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Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Digital Age in the Victimology Perspective

Marisa Kurnianingsih

Faculty of Law, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta mk122@ums.ac.id

Khudzaifah Dimyati

Faculty of Law, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta kd255@ums.ac.id

Kelik Wardiono

Faculty of Law, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta kw268@ums.ac.id

Absori

Faculty of Law, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta abs154@ums.ac.id

DOI: 10.23917/jurisprudence.v11i2.16030

Submission	Abstract
Track: Received:	Purpose: This study aims to determine the criminal law policy on sexual exploitation in Indonesia and discover the current legal policy from the perspective of victimology.
14 Oktober 2021	Methodology: This study is based on doctrinal legal research or normative juridical procedures with a legal perspective in the
Final Revision:	traditional sense of "law in the book". Normative legal research is essentially a legal research library in which the author studies the legal
9 Maret 2022	principles beginning with specific sectors of the legal system and the identification of legislatively enacted legal norms.
Available online:	Results: The findings revealed that the criminal law policy on sexual exploitation in Indonesia and the current legal policy from a
24 Maret 2022	victimology view, comprising the legal protection from Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, Law
Corresponding Author: Marisa Kurnianingsih mk122@ums.ac.id	Number 23 of 2002 concerning Protection Children, and Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection, have attempted to fulfill the rights of victims, although a detailed explanation of legal protection efforts has been more based on the child protection law. Moreover, according to victimology, focusing on victims, criminal law policies addressing incidents of human trafficking or, more specifically, commercial

sexual exploitation of children have prioritized victims' interests.

Benefits: This study was designed to serve as a reference for the government and parties concerned with Indonesia's criminal law policy on sexual exploitation and its current legal policy from a victimology viewpoint. It is intended to result in law enforcement being more equitable and capable of combating sexual exploitation in the digital age.

Novelty/Originality: Regarding responsibility for certain sorts of child sexual exploitation, the child protection legislation is more onerous than the trafficking statute in terms of penalties and threats. The two laws have endeavored to uphold victims' rights in legal protection. However, the child protection statute includes a more extensive description of the legal protection measures. According to victimology, focusing on victims, criminal law policies addressing incidents of human trafficking or, more specifically, commercial sexual exploitation of children have emphasized victims' interests.

Keywords: Policy, Sexual Exploitation, Child, Victimology

INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Indonesia is a legal state founded on Pancasila and the Republic of Indonesia's 1945 Constitution (UUD RI 1945). The two bases present an overview of the rules derived from the worldview of awareness and legal values, including the mystical environment and philosophy of Indonesia by sustaining the country's moral principles, ethics, noble character, noble personality, exercising faith and devotion toward God Almighty, and valuing diversity within the community, nation, and state.

The People's Consultative Assembly of the Republic of Indonesia has issued a signal through MPR RI Decree Number VI/MPR/2001, concerning the Ethics of National Life, regarding grave threats to national unity and the occurrence of a decline in the ethics of national life, one of which is caused by an increase in immoral acts, obscenity, prostitution, and pornographic media, indicating the need for more serious efforts to reinforce the ethics and morals of the nation (Yuniantoro, 2018:106). As widely known, violence against women and children is a worldwide issue, not an individual one (Kurnianingsih et al., 2021:47).

Indonesia also adopted the ASEAN Covenant Against Trafficking in Individuals, Especially Women and Children, approved in Law No. 12 of 2017 to combat human

Vol. 11, No. 2, 2021, pp.205-220

p-ISSN: 1829-5045 ; e-ISSN: 2549-5615

Website: http://journals.ums.ac.id/index.php/jurisprudence

trafficking since there were several occurrences of violence and trafficking in persons, particularly children, before 2017. Violence can be regarded as inhumane treatment (Nusrat & Kuswardani, 2018:6). One of Yogyakarta's incidents had the suspect MP alias Onge (28) offering Nes alias Gendis (14), a native of Magelang, Central Java, on the social networking platform Facebook. The mode advertised Onge's sex services on Facebook and a brief description and pricing. To have sex with Gendis, a masher should send a particular sum of money. The next time, the client was greeted by Gendis in a hotel provided by Onge. It was how that intercourse took place. Additionally, the police seized two Blackberry phones, one black Samsung phone, IDR 2,000,000 cash from the transaction, and 11 condoms. Profitsharing was agreed upon between the offenders, with the suspect receiving 30% and the victim receiving 70% (Prabowo, 2014). It demonstrates that contemporary people have acquired insatiably materialistic ailments (Absori & Nurhayati, 2017:97).

However, similar crimes continue to surface, most recently in January 2020 in North Jakarta, when the offenders were apprehended at a café. The perpetrators numbered six, while the victims were ten juveniles ranging in age from 14 to 18 years. The offenders comprising Mommy A with the initial R, Mommy T, D alias F, TW, A, and E had a variety of tasks ranging from victim scouting to victim selling. The criminals sold the victim to a masher for IDR 150,000 for one serving, with the perpetrators receiving IDR 90,000 and the victims receiving the remainder. Additionally, the perpetrators set a goal for each victim to serve at least ten clients; if they failed to fulfill the objective, they faced a fee of IDR 50,000. Additionally, the victims were compelled to take medicines to stop menstruation or, in medical terminology, prevent pregnancy (Prastiwi, 2020).

Indonesia is both a source and destination country for human trafficking based on the incidents that continue to occur. It is also a tourist attraction, with certain places experiencing sex tourism. Numerous tourist resorts have also developed a reputation for being key locations for trafficked children and child sex tourism. As demonstrated by 2008 statistics, 86% of boys and girls were enrolled in primary education, while 4% of children aged 5-14 years were reported to be engaged in child labor (ECPAT International, 2011:10).

This study is based on doctrinal legal research or normative juridical procedures utilizing a legal perspective in the traditional sense of "law in the book." Normative legal research is

essentially a legal research library in which the author studies legal principles beginning with specific sectors of the legal system and the identification of legislatively enacted legal norms (Soekanto and Mamudji, 2007:23). In essence, normative juridical research examines legal theories or principles to address societal legal challenges (Ali, 2017:24). Thus, the authors refer to Law No. 21 of 2007 concerning the Elimination of Human Trafficking Crimes (from now on referred to as the EHTC Law), Law No. 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection (from now on referred to as the Child Protection Act), Law No. 35 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law No. 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection (from now on referred to as the Amendment to Child Protection Law), and existing doctrines to ascertain the criminal law policies regarding sex.

METHODOLOGY

This study is based on doctrinal legal research or normative juridical procedures with a legal perspective in the traditional sense of "law in the book". Normative legal research is essentially a legal research library in which the author studies the legal principles beginning with specific sectors of the legal system and the identification of legislatively enacted legal norms.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Criminal Law Policy of Sexual Exploitation in Indonesia

This discussion begins by defining sexual exploitation. Referring to the definition of sexual exploitation in Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Crime of Human Trafficking, it includes acts committed with or without the victim's consent, such as prostitution, labor or forced services, slavery or practices resembling slavery, oppression, extortion, physical, sexual exploitation.

Meanwhile, the Asean Convention Against Trafficking in Persons states that sexual exploitation is a component of trafficking in persons, defining exploitation as prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices resembling slavery, servitude, or organ harvesting.

Gender equality will remain unattainable as long as males can purchase, sell, and exploit women and children. Prostitution is seen as a kind of violence against women and children,

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intrinsically hazardous not just for the women and children involved but also for society (Sevrina, 2020:24).

Meanwhile, there is an expansion of Wijers and Lapchew's definition of human trafficking, namely trafficking as the movement of people, particularly women and children, within or outside the country or abroad for all forms of exploitative labor, not just prostitution and slavery disguised as servile marriage (Widiastuti, 2012).

As a result, it will also be connected to Human Rights Law No. 39 of 1999 because it is defined as any act by a person or group of people, including state apparatus, whether intentional or unintentional, or negligent, that unlawfully diminishes, damages, limits, revokes or threatens the human rights of a person or group of people guaranteed by this law, to the extent that they fear or do not receive fair legal compensation under the applicable legal mechanism (Nurhayati, 2016: 150).

When the concept of human trafficking is grasped, numerous critical points become apparent, including the following:

- 1. The act or action of recruiting, delivering, transferring, sheltering, or receiving a person
- 2. Threats or the use of force or other types of coercion, abduction, deceit, abuse of power or vulnerability, or the offering or receiving of rewards or advantages to acquire the assent of others
- The purpose of exploitation includes, but is not limited to, sexual exploitation of others'
 prostitution or other types of sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery, servitude, and
 organ harvesting

From these elements, it must be established that the commission or existence of an act, including the act of human trafficking, or the victim's consent to exploitation for human trafficking, loses relevance or becomes meaningless if coercive or fraudulent methods are used as described in the preceding comprehension.

Michelle O.P. Dunbar defined human trafficking narrowly, focusing on its related to women trafficking, not limited to forced prostitution. Thus, this theory explains why prostitution is not always related to human trafficking since not all victims of human trafficking are prostitutes, and not all prostitutes are subjects of human trafficking. Women

who move willingly to work as sex workers or for other reasons and find themselves in industrial sector employment carried out without force, fraud, or other compulsions should not be understood as being involved in women trafficking (Dunbar, 1999- 2000:105).

The following types of human trafficking were discovered by the International Labor Organization (ILO) study (Ministry of Women's Empowerment of the Republic of Indonesia in partnership with ACILS/ICMC, 2001:6).

1. Sales of Children

In this context, the sale of children is defined in article 2 of the optional protocol of CRC in the Sale of Children and Trafficking, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

2. Smuggling of Person

Optional Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land and Sea, Supplementing the United Nation Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, December 2000

3. Migration with Pressure

Migration, both legal and illegal, is when people consciously choose to leave one place and go to another.

The EHTC Law then differentiates the time and amount of the fine levied against the criminal depending on various conditions controlled between Articles 2 and 6. Violence, kidnapping, confinement, counterfeiting, fraud, abuse of power or vulnerability, debt bondage, or making payments or benefits without the consent of a person exercising control over another person to exploit that person shall be punished by a minimum of three years and a maximum of fifteen years in prison and a minimum fine of IDR 120,000,000 and a maximum fine of IDR 600,000,000 in fine.

Articles 3, 4, 5, and 6 of EHTC Law provide that anybody who brings persons into Indonesia to exploit or be exploited in another nation is subject to prosecution. Individuals who take nationals out of the territory to be exploited, those who adopt children by promising something to be exploited, and those who send children into or out of the country to be exploited shall face a minimum of three years in prison and a maximum of fifteen years in prison, as well as a minimum fine of IDR 120,000,000 and a maximum fine of IDR

600,000,000. According to current rules, the state has threatened offenders of human trafficking with a harsh sentence to deter human trafficking.

According to Article 8 of EHTC Law, if a state administrator or apparatus abuses their office, resulting in a criminal act of trafficking in people, the punishment under Articles 2,3,4,5 and 6 is raised by 1/3; the administrator is discharged dishonorably. Then, in Article 9, anybody who mobilizes individuals to perform a criminal act of human trafficking and fails to do so faces a minimum of one year in jail and a maximum of six years in prison and a fine of at least IDR 40,000,000 and a maximum of IDR 240,000,000.

Finally, under Articles 10, 11, and 12 of EHTC Law, anyone who assists or conducts experiments, plans or conspiracies, exploits or uses victims of human trafficking in the form of sexual intercourse or other obscene acts with the victim, employs people to continue the practice is subject to prosecution. Articles 2,3,4,5 and 6 apply the same penalties to exploitation or taking advantage.

If the wrongdoer is a company, it is set in Articles 13, 14, and 15 of EHTC Law. A corporation is considered to have committed the criminal act of trafficking in persons if individuals commit the crime on behalf of the corporation or for the benefit of the corporation, whether through a working relationship or another relationship, acting within the corporate environment alone or in concert. Thus, throughout investigating, prosecuting, and punishing the company and its management, the liability is the same as in Articles 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, but there is an additional penalty for corporations, including the following.

- Revocation of business license
- b. Confiscation of assets obtained through criminal acts
- c. Revocation of legal entity status
- d. Dismissal of management
- e. Prohibition of management from establishing another corporation in the same line of business

The Law on Human Trafficking also establishes legal accountability for perpetrators who engage in organized activities within specific groups; accountability is then extended to all members of an organized group with a criminal threat plus 1/3 of the previous criminal threat, as defined in Article 16. Additionally, Article 17 states that when a child is the victim of

parental trafficking or sexual exploitation, the offender faces the possibility of penalty in addition to 1/3 of the penalties in Articles 2, 3 and 4.

Apart from punishing offenders of sexual exploitation, the law protects victims of sexual exploitation. Examining Articles 43 to 55 of EHTC Law details how witnesses and victims of human trafficking obtain legal protection to ensure their rights are protected.

Articles 43 to 55 of EHTC Law mainly comprise (Monita, 2013:169):

- 1. Referring to Law Number 13 of 2006 concerning the Protection of Witnesses and Victims
- 2. Witnesses, victims and their families have the right to anonymity.
- 3. The victim has the right to obtain restitution in compensation
- 4. Victims have the right to receive health, social rehabilitation and repatriation.
- 5. To protect victims in each province, districts/cities must establish special and integrated services.
- 6. For foreigners being victims of the criminal act of trafficking in persons in Indonesia, the government will return the person concerned through a state representative.

Protection of victims of human trafficking is critical since victims suffer monetarily, physically, mentally, and socially due to the illegal act. The psychological pain felt the most intense with these results, notwithstanding the victim's material losses. With restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, counseling services, and legal aid, EHTC Law offers protection. Additionally, victims must be safeguarded to compassionately exercise their rights and duties and rebalance their lives as before (Monita, 2013:169).

Children under the age of 18 who suffer physically and spiritually due to the activities of those seeking satisfaction for themselves or others are characterized as victims of the sexual exploitation of children (Waluyo, 2012:3). The individual suffers as a consequence of a criminal act of sexual exploitation committed arbitrarily for sexual objectives in return for money or other kinds of compensation involving children, purchasers of sex services, mediators or agents, and other parties who profit from the sexual trade (Ayu et al., 2015:3).

Then, in Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Erwin characterizes CSEC as a basic violation of children's rights.

An adult commits sexual violence in return for a kid, a third person, or other persons. Simply stated, children are sexually and commercially exploited. It is an example of child labor and contemporary slavery. Children are often compelled, making them subjected to physical abuse and trauma (Hidyat, 2015:144).

Sexual exploitation of children is classified into three categories (see Presidential Decree No. 87 of 2002 on the Elimination of Commercial Child Exploitation):

- Child prostitution; using children as a medium for sexual activity with payment or other rewards
- 2. According to the agreement, child trafficking uses children as a medium for sexual acts through an agency by paying or other compensation to the agent or the child in advance.
- 3. Child pornography; representation by any means, involvement of a child in sexual activities, explicit involvement of a child in sexual activities, whether real or simulated or any representation of a child's sexual organs for sexual purposes

The Child Protection Act's criminal law policy against child sexual exploitation is evident in Article 13 paragraph (1) letter b, which requires parents, guardians, and other responsible parties to be accountable for nurturing and safeguarding children from economic and sexual exploitation. The government establishes a participation policy or encourages parents, guardians, and other parties to properly maintain and care for children to prevent illegal acts of child exploitation.

On accountability, Article 78 of the Child Protection Law states that anyone who knows and intentionally abandons children in an emergency as defined in Article 60, children in conflict with the law, children from minority and isolated groups, children economically exploited and trafficked, and children being victims of narcotics, alcohol, psychotropic substances, and other addictive substances (drugs), child victims of kidnapping, child victims of trafficking, or child victims of violence as referred to in Article 59, even though these children need help and must be assisted, shall be sentenced to a maximum imprisonment of five years and a maximum fine of IDR 100,000,000.

The Child Protection Amendment Law modifies the prohibition and criminal liability for sexual exploitation perpetrators in Article 76 D, stating that "Everyone is prohibited from using violence or threats of violence to coerce children into having sexual relations with him

or with other people." Then, there is Article 76 E, declaring that it is illegal for anybody to conduct violence or threats of violence, coerce, deceive, tell a series of falsehoods, or persuade youngsters to do or enable obscene actions to be committed. Finally, Article 76 F specifies that it is illegal for anybody to place, let, carry out, order to carry out, or participate in the kidnapping, sale, and trafficking of children.

The sentence is included in Article 81 of the Child Protection Amendment Law about the Prohibition of Article 76 D. The culprit faces a minimum of five years in jail and a maximum of fifteen years in prison, and a potential fine of IDR 5,000,000,000. Then, under Article 82, the culprit faces the same danger and the two prohibitions of Articles 76 D and 76 E. The punishment is enhanced by 1/3 of the existing danger if the culprit is a parent, guardian, child carer, educator, or education employee. Article 83 threatens criminals who violate Article 76 F with a minimum of three years in jail and a maximum of fifteen years in prison, and a minimum fine of IDR 60,000,000 and a maximum punishment of IDR 300,000,000.

According to Article 59 paragraph 2, letter d of Child Protection Amendment Law, children are victims of economic and sexual exploitation. The government, local governments, and other state institutions provide special protection to children through efforts based on Article 59 A, namely; prompt treatment, including treatment and rehabilitation physically, psychologically, and socially, as well as disease and other health problem prevention; psychosocial assistance from treatment to recovery; providing social assistance for children from low-income families; and providing protection and assistance. Then, following Article 66 of Child Protection Amendment Law, special protection for child victims of sexual exploitation is carried out through the dissemination and socialization of the provisions of laws and regulations relating to the Protection of Children exploited economically and sexually; monitoring, reporting, and imposing sanctions; and the involvement of various companies, trade unions, non-governmental organizations, and the community.

Looking at criminal law policies in Indonesia in terms of child sexual exploitation in Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection, and Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Amendment to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection, there are differences in accountability to perpetrators, despite the threat of punishment for trafficking in persons. However, regarding

p-ISSN: 1829-5045 ; e-ISSN: 2549-5615

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the responsibility for some sorts of child sexual exploitation, the child protection legislation is

more onerous than the trafficking law in terms of penalties and the shortest danger. The two

laws have endeavored to satisfy the rights of victims in terms of legal protection, and albeit a

thorough description of the legal protection efforts are based on the legislation on child

protection.

B. Current Legal Policies in Indonesia from the View of Victimology

Victimology is derived mostly from the words victim and logi (science, Latin victima and

logos). Victimization is described as the study of victims in its most basic form (crime).

According to the Crime Dictionary, a victim is a person who has endured bodily or mental

pain, loss of property, or death as a consequence of minor violations perpetrated by offenders

of criminal activities and others. People who endure bodily pain, for example, are considered

to be victims of infractions or criminal activities (Waluyo & Ma'sumah, 2019:260).

Victimology research is also a continuation or evolution of criminology research. Since

the issue of crime in society is more than just a question of crime and offenders, it is also

strongly tied to the problem of crime victims. It is what establishes victimology as the study

of crime victims. When a person becomes a victim of a crime, it can happen for various

reasons, according to victimization research. Because the blame is only from the perpetrator

of the crime, or alone from the victim of the crime, and vice versa due to the fault of both the

perpetrator and the victim simultaneously (Kleden, 2019:76-77).

Victims are a component of the crime's occurrence since the presence of a victim always

follows every crime. Because of the victim's existence, the victim has a role in the incidence

of a crime. The role's goal is to change a person's attitude and condition to become a

prospective victim or commit a crime (Sari & Larossa, 2014:63). According to Law Number

13 of 2006, Article 1 number 2 defines a victim as follows:

"Victim is someone who sustains bodily, mental, and economic loss due to a criminal

act."

The victim's role in a crime is determined by what the victim does, when and where it is

done. The victim's involvement impacts the victim, other parties, and the environment. There

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is a functional link between the victim and the offender; even in the case of some crimes, the victim is considered to be accountable. According to Arif Gosita, a stimulus might take the shape of certain events and circumstances (Sari & Larossa, 2014:63):

"The victim's role is determined by specific circumstances and events that can act as a catalyst for the offender to conduct a crime against the victim. These scenarios and conditions result from the victim's physical and mental infirmity. The victim role is played deliberately or unconsciously, actively or passively, alone or collaboratively, and with good or negative motivations."

The development of victimology concerning victims, their causes, and the consequences of victimization, which is a human problem as well as a social reality, also invites the public to pay more attention to the victim's position and to categorize victims, resulting in the following types of victims:

- 1. Non-participating victims, i.e., those disinterested in crime prevention initiatives
- 2. Latent victims, i.e., individuals who exhibit particular personality features, predispose them to become victims
- 3. Proactive victims, i.e., those who contribute to the commission of the crime
- 4. Victims who actively participate, i.e., those whose conduct makes it easier for them to become victims
- 5. False victims, i.e., individuals who become victims due to their behavior (Permatasari et al., 2016:222)

According to Article 5 of Law No. 13 of 2006 on Witness and Victim Protection, victims have the following rights:

- 1. Obtaining protection for personal, family and property security and being free from threats related to the testimony that will be given, is being given, and given
- 2. Participating in selecting and determining the form of security protection and support
- 3. Providing information without pressure
- 4. Obtaining a translator
- 5. Being free from ensnaring questions
- 6. Obtaining information regarding the development of the case
- 7. Obtaining information about court decisions

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- 8. Knowing when the convict is released
- 9. Obtaining a new identity
- 10. Obtaining a new residence.
- 11. Obtaining reimbursement of transportation costs as needed
- 12. Obtaining legal advice
- 13. Obtaining temporary living expenses assistance until the protection period ends.

In terms of victimology, EHTC Law provides the following forms of legal protection: the right to confidentiality for victims of human trafficking and their families to the second degree (Article 44), the right to protection from threats that endanger themselves, their lives, and their property (Article 47), the right to restitution (Article 48), the right to health rehabilitation and social rehabilitation from the government (Article 51). The EHTC Law's forms are still restrictive (Hendriana et al., 2017:1548). Meanwhile, the Child Protection Amendment Act provides for prompt treatment, including physical, psychological, and social rehabilitation, as well as disease and other health disorders prevention; psychosocial assistance from treatment to recovery; social assistance for children from low-income families; and protection and assistance in all judicial proceedings (Article 56 A). Dissemination and socialization of provisions of laws and regulations on the protection of economically and sexually exploited children cover monitoring, reporting, and enforcing sanctions; and engagement of various businesses, labor unions, non-governmental organizations, and the community in the effort to eradicate economic and sexual exploitation of children (Article 66). The Child Protection Amendment Law offers legal safeguards for victims, particularly children, that are both preventative (Article 66) and repressive (Article 56 A). Then, from a victimology standpoint, legal practices toward child victims in enforcing EHTC Law in terms of jail penalties are more onerous on criminals than the Child Protection Amendment Law. However, the Child Protection Amendment Law criminalizes particular types of sexual exploitation of children by imposing stiffer penalties than earlier rules and EHTC Law.

CONCLUSION

The legislation establishes a strict policy for those who commit illegal actions of human trafficking, including the sexual exploitation of youngsters. EHTC Law defines human trafficking in detail and imposes a maximum prison sentence of 15 years and a maximum fine of IDR 600,000,000. However, if the victim is a child, the maximum threat increases by 1/3, resulting in a maximum threat of 20 years in jail and a maximum fine of IDR 800,000,000 for the culprit. Then there is further regulation about the Child Protection Amendment Law, which includes a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison and a maximum fine of IDR 5,000,000,000. The punishment is increased by 1/3 of the threat if the offender is a parent, guardian, educator, or education worker. Along with other legal protections provided for victims under EHTC Law, measures have been taken to guarantee that victims' identities are not disclosed, from identification through legal help during the investigative process and trial. Meanwhile, the Child Protection Amendment Act provides for a prompt reaction in therapy and rehabilitation, social aid, initiating action and publicizing the illegal act of commercial sexual exploitation of children.

According to victimology, which focuses on victims, criminal law policies addressing incidents of human trafficking or, more specifically, commercial sexual exploitation of children have emphasized victims' interests. Preventive and repressive actions are available, depending on the kind of legal protection. Additionally, victims will get justice via a maximum sentence of 20 years in jail and a maximum fine of IDR 6,500,000,000 to avoid the recurrence of illegal acts of human trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children.

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