforts to overcome sexual violence against children are also carried out by handling and protecting victims. The government undertakes these efforts by offering services as a form of protection for victims of sexual violence, such as medical treatment and psychological counseling.¹⁴ The government is also known to have established the Regional Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women and Children (UPTD PPA) across all provinces in Indonesia. UPTD PPA has various roles and duties in handling sexual harassment cases, such as providing victim assistance and legal support to assist and handle victims of sexual violence in facing the investigation and court process, as well as mediation assistance for matters that the legal system cannot resolve.¹⁵ This assistance service from the government is based on the Law on Sexual Violence Crimes stipulated in Article 39, where the government provides services in the form of complaints, health, psychological strengthening, psychosocial, social rehabilitation, and legal support. Funds are distributed to victims, such as restitution and compensation from the state. Victims of sexual violence are known to receive restitution from compensation.¹⁶ This effort is not only undertaken by the Indonesian government; various countries have established compensation schemes as an institutional responsibility for child abuse including sexual violence, by providing access to compensation and counseling, this

¹¹ Rani, F., Kirana, K., & Ismandianto, I. (2021). Indonesian Government Policies in Handling Cases of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Indonesia. *Nakhoda: Jurnal Ilmu Pemerintahan*, 20(2), 123.

¹² Zhiyah Zhulma Zain, Kurniawati Kurniawati, and Abrar Abrar, "Dinamika Lembaga Perlindungan Anak Di Indonesia (1997-2016)," *Criksetra: Jurnal Pendidikan Sejarah* 10, no. 2 (2021): 175.

¹³ Oktana Wahyu Perdana and Sigit Handoko, "Peran Yayasan Lembaga Perlindungan Anak Terhadap Kasus Bullying Ditinjau Dari Undang-Undang Nomor 35 Tahun 2014," *Jurnal kewarganegaraan* 4, no. 2 (2020): 132.

¹⁴ Rani, F., Kirana, K., & Ismandianto, I. (2021). Indonesian Government Policies in Handling Cases of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Indonesia. *Nakhoda: Jurnal Ilmu Pemerintahan*, 20(2), 121.

¹⁵ Sri Ambar Rinah, "Peran Unit Pelaksana Teknis Daerah Perlindungan Perempuan Dan Anak Kota Tanjungpinang Dalam Menangani Kasus Pelecehan Seksual Terhadap Anak," *Dialektika Publik* 7, no. 1 (2023): p. 3.

¹⁶ Adi Kusyandi, "Limits on the Value of Restitution for Victims of Crime A Form of Restorative Justice System," in *3rd International Conference on Law, Governance, and Social Justice (ICoLGaS 2023)* (Atlantis Press, 2023), 376.



approach supports better practices in minimizing sexual violence against children.¹⁷ The government continues to promote a victim-centered approach, focusing on meeting victims' needs to encourage justice in handling sexual violence against children cases.¹⁸

Law enforcement is another area the government is continually strengthening. In this regard, the government continues enhancing synergy between law enforcement agencies and social protection institutions for children. Various regulations and policies that have been established will be improved so that the handling of perpetrators of sexual violence against children is more optimal.¹⁹ Developing guidelines for justice for women and children in criminal situations is an additional objective of the government. The institutions involved are required to be more transparent, with data on child sexual violence collected and published to ensure accountability and serve as a deterrent for offenders. Implementing legal transparency can be an effective measure in handling human rights violations, including sexual violence against children.²⁰ The government's steps in overcoming sexual violence are also carried out by establishing collaboration and partnerships. The government designed the collaborative governance model by involving all stakeholders to collaborate with each other. The government also engages the private sector to strengthen child protection. This collaboration and partnership further extends to international organizations, with the government partnering with Ending the Sexual Exploitation of Children (ECPAT) in developing policies and programs to address cases of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC).²¹ CSEC involves the abuse and harassment of children sexually by adults, often through coercion, in exchange for money or other forms of compensation for the child or a third party. Forms of CSEC include child prostitution, child marriage, child pornography, and child trafficking for sexual purposes. These forms of CSEC are considered cases of sexual abuse against children; the government aims to address them by working together with ECPAT, a non-profit organization focusing on ending various forms of child sexual exploitation.²² ECPAT was established in 2013 to support the protection of children from child exploitation.²³ The ECPAT organization handles many cases of sexual abuse that occur in various countries, especially in ASEAN regions such as Indonesia, where the perpetrator engage in CSEC intending to obtain profit and personal gain.²⁴ Thus, it is crucial to support the government's collaboration with ECPAT to develop policies and take adequate measures to reduce cases of sexual exploitation of children.

Effectiveness of Government Measures in Reducing Incidents of Sexual Violence Against Children in Indonesia

It is well known that the government has taken a number of steps, primarily through established policies, to decrease the incidents of sexual violence. Robust national child

¹⁷ Natasha Cortis and Ilan Katz, "Waiting for Redress: Child Sexual Abuse Survivors' Experiences of Australia's National Redress Scheme," *Child Abuse and Neglect* 129, no. April (2022): 105657, p. 1

¹⁸ Brandon Hamber and Patricia Lundy, "Lessons from Transitional Justice? Toward a New Framing of a Victim-Centered Approach in the Case of Historical Institutional Abuse," *Victims and Offenders*, 2020 : 744.

¹⁹ Rani, F., Kirana, K., & Ismandianto, I. (2021). Indonesian Government Policies in Handling Cases of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Indonesia. *Nakhoda: Jurnal Ilmu Pemerintahan*, 20(2), 119.

²⁰ Gabriello Dwi Januar Susanto and Fatma Ulfatun Najicha, "Implementasi Transparansi Hukum Dalam Lingkup Sosial Dan Budaya Dengan Asas Ultimum Remedium," *CIVICS: Jurnal Pendidikan Pancasila dan Kewarganegaraan* 7, no. 2 (2022): 312.

²¹ Yohanes Benedictus Meninu Nalele, "The Role of End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (Ecpat) in Addressing the Child'S Commercial Sexual Exploitation (Eska) in Indonesia (2011 – 2015)," *Sociae Polites* 20, no. 1 (2019): page 1.

²² Rani, F., Kirana, K., & Ismandianto, I. (2021). Indonesian Government Policies in Handling Cases of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Indonesia. *Nakhoda: Jurnal Ilmu Pemerintahan*, 20(2), page 120.

²³ Amanda Connella et al., "Exploring the Role of Prior Sexual Abuse in the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Boys and Young Men," *Journal of child sexual abuse* (2023): 33 (6) : 714.

²⁴ Francis Maxwell, "Children's Rights, The Optional Protocol and Child Sexual Abuse Material in the Digital Age," *International Journal of Children's Rights* 8, no. 2 (2022): 63.



protection is notable in Indonesia. Nonetheless, there are still a lot of gaps in the laws, how policies are implemented, and how services are coordinated. In which this is partly due to a limited understanding of sexual violence that's occurring to children and the taboo nature of the issue, which can hinder policy implementation.²⁵ In 2022, 11,686 incidences of sexual violence against children were reported in Indonesia, indicating that the number of cases is still relatively high.²⁶ Yearly, cases of sexual violence against children continue to accumulate, with a cumulative number rising annually.²⁷ As evidenced by the consistently high number of incidents, this suggests that Indonesia has not been able to successfully suppress cases of sexual violence despite having robust laws. The implementation of government policies, such as Law No. 35 of 2014 on Child Protection and Law No. 12 of 2022 on Sexual Violence Crimes, has yet to effectively reduce the high number of sexual violence cases, including those involving children. The ineffective implementation of this policy is due to the suboptimal and inconsistent enforcement of the Sexual Violence Crimes Law by law enforcement officers. There are still various hindrances in the undertaking of the Sexual Violence Crimes Law, such as law enforcement officers not fully fulfilling their duties and the lack of deterrence among the society regarding the consequences of committing sexual violence against children. Currently, web grooming cases are becoming increasingly prevalent on social media and even in the educational environment, there are many cases where teachers become sexual predators to children. In mid-May 2023, data was obtained that 13 girls were victims of sexual violence by teachers who taught the Quran in Sleman Regency.²⁸ In Indonesia, the number of sexual violence against children has increased sharply, such as in July-August 2020, a record of 8,259 cases of child sexual violence was obtained.²⁹ The existence of this phenomenon shows that the government's steps in dealing with sexual violence through the enforcement of policies and regulations have not been effective and optimal.

CONCLUSION

The protection of children against sexual violence is a main priority for the government in formulating policies. Various regulations form the basis for efforts to overcome sexual violence against children, such as Law No.35 of 2014 concerning child protection and the Sexual Violence Crimes Law, which further encourages programs and initiatives such as the establishment of child protection institutions and collaborations with international organizations. Despite the government's robust support for victims of sexual violence, such as legal and psychological assistance, restitution, as well as strengthening of child protection organizations, cases of sexual violence against children are still relatively high. This is primarily due to the ineffective implementation of government policies and the persistent challenges in enforcing the Sexual Violence Crimes Law. Consequently, efforts to address sexual violence against children have not yet reached optimal effectiveness. It is hoped that collaboration and synergy among various stakeholders, government, private sector, and international organizations can further strengthen efforts to prevent child exploitation. Additionally, the society must be educated to raise awareness regarding the importance of safeguarding children

²⁵ Yanuar Farida Wismayanti et al., "The Problematization of Child Sexual Abuse in Policy and Law: The Indonesian Example," *Child Abuse and Neglect* 118, no. August 2020 (2021): 105157, p. 2

²⁶ Annisa Zulfalia Az Zahra, Sunarto, and Nurul Hasfi, "Esensi Pengalaman Cosplayer Perempuan Menghadapi Pelecehan Seksual Di Media Sosial Instagram," *Interaksi Online* 12, no. 4 (2024): 221.

²⁷ Raden Muhammad Arvy Ilyasa, "Legal and Victimological Perspective on Sexual Violence Against Children Cases in Indonesia," *The Indonesia Journal Internasional Clinical Legal Education* 1, no. 1 (2021): 283.

²⁸ Hairi and Latifah, "Implementasi Undang-Undang Nomor 12 Tahun 2022 Tentang Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual." *Negara Hukum* 14, no. 2 (2023): 163.

²⁹ Nur Islamyati and Putri Yayu, "Penyuluhan Tentang Kekerasan Seksual Pada Lingkungan Sekolah Dasar Negeri 25 Kota Bima," *Jurnal Abdi Masyarakat Sehat* 1, no. 1 (2024): 14.



and providing sexual education as a preventive measure to combat sexual violence against children.

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