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### Criminal Law Protection for Children and Victims of Gender-Based Violence: A Normative Analysis Following the Enactment of Law Number 12 of 2022

*Perlindungan Hukum Pidana terhadap Anak dan Korban Kekerasan Berbasis Gender:  
Analisis Normatif Pasca Pengesahan Undang-Undang Nomor 12 Tahun 2022*

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#### Abstract

Gender-based violence and violence against children constitute serious issues within Indonesia's criminal justice system due to their direct impact on human rights and victim welfare. Despite the existence of various legal regulations, the practical protection of victims continues to face significant challenges. This study aims to analyze criminal law protection for children and victims of gender-based violence following the enactment of Law Number 12 of 2022 on Sexual Violence Crimes. This research employs a normative juridical method using statutory, conceptual, and case approaches. The data sources consist of primary legal materials in the form of legislation and secondary legal materials derived from legal textbooks and academic journal articles. The findings indicate that, normatively, the Sexual Violence Law has strengthened the legal status of victims as rights-bearing subjects entitled to protection, handling, and recovery. However, its implementation remains constrained by structural, cultural, and institutional obstacles, resulting in victim protection that has not yet been fully and effectively realized in practice.

**Keywords:** Children; Criminal Law Protection; Gender-Based Violence; Sexual Violence Crime Law; Victims

#### Abstrak

Kekerasan berbasis gender dan kekerasan terhadap anak merupakan persoalan serius dalam sistem hukum pidana di Indonesia karena berdampak langsung pada hak asasi manusia dan kesejahteraan korban. Meskipun telah terdapat berbagai peraturan perundang-undangan, perlindungan korban dalam praktik masih menghadapi tantangan yang signifikan. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis perlindungan hukum pidana terhadap anak dan korban kekerasan berbasis gender setelah berlakunya Undang-Undang Nomor 12 Tahun 2022 tentang Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode yuridis normatif dengan pendekatan perundang-undangan, konseptual, dan kasus. Sumber data terdiri atas bahan hukum primer berupa peraturan perundang-undangan serta bahan hukum sekunder berupa buku teks hukum dan artikel jurnal ilmiah. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa secara normatif UU TPKS telah memperkuat kedudukan korban sebagai subjek hukum dengan hak atas perlindungan, penanganan, dan pemulihan. Namun demikian, implementasinya masih menghadapi hambatan struktural, kultural, dan institusional yang menyebabkan perlindungan korban belum sepenuhnya terwujud secara efektif dalam praktik.

**Kata Kunci:** Anak-anak; Perlindungan Hukum Pidana; Kekerasan Berbasis Gender; Hukum Pidana Kekerasan Seksual; Korban



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## INTRODUCTION

Gender-based violence and violence against children constitute serious problems within Indonesia's criminal justice system, as they directly affect human rights, particularly the rights to security, dignity, and victim recovery.<sup>1</sup> Such violence not only causes physical suffering but also results in long-term psychological and social impacts on victims. Within the context of criminal law, gender-based violence has distinct characteristics because it is closely linked to unequal power relations and socially constructed gender norms that place women and children in vulnerable positions.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, the protection of victims of gender-based violence and children represents a crucial issue that requires legal responses that are not merely repressive but also oriented toward victim recovery.

Ideally, the criminal justice system should be capable of providing comprehensive and equitable protection for children and victims of gender-based violence.<sup>3</sup> Such protection includes the recognition of victims as legal subjects, guarantees of protection throughout legal proceedings, and the fulfillment of rights to recovery and restitution. Through statutory regulations, the state is expected to establish a victim-friendly criminal justice system that is sensitive to the psychological and social conditions of victims.<sup>4</sup> Within this framework, criminal law functions not only to punish perpetrators but also as an instrument to ensure substantive justice for victims of gender-based violence and children.

However, this ideal condition has not been fully realized in practice. Cases of sexual violence against children and women demonstrate that victims continue to face obstacles in accessing justice.<sup>5</sup> Lengthy legal procedures, repeated examinations, social stigma, and law enforcement approaches that are not yet fully victim-oriented often exacerbate victims' conditions. Gender-based violence is also frequently perceived as a private matter or a family disgrace, resulting in many cases going unreported or being discontinued during the legal process.<sup>6</sup> This situation reflects a gap between legal norms that promise protection and the reality of law enforcement within Indonesia's criminal justice system.

Several previous studies have examined legal protection for victims of sexual violence and gender-based violence. Research conducted by Sri Utami et al. found that, normatively, Indonesia has established an adequate legal foundation to protect children as victims of sexual crimes through child protection laws and relevant criminal provisions.<sup>7</sup> However, this study

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- 1 Rika Saraswati, "Gender Bias in Indonesian Courts: Is Perma No. 3 of 2017 the Solution for Gender-Based Violence Cases?," *Laws* 10, no. 1 (December 29, 2020): 2, <https://doi.org/10.3390/laws10010002>.
  - 2 Pranab Dahal, Sunil Kumar Joshi, and Katarina Swahnberg, "A Qualitative Study on Gender Inequality and Gender-Based Violence in Nepal," *BMC Public Health* 22, no. 1 (November 1, 2022): 2005, <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-022-14389-x>.
  - 3 Marianne Hester et al., "What Is Justice? Perspectives of Victims-Survivors of Gender-Based Violence," *Violence Against Women* 31, no. 2 (February 19, 2025): 570–97, <https://doi.org/10.1177/10778012231214772>.
  - 4 Shambhavi Gour, "Victim-Centric Justice in Criminal Law: A Critical Analysis of Victim Protection, Compensation and Restorative Mechanisms," *International Journal of Advanced Research and Multidisciplinary Trends (IJARMT)* 3, no. 1 (January 5, 2026): 1–17, <https://doi.org/10.65578/ijarnt.v3.i1.641>.
  - 5 Selviana Krismawati et al., "Advocacy and Protection for Victims of Sexual Violence against Children: Insight from Indonesia's Experience," *Indonesian Journal of Advocacy and Legal Services* 5, no. 2 (September 30, 2023): 207–40, <https://doi.org/10.15294/ijals.v5i2.65820>.
  - 6 Gour, "Victim-Centric Justice in Criminal Law: A Critical Analysis of Victim Protection, Compensation and Restorative Mechanisms."
  - 7 Sri Utami, Hepy Krisman Laia, and Muhammad Arif Sahlepi, "Legal Protection of Child Victims of Sexual Crimes in the Perspective of Criminal Law," *International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice* 2, no. 2 (June 11, 2025): 221–27, <https://doi.org/10.62951/ijlcj.v2i2.633>.

primarily emphasized the normative aspects of child protection and did not specifically address the challenges of implementing victim protection within the criminal justice system following the enactment of the Sexual Violence Law. Meanwhile, Arman Hanapi et al. demonstrated that despite regulatory advancements such as the Sexual Violence Law, its implementation remains biased and not fully victim-oriented due to persistent social stigma and the weak integration of gender perspectives in law enforcement.<sup>8</sup> Nevertheless, this research employed a critical-feminist approach and did not comprehensively analyze victim protection within a normative criminal law framework. Another study by Wahyuningsih et al. highlighted weaknesses in the regulation of criminal sanctions in cases of sexual violence against children that are not oriented toward victim recovery.<sup>9</sup> However, this study was conducted prior to the enactment of the Sexual Violence Law and did not examine the paradigm shift in victim protection following the introduction of this legislation.

Based on the foregoing discussion, a research gap remains regarding the analysis of criminal law protection for children and victims of gender-based violence that specifically examines normative strengthening and implementation challenges following the enactment of Law Number 12 of 2022 on Sexual Violence Crimes. This study seeks to fill this gap by comprehensively analyzing the legal status of victims, obstacles to victim protection, and the application of the provisions of the Sexual Violence Law within Indonesia's criminal justice system through a normative juridical approach integrated with case analysis and scholarly literature.

## **Method**

This study adopts a normative juridical research approach aimed at examining criminal law protection for children and victims of gender-based violence within the Indonesian criminal justice system.<sup>10</sup> The approaches employed include the statutory approach, the conceptual approach, and the case approach. The statutory approach is conducted by analyzing relevant legal provisions, particularly Law Number 12 of 2022, as well as other regulations related to the protection of children and victims of gender-based violence. The conceptual approach is used to examine concepts such as gender-based violence, victimology, and victim protection, while the case approach is applied to analyze examples of sexual violence and gender-based violence cases in Indonesia as discussed in academic literature.

The sources of data in this study consist of primary legal materials and secondary legal materials.<sup>11</sup> Primary legal materials include the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, the Indonesian Criminal Code, Law Number 35 of 2014, Law Number 23 of 2004, and Law Number 12 of 2022. Secondary legal materials are derived from legal textbooks, national and international academic journal articles, and relevant previous studies. Data collection is carried out through library research by identifying and examining relevant legal materials, while data analysis is conducted qualitatively by interpreting legal norms, linking them with legal theories and concepts, and comparing normative regulations with findings from the literature and case studies.

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8 Arman Hanapi, Roy Marthen Moonti, and Ibrahim Ahmad, "Kekerasan Berbasis Gender Terhadap Anak Dan Perempuan: Antara Stigma Sosial Dan Ketimpangan Perlindungan Hukum," *Aliansi: Jurnal Hukum, Pendidikan Dan Sosial Humaniora* 2, no. 4 (June 12, 2025): 143–56, <https://doi.org/10.62383/aliansi.v2i4.1032>.

9 Sri Endah Wahyuningsih et al., "Comparison Legal Perspective of Criminal Sanctions for Sexual Crime Against Children in Indonesia," *International Journal of Social Science and Human Research* 06, no. 02 (February 8, 2023), <https://doi.org/10.47191/ijsshr/v6-i2-17>.

10 Zainuddin Ali, *Metode Penelitian Hukum* (Sinar Grafika, 2021).

11 Sugiyono, *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif, Kualitatif, Dan RD, Cet. ke 23* (Bandung: Penerbit Alfabeta, 2016).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### The Legal Status and Criminal Law Protection of Children and Victims of Gender-Based Violence

The term *gender-based violence* in criminal law does not refer merely to violence related to biological differences between men and women, but rather to violence that arises from social constructions of gender roles, positions, and unequal power relations within society.<sup>12</sup> Such violence occurs when individuals become victims because of their gender identity or because they are placed in a subordinate position by socially constructed gender norms. In this context, women and children are often the most vulnerable groups. This understanding is consistent with the constitutional guarantees set out in Article 28B paragraph (2) and Article 28G paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, which affirm every person's right to security and protection from violence, including violence rooted in discrimination and unequal social relations.<sup>13</sup>

Gender-based violence has distinct characteristics that differentiate it from ordinary violent crimes.<sup>14</sup> It is commonly driven by assumptions that victims occupy a weaker or inferior position and can therefore be controlled due to gender roles attached to them. In practice, this is evident in forms such as sexual violence, domestic violence, and various acts of harassment experienced predominantly by women and children. For this reason, criminal law cannot treat gender-based violence as an ordinary offense.<sup>15</sup> The state is required to provide specific legal protection that takes into account the unequal power relations between perpetrators and victims. This approach is reflected in several statutory regulations that specifically address violence rooted in gender inequality.

Criminal law protection for children as victims of gender-based violence is explicitly regulated in Law Number 35 of 2014 on Child Protection.<sup>16</sup> This law positions children as legal subjects entitled to protection from all forms of violence, including sexual violence and exploitation, which frequently stem from unequal power relations between adults and children. Within the context of gender-based violence, girls are particularly vulnerable due to gender stereotypes and discriminatory social norms. Accordingly, criminal law protection for children is not limited to the punishment of perpetrators, but also encompasses prevention, protection throughout legal proceedings, and victim recovery as integral components of justice.

In addition to children, women as victims of gender-based violence are afforded legal protection under Law Number 23 of 2004 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence.<sup>17</sup> This law recognizes that domestic violence often arises not from ordinary interpersonal conflict, but from unequal power relations embedded in gender-based relationships. Physical, psychological, sexual violence, and neglect within the household are understood as human rights violations rooted in gender inequality. Through this recognition, Indonesian criminal law has gradually shifted from

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12 Bharat H. Desai and Moumita Mandal, *Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in International Law* (Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore, 2022), <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-19-0894-1>.

13 "Undang-Undang Dasar Negara Republik Indonesia Tahun 1945." (n.d.).

14 Elizabeth Lange and Susan Young, "Gender-Based Violence as Difficult Knowledge: Pedagogies for Rebalancing the Masculine and the Feminine," *International Journal of Lifelong Education* 38, no. 3 (May 4, 2019): 301–26, <https://doi.org/10.1080/02601370.2019.1597932>.

15 Leigh Goodmark, "Gender-Based Violence, Law Reform, and the Criminalization of Survivors of Violence," *International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy* 10, no. 4 (December 1, 2021): 13–25, <https://doi.org/10.5204/ijcsd.1994>.

16 "Undang-Undang Nomor 35 Tahun 2014 Tentang Perlindungan Anak." (n.d.).

17 "Undang-Undang Nomor 23 Tahun 2004 Tentang Penghapusan Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga." (n.d.).

a gender-neutral approach toward a more responsive framework that acknowledges the social realities faced by victims, particularly women in subordinate positions within family and societal structures.

The strengthening of the concept of gender-based violence is further reflected in Law Number 12 of 2022 on Sexual Violence Crimes.<sup>18</sup> This law explicitly acknowledges that sexual violence cannot be separated from gender constructions and unequal power relations. Criminal law protection under the Sexual Violence Law is directed not only at the conduct of perpetrators, but also at the condition of victims who experience violence due to their gender identity and socially constructed roles. Victims' rights to protection, handling, and recovery demonstrate the state's recognition of gender-based violence as a structural problem requiring comprehensive, victim-oriented legal intervention.

### **Obstacles to the Protection of Children and Victims of Gender-Based Violence in the Criminal Justice System**

In practice, criminal law protection for children and victims of gender-based violence in Indonesia continues to face various obstacles, despite the strengthening of the statutory framework. A number of studies indicate that victims often encounter difficulties in accessing justice effectively because the criminal justice system remains largely oriented toward proving the perpetrator's guilt. In many cases, the interests and experiences of victims are placed in a secondary position compared to formal law enforcement procedures. This condition reflects a gap between the normative protection guaranteed by law and its actual implementation within the criminal justice process.

Structural obstacles are clearly evident in the handling of child sexual violence cases involving power imbalances. Research by Kanya Eka Santi demonstrates that in many cases of child sexual abuse in Indonesia, perpetrators are figures of authority such as educators, family members, or community leaders who exploit their dominant position to silence victims.<sup>19</sup> Legal proceedings in these cases frequently subject victims to repeated examinations, which can intensify psychological distress. Criminal justice mechanisms that have not fully adopted child-friendly procedures indicate that structural protection for victims has not yet been optimally implemented.

Similar structural barriers are also apparent in cases of sexual violence against children in educational and caregiving institutions. A study by Abraham Misael Halim and Andre Sandy in their analysis of the Brother Angelo case reveals that child victims experienced delays in receiving protection and assistance from the earliest stages of the legal process.<sup>20</sup> Victims were placed in extremely vulnerable positions due to their structural dependence on perpetrators who held authority over them. This case illustrates that the criminal justice system often operates reactively, mobilizing only after cases gain public attention, while early protection mechanisms for victims remain weak.

In addition to structural barriers, cultural obstacles play a significant role in the protection of victims of gender-based violence. Patriarchal culture and social norms that tend to blame victims continue to influence societal perceptions of sexual violence and domestic violence. In many cases, women who are victims of sexual violence or domestic violence experience pressure to

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18 "Undang-Undang Nomor 12 Tahun 2022 Tentang Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual." (n.d.).

19 Kanya Eka Santi, "Power Abuse in Child Sexual Abuse in Indonesia," *Asean Social Work Journal* 12, no. 2 (December 31, 2024), <https://doi.org/10.58671/aswj.v12i2.109>.

20 Abraham Misael Halim and Andre Sandy, "Analysis of Brother Angelo Child Sexual Abuse Case Under Criminal Law and Control Theory," *International Journal Of Social, Policy And Law (IJOSPL)* 2, no. 3 (2021): 74–91.

withdraw reports in order to preserve family reputation. This condition reinforces the findings of A. Junaedi Karso, who shows that the majority of gender-based violence cases in Indonesia do not proceed through formal legal channels due to social stigma and intimidation faced by victims.<sup>21</sup>

These cultural barriers directly contribute to the low reporting rates of gender-based violence and child abuse cases. A. Junaedi Karso further notes that in cases of gender-based violence, including online gender-based violence, victims often choose non-legal resolutions or remain silent due to fear of social pressure and revictimization. This situation demonstrates that although criminal law provides formal mechanisms for protection, victims' willingness and ability to access the criminal justice system are still strongly shaped by prevailing social and cultural factors.

Institutional obstacles further exacerbate the challenges of victim protection within the criminal justice system. Research by Miftahul Jannah et al. on the implementation of an integrated justice system shows that coordination among law enforcement agencies and victim service institutions remains weak.<sup>22</sup> In several cases of child sexual violence, victims encounter difficulties in obtaining integrated legal assistance and psychological support. The limited capacity of law enforcement officials to apply a victim-centered approach has resulted in protection measures that do not fully reflect the best interests of victims.

Moreover, research by Redi Pirmansyah et al. examining cases of sexual violence involving children as both perpetrators and victims indicates that the criminal justice system still struggles to address the complexity of gender-based violence.<sup>23</sup> In such cases, social, cultural, and digital exposure factors contribute significantly to the occurrence of sexual violence. Child victims continue to suffer serious psychological and social impacts, yet criminal law protection often fails to respond comprehensively. These findings demonstrate that obstacles to victim protection are not merely normative in nature, but are also closely related to the readiness of the criminal justice system to address the evolving dynamics of gender-based violence in Indonesia.

### **Application of Law Number 12 of 2022 on Sexual Violence Crimes in the Protection of Victims**

Law Number 12 of 2022 on Sexual Violence Crimes (UU TPKS) represents a significant milestone in the reform of Indonesia's criminal law by explicitly adopting a victim-oriented approach. This law was enacted in response to the limitations of previous regulations that primarily focused on punishing perpetrators without adequately addressing victims' needs and recovery. In the context of protecting children and victims of gender-based violence, UU TPKS shifts the orientation of the criminal justice system from a perpetrator-centered model to a victim-centered framework by recognizing victims as legal subjects whose rights must be fulfilled by the state from the earliest stages of the legal process.<sup>24</sup>

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21 A. Junaedi Karso, "Cases of Sexual Violence Crime, Modes of Online Gender-Based Violence in Indonesia," *International Journal of Social Science* 5, no. 2 (August 1, 2025): 213–32, <https://doi.org/10.53625/ijss.v5i2.10966>.

22 Miftahul Jannah et al., "Implementation of the Integrated Justice System as an Effort to Prevent Sexual Violence against Children: A Case Study in Indonesia," *Indonesia Journal of Engineering and Education Technology (IJEEET)* 2, no. 2 (September 2, 2024): 420–26, <https://doi.org/10.61991/ijeet.v2i2.80>.

23 Redi Pirmansyah, Muh Zainul Arifin, and M. Iqbal, "Child Perpetrators and Victims: Criminal Policy Approaches to Sexual Violence in Indonesia through Restorative Justice," *Mimbar Keadilan* 17, no. 2 (August 21, 2024): 223–35, <https://doi.org/10.30996/mk.v17i2.11550>.

24 Rusdi and Abdullah Sulaiman, "Evaluation of Legal Reform and Implementation of Protection for Victims of Sexual Violence in Indonesia Through Law Number 12 of 2022 Concerning Criminal Acts of Sexual Violence,"

The application of UU TPKS is reflected in its more comprehensive regulation of victims’ rights compared to earlier laws. UU TPKS guarantees victims’ rights to integrated handling, protection, and recovery, including access to legal assistance, health services, psychological rehabilitation, and identity protection.<sup>25</sup> These provisions apply to both adult and child victims, with particular emphasis on the principle of the best interests of the child. Consequently, criminal law protection is no longer understood merely as the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators, but also as an active state obligation to restore victims’ physical, psychological, and social well-being following acts of sexual violence.

From a normative perspective, UU TPKS also expands the scope of sexual violence offenses that were previously not clearly regulated under the Criminal Code. Various forms of sexual violence, including non-physical sexual violence, forced contraception, sexual exploitation, and technology-based sexual violence, are now explicitly criminalized.<sup>26</sup> This recognition is particularly important in the context of gender-based violence, as many forms of harm experienced by victims do not necessarily involve physical force but nonetheless result in severe psychological and social consequences. Through these provisions, UU TPKS provides a stronger legal basis for law enforcement authorities to protect victims more effectively.

To illustrate more systematically the strengthening of victim protection under UU TPKS, the following table presents a comparison of victim protection before and after the enactment of UU TPKS.

**Table 1.** Comparison of Victim Protection Before and After the Enactment of UU TPKS

<b>Aspect of Protection</b>	<b>Before UU TPKS</b>	<b>After UU TPKS</b>
Legal Status of Victims	Supplementary to evidentiary process	Legal subjects with specific rights
Forms of Violence	Limited to conventional physical and sexual violence	Includes physical, non-physical, and technology-based violence
Identity Protection	Not comprehensively regulated	Protected from the investigation stage
Victim Recovery	Not a primary focus	Mandatory handling and recovery
Restitution and Compensation	Limited and unsystematic	Explicitly regulated

*Source: by Author*

Based on this comparison, UU TPKS clearly strengthens the normative position of victims through clearer and more structured rights, as shown in Table 1. This strengthening demonstrates that the state’s role extends beyond law enforcement against perpetrators to include responsibility for victim recovery. Such an approach is particularly relevant to the nature of gender-based violence, which is systemic and often places victims in socially and psychologically unequal positions. Accordingly, victim protection under UU TPKS is designed to address the concrete needs of victims throughout the criminal justice process.

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Jurnal Greenation Sosial Dan Politik 3, no. 4 (November 22, 2025): 760–68, <https://doi.org/10.38035/jgsp.v3i4.497>.

25 Ni Putu Rai Yuliantini et al., “From Retribution to Restoration: Human Rights-Based Legal Protection for Women Victims of Sexual Violence,” *Jurnal Media Hukum* 32, no. 2 (November 5, 2025): 281–300, <https://doi.org/10.18196/jmh.v32i2.26214>.

26 Ana Valentina Medeiros de Araújo et al., “Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence: A Review of Virtual Violence against Women,” *Research, Society and Development* 11, no. 2 (February 6, 2022): e57811225757, <https://doi.org/10.33448/rsd-v11i2.25757>.

Despite its strong normative framework, the implementation of UU TPKS in practice continues to face challenges. Law enforcement officials have not yet developed a uniform understanding of the victim-centered approach mandated by the law. In some cases, victim examinations are still conducted using conventional methods that may cause psychological distress, especially for child victims. This situation indicates that the success of UU TPKS depends not only on the substance of the law itself, but also on the preparedness of human resources and the development of a supportive legal culture within the criminal justice system.

Furthermore, the implementation of victim recovery and restitution provisions under UU TPKS requires adequate institutional support. Victim protection necessitates effective coordination among law enforcement agencies, social service institutions, medical personnel, and psychologists. Without clear and integrated coordination mechanisms, victims' rights guaranteed by law may not be fully realized in practice. Therefore, the application of UU TPKS in protecting children and victims of gender-based violence should be understood as an ongoing process that requires sustained institutional commitment and comprehensive strengthening of the criminal justice system.

### CONCLUSION

This study finds that criminal law protection for children and victims of gender-based violence in Indonesia has been normatively strengthened, particularly following the enactment of Law Number 12 of 2022 on Sexual Violence Crimes. The Sexual Violence Law positions victims as legal subjects entitled to protection, handling, and recovery, while also expanding the legal recognition of various forms of sexual violence that were previously inadequately regulated. Nevertheless, this study also reveals that the implementation of such protection continues to face structural, cultural, and institutional obstacles within the criminal justice system. Legal procedures that are not yet fully victim-friendly, persistent social stigma against victims, and limited capacity as well as coordination among law enforcement agencies have resulted in a gap between normative guarantees and their realization in practice.

This study contributes to the literature by strengthening the understanding of gender-based violence from a criminal law perspective and by highlighting the disparity between legal regulation and the realities of law enforcement in Indonesia. The findings emphasize that the effectiveness of victim protection depends not only on the existence of statutory regulations but also on the readiness of the criminal justice system and the development of a victim-oriented legal culture. Accordingly, this study recommends enhancing the capacity of law enforcement officials through victim-centered training, strengthening coordination among victim service institutions, and promoting public education to reduce stigma against victims of gender-based violence and children. These measures are expected to support the more effective and equitable implementation of the Sexual Violence Law.

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## Criminal Law Protection for Children and Victims of Gender-Based Violence

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