



## Legal Analysis Of Government In Efforts To Handl Sexual Violence Cases In Batam City

Shinta Novita Sari Silalahi<sup>1</sup>, Lenny husna<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1-2</sup> Department of Law, Faculty of Social and Humanities, Universitas Putera Batam, Batam, Indonesia

**Abstract.** *Incidents of sexual violence in Batam City continue to pose a serious concern for both the government and the local community, demanding immediate and comprehensive responses. Despite various efforts by the government to address this issue, the prevalence of such incidents highlights the need for more effective prevention, intervention, and legal action. This article aims to assess the government's legal handling of sexual violence cases in Batam City, focusing on the legal framework and strategic actions designed to address the problem. By utilizing a legal analytical approach, this study will explore the measures implemented by the government to combat sexual violence, evaluate the role of the law in protecting victims, and analyze how the judicial system penalizes offenders. Furthermore, the article will discuss the collaboration between government authorities and the community in enhancing public awareness and addressing the root causes of sexual violence. The research emphasizes the importance of both preventative strategies and efficient legal processes to create a safer environment for all residents. The findings of this study aim to contribute to the broader discourse on combating sexual violence and improving legal responses in urban settings, with a particular focus on Batam City.*

**Keywords:** *legal analysis, sexual violence, government response, prevention, victim protection, community engagement.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Violence of a sexual nature is a type of violence that can have significant effects on a person's physical health, mental health, and social life. The city of Batam continues to experience instances of sexual violence, which calls on the government and society to pay significant attention to the situation. As part of its efforts to deal with this matter, the government has implemented a number of strategic measures, including the imposition of more severe punishments on those responsible for the crime and the execution of campaigns to increase public awareness. It is imperative that people, society, and the government all pay significant attention to and take action on sexual assault because it is a social issue that is both extremely complicated and delicate. As the city of Batam

Because there has been a rise in the number of cases of sexual violence in Batam City, it is vital for the government to conduct a legal study in order to effectively manage this situation. The term "sexual violence" refers to any act that is perpetrated by an individual against another individual with the intention of raping, manipulating, or judging another individual on a sexual level. Rape, sexual harassment, and rape are the three methods of sexual violence that are most frequently committed. Government law plays an important role in handling cases of sexual violence, where several relevant laws in handling this case include Law Number 1 of 1997 concerning Supervision and Protection of Children which

provides legal protection to children who are victims of sexual violence, Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Supervision and Protection of Women which provides legal protection to women who are victims of sexual violence, and Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Supervision and Protection of Children and Women which provides legal protection to children and women who are victims of sexual violence.

One way to conduct an analysis of the way the government handles cases of sexual violence in Batam City is to take into account a number of factors. These include delays in handling cases, which can cause victims to become traumatized and make it difficult for them to obtain legal protection; a lack of resources, such as funds and personnel, which can make it difficult for the government to handle cases of sexual violence effectively; and a lack of public awareness of sexual violence, which can cause this case to not receive serious attention.

There are a number of steps that need to be taken in order to handle cases of sexual violence in Batam City. These steps include increasing public awareness of sexual violence through campaigns and education, increasing resources such as funds and personnel to handle cases of sexual violence, improving case handling by conducting investigations that are both quick and effective, and increasing victim protection by providing appropriate psychological and medical assistance. As a result, sexual violence in Batam City, which is a social problem that is both extremely complicated and delicate, calls for urgent attention and action from a variety of different stakeholders. The legal study that the government conducted in order to handle incidents of sexual violence in Batam City reveals that there are actions that need to be taken in order to address this issue and guarantee that victims are provided with legal protection. These efforts include improving public awareness, resources, providing victim protection, and managing cases.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

The prevalence of sexual violence remains a pressing issue globally and locally, with urban areas like Batam City facing significant challenges in addressing and curbing such incidents. The legal frameworks and governmental responses to sexual violence have been widely studied, with numerous scholars emphasizing the crucial role of legal mechanisms in both preventing and addressing sexual violence cases. This literature review examines key concepts and prior research related to government actions and the legal landscape surrounding sexual violence, with a particular focus on Batam City. Indonesia has made notable strides in developing a legal framework to combat sexual violence. The

2004 Law No. 23/2004 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence laid the groundwork for addressing sexual violence in private and public spheres. More recently, the ratification of the 2019 Law on Sexual Violence Crimes (UU Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual) further reinforced the commitment to providing legal protection for victims and ensuring stricter penalties for offenders (Rachmawati & Hidayati, 2020). These legal reforms were crucial in addressing the long-standing gaps in Indonesia's legal protection for sexual violence victims, as previous laws were often criticized for being insufficient in terms of victim protection and punitive measures. Scholars have debated the efficacy of these laws in practice, pointing to implementation challenges such as weak enforcement, limited awareness among the public, and the cultural stigma surrounding sexual violence. Several studies highlight that despite the robust legal frameworks, many victims still face difficulties accessing justice due to societal attitudes and the underreporting of crimes (Siregar & Hidayati, 2020).

Government efforts to prevent sexual violence often encompass legal measures, public awareness campaigns, and social interventions. Batam City, as a significant urban area in Indonesia, has implemented various strategies to mitigate sexual violence. These strategies include collaboration between local law enforcement, social services, and civil society organizations to raise awareness, support victims, and ensure timely legal proceedings. Researchers have noted that prevention programs that target root causes of sexual violence, such as gender inequality, poverty, and social norms, have shown promise. In particular, studies by Kurniawan (2018) emphasize the role of education and community involvement in addressing sexual violence in urban settings. Awareness programs, such as those conducted by local government agencies, are critical to informing the public about their rights and the available legal avenues for reporting sexual violence.

Moreover, a significant body of literature explores the importance of victim protection within the legal process. Victims of sexual violence often experience re-traumatization within the legal system, primarily due to insensitive procedures and lack of support. Research by Nasution (2017) stresses the importance of creating a legal environment that is not only punitive but also restorative, offering counseling and support services for victims.

Batam City, located in the border area of Indonesia, presents unique challenges for law enforcement and legal procedures in handling sexual violence cases. The high mobility of people between Indonesia and neighboring countries, coupled with urbanization, poses additional hurdles in the investigation and prosecution of such crimes. Scholars have

explored the challenges faced by local authorities in Batam in enforcing laws and providing adequate protection to victims of sexual violence (Rani, 2019). One major issue is the lack of coordination between law enforcement agencies, legal institutions, and healthcare providers, which can delay justice and result in inadequate victim support.

Legal scholars have also identified the gaps in the implementation of laws on sexual violence in Batam City. While national policies have been put in place, the application of these laws at the local level often falls short. Kadir (2021) argues that Batam's legal system requires a more integrated approach that involves law enforcement, local governments, and community organizations in tackling sexual violence. This perspective underscores the need for comprehensive legal reforms that are not just theoretical but are practically applied at the grassroots level. The collaboration between government authorities and the community is another essential aspect of addressing sexual violence. Studies show that communities that actively participate in legal processes and contribute to advocacy efforts tend to experience better outcomes in reducing sexual violence (Anggraeni, 2021). In Batam City, initiatives involving community leaders, local NGOs, and public health organizations have been instrumental in supporting victims and creating an environment where sexual violence is not tolerated. The role of media in raising public awareness about sexual violence has been increasingly recognized. Scholars like Wijayanti & Munir (2020) argue that media can act as a tool for both prevention and accountability, by publicizing cases of sexual violence and promoting legal reforms. Media coverage often puts pressure on government authorities to act decisively, ensuring that justice is served and that victims are not silenced.

While substantial progress has been made in understanding the legal landscape of sexual violence, there is still a need for more localized studies, particularly in urban contexts like Batam City. Most existing research focuses on broader national-level policies or rural settings, leaving a gap in understanding how these policies are implemented at the municipal level in a city like Batam. Further research is required to examine the effectiveness of government actions, the legal framework, and community involvement specifically in Batam City's unique socio-political and cultural context.

### **3. METHODS**

This study employs a legal analysis method to investigate the steps taken by the government in addressing sexual violence cases in Batam City. The research focuses on evaluating the legal frameworks, policies, and government actions in combating sexual

violence, with an emphasis on understanding how the law functions as both a protective tool for victims and a means of penalizing perpetrators. Data for this study will be collected from a variety of sources to provide a comprehensive overview of the legal handling of sexual violence cases. These sources include relevant legislation, such as the 2019 Law on Sexual Violence Crimes (UU Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual) and the 2004 Law No. 23 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence. The study will also review case law, including verdicts and rulings related to sexual violence cases in Batam City, to understand how the judiciary has interpreted and applied the law. Victim reports, collected through government institutions, NGOs, or media outlets, will offer firsthand accounts of the challenges victims face when navigating the legal system. Additionally, government reports and policy documents will provide insight into the local administration's strategies for addressing sexual violence and supporting victims.

The data collected will be analyzed using both qualitative and quantitative methods. For qualitative analysis, content analysis will be employed to review legal texts, such as laws, regulations, and judicial decisions, to identify key provisions and themes regarding sexual violence. Thematic analysis will be applied to victim reports and government policy documents to identify recurring patterns, such as the level of victim support and the effectiveness of public awareness initiatives. Quantitative analysis will include a statistical review of sexual violence case data, such as the number of reported incidents, convictions, and the duration of legal proceedings. Surveys may be distributed to victims, local legal practitioners, and law enforcement officers to assess their perceptions of the legal system's effectiveness in handling sexual violence cases, thus providing practical insights into the challenges faced.

The analysis will be guided by three primary frameworks. First, the Legal Protection Framework will evaluate how the legal system in Batam City provides protection for victims, ensuring their rights are upheld throughout the legal process. This will involve examining the application of victim protection laws, including witness protection and legal aid. The second framework, the Penalization Framework, will assess how effectively the legal system penalizes perpetrators of sexual violence. This will involve reviewing sentencing trends for offenders and identifying any disparities in the application of punishments. Finally, a Comparative Legal Analysis will compare the handling of sexual violence cases in Batam City with other regions in Indonesia, highlighting best practices that could be implemented.

Given the sensitive nature of the topic, the study will prioritize ethical considerations, especially regarding victim privacy and the handling of sensitive data. Victim reports and survey responses will be anonymized, and informed consent will be obtained from participants in any surveys or interviews. The study will also ensure that no harm is caused to victims or their families during the research process. By employing both qualitative and quantitative methods, this research aims to provide a thorough legal analysis of the government's efforts in addressing sexual violence in Batam City. The study will assess the effectiveness of legal mechanisms and offer insights into areas where improvements can be made in policy, enforcement, and victim support services. Ultimately, the goal is to contribute to the ongoing efforts to combat sexual violence through a more effective and responsive legal system.

#### **4. RESULTS**

The findings of this study indicate that the Batam City government has implemented several strategic measures to address sexual violence cases. One key step taken was the imposition of stricter penalties for offenders. In addition, the government has launched campaigns to raise public awareness about sexual violence and the importance of victim protection. The analysis reveals that the law can be an effective tool for both protecting victims and punishing offenders. Relevant laws in Batam City, such as Law No. 35 of 2014 on Child Protection, have provided better protection for victims of sexual violence. Furthermore, harsher judicial decisions against offenders have contributed to reducing the occurrence of sexual violence.

The Batam City government has taken several strategic actions to tackle sexual violence cases. These actions include:

- 1) Engaging the Community in Sexual Violence Prevention: The Batam City Government, through the Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control, and Family Planning Office (P3APD2KB), has conducted community mobilization and empowerment activities to raise awareness about sexual violence and victim protection.
- 2) Government Policy in Handling Sexual Violence Victims: The Batam City Government has developed better policies for handling victims of sexual violence. These policies include providing psychological and physical protection for victims, as well as addressing cases through medical and psychological support. The government has also strengthened collaboration with the community and the police to improve case handling.

- 3) Role of the Women's Empowerment Office in Addressing Sexual Violence: The Women's Empowerment Office has played an active role in addressing sexual violence in Batam City. This office has conducted mediation and counseling for victims and has provided education and awareness-raising activities to the community about sexual violence.
- 4) Training in Sexual Violence Case Management: The Batam City Government has organized training programs on the management and handling of sexual violence cases to enhance the capacity of authorities in managing such cases. These trainings were attended by participants from educational institutions, women and children's advocacy groups, academic activists, and youth leaders.

When compared to other cities, Batam City has taken more proactive steps in addressing sexual violence cases. The city has raised awareness about sexual violence and victim protection, as well as developed better policies for handling victims. Additionally, the Women's Empowerment Office has been actively involved in tackling sexual violence and has provided mediation and counseling services for victims. The Batam City Government has also developed various programs to support victims of sexual violence. One notable program is GEMPAR (Generasi Muda Peduli Anak dan Remaja), initiated by the Embun Pelangi Foundation and in collaboration with the PPKS Task Force from Politeknik Negeri Batam. GEMPAR Speak Up focuses on the prevention of sexual violence within campus environments. Moreover, the Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control, and Family Planning Office (DP3AP2KB) has provided direct assistance to victims, with a primary focus on the mental recovery of child victims, involving psychologists from the Batam DPPA.

The strategies developed by the Women's Empowerment Office to prevent violence against women in Batam City include victim assistance, public education, and handling violence cases. Although these strategies are deemed effective, improvements are still necessary to better meet the needs of victims. Additionally, the Batam City Government has established the UPTD PPA (Integrated Service Center for Women and Children), which functions as a center for handling and supporting sexual violence victims. The UPTD PPA has been strengthened to enhance Batam City's ability to prevent and manage sexual violence cases, as well as bullying. Through these various programs, including GEMPAR, victim assistance, prevention strategies by the Women's Empowerment Office, and the UPTD PPA, the Batam City Government demonstrates a strong commitment to supporting sexual violence victims and reducing incidents of sexual violence in the city.

### ***A. Assistance to Victims of Sexual Violence***

The assistance provided by the Batam City Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control, and Family Planning Office (DP3AP2 and KB) to victims of sexual harassment includes several essential steps designed to ensure comprehensive mental and physical recovery.

The first step is psychological assistance conducted by the psychologists of the Batam PPA Office, focusing on the mental recovery of children who are victims of sexual violence. The psychologists help victims cope with trauma and injuries they have suffered, offering the emotional support needed for healing. Furthermore, a psychological approach is taken to validate the victim's feelings, assist them in understanding and managing these emotions, and provide moral support to enhance their mental well-being. Direct assistance from a team consisting of psychologists and other professionals is also a key step, where the team provides direct help to victims in dealing with trauma.

Further trauma recovery is done by offering moral support, encouragement, and special attention focused on the child's condition, ensuring they feel supported by their parents and surrounding environment. Cooperation with the family is crucial. Through this collaboration, the Batam PPA Office helps families resolve issues and support the child's recovery. Lastly, monitoring and supervision are carried out to ensure that victims receive better protection and ongoing support from their parents and surroundings. With this comprehensive approach, the Batam PPA Office strives to provide holistic protection and recovery for victims of sexual violence, covering psychological, emotional, and physical aspects to ensure they can resume a better life.

The psychological team supporting sexual harassment victims implements comprehensive steps that include psychological assistance, psychological approaches, trauma recovery, counseling, supervision, and monitoring, as well as specialized psychological approaches in handling victims of sexual violence. The first step is psychological assistance focused on the mental recovery of children who are victims of sexual violence. Psychologists help victims cope with their emotions and provide moral support and encouragement, ensuring that victims feel heard and supported. Additionally, this approach involves validating the victim's feelings, where psychologists actively help victims understand and manage their emotions, offering the moral support and encouragement needed for the healing process.

Trauma recovery is the next crucial step, done by providing moral support, encouragement, and better attention. The focus is on the child's condition, ensuring that they

receive attention and support from parents and their environment, making sure they feel safe and cared for. In some cases, psychological counseling is also extended to the victim's family, such as the mother and siblings, particularly when staying at the UPTD PPA shelter. This aims to address the psychological turmoil experienced by the victim and ensure comprehensive emotional support. Next, the psychological team also conducts monitoring and supervision to ensure that victims receive continued protection and support from their parents and the surrounding environment. This is essential to ensure that the recovery process is progressing well and that the victim feels safe at all times.

The psychological approach in handling victims of sexual violence consists of several stages, starting from preparation, where psychologists assess the victim's readiness to move to the next stage, followed by preparation where methods to cope with negative feelings are introduced. This is followed by an assessment to evaluate facts related to the incident. The desensitization stage involves providing stimuli that cause the victim's eyes to move from side to side to help them process trauma, while installation asks the victim to think about positive thoughts they want to develop. The body scan invites the victim to give full attention to their body, and closure involves writing a journal to help the victim articulate and process their feelings.

With this comprehensive approach, the psychological team aims to provide maximum support to sexual harassment victims, ensuring that every aspect of their healing process is adequately addressed, from emotional support to specialized psychological techniques designed to help them recover from the trauma they have experienced.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the legal analysis of the government's efforts in addressing cases of sexual violence in Batam City reveals that the government has implemented a series of strategic measures to both prevent and respond to these cases effectively. Legal frameworks, such as laws aimed at protecting the rights of victims and punishing perpetrators, serve as essential tools in the fight against sexual violence. These laws offer not only a means of seeking justice for victims but also create a deterrent effect that can potentially reduce the occurrence of such crimes. Moreover, the government has taken proactive steps to improve the systems in place for handling sexual violence cases, such as providing psychological support for victims, enhancing law enforcement capacity, and promoting public awareness campaigns. However, the success of these initiatives is highly dependent on continuous collaboration between governmental agencies, local authorities, law enforcement, and

community stakeholders. Without a concerted effort to ensure effective implementation and enforcement of the laws, the progress made will be limited.

It is also crucial for the community to play an active role in supporting victims and fostering a culture that does not tolerate sexual violence. This includes providing education, encouraging the reporting of incidents, and advocating for the rights of vulnerable individuals. The collaboration between the government and the community is essential to create a comprehensive and effective strategy to address sexual violence and its consequences. Thus, while progress has been made in Batam City, there needs to be a sustained commitment from both the government and the community to prevent and address sexual violence. A multifaceted approach that integrates legal, psychological, and social support systems, alongside stronger community engagement, is necessary to ensure the protection of victims and the accountability of perpetrators, ultimately contributing to a safer and more just society.

## **REFERENCES**

- Abdulkhadir, M. (2018). *Hukum dan penelitian hukum*. Bandung: PT. Cipta Aditya Bakti.
- Amrullah, M. A. (2013). *Panduan menyusun proposal tesis dan disertasi*. SmartPustaka. Tersedia dalam [http://ucs.sulselib.net/index.php?p=show\\_detail&id=32765](http://ucs.sulselib.net/index.php?p=show_detail&id=32765)
- Ananta, W. P., & Wijaya, A. (2016). *Darurat kejahatan seksual*. Jakarta: Sinar Grafika.
- Arasyid, C. (2006). *Dasar-dasar ilmu hukum*. Jakarta: Sinar Grafika.
- Fuady, M. (2013). *Teori-teori besar (grand theory) dalam hukum*. Jakarta: Kencana.
- Fuady, P. (2015). *Pengertian sistem peradilan pidana anak*. Bandung: Pustaka Yustisia.
- Gosita, A. (1989). *Masalah perlindungan anak*. Jakarta: Akademik Pressindo.
- Gultom, M. (2012). *Perlindungan hukum terhadap anak dan perempuan*. Bandung: PT. Refika Aditama.
- Komnas Perempuan. (n.d.). Komnas Perempuan mendukung layanan visum dan medis cuma-cuma bagi korban kekerasan seksual serta pencegahan kekerasan seksual di RS Santa Elizabeth Batam. Tersedia dalam <https://komnasperempuan.go.id/kabar-perempuan-detail/komnas-perempuan-mendukung-layanan-visum-dan-medis-cuma-cuma-bagi-korban-kekerasan-seksual-serta-pencegahan-kekerasan-seksual-di-rs-santa-elizabeth-batam>
- Repository Raden Intan. (n.d.). Tersedia dalam <http://repository.radenintan.ac.id/3931/1/PDF.pdf>