



## EFFORTS OF THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN PROTECTION UNIT (PPA) IN RECOVERING PSYCHOLOGICAL AND DEEP TRAUMA IMPACTS ON VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AT THE LOMBOK TIMUR POLICE STATION

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### ABSTRACT

*The Women and Children Protection Unit is one of the institutions responsible for upholding the law. The PPA Unit is required to participate in supporting the realization of protection and overcoming criminal acts of violence against children, therefore the government has passed Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection and Law Number 23 of 2004 concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence, so that the Women and Children Protection Unit of the East Lombok Resort Police is required to be able to assist in the process of resolving and dealing with criminal acts of violence against women and children. The aim of this research is to analyze and understand the optimization of the services of the Women and Children Protection Unit (PPA) in recovering from the psychological impacts and deep trauma of victims of sexual violence at the East Lombok Police and to analyze and understand the obstacles to the Women and Children Protection Unit (PPA) of the East Lombok Police in Providing Recovery Services for the Psychological Impact and Deep Trauma of Sexual Violence Victims. The research method used in this research is Empirical Law. The results of this research are that the number of women who experience sexual violence is still very high. The state in its constitution is responsible for the protection, promotion, enforcement and fulfillment of the human rights of every individual as explained in Article 28I of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. The state's protection for victims of sexual violence can also be seen from the formation and ratification of the Law. Number 12 of 2022 concerning Crime of Sexual Violence. In handling cases of sexual violence, a Women and Children Protection Unit was formed, this unit is specialized in handling victims, witnesses or suspects involving women and children who require special handling. The efforts that have been made by this unit to deal with cases of violence experienced by women and children are non-penal and penal efforts. The PPA Unit's optimization of victim recovery can also be seen in the case handling process as well as collaboration with community institutions and psychologists. Obstacles to victims' recovery are quite frequent and pervasive in society*

**Keywords:** *Protection of Women and Children, Sexual Violence, Psychological*

### ABSTRAK

Unit Perlindungan Perempuan dan Anak merupakan salah satu institusi yang bertanggung jawab atas tegaknya hukum, Unit PPA dituntut peran sertanya dalam mendukung terwujudnya perlindungan serta penanggulangan tindak pidana kekerasan terhadap anak, oleh sebab itu pemerintah telah mengesahkan Undang-Undang Nomor 35 Tahun 2014 tentang Perlindungan Anak dan Undang-Undang Nomor 23 Tahun 2004 tentang Penghapusan Kekerasan dalam Rumah Tangga, sehingga Unit Perlindungan Perempuan dan Anak Kepolisian Resor Lombok Timur dituntut mampu membantu proses penyelesaian dan penanggulangan terhadap tindak pidana kekerasan

terhadap perempuan dan anak. Tujuan penelitian ini yaitu untuk menganalisis dan memahami optimalisasi pelayanan Unit Perlindungan Perempuan dan Anak (PPA) dalam pemulihan dampak psikologis dan trauma mendalam terhadap korban kekerasan seksual di Polres Lombok Timur dan untuk menganalisis dan memahami hambatan Unit Perlindungan Perempuan dan Anak (PPA) Polres Lombok Timur dalam memberikan pelayanan pemulihan dampak psikologis dan trauma mendalam terhadap korban kekerasan seksual. Metode penelitian yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini yaitu Hukum Empiris. Hasil dari penelitian ini yaitu Jumlah perempuan yang mengalami kekerasan seksual masih sangat tinggi. Negara dalam konstitusinya bertanggung jawab terhadap perlindungan, pemajuan, penegakan, dan pemenuhan hak asasi manusia setiap individu sebagaimana dijelaskan dalam Pasal 28I Undang-Undang Dasar Negara Republik Indonesia Tahun 1945. Perlindungan negara terhadap korban kekerasan seksual juga dapat terlihat dari dibentuk dan disahkannya Undang-Undang Nomor 12 Tahun 2022 tentang Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual. Dalam penanganan kasus kekerasan seksual, dibentuklah sebuah Unit Perlindungan Perempuan dan Anak yang mana Unit ini dikhususkan dalam hal penanganan para korban, saksi atau tersangka yang melibatkan wanita dan anak-anak sehingga memerlukan penanganan khusus. Adapun upaya yang telah dilakukan oleh unit ini terhadap kasus kekerasan yang dialami oleh perempuan dan anak adalah Upaya Non-Penal dan Penal. Optimalisasi Unit PPA terhadap pemulihan korban juga terlihat dalam proses penanganan kasus juga dari adanya kerja sama dengan lembaga masyarakat juga psikolog.

**Kata kunci:** Perlindungan Perempuan dan Anak, Kekerasan Seksual, Psikologis.

## INTRODUCTION

Perpetrators of crimes against children's morality are undoubtedly concerning, as children, being the nation's future generation, may have their minds poisoned by negative influences, thereby decreasing the quality of future human resources. The prevalence of violent crimes against children, particularly cases of sexual violence, is increasingly alarming. In today's era, sexual violence can occur anywhere, including public places, homes, schools, and even places of worship (Rusyidi et al., 2019). Examples include acts such as molestation, adultery, sexual intercourse, and rape, which deeply disturb society and significantly harm children (Artaria, 2012).

As seen recently in East Lombok Regency, sexual violence against children, including cases of sexual intercourse with minors, has been relatively frequent over the past few years. Data obtained from the Criminal Investigation Unit of the East Lombok Police reveal the following statistics on child sexual violence cases for the years 2021–2023:

Table 1. Sexual violence cases against children According Polres Lombok Timur in 2021

Case	Frequency
Sexual ntercourse	23
Molestation	4

Table 2. Sexual violence cases against children According Polres Lombok Timur in 2022

Case	Frequency
Sexual Intercourse	44
Molestation	8
Rape	11

Table 3. Sexual violence cases against children According Polres Lombok Timur in 2022

Case	Frequency
Sexual Intercourse	38
Molestation	16
Rape	4

Sexual violence or intercourse cannot be narrowly interpreted but encompasses various aspects of behavior, including psychological abuse and humiliation. Therefore, discussions on

sexual violence must address coercive and oppressive behavior. If sexual violence is only narrowly understood as physical and oppressive actions, it is unsurprising that cases of sexual violence or intercourse involving children may escape legal action.

Sexual violence represents one of the most perplexing and disturbing challenges to human intellect, significantly affecting human life. Some argue that "half of the world is dominated by evil individuals, while the other half is contested between good and evil ones," highlighting crime as a deeply fascinating human phenomenon to study.

One of the efforts to combat crime is through the application of criminal law, which is utilized when preventive measures fail. When families, communities, and governments cannot succeed, law enforcement authorities can implement criminal legal measures against perpetrators of sexual offenses against minors, referencing provisions such as Article 289 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP).

Article 289 of the Indonesian Criminal Code states: "*Barang siapa dengan kekerasan atau ancaman kekerasan memaksa seorang untuk melakukan atau membiarkan dilakukannya perbuatan cabul, diancam karena melakukan perbuatan yang menyerang kehormatan kesusilaan, dengan pidana penjara paling lama sembilan tahun.*" which translates to "Whoever, by force or threat of force, compels another person to engage in or permit an obscene act shall be punished for committing an act that attacks moral honor with imprisonment of up to nine years." Provisions regarding obscene acts are also regulated in Article 76D of Law No. 35 of 2014 (an amendment to Law No. 23 of 2002 on Child Protection): "Everyone is prohibited from using violence or threats of violence to compel a child to engage in intercourse with them or another person."

Sexual abuse or obscene acts are categorized as absolute complaint offenses, meaning they can only be reported and prosecuted based on a complaint from the victim. A complaint offense is a criminal offense that requires a complaint from the harmed or concerned party for legal action to be pursued.

Legal protection for crime victims necessitates serious attention. Addressing incidents and fundamental rights in relation to the enforcement of criminal law is not a straightforward task. Numerous societal events demonstrate that humanity and justice hold a vital place in the philosophy of Pancasila, reflecting the ideals of equitable and civilized humanity and social justice for all Indonesians. Law enforcement officers play a crucial role in addressing moral crimes, particularly the increasing number of child sexual abuse cases. Law enforcement must ensure justice for offenders by imposing penalties that encourage rehabilitation, thereby providing victims, particularly children, with a sense of justice for the harm inflicted.

Given that sexual violence, intercourse involving minors, and child sexual abuse disrupt public comfort, safety, and order, perpetrators should be subject to the severest penalties. This aligns with Government Regulation in Lieu of Law No. 1 of 2016 and Law No. 17 of 2016 on Child Protection, particularly Articles 82 and 84, which stipulate:

**Article 82:** "In cases where offenses referred to in paragraph (1) are committed by a parent, guardian, family member, caretaker, or jointly by more than one person, the penalty is increased by one-third of the sentence outlined in paragraph (1)."

**Article 84:** "In cases where offenses referred to in Article 76E result in multiple victims, serious injuries, psychological disorders, communicable diseases, reproductive impairment or loss, or death, the penalty is increased by one-third of the sentence outlined in paragraph (1)."

The role of law enforcement, particularly the police, is pivotal in maintaining public order, safety, and security. Investigators must enhance their ability to uncover and examine the origins of crimes. The police's role can be optimized through crime prevention efforts to ensure public security.

Victims' rights in cases of violence are outlined in Law No. 23 of 2004 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence, which includes:

1. Protection from family members, police, prosecutors, courts, advocates, social institutions, or other parties, either temporarily or based on a protection order from the court.
2. Health services tailored to medical needs.
3. Specialized handling concerning victim confidentiality.
4. Support from social workers and legal aid.
5. Spiritual guidance services.

Protection and services are provided by institutions according to their respective roles:

1. Police protection involves temporary security.
2. Advocate protection includes legal consultations, mediation, and representation during investigations, prosecutions, and court trials.
3. Court protection orders are issued for one year and can be extended.
4. Health worker services are crucial for sanctioning offenders.
5. Social worker services provide counseling, ensuring victim safety and informing them of their rights.
6. Volunteer services include accompaniment and rights information.
7. Spiritual guidance services reinforce victims' faith and resilience.

The Women and Children Service Unit (Unit PPA) was established under KAPOLRI Regulation No. 10 of 2007 on Organization and Work Procedures. The PPA Unit is tasked with providing services to protect women and children who are victims of crimes and enforcing the law against women and children involved in criminal acts (Nova & Harahap, 2017). The PPA Unit plays a vital role in ensuring justice and tackling crimes against children, supported by Law No. 35 of 2014 on Child Protection and Law No. 23 of 2004 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence.

To strengthen public trust, the Women and Children Service Unit of East Lombok Resort Police must enhance its efforts to address and resolve child sexual abuse cases effectively. Thus, the focus of this research is on analyzing the "Efforts of the Women and Children Service Unit (PPA) in Mitigating Psychological Impact and Trauma Among Child Victims of Sexual Violence in East Lombok Resort Police."

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs an empirical legal research method, which investigates legal issues using empirical evidence gathered from human behavior—both verbal accounts from interviews and observed actions. Empirical research also examines outcomes of human actions, such as physical artifacts or archives (Fajar & Ahmad, 2010).

This research integrates legislative analysis with direct observation of sexual violence cases in East Lombok Regency, aiming to address the key issue: the efforts of the PPA Unit in mitigating psychological impacts and deep trauma among child sexual violence victims in East Lombok Resort Police.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### **The Women and Children Protection Unit (Unit PPA) of the East Lombok Police in Recovering the Psychological Impact and Deep Trauma of Victims of Sexual Violence**

The Women and Children Protection Unit (Unit PPA) of the East Lombok Police, previously known as the "Rendawan Unit," was initially part of the Community Guidance Function (Binmas) and later became a specialized unit under the Criminal Investigation Department (Reskrim) named the Special Service Room Unit (RPK). This unit specializes in

handling victims, witnesses, or suspects involving women and children, requiring special attention (Ramdani, 2019).

Article 1, Point 9 of the Chief of Police Regulation No. 3 of 2008 concerning the Establishment of Special Service Rooms and Procedures for Examining Witnesses and/or Victims, states that the Women and Children Protection Unit, abbreviated as UPPA, is a unit tasked with providing services in the form of protection for women and children who are victims of crimes and enforcing the law against women and children who are perpetrators of criminal acts.

In performing its duties, the Unit PPA implements several programs and activities, including socialization, group discussions, case handling in collaboration with related agencies, as well as professional and procedural legal enforcement against perpetrators of violence.

The duties of the UPPA are regulated and detailed in Article 10, Paragraph (2) of Chief of Police Regulation No. 3 of 2008, which includes:

- Receiving reports/complaints about criminal acts.
- Preparing police reports.
- Providing counseling.
- Referring victims to Integrated Service Centers (PPT) or the nearest hospital.
- Conducting case investigations.
- Requesting medical reports (*visum et repertum*).
- Informing the reporter about the case status, rights, and obligations.
- Ensuring the confidentiality of information obtained.
- Guaranteeing the safety and security of victims.
- Referring victims to Legal Aid Institutions (LBH)/safe houses.
- Coordinating and cooperating across sectors.
- Informing sectoral parties about case handling progress.
- Preparing activity reports as per procedures.

The Special Service Room (RPK) is a secure and comfortable space specifically designed for witnesses and/or victims of criminal acts, including suspects of criminal acts involving women and children, to ensure they receive special treatment. This definition is explained in Article 1, Point 2 of Chief of Police Regulation No. 3 of 2008.

For cases handled by the PPA unit, based on investigator consideration, cases such as molestation and rape must be forwarded to the prosecutor's office. In contrast, minor criminal cases like petty theft or light assault can be resolved through restorative justice based on Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police (Riadi, 2016).

The scope of the PPA Unit's duties includes various criminal acts, such as (Mumpuni & Setiawan, 2020):

- Human trafficking
- Human smuggling
- General and domestic violence
- Sexual crimes (rape, harassment, indecency)
- Gambling and prostitution
- Illegal adoption
- Pornography and pornographic acts
- Money laundering from the above crimes
- Child protection (as victims/perpetrators)
- Protection for victims, witnesses, families, and friends
- Other cases involving female and child perpetrators

The rise in sexual violence cases underscores the importance of swift and prudent prevention and handling by the East Lombok Police. Particularly, the PPA Unit is expected to

effectively handle such criminal cases. It is crucial to ensure that children and women receive protection from acts causing mental, physical, social, and other harm. Children and women need assistance from others to safeguard themselves due to their situational vulnerabilities (Mumpuni & Setiawan, 2020). The role of the PPA Unit is to provide protection, a sense of security, and comfort to all women and children who are victims.

Interviews revealed that the PPA Unit implements several measures in providing legal protection to victims of violence, including:

- a. Humane treatment that considers the needs of victims according to their age (for children). Investigators conduct inquiries carefully, avoiding harsh tones or reprimands, ensuring the victim does not feel intimidated during the investigation stage.
- b. Separate rooms: The PPA Unit prepares special rooms for investigation processes. This separation ensures a peaceful environment for victims, whether children or women, preventing interference during the investigation.
- c. Effective legal assistance: Investigators coordinate with professional social workers in Lombok to provide assistance during investigations. This support may come from experts or trusted individuals within the victim's family or community.
- d. Non-disclosure of identity: The identity of victims is kept confidential, excluding media exposure or other forms of publicity. When necessary, the victim's identity is only referenced by initials.
- e. Parental or professional social worker accompaniment: During investigations, the PPA Unit asks victims of sexual violence whom they trust for support during the process. If the victim feels uncomfortable involving their parents or guardians, investigators coordinate with professional social workers for accompaniment.

To address psychological impacts and trauma recovery, the PPA Unit approaches victims to create a sense of safety and collaborates with social workers from the Social Affairs Office to provide counseling as preparation for the future. The unit also motivates victims to continue learning, expand knowledge, and explore their potential, aiming for them to achieve success equal to others (Anggraeni, 2022).

Recovery efforts are also handled by the follow-up division, as stated in Article 11, Paragraph (6) of the Regulation of the Minister of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection No. 4 of 2018 concerning Guidelines for Establishing Regional Technical Implementation Units for Women and Children Protection. This division is tasked with mediation, providing legal assistance during diversion processes, restitution, trial assistance, and other legal support, alongside assisting victims in recovery efforts.

### **Efforts by the Women and Children Protection Unit of the East Lombok Police**

Handling Measures by the Women and Children Protection Unit  
The Women and Children Protection Unit (*Unit Perlindungan Perempuan dan Anak*, or UPPA) implements two alternative approaches in handling cases:

- a. Non-Penal Efforts: This approach prioritizes preventive measures, aiming to avert criminal acts before they occur. Preventive efforts by the East Lombok Police UPPA include community engagement programs. These programs encompass guidance at all police levels, from district police (Polres) to sector police (Polsek), promoting community-based security initiatives and fostering public order and safety. The goal is to empower the community to prevent crimes and strengthen the synergy between the police and society.
- b. Penal Efforts: This approach involves the application of criminal law, including procedures for imposing sanctions or punishments in cases involving female or child victims. Penal efforts represent repressive measures, focusing on law enforcement. The procedures and mechanisms for addressing violence against women and children are

guided by Law No. 17 of 2016, which amends various child protection laws, as well as Law No. 23 of 2004 concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence.

### **Challenges Faced by the Women and Children Protection Unit of the East Lombok Police**

Despite its responsibilities, the UPPA encounters several internal and external challenges, including:

1. **Lack of Human Resources and Facilities:** Both the police force and the UPPA often struggle with limited resources, affecting their ability to provide adequate support to victims of sexual violence and conduct effective investigations. Insufficient human resources, including trained investigators, and the lack of facilities such as psychologists pose significant barriers to optimal functioning.
2. **Absence of Parties During Clarifications and Mediation:** When receiving complaints, the UPPA must verify the cases by obtaining statements from both victims and alleged perpetrators. However, perpetrators' lack of cooperation or absence during clarifications and mediation hinders the process. Additionally, victims may withhold information or provide inconsistent accounts, complicating the investigation and legal classification of offenses.
3. **Victims Without Identification Documents:** A common issue arises when victims file reports without carrying identification, such as a national ID card (KTP), which is necessary for registration in the legal system.
4. **Budgetary Constraints:** Limited funding affects the UPPA's ability to provide necessary facilities and victim recovery programs. This also results in delays or compromises in handling cases involving children, which sometimes are addressed by general investigators instead of specialized child investigators, as stipulated in Police Regulation No. 10 of 2007.
5. **Cultural and Societal Practices:** External challenges include cultural norms and practices that discourage victims from reporting cases of sexual violence, as well as societal stigmas that exacerbate victims' reluctance to seek justice or support.

### **Strategies to Improve the Performance of the Women and Children Protection Unit**

To enhance the performance and effectiveness of the UPPA, several strategies can be implemented:

- a. **Formation of Joint Teams:** Establish joint teams comprising police officers, social workers, psychologists, legal experts, and UPPA members. These teams collaborate to address sexual violence cases holistically.
- b. **Collaborative Training:** Conduct joint training sessions to deepen understanding of relevant laws and regulations, improve sensitive interview techniques, and identify signs of violence.
- c. **Victim-Centered Approach:** Adopt a victim-centered approach by prioritizing victims' needs and safety, creating safe spaces for them to report violence, and providing necessary emotional and psychological support.
- d. **Expedited Legal Processes:** Ensure that legal proceedings are conducted efficiently to bring perpetrators to justice swiftly, providing victims with a sense of security.
- e. **Advocacy Efforts:** Work with advocacy groups to push for stronger policies and laws that enhance protections for victims of sexual violence.
- f. **Preventive Programs:** Implement preventive programs, such as public awareness campaigns, community education sessions, and sexual violence prevention training.

- g. Periodic Evaluation: Conduct regular evaluations to assess the effectiveness of strategies and adjust them as needed based on evolving challenges.
- h. Collaboration with External Stakeholders: Foster partnerships with hospitals, medical service providers, and other relevant organizations to streamline case handling.
- i. Adequate Resource Allocation: Ensure sufficient personnel, budget, and facilities to enable the UPPA to carry out its tasks effectively.
- j. Community Education: Promote public awareness about the importance of reporting sexual violence cases and understanding victims' rights and available protections.

## CONCLUSIONS

1. The prevalence of sexual violence against women remains alarmingly high. The state, as mandated by Article 28I of the 1945 Constitution, is responsible for protecting, advancing, enforcing, and fulfilling the human rights of every individual. This obligation is reflected in the establishment of laws such as Law No. 12 of 2022 on Sexual Violence Crimes. Specialized units like the UPPA have been formed to address cases involving women and children as victims, witnesses, or perpetrators requiring specialized handling. The UPPA employs both non-penal and penal approaches in tackling these cases and collaborates with community organizations and psychologists to optimize victim recovery.
2. The challenges to victim recovery, both internal and external, are deeply rooted in societal and structural issues. Internal obstacles include resource limitations, budgetary constraints, and victim-related challenges, while external barriers stem from cultural norms and practices. Addressing these issues requires strategic efforts such as forming joint teams, advocating for stronger policies, raising public awareness, and ensuring sufficient resources. Through these measures, the UPPA can enhance its effectiveness in providing justice and support for victims of sexual violence.

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