

Legal Counseling on Law No. 12 of 2022 concerning Criminal Acts of Sexual Violence as an Effort to Protect Women and Children in Wariori Indah Village

Max Bonsapia, Marwiah'tul Adawiyah Rumkel, Anthon H. Rumburen, Isak Samuel K. Mansawan

Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Hukum Manokwari

Article Info

Article history:

Accepted: 16 April 2026

Publish: 13 Juni 2026

Keywords:

Protection of Women and Children;

TPKS Law;

Legal Counseling;

Kampung Wariori Indah.

Abstract

Violence against women and children is a human rights violation that requires serious and integrated action. The enactment of Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning Criminal Acts of Sexual Violence (UU TPKS) is a crucial legal instrument, but its effectiveness is often hampered by low understanding among grassroots communities. This community service activity aims to provide legal education and map the sociological challenges in protecting women and children in Wariori Indah Village, Masni District. The method used was legal counseling through a participatory approach involving interactive dialogue, observation, and focus group discussions with village officials and residents. The results of the activity indicated that the residents of Wariori Indah Village still face fundamental obstacles such as limited knowledge about the spectrum of sexual violence, a strong patriarchal culture that considers violence a private matter, and limited access to information and official complaint services. Through this counseling, there was an increase in collective awareness among residents regarding the importance of reporting through formal channels and the prohibition of resolving sexual violence cases through peaceful/customary channels. The conclusion of this service confirms that the protection of vulnerable groups requires ongoing synergy between educational institutions, village governments, and legal service institutions to create a village environment that is safe and responsive to the rights of women and children.

This is an open access article under the [Lisensi Creative Commons Atribusi-BerbagiSerupa 4.0 Internasional](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)



Corresponding Author:

Max Bonsapia,

Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Hukum Manokwari

1. INTRODUCTION

Sexual violence is a very serious violation of human rights (HAM) and has multidimensional impacts on its victims, including physical, psychological, and social aspects. This action includes any act that leads to sexual violence against a person carried out by force by anyone, regardless of the perpetrator's relationship with the victim, whether within the family or the workplace. Nationally, 2025 data show a surge in the number of crimes against women and children, reaching more than 21,000 cases, with sexual violence being the most dominant form. This phenomenon is likened to the "tip of the iceberg," where the number of reported cases is far less than the actual reality because many victims choose to remain silent due to the large negative stigma in society.

Women and children remain the most vulnerable groups to violence, which is often a manifestation of deep-seated gender inequality. For children, acts of sexual violence not only violate national law but also undermine their right to special protections stipulated in international instruments such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Therefore, the enactment of

Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning Criminal Acts of Sexual Violence (UU TPKS) reflects the state's commitment to strengthening legal protection through more comprehensive regulations than previous regulations. However, the effectiveness of this law depends heavily on the level of understanding at the grassroots level and the readiness of the supporting infrastructure.

The urgency of this protection is even more evident when considering the increasing crime trend in Eastern Indonesia. National data from 2025-2026 shows a significant spike in conventional crime rates, with West Papua showing a particularly striking increase, despite its relatively low case resolution rate. Geographical and climatic challenges often hinder the prompt resolution of cases, making the active role of the community through early education and the use of integrated services such as Sahabat Perempuan dan Anak (SAPA) 129 crucial in breaking the cycle of violence.

Wariori Indah Village, located in Masni District, has a close-knit social profile, with the majority of the population working in the agricultural and plantation sectors. Although family values and cooperation are still highly valued, limited access to the latest regulatory information makes this area vulnerable to the practice of resolving sexual violence cases through customary or peaceful means outside of formal justice. The TPKS Law explicitly prohibits resolving sexual violence cases outside of the legal process to ensure justice for victims. This gap between legal norms and local practices underlies the importance of preventive measures in this area.

Based on this reality, the Manokwari College of Law (STIH) deemed it necessary to intervene through community service activities. Legal counseling regarding the TPKS Law in Wariori Indah Village is not merely an academic routine, but a strategic effort to empower residents to recognize, prevent, and report acts of sexual violence. This activity is expected to foster synergy between academics, village officials, and the community to build a responsive protection system that will create a safe and prosperous village environment for women and children.

2. METHOD

This community service activity uses a descriptive-qualitative design with a participatory approach that aims to map the community's legal understanding regarding victim protection in depth. The activity chronology begins with the problem identification stage in Wariori Indah Village, which was carried out in response to the phenomenon of a surge in conventional crime and violence against women and children in Eastern Indonesia in the period 2025-2026. This design was chosen so that the implementing team could comprehensively analyze the effectiveness of the implementation of Law No. 12 of 2022 in addressing the challenges of law enforcement at the village level, particularly related to obstacles to access to justice for victims who often still encounter dead ends in the reporting process.

The counseling implementation procedure is structured in a systematic algorithm that includes four main stages: material preparation, socialization, interactive dialogue, and evaluation. The socialization stage is carried out through legal lectures that focus on the introduction of nine types of sexual violence crimes and the importance of reporting through integrated services such as SAPA 129 and UPTD PPA. The course of this research is supported by references that emphasize that increasing legal awareness through appropriate counseling methods is a crucial preventive step to provide legal protection from the threat of sexual violence in the community, especially in areas that have not yet been optimally reached by the latest regulatory information.



Figure 1: Documentation of the extension team and participants.

3. DISCUSSION

The implementation of a community service program through legal counseling conducted by the Manokwari College of Law (STIH) in Wariori Indah Village on March 7, 2026, represents a concrete step in bridging the gap between national regulations and community understanding at the local level. This activity not only serves as a means of transforming legal knowledge but also provides a dialogue space for residents to voice the various practical obstacles they face in seeking protection for women and children. Through a participatory approach and direct interaction during the activity, the counseling team successfully captured the sociological dynamics that influence the effectiveness of law implementation in the field.

a) Analysis of the Social and Legal Reality of the Protection of Women and Children in Wariori Indah Village

Through intensive interactions and two-way dialogue throughout the program, the extension team successfully mapped the sociological conditions and real challenges that hinder law enforcement, particularly regarding the protection of women and children. Based on interactive discussions and brainstorming with village officials, community leaders, and residents, several crucial points were identified:

First, Public Understanding Remains Limited to Physical Violence. During the dialogue session, it was revealed that most residents do not yet understand the specific scope of types of violence as regulated in the TPKS Law. Until now, the collective understanding of the community has tended to categorize violence only if there are visible physical scars. Other forms of violence, such as psychological violence, non-physical sexual harassment, and domestic neglect, are often not considered legal violations that can be prosecuted. This is an important topic in outreach to clarify that legal protection now encompasses broader aspects to maintain human dignity.

Second, The Challenges of Patriarchal Culture and the Domestication of Cases. Discussions with residents also revealed the strong influence of patriarchal culture, which places household matters in a sacred, private sphere. The perception that family matters are a "disgrace" that must be kept private often prevents cases of violence from coming to the surface. Through this outreach, the STIH Manokwari team emphasized that violence against women and children is not merely a private matter, but a human rights violation for which the state is obligated to protect formal legal processes, rather than simply resolving internally, which risks harming the victims.

Third, Information Gap Regarding Complaint Services. Residents openly expressed that one reason for their reluctance to act was not knowing where to report. Most residents were unaware of the existence of complaint services such as SAPA 129 or the role of the Regional Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women and Children (UPTD PPA). This limited access to information created a sense of powerlessness at the community level. Therefore, this outreach was crucial in introducing complaint channels that residents of Kampung Wariori Indah could access to obtain legal and psychological first aid.

Fourth, The Need for Ongoing Socialization. Statements from community leaders revealed that educational activities related to women's and children's rights are still very rare in their villages. This limited educational activity impacts the lack of early prevention efforts at the family level. Residents hope that the presence of STIH Manokwari through this legal counseling will be the beginning of a series of other educational programs, considering that changing community mindsets requires a mentoring process that cannot be achieved in a single event.

Fifth, Low Social Support and Stigma Against Victims. During the question-and-answer session, residents expressed concern about the fate of victims after reporting their cases. The lack of a support system, including free legal assistance and psychological recovery, often leaves victims feeling intimidated by the situation. Furthermore, the threat of negative stigma from the surrounding community (*victim blaming*) becomes a huge barrier preventing victims

from seeking justice. The outreach team emphasized that the success of the TPKS Law depends heavily on community solidarity in providing a safe space for victims to recover and speak out.

b) Analysis of the Implementation of the Sexual Violence Crime Law in a Local Context

The implementation of Law No. 12 of 2022 in Wariori Indah Village faces significant challenges in synchronizing formal regulations with social practices. From a legal perspective, the TPKS Law aims to break the chain of impunity for perpetrators through progressive law enforcement mechanisms. However, findings in the field indicate that this regulation has not been optimally absorbed into the village's social system.

One crucial point discussed in the counseling session was the right to restitution for victims. Restitution is not simply financial compensation, but rather a form of state recognition of the victim's suffering. In Wariori Indah Village, this concept needs to be introduced gradually to avoid being misunderstood as "purchasing dignity" from the victim, but rather as a legal obligation for the perpetrator to restore the victim's well-being. Furthermore, the emphasis on the prohibition of peaceful or customary resolution of sexual violence crimes has sparked heated discussion, given the strong influence of traditional leaders in the Masni region. This demonstrates the need for synergy between positive law and customary norms to avoid conflicts in case handling on the ground.

c) Activity Achievements and Impact on the Community

This legal outreach activity made a real contribution to changing public perceptions. Through a program focused on protecting women and children, the active participation of residents, particularly women from the Family Welfare Movement (PKK) and youth, demonstrated a strong desire for change. The results of this activity include:

- a) Growing Collective Awareness: Communities are becoming more open to discussing sensitive issues previously considered taboo. Counseling participants are now able to identify types of sexual violence they were previously unaware of.
- b) Strengthening the Family's Role: This activity emphasizes that the family should be the safest environment. Learning how to communicate with children about "safe touch" and "unsafe touch" was one of the most appreciated lessons by parents.
- c) Village Potential Mapping: Through dialogue, the team successfully mapped that social capital, such as cooperation in Wariori Indah Village, could be directed to form a "Community Safe Space" or Village Child Protection Group (KPAD) as a basic preventive measure.

d) Field Constraints and Sustainability Strategies

Although the outreach program proceeded smoothly with full support from the village government and community leaders, several significant obstacles remained. Limited communication facilities in some areas and low digital literacy hindered residents from independently accessing legal information. Economic factors were also closely linked; in many cases, the victim's economic dependence on the perpetrator (often the head of the family) was the primary reason cases went unreported.

Therefore, protecting women and children in Wariori Indah Village requires ongoing efforts. A one-time outreach program is not enough to break down the walls of patriarchy and ignorance. Stronger synergy is needed between STIH Manokwari, the local government, and village officials to provide consistent support. Going forward, women's economic empowerment programs in this village need to be combined with legal education to empower women with the independence and courage to uphold their rights before the law.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the implementation of legal counseling activities carried out in Wariori Indah Village, Masni District, it can be concluded that:

- a) This legal outreach activity successfully raised initial public awareness regarding the urgency of Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning Criminal Acts of Sexual Violence (UU TPKS).

Interactive dialogue during the activity revealed that public understanding, which was initially limited to physical violence, has now begun to shift to a broader understanding encompassing psychological violence and neglect.

- b) There are significant sociological barriers at the service location, namely the continued strength of patriarchal culture and the assumption that domestic violence is a private matter (*aib*). This has led to a tendency to resolve cases through peaceful or customary means, which is actually expressly prohibited by the TPKS Law for the category of sexual violence crimes.
- c) The lack of information regarding official complaint channels (such as SAPA 129 and the UPTD PPA) is a major factor in residents' reluctance to report cases. Therefore, the presence of educational institutions like STIH Manokwari is crucial as facilitators in improving access to justice for people in rural areas.

5. SUGGESTION

As a follow-up to this community service activity, several strategic suggestions were proposed for stakeholders:

- a) **For Local Governments:** There is a need to increase socialization regarding UPTD PPA services and ease of access to free legal aid for people living in districts far from the city center.
- b) **For the Wariori Indah Village Government:** It is hoped that this will initiate the formation of community-based protection units or Village Child Protection Groups (KPAD), which will function as the frontline in preventing and reporting cases of violence early.
- c) **For Institutions (STIH Manokwari):** There needs to be a sustainable mentoring program (not just one-time counseling), for example, through a legal awareness foster village program, so that changes in the community's mindset can be monitored consistently.
- d) **For the General Public:** There needs to be a collective commitment to abandon the practice of "peaceful resolution" in cases of sexual violence and be more courageous in utilizing formal legal institutions to provide a deterrent effect for perpetrators and fair protection for victims.

6. CONFESSION

The author expresses his highest appreciation and gratitude to the Head of the Manokwari College of Law (STIH) for the institutional support, guidance, and facilities provided so that this legal counseling activity can be carried out as a real manifestation of community service. Expressions of gratitude are also expressed to the Head of Wariori Indah Village and all village officials who have granted permission, facilitated the activity location, and built excellent coordination for the smooth running of the event. Finally, appreciation and respect are extended to all elements of the Wariori Indah Village community, including traditional leaders, religious leaders, and residents participating in the counseling, who have welcomed the team with full openness and actively participated in this legal dialogue space. Without the synergy and support of various parties, efforts to strengthen legal awareness regarding the protection of women and children will not run optimally.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Aneta, F. (2025). Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual yang Dilakukan oleh Ayah kepada Anak Kandungnya Menurut UU Perlindungan Anak dan UU TPKS. *Sumbang 12 Journal*, 3(3), 1–12.
- Hafid, S. J., & Suprima. (2024). Kekerasan Seksual dan Hak Asasi Manusia dalam Pendekatan Filosofis terhadap Penegakan Keadilan. *Journal of Human and Education (JAHE)*, 8(3), 46663–46668.
- Khumaeroh, I. N. (2023). Kebijakan Hukum Pidana Terhadap Perkembangan Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual yang Bertujuan Menciptakan Keadilan Gender. *Jurnal Hukum Indonesia (AJHI)*, 1(1), 1–10.

- Nur, A., Putra, L. M. R. Z., Andi, S., & Sapril. (2024). Sosialisasi Hukum Undang-Undang Nomor 12 Tahun 2022 Tentang Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual. *Journal of Human And Education (JAHE)*, 4(4), 437–442.
- R.M.A, I. (2021). Legal and Victimological Perspective on Sexual Violence Against Children. *International Journal of Indonesian Culture and Legal Education*, 3(3), 367–380.
- Saefudin, Y., dkk. (2023). Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual dan Perlindungan Hukum bagi Korban Kekerasan Seksual di Indonesia. *Kosmik Hukum*, 23(1), 24–33.
- Susanti, R., & Manuputty, J. (2026). Implementasi Undang-Undang Nomor 12 Tahun 2022 tentang Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual: Perlindungan Korban di Kabupaten Banyumas. *Al-Zayn: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial & Hukum*, 4(2), 1344–1355.
- Yuliantini, N. P. R., Mangku, G. D. S., & Putri, P. P. P. E. (2021). Upaya Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Perempuan dan Anak Korban Kekerasan Seksual di Provinsi Bali. *Seminar Nasional Hukum Universitas Negeri Semarang*, 7(1), 367–380.

Government Documents & Institutional Reports:

- Data PKM. (2026). *Profil Sosial, Ekonomi, dan Geografis Kampung Wariori Indah Distrik Masni*. Manokwari: STIH Manokwari.
- Kementerian Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak. (2025). *Laporan Tahunan Layanan Sahabat Perempuan dan Anak (SAPA) 129*. Jakarta: Kemen PPPA.
- Komnas Perempuan. (2026). *Catatan Tahunan Kekerasan Berbasis Gender terhadap Perempuan (CATAHU) 2025: Menguatkan Data, Mengatasi Kerentanan*. Jakarta: Komisi Nasional Anti Kekerasan terhadap Perempuan.
- Laporan Koordinasi Lintas Kementerian/Lembaga (Polkam). (2026). *Analisis Strategis Lonjakan Angka Kejahatan Konvensional di Indonesia Timur*. Bogor: Bidang Penanganan Kejahatan Konvensional.
- Republik Indonesia. (2022). *Undang-Undang Nomor 12 Tahun 2022 tentang Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual*. Lembaran Negara Republik Indonesia Tahun 2022 Nomor 120.