

# Legal Uncertainty In Child Sextortion Cases: The Impact Of Vague Norms On Victim Protection

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**Abstract** This study examined the legal and institutional challenges in protecting children from sextortion in Indonesia, a form of digital-based sexual exploitation that has grown alongside social media use. The study aims to contribute to legal scholarship and policymaking by identifying weaknesses in regulatory clarity and institutional response mechanisms. A doctrinal legal approach was employed, analyzing statutory frameworks such as the Criminal Code, the ITE Law, the Pornography Law, the Child Protection Law, and the TPKS Law. The findings highlight overlapping regulations and the absence of a specific legal provision on sextortion, resulting in inconsistent interpretations and judicial decisions. Data from national agencies also reveal an upward trend in online sexual violence against children, reinforcing the need for urgent legal reform. Furthermore, the limited capacity of law enforcement, especially at the local level, and poor inter-agency coordination hinder effective responses. The study underscores that legal ambiguity and institutional fragmentation contribute to victims' reluctance to report cases, especially when combined with the threat of revictimization and social stigma. A multi-pronged strategy is proposed, including harmonization of sextortion-related laws into a dedicated statute, capacity-building for cybercrime units, and development of victim-centered support systems. Public education and digital literacy campaigns are also recommended to strengthen prevention efforts. This study contributes to the discourse on child protection in the digital age by highlighting the need for a clear, integrated, and victim-sensitive legal framework to address sextortion and uphold the best interests of the child.

**Keywords:** Sextortion; Child Protection; Exploitation; Vague Norms.

## 1. Introduction

Children are the next generation of the nation who hold great responsibility for the future (Sry Mulyanti, 2013). In general, definition of a child is formulated in Law No. 23/2002 on Child Protection. According to the Law, a child is defined as someone who is not yet 18 years old, including those still in the womb (Asep Purnawan & Junifer Dame Panjaitan, 2023). They must be protected so that they can grow and develop. The rights of children in Indonesia have been recognized in the constitution as a will equipped with the force of law in the context of law enforcement, child protection becomes

crucial to ensure that justice is served, and perpetrators of crimes are processed in accordance with the law (Eko Nurisman, 2022).

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the first international treaty to protect children's rights in various aspects. Indonesia ratified it on 25 August 1990 through Presidential Decree No. 36 of 1990, which obliges the state to fulfil, protect and respect children's rights. This protection was strengthened by Law No. 35 of 2014. Child protection involves the law (Rooby Pangestu, 2023), institutions, and society to ensure basic rights and optimal growth and development without violence, abuse, or exploitation (Ade Satriasa Putra et al., 2021), through prevention, intervention and rehabilitation. (Fatima Younas & Leslie Morrison Gutman, 2022).

The high use of the internet and social media triggered a spike in sextortion cases in Indonesia where the National Commission for Child Protection recorded 3,547 cases of violence against children in 2023, with 1,915 cases of sexual exploitation while the Global Corruption Barometer 2020 ranked Indonesia as the country with the highest sextortion cases in Asia (18%). In addition, the National Commission on Women's 2022 annual report recorded an 83% increase in cases of gender-based cyber violence, with 472 cases of sextortion in the public domain and 683 in the private domain. SAFEnet also reported a fourfold increase in cases of Online Gender-Based Violence in the first quarter of 2024, dominated by 18-25 year olds (57%) and children under 18 (26%) (Kementerian Perlindungan Perempuan Dan Anak, 2024). Several cases in Indonesia, show the weak protection of children in sextortion cases. The lack of specific rules and focus on certain elements, such as content dissemination, ignores child protection as stipulated in Law No. 35 of 2014.

The issue of child sextortion in Indonesia is a serious concern because it involves children's rights and weak legal protection. (Yordan Gunawan et al., 2022) In addition, law enforcement at the local level is still weak, especially in the face of cybercrime. (Alda Widya Syahda & Angayar Kanni Ramaiah, 2024) The implementation of international protocols such as the UN Palermo Protocol faces obstacles in the field, while legal loopholes are utilised by perpetrators as revealed by Gunawan et al. (Gunawan et al., 2022) Child protection in sextortion cases in Indonesia is still weak due to the complexity of cybercrime and the lack of coordination between institutions and overlapping regulations.

## **2. Methods**

This research is normative research or doctrinal legal research (Peter Mahmud Marzuki, 2013) i.e. research on the law that is conceptualized and developed based on the doctrine adopted and developed by the conceptualizer

(Irwansyah, 2022). This approach revolves around identifying and interpreting laws, legal principles, and doctrines to effectively address legal issues (Doris Rahmat, 2023). This method carries the concept of normative juridical research or library research that emphasizes in-depth textual analysis and synthesis of experts' thoughts to reveal the integrated legal structure (Zulkarnain et al., 2023) by examining primary, secondary, and tertiary legal sources, the normative approach allows researchers to get a comprehensive picture of the systemic relationship between legal norms and principles underlying the regulatory system (Christian Immanuel Situmorang et al., 2024) This research mainly uses 3 (three) approaches; statute approach, conceptual approach, and case approach.

### **3. Results and Discussion**

#### **3.1 Weakness in Protecting Children from Sextortion in Indonesia**

In the digital age, sexual violence and harassment has undergone a significant shift (Rizky Saputra et al., 2023), no longer limited to physical acts, but also evolving in the digital realm. It is no longer limited to physical acts, but has also evolved in the digital realm. This digital transformation not only changes the form and manner in which harassment and are perpetrated (Zakiya S Wilson et al., 2016), but also affects the way victims experience and respond to such violence. but also affects the way victims experience and respond to such violence (Ana Valentina Araújo et al., 2022). One form of cybersexual exploitation that is rampant is sextortion.

These demands can be sexual, financial, or other forms of coercion that harm the victim. Different from traditional blackmail, sextortion utilizes intimate content, having a long-term impact on the victim's mental health and sense of security. Sextortion is a form of online sexual exploitation that coerces victims into providing sexual services or money under the threat of sharing images or personal information. This crime combines elements of extortion and sexual exploitation, and is increasingly prevalent online (Anastasia Powell & Nicola Henry, 2016)

These behaviors include forced dissemination of sexual content and intimidation that is often carried out anonymously, increasing the vulnerability of victims. The proliferation of digital media blurs the lines between privacy and public exposure, allowing perpetrators to commit violence without direct interaction (Unnati Patel and Ronald Roesch, 2020). The shift from physical to digital violence also impacts the psychosocial dimension, where victims may experience deep trauma and helplessness due to ongoing psychological pressure.

The shift from physical to digital violence also suggests a different ratio in the psychosocial dimension (Olena Druhanova, Alina Fedonenko et al., 2023), where the long-term impact on victims' mental health can be deeply traumatizing. Moreover, digital sexual harassment is often accompanied by intimidation techniques that obscure the identity of the perpetrator and hinder traditional law enforcement efforts (Himel Mondal et al., 2022). This is reinforced by research showing that the digital dimension allows perpetrators to commit repeated acts of violence without geographical boundaries (Meghna Ranganathan et al., 2021). These negative influences are not only limited to the psychological impact, but also affect the social and professional dimensions of the victim, such as social isolation and the stigma that comes with it (Rafaela Monteiro et al., 2024).

Based on the data above, it shows that the trend is increasing, both in terms of the number of cases and their complexity, with a wider range of victims, especially among children and adolescents who are still in a vulnerable stage of psychological development. Sexual violence and harassment is no longer limited to physical acts, but has transformed into the digital realm. This creates a conducive environment for sextortion offenders to target their victims, often in a highly manipulative manner. Regulations regarding sextortion are still scattered in various laws without specific regulations that explicitly regulate this crime. This condition creates several serious problems, including legal inconsistencies and vague norms that can hinder the effectiveness of law enforcement. In some cases, sextortion can be considered as extortion under the Criminal Code, while in other cases it can be categorized as sexual violence under the TPKS Law or sexual exploitation of children under the Child Protection Law.

These different interpretations are not only confusing, but can also hamper the legal process and potentially harm victims. The vagueness of the rules also opens up opportunities for perpetrators to avoid punishment or get lighter sentences because there is no article that directly and specifically ensnares their actions. If left unchecked, this condition can make victims even more reluctant to report because of the legal uncertainty they face.

### **3.2 Legal Uncertainty in Child Sextortion Crimes**

In the context of the Indonesian legal system, the crime of sextortion is basically categorized as a form of sexual violence that has the characteristics of coercion through blackmail with the appeal of satisfaction or certain sexual acts, so that this crime is recognized as a formal offense in national legal policy (Selina Hardt et al., 2022). In the context of the Indonesian legal system, the crime of sextortion is basically categorized as a form of sexual violence that has the characteristics of coercion through blackmail with the appeal of

satisfaction or certain sexual acts, so that this crime is recognized as a formal offense in national legal policy (Kenneth W. Griffin et al., 2022). This interpretation confirms that the formal offense of sextortion does not stop at the aspect of moral norms (Ethel Quayle et al., 2024), but is also legally confirmed by existing criminal provisions (Odai Turki & Abed Alfattah Elfawair, 2024). Thus, perpetrators of sextortion can be punished in accordance with the law, where its status as a form of sexual violence brings it within the realm of formal criminal prosecution.

References to the definition of sextortion in Indonesia can be found in various applicable laws and regulations, such as the Criminal Code (KUHP), the Child Protection Law, the Electronic Information and Transactions Law (ITE Law), the Pornography Law, and the Sexual Violence Law (Odai Turki & Abed Alfattah Elfawair, 2024). However, various legal provisions have been prepared to cover this act, especially in the context of extortion, sexual exploitation, sexual violence, and misuse of information technology. With the development of digital technology, sextortion is becoming more widespread and requires greater legal protection for victims, especially children and adolescents, who are vulnerable to the threat of the dissemination of personal content that can damage their lives (Eko Nurisman, 2022). Acts of sextortion, which involve extortion through the threat of spreading intimate content, can be viewed as extortion in the Indonesian legal framework.

This is reflected in the provisions of Article 368 Paragraph (1) of the Criminal Code (KUHP) which states that any person who forces another person to deliver something by using force or threat of force is liable to imprisonment of up to nine years (Muhammad Handika Suryanto, 2023). In the context of sextortion, the perpetrator usually threatens to spread private photos or videos of the victim as a means to blackmail her (Alda Widya Syahda & Angayar Kanni Ramaiah). In addition, Law No. 11/2008 on Electronic Information and Transactions (ITE) and the amendments provided by Law No. 19/2016 and Law No. 1/2024 provide an additional legal framework for the prosecution of sextortion offenders.

Article 27(1) of the ITE deals with electronic content that violates standards of decency, while Article 27(4) specifically regulates extortion and threats through electronic media. This shows the commitment of the law to address crimes committed through the use of information technology (Harif Jauhari, 2023). However, in practice, the implementation of these articles faces challenges, especially in terms of protection and law enforcement for victims.

Law No. 44/2008 on Pornography and Law No. 35/2014 on Child Protection are important legal foundations in dealing with sextortion crimes, especially those involving children. Article 4 Paragraph (1) of the Pornography Law

clearly prohibits all forms of production, distribution, and provision of pornography, including depictions of sexual violence and child pornography (Aula Nurul Husna & Dian Alan Setiawan, 2024). Law enforcement against sextortion perpetrators can be guided by the provisions in these two laws, as the manipulation and threatening<sup>42</sup> of children to disseminate sexual content is a form of exploitation and violation of children's rights (Ream Lazam Abd, 2023). In this context, sextortion involving children can be categorized as a serious crime, which is not only physically harmful but also has the potential to create long-term psychological impacts (Mustafa Lutfi Abdul Jaleel AlDalle, 2023).

Furthermore, Article 76E and Article 76I of the Child Protection Act provide protection to children from acts of sexual violence and exploitation, strengthening the legal position for victims of sextortion (Itok Dwi Kurniawan, 2024). In addition, Law Number 12 of 2022 on Criminal Acts of Sexual Violence (UU TPKS) has a close relationship with the handling of sextortion cases in Indonesia. However, in practice, law enforcement against the crime of sextortion still faces various obstacles (JM. Muslimin et al., 2024). Legal protection for victims of sextortion in Indonesia still faces serious obstacles due to overlapping regulations and vagueness of norms in various laws and regulations (Fasih Ahmed & Asim Khan, 2022). Although there are various regulations that can be used to ensnare perpetrators, such as the ITE Law, Criminal Code, Pornography Law, Child Protection Law, TPPO Law, and TPKS Law, each of these laws has a different approach and is not always harmonized in its application (Nanin Koeswidi Astuti, 2023).

Although various legal instruments such as the Criminal Code, ITE Law, Pornography Law, Child Protection Law, and TPKS Law have covered legal aspects related to extortion and electronic-based sexual exploitation, gaps in implementation and differences in interpretation by law enforcement officials (Annisa Rahma Siregar, 2024) often hamper the effectiveness of protection for victims, especially children. The vagueness of the norms protecting victims of sextortion can be seen in the unclear boundaries between extortion, sexual exploitation, and distribution of pornographic content. For example, Article 368 of the Criminal Code regulates extortion in general, but does not specifically address digital extortion, which often occurs in sextortion. Article 27(4) of the ITE Law regulates extortion and threats through electronic media, but its focus is more on extortion and not on digital-based sexual exploitation, which has a serious impact on child victims. In addition, the Pornography Law, which in Article 4 Paragraph (1) prohibits the production, dissemination, and provision of pornographic content, does not explicitly mention sextortion as a form of sexual exploitation (Annisa Rahma Siregar, 2024).

This has resulted in law enforcement officials being more likely to use the ITE Law to handle sextortion cases, while the broader aspects of child sexual exploitation are often overlooked (Joanna Curtis & Gavin Oxburgh, 2022). Article 27(4) of the ITE Law regulates extortion and threats through electronic media, but its focus is more on extortion and not on digital-based sexual exploitation, which has a serious impact on child victims. In addition, the Pornography Law, which in Article 4 Paragraph (1) prohibits the production, dissemination, and provision of pornographic content, does not explicitly mention sextortion as a form of sexual exploitation<sup>42</sup> This has resulted in law enforcement officials being more likely to use the ITE Law to handle sextortion cases, while the broader aspects of child sexual exploitation are often overlooked (Muslim Lobubun et al., 2022).

Meanwhile, the Child Protection Law through Articles 76E and 76I prohibits acts of violence and sexual exploitation against children, but does not specifically regulate how the threat of distributing explicit content can be categorized as a form of sexual exploitation that is different from ordinary extortion (Safrida Yusitarani, 2020). Meanwhile, the Child Protection Law and the TPPO Law actually have provisions that can be used to ensnare sextortion perpetrators involving child victims (Ade Satriasa Putra et al., 2021).

However, in practice, the articles in these laws are rarely applied because law enforcement officials more often use the ITE Law or the Pornography Law, which more specifically regulate the distribution of electronic content and pornography (Machelinda Putri, Muhidin, and Sri Fatmawati, 2024). As a result, the protection of children as victims is not optimally addressed, and perpetrators often receive lighter sentences than they deserve. This inconsistency is exacerbated by the lack of coordination between law enforcement agencies, which leads to different interpretations of how to handle sextortion cases (Komang Wiraguna et al., 2020). This inconsistency in the application of the law also has a negative impact on victims of sextortion, especially women and children. Many victims are reluctant to report their cases for fear of revictimization or being criminalized under articles in the ITE Law or the Pornography Law. In fact, the TPKS Law has regulated protection for victims of sexual violence, including the right to recovery and legal assistance. Unfortunately, the implementation of this regulation is still not running optimally in the field, so many victims do not receive proper protection (Douglas Hugh Russell et al., 2024).

Based on the data presented in the introduction above, it can be seen that the trend is increasing, both in terms of the number of cases and their complexity, with a wider range of victims, especially among children and adolescents who

are still in a vulnerable stage of psychological development. The increase in sextortion crimes can be explained by several factors, including the development of technology and the spread of social media that makes it easier for perpetrators to carry out their actions (Justin W. Patchin & Sameer Hinduja, 2024). The increase in sextortion crimes can be explained by several factors, including the development of technology and the spread of social media that makes it easier for perpetrators to carry out their actions.

This creates a conducive environment for sextortion offenders to target their victims, often in a highly manipulative manner (Roberta Liggett O'Malley et al., 2023). In addition, coordination between law enforcement agencies further complicates the handling of sextortion cases in Indonesia, with different approaches leading to inconsistencies in the application of the law and court decisions. Victims, especially women and children, are often reluctant to report for fear of revictimization or even criminalization under the ITE Law and the Pornography Law, while the protection provided for in the TPKS Law is still not optimal (Doris Rahmat & Santoso Budi Nursal Umar, 2024). This legal ambiguity and lack of integrated victim-centered mechanisms contribute to underreporting and hinder efforts to ensure justice and comprehensive recovery for victims, who often face stigma, psychological trauma, and limited access to adequate support services throughout the legal process.

This phenomenon includes a significant difference between the verdicts handed down by judges, where there is a tendency to apply lenient sentences and judgments that pay less attention to the principle of the best interests of the child. Furthermore, research conducted by Loim et al revealed that disparities in decisions, especially in cases of sexual violence against children, are often triggered by internal factors of judges, such as personal interpretation of evidence and the application of discretion in sentencing (Jacek Koziarski and Jin Ree Lee, 2020).

Based on data from the Directorate of Judgments of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia, various sextortion cases have been handled with differing court decisions, reflecting inconsistencies in the legal approaches applied. In case No. 119/Pid.B/2024/PN Sgi, the offender was sentenced to 6 years in prison and fined Rp250 million under the Pornography Law for manipulating the victim's intimate content, distributing it, and committing blackmail. Meanwhile, in case No. 253/Pid.B/2024/PN Tpg, the offender was sentenced to 8 years in prison and fined Rp1 billion for sexually exploiting a 12-year-old child via social media. In the District Court of Gpr, case No. 17/Pid.Sus.anak/2023/PN Gpr resulted in a sentence of 1 year and 8 months in prison along with 3 months of rehabilitation training for sexually exploiting

a victim through digital threats. In case No. 91/Pid.B/2023/PN Tub, the offender received 2 years and 6 months in prison for sextortion involving a 15-year-old victim. Meanwhile, in case No. 137/Pid.Sus/2024/PN Dmk, the offender was sentenced to 18 years in prison and fined Rp500 million under the Child Protection Law for committing sexual exploitation through violence, threats, and coercion. These cases highlight the urgent need for harmonization of legal frameworks and consistent implementation of victim-centered approaches in handling sextortion cases.

The lack of clear legal norms regulating sextortion offenses underscores the importance of establishing more stringent guidelines within the judicial system. Ambiguities in rule formulation lead to significant differences in interpretation among law enforcement officials, especially judges (Jaclyn A. Siegel et al., 2025), resulting in disparities in sentencing despite the similar underlying context of the offenses. The aforementioned ruling reflects a critical issue in the enforcement of laws related to the sexual exploitation of children, particularly in sextortion cases prosecuted under the Pornography Law. The existence of vague legal norms in current regulations has led to uncertainty in the application of legal provisions used to prosecute perpetrators. Consequently, differences in legal interpretation among law enforcement officials result in inconsistencies in sentencing, as evident in the ruling. Furthermore, the ambiguity of overlapping regulatory provisions exacerbates this issue, leading to confusion in the application of relevant legal articles. The disparity in sentencing, ranging from 1 year and 8 months to 8 years of imprisonment, indicates that law enforcement authorities hold divergent interpretations of cases with similar patterns of criminal conduct (Antonius Sigaria et al., 2023). Another factor contributing to legal uncertainty is the ambiguous formulation of statutory provisions

In sextortion cases, the application of the Pornography Law as the basis for prosecution often fails to comprehensively address all aspects of the crime, such as digital extortion or psychological manipulation of victims. Ideally, the applicable legal framework should incorporate a broader perspective on child sexual exploitation, as stipulated in the Child Protection Law. However, the overlap between regulations and variations in interpretation have resulted in inconsistencies in legal enforcement (Yongkie & Hari Sutra Disemadi, 2022).

This norm ambiguity also has the potential to cause inconsistency in the application of the law because each law enforcement officer can have a different interpretation of the same case. This phenomenon can be caused by ambiguity in the formulation of rules, limited interpretation of language in written regulations, as well as the dynamics of rapid changes in social context that often shift the meaning of norms from time to time (M Andhika Naufal

& M Emil Maulana, 2022). In the legal context, legal hermeneutics is aimed at translating and clarifying the meaning of normative values of statutory texts that are abstract and not always explicit, thus creating room for different interpretations among legal practitioners and judges (Alana Ray & Nicola Henry, 2024). In the legal context, legal hermeneutics is aimed at translating and clarifying the meaning of normative values of statutory texts that are abstract and not always explicit, thus creating room for different interpretations among legal practitioners and judges (Isdian Anggraeny et al., 2022).

As a result, crimes such as sextortion do not receive serious enough attention as a form of child sexual exploitation, but are only seen as pornography offenses or the distribution of illegal content. This situation shows the weak protection of children as victims, because the legal approach focuses more on the formal aspects of a criminal offense compared to the psychological and social impacts experienced by victims. In some cases, perpetrators receive leniency on the grounds of good behavior or cooperative behavior during the trial, while the long-term impact on victims is not a major consideration in law enforcement. To overcome this problem, a clearer and more comprehensive harmonization of regulations is needed through the revision or establishment of new rules that specifically regulate the crime of sextortion.

Currently, the handling of sextortion still relies on the interpretation of various laws, which risks creating legal inconsistencies (Ethel Quayle et al., 2024). Therefore, the government and legislature must develop regulations with clear definitions, proportional sanctions, as well as prevention and victim protection mechanisms. Therefore, efforts to harmonize legislation and develop special protocols to deal with this kind of cybercrime are very important to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement (Alexandra I. Zelin et al., 2021). In addition, operational guidelines for law enforcement officers need to be strengthened to ensure that the process of investigation, prosecution and court decisions are more focused and consistent. Strengthening the capacity of the authorities in handling digital cases is also crucial.

#### **4. Discussion**

The findings of this study reveal significant weaknesses in the protection of children from sextortion in Indonesia, particularly in the face of growing digital threats. The data show a steady rise in online sexual exploitation cases, with children being one of the most vulnerable groups. The alarming statistics from the National Commission for Child Protection and SAFEnet underscore the urgency of the issue. This research affirms earlier studies which suggest

that digital environments facilitate new forms of sexual violence that law enforcement and legal systems are often ill equipped to address.

One of the core issues highlighted is the fragmented legal framework, where sextortion is addressed under various laws without a specific provision clearly defining or criminalizing it as a distinct offense. This aligns with Gunawan et al. (2022), who noted the lack of legal clarity and coordination as key obstacles to effectively combating sextortion. For instance, certain cases may fall under the Criminal Code as extortion, others under the Pornography Law, the TPKS Law, or the Child Protection Law. Such overlapping regulations can lead to inconsistent interpretations and sentencing disparities, as seen in the case data from the Directorate of Judgments of the Supreme Court of Indonesia. These inconsistencies can result in legal uncertainty and undermine justice for victims. Moreover, this study supports the view of scholars such as Ranganathan et al. (2021) and Druhanova et al. (2023), who emphasize the psychosocial trauma experienced by victims of online sexual violence. The digital nature of sextortion, where perpetrators often act anonymously and across jurisdictions, exacerbates feelings of powerlessness among victims and complicates law enforcement efforts. The threats of revictimization, criminalization under the ITE or Pornography Law, and pervasive social stigma further discourage victims, especially children, from reporting their cases (Mondal et al., 2022; Monteiro et al., 2024).

The weaknesses identified are not only normative but also institutional. Law enforcement at the local level struggles to keep pace with the evolving tactics of cybercriminals. As noted by Widya Syahda & Ramaiah (2024), the absence of clear protocols and coordination among agencies limits the responsiveness and effectiveness of protection mechanisms. Even though Indonesia has ratified international instruments such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Palermo Protocol, their domestic implementation faces significant barriers on the ground. This study acknowledges certain limitations. As a normative legal study, it does not incorporate empirical field data from law enforcement or survivor testimonies, which could enrich the analysis. Nevertheless, it offers a comprehensive doctrinal examination that reveals systemic shortcomings in both regulatory clarity and institutional readiness.

To address these challenges, a multi pronged strategy is required. First, legislative harmonization must be prioritized by consolidating dispersed sextortion provisions into a single, dedicated statute. This new law should clearly define sextortion as a distinct offense, articulate its constituent elements (e.g., threat, dissemination, intent), and prescribe proportional sanctions that reflect both the coercive and sexual dimensions of the crime

(Zelin et al., 2021; Quayle et al., 2024). By doing so, ambiguity will be reduced, inconsistencies among courts minimized, and perpetrators held fully accountable for all facets of their conduct.

Second, operational protocols for law enforcement need standardization and capacity-building. Specialized cyber-crime units should receive ongoing training in digital forensics, victim-centred interviewing, and cross-jurisdictional cooperation, enabling them to trace IP addresses, preserve electronic evidence, and engage effectively with social media platforms (Griffin et al., 2022). Clear guidelines must be issued to prosecutors and judges on the appropriate application of sextortion statutes, with a focus on safeguarding victims' privacy and psychological well-being throughout the legal process (Hardt et al., 2022). Third, victim support mechanisms must be mainstreamed into every stage of response. This includes establishing 24/7 hotlines, legal aid clinics, and trauma-informed counselling services that are readily accessible to children and adolescents (Nurisman, 2022). Schools and community organisations should be engaged in preventive education campaigns, teaching digital literacy, consent, and reporting procedures (Patchin & Hinduja, 2024). Integrating these services within the framework of the TPKS Law will help ensure that recovery and reintegration are not afterthoughts but core elements of justice (Russell et al., 2024).

Finally, inter agency coordination must be strengthened through the creation of a national sextortion task force, bringing together representatives from the Ministries of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, the National Police, the Attorney General's Office, and civil-society organisations (Syahda & Ramaiah, 2024). Regular data-sharing protocols and joint training exercises will foster a unified approach, promote best practices, and enable continuous monitoring and evaluation of policy impact.

## **5. Conclusions**

The rise of child sextortion presents a serious legal and social challenge. Despite existing laws in Indonesia, the lack of a clear, unified sextortion law causes enforcement difficulties and weakens victim protection. This leads to inconsistent court rulings and leaves many victims without justice, causing long-term psychological harm. A comprehensive response is needed. Legal reforms should clearly define and criminalize sextortion under harmonized regulations. Law enforcement must receive specialized training and digital forensic skills to effectively prosecute offenders. Public education is also crucial. Awareness campaigns, digital literacy programs, and stronger child protection mechanisms can empower communities to identify and report sextortion. Collaboration among law enforcement, child advocates, and technology platforms is essential to create a safer digital environment. By

strengthening laws, improving enforcement, and raising awareness, Indonesia can better protect children from sextortion and support victims in rebuilding their lives with dignity and safety.

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