Legal Protection Against Victims Of Child Sexual Exploitation In The City Of Yogyakarta In The Digital Space From A Human Rights Perspective

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<td>This research aims to look at forms of recovery efforts for children as victims of sexual exploitation in the digital realm and concepts in dealing with criminal acts of sexual exploitation in the digital realm. The method in this research is normative legal research. Normative legal research is also called doctrinal legal research. In normative research, law is often conceptualized as what is written in statutory regulations. This research is normative because it seeks to place law as a system of norms built on and related to principles, standards, rules of statutory regulations, and decisions. Courts, agreements and doctrines (teachings). The research results show that legal protection for victims of child sexual exploitation in the city of Yogyakarta in the digital realm requires a holistic and integrated approach, which is based on human rights principles. This approach includes efforts to strengthen existing regulations, develop inclusive policies, increase public awareness, and use technology as an innovative tool in combating child sexual exploitation. Legal protection must also pay attention to the recovery of victims, both directly and indirectly, through assistance, legal and psychological counselling, and holistic rehabilitation assistance. Cross-sector collaboration between governments, law enforcement agencies and online platforms is also essential to ensure adequate protection. Apart from that, the future concept in dealing with criminal acts of sexual exploitation in the digital realm involves strengthening regulations, strict law enforcement, and integrating child protection principles into applicable law.</td>
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I. Introduction

Children are a form of gift given directly by God Almighty; a child is obliged to
receive special attention such as health, protection and supervision since he is in the womb, as well as being provided with Education in the form of religion and general Education, and accompanied by his growth and development until he can are said to be adults (Arnez, 2024). Human beings have inherent dignity and rights that must be respected. If we look at the life of the nation and state, children are one of the pillars of a nation’s future. Starting from this, every child should be able to grow and develop naturally towards a young generation who has great potential for national development (Prongratsame, 2021). This is also stated in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia Article 28 B (Setyowati et al., 2024).

Bear in mind that due to physical and mental reasons that are not yet mature, children need special protection and care, including legal protection, before and after they are born. The need for security was stated in the Geneva Declaration on the Rights of Children in 1924 and recognized in the World Declaration on Human Rights (Asmira, 2021). In fact, up to today, there has been no precise agreement regarding the age limit for children; if we look at the various laws regarding the age limit for children as follows:

1. Children according to the Criminal Code (KUHP), Article 45 of the Criminal Code provides restrictions regarding children, namely if they are not yet 16 years old if the child is proven to have committed a crime. The judge can order the defendant to be returned to his parents or guardian and handed over to the government without being subject to any sanctions.

2. According to Civil Law Article 330 of the Civil Code (Civil Code), children are immature people who have not reached 21 years or are not married.

3. Children according to Law Number 4 of 1979 concerning Child Welfare, A child is someone who has not reached the age of 21 years and is not married.

4. Children according to Law Number 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights, A child is every human being under 18 years of age and unmarried, including children who are still in the womb if this is in their interests.

5. Children, according to Law No.23 of 2002 jo. Law No.35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection A child is someone who is not yet 18 years old, including children who are still in the womb.

6. Children according to International Law, namely the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which has been ratified by Presidential Decree Number 36 of 1990

Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (KHA) states that what is meant by a child in this Convention is every person under the age of 18 years, unless based on the law applicable to children, it is found that the age of majority has been reached earlier (Vyas et al., 2019). The Convention on the Rights of the Child has a solid philosophical and juridical basis; philosophically, children’s rights are part of human rights, so the state has a big responsibility to fulfil all children’s rights. Juridically, the Convention on the Rights of the Child is the state’s reference in forming legislation to provide legal protection for the fulfilment of children’s rights (Ariani et al., 2020).

The family is the first and foremost layer, and it is recognized as having a significant influence on a child. It is said to have a massive impact because a child’s primary to secondary needs should be adequately met (Suyanto, 2021). Providing protection and support is an obligation from both parents. Quality human resources can be realized if
they are prepared early, ensuring adequate protection and welfare to meet the needs for survival, growth and development, protection for children and participation in society (Amadi et al., 2019). Creating quality human resources is hampered by two factors: the child’s condition and the environmental situation.

According to data taken from LBH Apik Jakarta itself, it has reported that in a period of 4 years (2018-2021) it has handled 783 cases of online-based sexual violence (KSBE), SAFEnet has recorded 1,357 complaints of KSBE cases from 2019-2021, Komnas Perempuan also recorded 2,625 KSBE cases from 2017-2020, the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) from 2018-2020 reported that there were 679 cases (Amaritasari, 2022). Where KSBE experiences an increasing trend every year. Meanwhile, the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) itself has recorded 35 cases of sexual exploitation, trafficking and child labour occurring during January-April 2021 (Muslikah et al., 2019). Of this number, 60% were carried out through online media. The MiChat application was the online medium most widely used in cases of sexual exploitation, trafficking and child labour, namely 41% (Ramawati & Block, 2020). WhatsApp and Facebook follow its position with percentages of 21% and 17% respectively (Nikhilesh, 2020). This data shows perpetrators' increasingly vulnerable use of social media, online platforms and communication applications to carry out their criminal acts (Kusumawati, 2020).

Besides that, protecting children is one of the activities that are mandatory for all levels of society in various positions and roles, which means that all levels of society participate in fulfilling children’s rights, including providing protection and defence when children feel threatened, who are fully aware of its importance. Children for the homeland and nation in the coming days (Hasni, 2024). If it is felt that they are mature enough in terms of physical, mental and social growth, then it is time for the child to replace the old generation (Kuswandi et al., 2023). Protection is an activity that is direct and indirect from actions that harm children physically and psychologically (Fathurrahman & Romli, 2023). According to Wiyono himself, protection is a form of service that law enforcement officers or security forces must provide to provide a sense of security, both physical and mental. So, coordination of child protection cooperation needs to be held to prevent an imbalance in overall child protection activities (Rolobessy et al., 2023). The state is obliged to participate in ensuring children’s rights to survival, growth and development. Children have the right to protection from violence and discrimination as stated in the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia number 35 of 2014 (Mollica et al., 2022). The state and government are obligated and responsible for supporting facilities and infrastructure in implementing child protection (Bastian & Susetio, 2021). The state and government are obliged to guarantee children’s protection, maintenance and welfare by paying attention to the rights and obligations of parents, guardians or other people who are legally responsible for children (Salami et al., 2023).

Providing protection to children carries legal consequences, whether in the form of written or unwritten law. The law itself is a guarantee for child protection (Shabangu, 2022). Arif Gosita stated that legal certainty needs to be sought for the continuity of child protection activities and to prevent irregularities that lead to undesirable negative consequences in implementing child protection (Setyorini & Utomo, 2020). Child protection is carried out rationally, responsibly and beneficially, reflecting an effective
and efficient effort (Achmad et al., 2023). Efforts to protect children must not result in the death of initiative, creativity, and other things that cause dependence on other people and uncontrolled behaviour, so children do not have the ability and willingness to exercise their rights and carry out their obligations (Remoundou, 2022). Several things have been found that need to be considered regarding child protection that a child should receive, including the breadth of the scope of protection and the guarantee of implementation of protection (Munir et al., 2021).

So that the protection of children’s rights can be carried out regularly, orderly and responsibly, it is necessary to have legal regulations that are in line with the development of Indonesian society, which is thoroughly imbued with Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution (Basith & Mashdurohatun, 2019). These regulations regarding children’s rights and their protection are separated into various statutory provisions, including the following:

1. In the legal field, with the provisions of Law Number 3 of 1997 concerning Juvenile Justice.
2. Law Number 36 of 2009 concerning Health is regulated in articles 128 to 135 in the Health sector.
3. Regarding education, Article 31 of the 1945 Constitution and Law Number 20 of 2003 concern the national education system.
4. In the field of labour, Law Number 13 of 2003 concerns employment in articles 68 to 75, and Law Number 20 of 1999 concerns the ratification of the ILO Convention regarding the minimum age for being permitted to work.

If you look at the regulations above, efforts to guarantee protection for children have been around for a long time, both in terms of statutory regulations and their implementation (Nurzakiah, 2022). However, these efforts have yet to show adequate results for the needs and development of the community.

As time passes, it develops and continues to progress towards modernization, greatly influencing human lifestyle and behaviour (Katinah et al., 2019). Modernization, which is difficult to control, will damage human civilization by increasing the number of crimes committed by humans (Christianto, 2020). The rapid flow of globalization in the information and communication technology field has offered many conveniences, for example, in the world of work. Indirectly, the technological advances we have received have slowly changed our lives (Rodríguez-Rodríguez et al., 2019). Of course, these conveniences also have negative impacts, one of which is the exploitation of children and women (Ropiah & Taftazani, 2022).

Sexual exploitation is any form of use of a child’s body organs to obtain profit (Mundakir, 2021). This behaviour includes various activities such as prostitution and sexual abuse. In this case, children can become victims when their bodies or organs are misused according to norms for the benefit of other parties (Badruzaman, 2023). That form of sexual violence against children is a serious crime that violates basic rights; where this crime is increasing significantly, threatens and endangers the psyche and can
even damage the body of a child who becomes a victim from time to time, damaging their personal life and growth. Children’s development disrupts comfort, tranquillity, security and public order (Sauri, 2023).

Sexual violence cannot be defined in a narrow sense, namely an action that is only physical but includes many other behavioural aspects, for example, in the form of psychological abuse and humiliation (Tobing, 2020). Child Sexual Exploitation Crime (TPESA) is a new type of crime that is currently developing in the world today. This crime consists of Child Prostitution, Child Pornography, Child Trafficking for Sexual Purposes, Child Sex Tourism and even Child Marriage (Suwandoko & Rihardi, 2020). According to ECPAT (End et al., And Trafficking Of Children For Sexual Purposes) International, this means that sexual exploitation of children is a fundamental violation of children’s human rights consisting of sexual violence by adults and the provision of monetary rewards or something that can be valued. With money, where the child is made into a sex object and commercial object (Hartanto & Kurniyati, 2023). The elements included in the criminal act of sexual exploitation of children vary, starting from buying, offering, obtaining, transferring, producing, providing and so on (Kasuma & Irianto, 2023). Where the majority of victims are girls, KSBE cases are increasing due to the misuse of digital technology from various existing social media platforms (Syahrin et al., 2021). What is very worrying is that the impact on KSBE victims is that victims can experience trauma for the rest of their lives, which can have an impact on physical, psychological, economic conditions, civil rights, political rights, and social stigma because, with the progress and speed of internet networks, the speed of transmission and distribution of electronic documents is very high—challenging for the victim to control, because it is real-time (Faradillah & Patittingi, 2023).

Sexual crime is one of the crimes that needs to receive special attention in the issue of protecting women and children; this incident has been regulated in Article 15 of the law, which provides strictness so that every child has the right to receive protection from sexual crimes, the cause of increasing rates of violence against children namely being threatened or physically injured by the perpetrator to carry out sexual violence considering that the child is not yet able to fight back.

The prohibition against committing acts of exploitation of one’s children is regulated in Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection (Korstanje & Gowreesunkar, 2023). The prohibition on exploiting children is regulated in Article 76 I of Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection, which states: "Everyone is prohibited from placing, allowing, carrying out, ordering, or participating in economic and sexual exploitation of children. " Protecting children from acts of economic and sexual exploitation is special protection that must be provided by the Government, Regional Government and other state institutions, as well as involving various companies, trade unions, non-governmental organizations and the community (Cahyana, 2024). Sanctions for perpetrators of exploitation of children can be imprisonment for a maximum of 10 (10) years and a fine of a maximum of IDR. 200,000,000.00 (two hundred million rupiah) (Marsili, 2023). This is regulated in Article 88 of Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection. Sexual violence in electronic form is one manifestation of the crime of sexual violence, where the maximum penalty is 4 (four) years and a
maximum fine of 200 million rupiah if the perpetrator records/takes pictures, transmits electronic documents, carries out stalking that contains The criminal threat could be up to 6 (years) and a fine of up to 300 million rupiahs if the perpetrator commits the acts mentioned above to extort, threaten, and empowering the victim (Priandika et al., 2020).

Based on the explanation above, it is clear that the exploitation of children is considered an organized crime, carried out in modern ways driven by advances in information and communication technology. Incidents of human trafficking or sexual exploitation of children, whether offline or online, are the worst crimes, especially for women and children, because they violate human rights. Issues like this must be highlighted by the media or, in other words, brought to the attention of the public; at the same time, we must also think about the government’s recovery, prevention and law enforcement efforts for these incidents. The author formulates the problems in this research with several questions. What are the forms of recovery efforts for children as victims of sexual exploitation in the digital realm? Moreover, what is the future concept for dealing with criminal acts of sexual exploitation in the digital realm?

2. Research Method

The type of research used in this research is normative legal research. Normative legal research is also called doctrinal legal research. In normative research, law is often conceptualized as what is written in statutory regulations (Efendi & Ibrahim, 2016). This research is normative because it seeks to establish law as a system of norms built on principles, norms, rules of statutory regulations, court decisions, agreements and doctrines (teachings) (Mukti et al., 2019). Apart from that, the reason that makes this research normative is that it takes a lot of secondary data sources, mostly from library materials (Soemitro, 1983).

Based on the normative research that will be carried out, Mukti Fajar and Yulianto Achmad emphasize the importance of research approaches in achieving optimal analysis, especially in the context of normative research. Mistakes in determining the approach can impact the accuracy and value of research results. Therefore, the author needs to explain the research approach used. In this research, several relevant approaches are statutory and conceptual.

The statutory approach is essential in normative research because it uses statutory regulations for analysis. Legislation is the main focus because the law is comprehensive, all-inclusive and systematic. The regulations that will be used in this research include various laws related to legal protection for victims of child sexual exploitation in the city of Yogyakarta in the digital realm from a human rights perspective to provide legal certainty in law enforcement. In addition, the conceptual approach uses legal concepts as a basis for analysis. This concept helps in building legal arguments to resolve the issue at hand. This research will search, discover and analyze doctrines related to legal protection for victims of child sexual exploitation in the city of Yogyakarta in the digital realm from a human rights perspective to understand the types of crimes involved and facilitate legal resolution.

Regarding data sources and legal materials, this research will use primary, secondary and tertiary legal materials to support the research. This includes statutory regulations, scientific books, journals, internet articles, dictionaries, and encyclopedias.
relevant to research. Data collection techniques will involve a literature study, a legal materials search, and interviews with various related institutions. After data collection, data analysis will be carried out using prescriptive analysis techniques to provide arguments and prescriptions based on the research results. This allows a more in-depth assessment of the problem under study and determining what is correct and what is not appropriate from a legal point of view.

3. Results and Discussion

Legal protection for victims of child sexual exploitation in the city of Yogyakarta in the digital realm requires a careful and holistic approach, especially when viewed from a human rights perspective. In the digital realm, threats to children have become more complex, penetrating areas difficult to reach by conventional regulations. Therefore, legal protection must cover various aspects, including access, information, privacy, and protection from harmful content.

In this context, human rights are the primary basis for ensuring that every legal action respects individual dignity and freedom. Legal protection must ensure that children's rights to live, develop and be protected from all forms of exploitation, including in the digital world, are fully guaranteed. This involves efforts to strengthen existing regulations, develop inclusive policies, and increase public awareness and Education about the risks and consequences of child sexual exploitation in digital spaces. In addition, legal protections must consider the role of technology in providing innovative solutions to combat child sexual exploitation. Digital security tools, malicious content detection, and cooperation between relevant parties such as the government, law enforcement agencies, and online platforms are essential in this protection effort. However, it is also important to remember that the success of legal protection depends not only on the existing regulatory framework but also on practical implementation and fair access to the justice system. A justice system sensitive to the needs of victims provides easy access and fair and adequate punishment for perpetrators, which is an integral part of comprehensive legal protection.

Thus, legal protection for victims of child sexual exploitation in the city of Yogyakarta in the digital realm from a human rights perspective requires an integrated approach involving cross-sector cooperation and prioritizing the interests and welfare of children as the main priority.

**A form of recovery effort for children as victims of sexual exploitation in the digital realm**

Recovery for children as victims of sexual exploitation in the digital realm consists of 2 (two) forms, namely direct recovery and indirect recovery. Indirect recovery usually takes the form of emotional and psychological support, which aims to help victims overcome the trauma experienced as a result of sexual exploitation. This includes the necessary counselling and therapy support to restore the victim's mental balance. Meanwhile, direct recovery includes concrete actions given to victims, such as protection from further threats or oppression and their rights in the recovery process. This remedy provides guarantees to victims to obtain the justice and healing they need after
experiencing sexual exploitation. With this combination of direct and indirect recovery, it is hoped that victims can receive holistic and integrated support in their recovery efforts.

In order to fulfil the recovery of children who are victims of sexual exploitation, the DIY POLDA Special Criminal Investigation is collaborating with government agencies related to child recovery, such as the regional/provincial Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection Service, as well as the Regional Integrated Service Unit for the Protection of Women and Children (UPTD PPA). This collaboration aims to provide comprehensive legal recovery for victims. The form of legal recovery provided by government agencies covers various aspects, such as handling cases legally, providing legal assistance, psychological recovery of victims, and monitoring the ongoing legal process. With collaboration between various institutions and related agencies, it is hoped that recovery efforts for child victims of sexual exploitation can be carried out effectively and in a coordinated manner. The form of recovery is as follows:

1. Assisting in the examination stages to the trial process
   Assisting at the examination stage to the trial process is an essential step in ensuring adequate protection and recovery for child victims of sexual exploitation. This assistance aims to provide victims with emotional support, information and legal assistance during the legal process. At the examination stage, assistance can help child victims facing the investigation and examination process by law enforcement officials. The companion will provide an understanding of the victim's rights, explain the legal process clearly, and provide moral support to reduce the stress and anxiety that the victim may feel. During the trial process, assistance will continue to ensure that the victims’ rights are safeguarded and their interests are well represented before the court. The companion will assist the victim in preparing to give testimony, provide information about the trial process, and coordinate communication between the victim, lawyer and other related parties. Apart from that, assistance can also include monitoring the trial process to ensure that victims are treated fairly and receive appropriate treatment in court. With comprehensive and coordinated assistance, it is hoped that child victims of sexual exploitation can feel safer, supported and respected during the legal process, as well as getting better access to justice.

2. There is legal counselling and psychological counselling
   Legal counselling and psychological counselling are two essential components in the recovery of child victims of sexual exploitation. Legal counselling aims to provide victims with an understanding of their legal rights, the ongoing legal process, and the options available in responding to cases of sexual exploitation they experience. Legal counsellors will help victims understand the trial process, provide information about legal procedures, and assist them in making informed decisions regarding the next steps. Meanwhile, psychological counselling aims to help victims overcome the psychological impacts that may arise as a result of the sexual exploitation they experience. Psychological counsellors will work with victims to help them identify and manage the stress, anxiety, depression, and trauma they may be
experiencing. Through counselling sessions, victims will be given a safe space to express themselves, process their traumatic experiences, and develop strategies to deal with the emotional challenges they face.

With integrated legal counselling and psychological counselling, it is hoped that victims of sexual exploitation can receive holistic and coordinated support in their recovery process. A combination of understanding their legal rights and support to overcome the psychological impact of sexual exploitation can assist victims in making a full recovery and rebuilding their self-confidence and well-being.

3. Child psychological assistance for psychological healing of children

Child psychological assistance is a process in which a psychology professional works directly with child victims of sexual exploitation to assist them in their psychological healing. This assistance aims to provide emotional support, help children understand and manage their feelings, and strengthen coping and healthy stress management mechanisms. In child psychology assistance, the therapist creates a safe and supportive environment where children can freely express their experiences. Therapists will use a variety of therapeutic techniques appropriate to the child’s age and needs to help them overcome trauma, reduce anxiety and depression, and improve their self-confidence and emotional well-being. Child psychology assistance can also involve group sessions with other children who have experienced similar experiences. Through interactions with fellow victims, children can feel supported and understood and get the opportunity to share experiences and effective coping strategies. With targeted and therapeutic child psychological assistance, it is hoped that child victims of sexual exploitation can experience sustainable psychological healing. They can rebuild self-confidence, feel more robust and able to face challenges, and begin a positive recovery process for a better future.

4. Rehabilitation assistance

Rehabilitation assistance is an effort to help child victims of sexual exploitation restore their overall well-being. This assistance covers various aspects, such as physical, mental, emotional and social rehabilitation. In the context of physical rehabilitation, child victims may need access to health services that include medical examinations, physical care, and therapy to overcome the physical impacts that may arise as a result of sexual exploitation, such as physical injuries or sexually transmitted diseases. Mental and emotional rehabilitation involves counselling support and psychological therapy to help children overcome trauma, manage stress, anxiety, and depression, and strengthen healthy coping and coping mechanisms. Meanwhile, social rehabilitation includes efforts to help children rebuild healthy social relationships, support their reintegration into the community, and assist them in developing the social and interpersonal skills needed to interact positively with other people. Through holistic and coordinated rehabilitation assistance, it is hoped that child victims of sexual exploitation can receive the support they need to restore their well-being and rebuild healthy and meaningful lives.
Future concepts in dealing with criminal acts of sexual exploitation in the digital realm.

Digital sexual exploitation of children is a very worrying criminal act. One form of exploitation is using children as actors in pornographic content. The importance of taking this issue seriously cannot be ignored, mainly because of the risk of child victims being neglected. The shame experienced by the victim and the lack of maximum legal protection from the relevant institutions are two factors that make it challenging to handle this problem. Therefore, there needs to be more severe and effective action, by the provisions stipulated in the law, to protect children from sexual exploitation in the digital realm.

Currently, the protection of children from criminal acts of pornography involving sexual exploitation requires special attention. The importance of providing legal protection to children who are victims of criminal acts of pornography that explicitly depict sexual exploitation cannot be overstated. This kind of criminal act damages not only physically but also psychologically. Children involved in these situations often experience deep trauma and long-term severe impacts on their emotional and psychological development. Therefore, the legal system must have solid instruments and mechanisms to detect, prosecute and prevent criminal acts. Firm and effective law enforcement must be prioritized, ensuring that perpetrators are arrested, tried and punished by applicable law.

Even though they are actors in this situation, children still have the right to be protected legally, and their human rights must be respected. Legal protection for victims, including in the context of human rights, is closely related to implementing human rights regulations. Child protection, as explained in Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection, aims to ensure that children can live, grow, develop and participate optimally with human dignity. It also includes protection from violence and discrimination. On the other hand, legal protection of children is an effort to provide legal protection for children’s freedom and human rights related to their welfare. Thus, the essence of the legal protection of children is to ensure that their rights are recognized and safeguarded, as well as to ensure that the child’s best interests are a priority in every legal action.

Legal protection of children’s rights has been regulated in Law Number 34 of 2014 concerning Child Protection (UU PA), while minors who are victims of online sexual exploitation have the rights regulated in Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence (UU TPKS). Furthermore, special protection for children who are perpetrators or actors in pornographic content disseminated via social media such as Twitter has been regulated in Article 34 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This initiative is committed to providing comprehensive protection for children’s rights, both as victims and perpetrators, amidst ever-developing social and technological changes.

Law Number 13 of 2006 concerning the Protection of Witnesses and Victims also contributes to protecting children who are victims of sexual exploitation. These two laws regulate various forms of legal protection that can be provided to them. As explained in the form of an image as follows:
Child victims of sexual exploitation have the right to receive Restitution Rights and recovery services by Article 30 of the TPKS Law and Article 71D of the Child Protection Law. This restitution aims to compensate them for direct suffering, medical/psychological costs, and other losses. If the perpetrator cannot pay restitution, the state compensates the victim by the court decision, which is paid through the Victim Assistance Fund. Children who are victims of online sexual exploitation, especially pornographic content sold through social media such as Twitter, have the right to special protection by Article 59 paragraph (2) letter d and letter e of the Child Protection Law. This protection includes disseminating child protection provisions, monitoring, providing sanctions, and involving NGOs and the community in eliminating child exploitation. Parents are also required to protect children from access to pornography and provide guidance and recovery for children who are victims. Perpetrators of child sexual exploitation will be punished according to Article 76E, with the threat of imprisonment and hefty fines. The TPKS Law also classifies online sexual exploitation of children as a serious crime of sexual violence, with a maximum prison sentence of 15 years and a maximum fine of one billion rupiah.

Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions (UU ITE) provides a legal framework to regulate electronic transactions, including criminal acts in the digital realm, such as sexual exploitation. The future concept for dealing with criminal acts through the ITE Law involves increasing provisions related to cybercrime, strengthening sanctions for perpetrators, and encouraging digital platforms to report harmful content.

Law Number 19 of 2016 concerning Amendments to the ITE Law, as a newer revision of the ITE Law, gives special attention to crimes in the digital realm, including sexual exploitation. Future concepts through this revision could include increasing specific provisions related to sexual exploitation violations as well as strengthening law enforcement and cross-border cooperation. Law Number 17 of 2016, concerning the
Ratification of the Convention on Cybercrime (Convention on Cyber Crime), regulates aspects of cybercrime, including sexual exploitation in the digital realm. Future concepts in dealing with criminal acts could include the application of the principles of the Convention on Cyber Crime in national law and increasing international cooperation.

Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection provides a legal basis for protecting children from various forms of exploitation, including in the digital realm. Future concepts through this law could involve strengthening child protection in the digital realm, including awareness, Education and sanctions for perpetrators of online sexual exploitation. Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning Crimes of Sexual Violence provides a clear legal basis regarding the handling of sexual violence, including in the digital realm. Future concepts in this law could include increasing sanctions, recovering victims, and prevention through Education and awareness. By integrating the principles of each of these laws, tackling criminal acts of sexual exploitation in the digital realm can become more effective and comprehensive.

4. Conclusion

From this research, it can be concluded that legal protection for victims of child sexual exploitation in the city of Yogyakarta in the digital realm requires a holistic and integrated approach, which is based on human rights principles. This approach includes efforts to strengthen existing regulations, develop inclusive policies, increase public awareness, and use technology as an innovative tool in combating child sexual exploitation. Legal protection must also pay attention to the recovery of victims, both directly and indirectly, through assistance, legal and psychological counselling, and holistic rehabilitation assistance. Cross-sector collaboration between governments, law enforcement agencies and online platforms is also essential to ensure adequate protection. Apart from that, the future concept in dealing with criminal acts of sexual exploitation in the digital realm involves strengthening regulations, strict law enforcement, and integrating child protection principles into applicable law. Thus, comprehensive and coordinated legal protection must be a top priority to ensure the interests and welfare of children are the highest priority.

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