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# Sexual Violence in Virtual World: The Unaddressed Legal Protection Issue for Victims

## *Kekerasan Seksual di Dunia Maya: Isu Perlindungan Hukum yang Belum terselesaikan untuk Korban*

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### ABSTRACT

Technology, the internet and social media are essential parts of our daily life. Society has become an important actor and witness to the surge in digital interactions, creating new platforms for communicating, playing games and social networking. Cyberspace's offer of creativity, connection, and entertainment turns out to have a risky side—the spread of sexual violence in digital spaces. This research argues the complex interactions between social media, adolescence, and sextortion. The study of the risks posed by online platforms and their impact on teenagers found in this research seeks to address the need for intervention in education and legal protection of the youth and vulnerable generation in the digital era. Furthermore, this paper would contribute to a safer online environment for teens and responsibility in using social media while fostering a culture of respect, consent, and awareness regarding sexual violence.

**Keyword:** Adolescent, Online, Sexual Violence, Social Media

### ABSTRAK

Saat ini, teknologi internet dan media sosial menjadi penting kehidupan keseharian. Masyarakat menjadi pelaku dan saksi lonjakan interaksi digital, menciptakan platform baru untuk berkomunikasi, bermain game, dan berjejaring sosial. Tawaran kreativitas dunia maya, koneksi, dan hiburan ternyata memiliki sisi yang mengkhawatirkan—penyebaran kekerasan seksual dalam ruang digital. Penelitian ini menyelami interaksi kompleks antara media sosial, remaja, dan kekerasan seksual online. Kajian atas risiko yang ditimbulkan oleh platform online dan dampaknya terhadap remaja yang ditemukan dalam penelitian ini diupayakan memberikan pencerahan keharusan adanya intervensi dalam pendidikan, dan perlindungan hukum untuk melindungi generasi muda dan rentan di era digital. Melalui analisis komprehensif, tulisan ini berkontribusi pada lingkungan online yang lebih aman bagi remaja, mendorong penggunaan media sosial yang bertanggung jawab, sambil membina budaya menghargai, persetujuan, dan kesadaran mengenai kekerasan seksual online.

**Keyword:** Remaja, Daring, Kekerasan Seksual, Media Sosial



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## 1. Introduction

Social media has revolutionized how we communicate, disseminate information, and interact socially in the digitally interconnected world. Social media platforms have become potent tools to influence and alter our society's moral dynamics and communication patterns by allowing users to share content, connect with others, and engage with diverse information through social platforms. These social media platforms, like WhatsApp, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and many other similar platforms, generally have far-reaching impacts on society. However, it has caused a profound social impact on adolescents, who are vulnerable and immature. This social impact must be addressed and cannot be understated because it has positive and negative implications for the adolescent.

The World Health Organization (WHO) designates individuals between 10 and 19 years old as adolescents (Organization, 2023). An adolescent, commonly referred to as a teenager or young adult, embodies the stage of development between childhood and adulthood. This phase of life creates a confluence of physical, emotional, cognitive, and social changes, encompassing the onset of puberty and the pursuit of greater independence and autonomy. The typical age range for adolescents is 10 to 19 years, though slight variations can occur based on cultural, social, and medical contexts. In the Indonesian perspective, adolescence is defined as individuals aged between 10 to 18 or 24 years, contingent upon the law referencing this definition. This legal delineation aims to establish a robust foundation for safeguarding, educating, and meeting the distinct needs of adolescents within diverse social and health frameworks.

Social media facilitates connection and communication between people, which was one of the main reasons for using social media among most adolescent participants and is considered a positive aspect of social media (Keles et al., 2023). Adolescence represents a pivotal stage of human development, marking the transition from childhood to adulthood. Studies show that college-aged individuals are the highest social media users (Corcoran et al., 2020). This adolescent period reflects the profound physical, psychological, and social transformations and explores one's identity and relationships. Adolescents are prolific social media users who often use these platforms to express themselves, cultivate friendships, and seek validation. Nevertheless, this phase of vulnerability also exposes them to the darker aspects of the digital realm, like online sexual violence.

Despite increasing awareness and efforts to address online sexual violence against adolescents, there remain critical weaknesses in the current protective measures. Legal frameworks often lag behind rapidly evolving online behaviours, creating challenges in defining and prosecuting such offences. Jurisdictional complexities impede the consistent enforcement of laws across borders, allowing perpetrators to exploit gaps in international cooperation. Digital literacy gaps among adolescents leave them vulnerable, lacking the skills to navigate the online world safely. The cloak of anonymity and pseudonymity on social media platforms enables perpetrators to evade identification, hindering accountability.

Moreover, underreporting persists due to fears of stigmatization, and the lack of comprehensive support systems exacerbates the reluctance of victims to come forward. Technological advancements may outpace the development of protective measures, leaving vulnerabilities unaddressed. These weaknesses underscore the urgent need for a comprehensive approach integrating legal, educational, and technological solutions to create a robust protective framework for adolescents in the digital age.

Online sexual violence spans a spectrum of harmful behaviours encompassing harassment, coercion, non-consensual dissemination of explicit content, grooming, and other forms of abuse perpetrated digitally. The adolescents, engrossed in their active participation on social media, find themselves particularly susceptible to these egregious forms of victimization. The escalating prevalence of online sexual violence has emerged as a pressing concern, underscoring the imperative for a comprehensive understanding of its dynamics, its detrimental impact on adolescents, and the implementation of effective preventive measures. Therefore, it is crucial to investigate and explore the intricate dimensions and fabric of online sexual violence within the virtual world to identify the factors contributing to these negative implications. Research must focus on the inadequately addressed legal protection for victims to shed light on the pressing need for legal frameworks and strategies that effectively safeguard and support the victims of online sexual violence. The attempt to uncover this issue's complexities, the authors believe, would pave the way for a safer digital environment in the future where the victims are empowered, and justice prevails for victims. The findings will also provide insightful information to warn and prevent adolescent victims by way of knowledge.

## **2. Method**

The research method used in this research is the normative legal research method by using secondary data in the form of laws and regulations as well as various scientific papers in the field of international law and several writings in the form of web pages to form a theoretical basis. The research is focused on a literature study with qualitative data analysis. The analysis is accomplished by analysing every law and regulation, book, journal, scientific essay, and website outlined in descriptive words.

### 3. Result and Discussion

#### 3.1 Adolescent Interaction in Social Media and Disruptive Technology

##### 3.1.1 Impact of Social Media on the Indonesian Youth

Technology like the internet and social media in daily routine have become inseparable present lifestyles. Indonesia plays an active role in cyberspace, becoming a significant part of the global communication and information system. The latest report by "We Are Social and Hootsuite" stated that social media users worldwide reached 4.76 billion in January 2023. This figure is equivalent to 59.4% of the current global population, and the number of social media users in Indonesia reached 60.4% of the total population in the country in January 2023 (Annur, 2023). Teenagers also actively contribute as social media users. In 2020, Generation Z and Millennials predominantly represented the Indonesian population. The Generation Z population, born between 1997 and 2012, reached 74.93 million people or 27.94% of the total population. The Millennial population, born between 1981 and 1996, reached 69.38 million, or 25.87% of the total population (Bayu, 2021). The ability to interact and communicate on various existing platform applications demands that Millennial teenagers follow and understand the language codes used. By knowing and simultaneously using the appropriate language codes for situations and needs, it becomes easier for them to integrate into all communities and demonstrate their existence as a Millennial group (Daroe Iswati Ningsih, Fauzan, 2021).

The adolescent phase is when individuals discover their identity, experience increased social independence, and transform into unique individuals. Although face-to-face interactions with peers, parents, and educators directly impact teenagers in their daily lives, the role of internet-based entities is becoming increasingly important in this crucial stage of life. For today's teenage generation, gadgets are no longer just a means of communication. For them, gadgets have become an integral part of their existence. They actively engage in activities such as uploading photos and videos, communicating through messages, and sharing content via online platforms, primarily social media. Social networking sites offer adolescents a platform to explore their identities and enhance their social skills. While this can be beneficial, these platforms can also turn into spaces where harmful and risky behaviours occur, potentially causing lasting physical and psychological damage.

In an era where young generations are increasingly digitally connected, teenagers' use of social media has created unique patterns of social interaction and influenced various aspects of their lives. Although adolescent behaviour patterns on social media can vary depending on the individual and the context, some common behaviour trends are observed in adolescent social media behaviour. The typical common patterns of behaviour include the following: *first*, teenagers are often very active on social media, such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok and Twitter. They spend much time exploring various platforms by interacting with their friends or making new friends (known and unknown), uploading photos, videos, or other content, and responding to other people's posts.

*Second*, Self-Presentation Teenagers (SPT) often use social media platforms to build their identity and self-image. They share their thoughts on important moments throughout their life and experiences besides showcasing their interests and activities. They share selfies and photos with specific poses on their teenage social media accounts. Research shows that self-presentation by adolescents on social media is related to forming their self-identity (Rahmah et al., 2019) because teenagers use self-presentation to explore themselves through social media to discover their identities.

*Third*, teenagers often seek social media platforms to gain attention and validation from others. Teenagers experience a feeling of happiness and satisfaction when their content receives positive responses or can also feel sad or disappointed if they do not get the expected attention. The number of likes, comments, and followers has become significant for them, often serving as a social success or popularity indicator.

*Fourth*, Social media platforms have become an avenue for cyberbullying, causing teenagers to experience harassment and intimidation. Cyberbullying often occurs in the form of disrespectful comments, posting embarrassing photos, or sending negative messages. That can hurt the emotional and mental well-being of teenagers. Bullying or harassment on social media is usually initiated or provoked by teenagers based on their dislike for someone's personality or personal attributes. Cyberbullying can usually be initiated by simply making comments of humour or jest, hoping to make other users or participants laugh and elicit

responses or replies in the comment section. In the subsequent stages, back-and-forth exchanges in the conversation may lead the victim to be subjected to cyberbullying. Unbeknownst to them, the conversation process in the comment section of social media enters the realm of harassment or bullying, even though the teenagers perceive it as mere humour or light-hearted banter (Riswanto & Marsinun, 2020).

*Fifth*, teenagers often experience fear of missing out, also known as FOMO syndrome. Teenagers who fear missing out on information or experiences happening on social media worry about missing out on trendy events or activities and often feel the need or urge to constantly check their social media to stay "up to date." Adolescents in Generations Y and Z tend to experience FOMO and shape their self-concept with the help of social media because it helps showcase and map out what is exciting or uninteresting for each individual. The emerging interests and a strong desire to keep up with the times that they feel are "in line with their world" can be cultivated, forming many trends that they continue to follow for personal development and self-comfort (Carolina & Mahestu, 2020).

*Sixth*, teenagers are also often found to be involved in sexting or the exchange of sexually related text messages. Sexting has been defined as sending, receiving, or forwarding sexually explicit messages, images, or photos to others through digital platforms and can assume more consensual or abusive and violent forms (Barroso et al., 2021). The initiation of sexting with a potential romantic partner or from external parties can expose adolescents to uncertainties, including misinterpretation of intentions, unintended consequences, or breaches of personal boundaries. Sexting generally is a potentially risky behaviour that provides a gateway to various forms of sextortion like sexual exploitation, threatening to distribute explicit, intimate, or embarrassing sexual images without consent to obtain additional images, sexual acts, money, or other things). Young adults who are aware of the legal implications of improper sexting tend to engage less in sexting than their peers who are unaware of these implications (Ricon & Dolev-Cohen, 2023).

Therefore, not all teenagers experience or exhibit the same behaviour patterns on social media. Each individual has different preferences, interests, and values. Therefore, it is important to educate teenagers about digital ethics, privacy protection, and emotional management when using social media to help them develop healthy and positive online behaviour.

### *3.1.2 Positive Impact of Social Media Usage*

Social media is a convenient and broadly available platform for young people to acquire knowledge and information. Social media has also made life more convenient (He, 2023). Many adolescents use this technology a lot, and there are different opinions on whether it is suitable for them to use it more, less, or find a balance. The perspective on this matter often hinges on assessing whether the advantages of using such technology surpass the associated risks. The social function of social media is a crucial feature since it encourages users to broadcast their activities at any time and wants to communicate with people primarily for social networking (Zhang, 2023). In general, social media can have a positive influence on teenagers. Social media provides teenagers with access to various career opportunities and information. They can follow professional accounts, join industry groups, and interact with experts in their fields of interest. Such opportunities give them insights into potential career paths, internship opportunities, and future business partnerships. There are various platforms on social media for teenagers to express themselves and explore their creativity. They can share the writing, artwork, photography, or videos they create with a broader audience, such as through applications like YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok. Teenagers can have the opportunity to find their voice, build their identity, and receive constructive feedback from friends and online communities. Social media also plays a crucial role in spreading social awareness and mobilizing teenagers for larger purposes. Teenagers can use social media to promote important issues, advocate for social change, and trigger constructive debates. With the support of social media platforms, they can reach a broader audience and influence the thoughts and actions of others.

### *3.1.3 Negative Impact of Social Media Usage*

Despite the benefits gained, social networking sites attract negative attributes among teenagers because teenagers' virtual lives can be more anonymous than real ones. This phenomenon contributes to teenagers taking risks they should not take or otherwise would not have easily indulged. The availability of social media has transformed the behavioural traits, learning styles, thinking modes, and social participation of teenagers exposed to the internet-based environment (Zhang, 2023). Teenagers' proficiency in operating modern technology and related gadgets also makes them overly confident and experimental. However, on the

flip side, they are less cautious of the social-legal consequences that await them when confronted with new situations through social media. Hence, the general observation is that undeniably, the development of digital technology brings negative impacts that require vigilance, especially concerning the emergence of new crimes in the virtual world, including sexual crimes carried out through social media. This phenomenon has posed severe challenges to the authority to ensure teenagers' safety and well-being in the digital age. Thus, with all its sophistication and connectivity, social media platforms facilitate exploitation by individuals or groups with malicious intent. The most common sexual crimes through social media include fraud, harassment, extortion, or the unauthorized distribution of sexual content on internet platforms. In this context, sexual harassment extends beyond just sexual intentions because it involves the misuse of power or authority, even when the offenders assert their actions are driven by romantic or sexual motives. Perpetrators of these crimes often use false identities and manipulation techniques to exploit inexperienced and vulnerable teenagers. One profound negative impact is the occurrence of cybercrimes in the form of sextortion. In online crimes, physical contact between the perpetrator and the victim is generally not involved, considering that the *locus delicti* is in the virtual world and utilizes advanced information technology (Nyoman Juwita Arsawati et al., 2021).

### 3.1.4 Online Sexual Crimes Involving Indonesian Teenagers

Online sexual crimes presently have become a severe threat to Indonesian teenagers, with far-reaching consequences. Instead of experiencing years filled with creativity and growth, teenagers get trapped in the web of digital predators. This phenomenon highlights the importance of understanding self-protection and awareness of the dangers in the online world. It is no secret that many Indonesian teenagers are active on various social media platforms. However, ironically, this popularity has also led to various forms of sexual harassment. Their identities are stolen, privacy is violated, and the exploitation of personal images sadly becomes commonplace. Technological advancements have facilitated the rapid creation and dissemination of sexually explicit content. In Indonesia, as in many other countries, teenagers are also vulnerable to various sexual crimes online. Examples of online sexual crimes among Indonesian teenagers include the following: (1) cyberbullying; (2) online grooming (sexual exploitation); (3) revenge porn; (4) sexting; and (5) sextortion.

Indonesian teenagers can fall victim to verbal abuse, threats, or taunting related to sexual content through social media platforms, messaging apps, or online forums. According to the Association of Internet Service Providers in Indonesia (APJII), as of 2021-2022, the age group of 13-18 years had the highest internet penetration rate in Indonesia, at 98.64% (Fahlevi, 2023). Factors for cyberbullying can quickly arise due to envy, lack of achievement, mischief, and embarrassment without knowledge (Sakban et al., 2019).

Online grooming is a form of gender-based crime carried out online due to technological and information advances and the widespread use of social media (Hafizhah & Panggabean, 2021). Perpetrators may entice and manipulate teenagers with the aim of sexual exploitation. They may disguise themselves as peers or take on authoritative roles to manipulate victims. Grooming can occur through verbal or non-verbal communication and involves using social media or other technologies (Pujayanti et al., 2023).

Indonesian teenagers can become victims of revenge porn by distributing sexual content they share in a more intimate relationship. The National Commission on Violence Against Women describes revenge porn as malicious distribution or the dissemination of reputation-damaging content digitally for revenge purposes (Zain, 2023). Indonesia lacks legal protection for revenge porn victims, and regulations are only used to refer to the Indonesian Criminal Code, the Electronic Information and Transactions Law, and the Pornography Law (Miliyasi et al., 2023).

Teenagers can engage in the practice of sexting, which involves sending messages, images, or videos of a sexual nature to others. This content can be disseminated without the victim's consent, leading to severe emotional and social consequences. The shift in sexual expression is mediated by digital technology, focusing on a constellation of behaviours commonly referred to as sexting (Abdi Kusuma, 2021). Although, on the one hand, sexting can be considered a normative, consensual component of the exploration of sexuality during adolescence, on the other hand, it constitutes a behaviour of aggression and violence associated with various other related problems, such as risky sexual behaviour or an increased likelihood of online victimization (Barroso et al., 2021).

Sextortion is a form of online crime that severely harms victims emotionally, mentally, and often financially. Sextortion perpetrators can exploit fear, shame, and the sensitivity of explicit material. The use of sextortion as a potential tool to gain financial rewards from victims aligns with the overall financial motivations of fraudsters (Cross et al., 2023). Sextortion among teenagers in Indonesia is a serious crime that can have significant emotional and psychological impacts on victims.

### *3.1.5 Sextortion as a Cause of Negative Effects in the Online Social Environment*

Sextortion significantly contributes to the negative impacts of social interactions in the virtual world, as it opens up extensive opportunities for teenagers to become victims of sexual violence. Sextortion is a recently established portmanteau of “sexual” and “extortion,” which is the threat to distribute intimate sexual materials unless a victim complies with specific demands. Cyber sextortion is part of a larger image-based sexual offending in which images are used for harm (O'Malley & Holt, 2022). Sextortion is the threat of distributing explicit, intimate, or embarrassing sexual content without consent, usually to obtain more images, sexual acts, money, or other things (Patchin & Hinduja, 2020). Sextortion can begin on websites, applications, messaging platforms, or games where people meet and communicate. In this sinister realm, images, often shared in a private and consensual context, are manipulated and weaponized to inflict harm upon the individuals depicted. The malicious actors behind cyber sextortion exploit the sensitive and private nature of the content, leveraging it as a coercive tool to manipulate their victims. Such behaviours not only breach the boundaries of privacy but also create a distressing environment for the victims, who live in constant fear of exposure and subsequent exploitation.

In some cases, the initial contact with the perpetrator may be in the form of threats. The individual may claim to have already compromising images or videos of a minor, which they will share if the victim does not send more images. However, this crime often begins when teenagers believe they are communicating with someone their age who is interested in forming a relationship or offering something valuable. After the perpetrators have one or more videos or images, they usually threaten to publish the content or use violence to make the victim produce more images. The shame, fear, and confusion experienced by children caught in this cycle often prevent them from seeking help or reporting abuse (Sextortion, n.d.). Cybercrime sextortion offenders were more direct in their interactions. Rather than building a relationship with the victim or using grooming methods, they relied on technology-facilitated scams and hacking to steal images from victims and coerce them into providing more. Cybercrime cyber sextortion offenders demonstrated no preference for victims regarding age and targeted adults and minors (O'Malley & Holt, 2022).

Sextortion expands the scope of sexual crimes on social media, resulting in severe traumatic effects on victims, causing psychological and emotional harm and causing teenagers to face social and reputational consequences. Hence, sextortion creates a dangerous environment for teenagers who do not have sufficient knowledge or legal-social protection. The most common form of sextortion involves social media manipulation, where perpetrators deceive victims into sending compromising photos, later used for further extortion. Social media and text messages are used as sources of sexual material and as a means to threaten to share it with others. An example of this form of sextortion occurs when someone posts a threat using nude images they originally shared through online sexting. The risks associated with sextortion are very high. Victims may experience emotional, psychological, and physical distress, leading to anxiety, depression, or even thoughts of suicide (A Parental Guide to Protecting Your Children from Sextortion, 2023).

## *3.2 Legal Environment in Indonesia*

### *3.2.1 Legal perspective and protection for Sextortion Victims in Indonesia*

Sextortion has become a growing concern globally, affecting individuals across various demographics. In Indonesia, as in many other countries, addressing the legal aspects of sextortion is crucial to protect victims and ensure justice is served. The perpetrator of the crime of sextortion is someone close to the victim who deceives the victim. Sextortion, encompassing coercion coupled with threats, fundamentally violates Article 28G, paragraph (1) of the Indonesian constitution. This constitutional provision aims to safeguard victims' personal space and security, ensuring they are protected from threats and intimidation. The constitutional recognition of these rights forms the basis for legal protections against sextortion in Indonesia. However, the prevalence of sextortion has raised questions about the efficacy of the current legal framework in delivering this protection. Positive law in Indonesia already regulates criminal threats for perpetrators of sextortion. These provisions can be found in: *First*, The Indonesian Criminal Code contains provisions related to coercion and blackmail, which can be applied to sextortion cases. For instance, Article 368 of the Criminal

Code criminalizes extortion, providing legal grounds to prosecute those who use explicit content to coerce victims. *Second*, The Pornography Law enacted in 2008 criminalizes unauthorized access, interception, and dissemination of electronic information. Sextortion often involves the unauthorized distribution of personal and intimate content, and these provisions can be applied to prosecute individuals engaged in such activities.

*Third*, The Electronic Information and Transactions Law (UU ITE) enacted in 2008 and amended in 2016 is the primary legal framework that regulates online activities in Indonesia. This law criminalizes unauthorized access, interception, and dissemination of electronic information, which is relevant to sextortion cases. Article 27(1) and Article 27(4) of the ITE Law provide sanctions for individuals who intentionally and without permission distribute personal information of the victims, including intimate images, can be applied to those who disseminate pornographic photos or videos in committing sextortion crimes.

### *3.2.2 Lack of Legal Protection for Sextortion Victims in Indonesia, Especially in Cross-Border Cases outside Indonesian Jurisdiction*

Although news about cybercrime sextortion is spreading, and law enforcement efforts against it are increasing, direct experience-based understanding of this issue is still significantly limited. This results in a lack of clarity regarding the number of individuals ensnared as victims or perpetrators in such crimes. Due to this information gap, it is challenging to assess how far this problem spreads and how impactful it is on society. Indonesia still faces challenges in providing adequate legal protection for sextortion victims, especially in cases involving cross-border elements beyond Indonesian jurisdiction. Indonesia does not have specific regulations governing the protection of teenage victims involved in crimes with perpetrators from other countries. However, several regulations can provide some protection to teenage victims in Indonesia, regardless of the perpetrator's nationality. The Law Number 23 of 2002 on Child Protection protects children, including teenagers, against various forms of violence, exploitation, and discrimination. This law regulates efforts to protect, rehabilitate, and recover victims. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, Indonesia has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, protecting children under 18 years. This convention recognizes the fundamental rights of children, including the right to life and freedom from violence, exploitation, and harmful treatment.

Furthermore, cooperation between countries can be conducted through international agreements or bilateral instruments when a criminal offence involves cross-border elements. An example is the Extradition Treaty, which allows for the arrest and extradition of perpetrators of cross-border crimes for trial. However, Indonesia has laws related to sexual violence, such as the 'Pornography and Child Protection Law', but no specific law currently addresses sextortion. The lack of such specific laws can create difficulties in enforcing the law and providing adequate protection for sextortion victims. This issue highlights the importance of international cooperation in addressing cybercrimes that transcend national borders. The development of technology and the internet has created new challenges in law enforcement. Crimes like sextortion involve perpetrators and victims from different countries, which can cause legal complexities that require further attention. When sextortion cases involve cross-border elements, there are barriers to pursuing perpetrators and providing justice to victims, especially if the countries involved do not have aligned legal frameworks or strong legal cooperation among them.

### *3.2.3 Legal Regulations Regarding the Protection of Victims (Indonesian Adolescents) Involving Cross-Border Offenders*

Sextortion is a violation of the human rights of victims, as stipulated in Article 28G paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution of Indonesia, which states that everyone has the right to personal protection, family, honour, dignity, and property under their control, as well as the right to security and protection from threats of fear to do or not do something that is a fundamental right (Jordy Herry Christian, 2023). The Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations in 1989, directly relates to efforts to combat sextortion practices. Some articles in this convention used as a basis for addressing sextortion include the following:

- i. Article 19: Although not explicitly referring to sextortion, it emphasizes that children have the right to be protected from physical or mental violence, including sexual abuse or exploitation, which presupposes protecting children from the risks of sextortion.
- ii. Article 34: This article obliges participating states in the convention to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation, including prostitution and pornography. In this context, countries are expected to adopt effective legal measures and policies to prevent, investigate, and prosecute sextortion offenders.

- iii. Article 36: This article reaffirms the right of children to protect themselves from all forms of sexual harassment or sexual exploitation that harm them. Countries must implement legal measures and policies to protect children effectively from sextortion threats.
- iv. Article 39: This article mandates countries to take adequate measures in terms of rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of sexual exploitation, including sextortion psychosocial support, medical services, and education for victims. In international law, countries must protect children's rights, including combating sextortion practices. Countries must adopt strict laws and policies to address sextortion, investigate and punish offenders, and support victims. Countries can also cooperate internationally through information exchange and law enforcement cooperation to effectively address the threat of sextortion.

International Law: The existence of the Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime on Enhanced Cooperation and Disclosure of Electronic Evidence (2022) in Article 3, paragraph 2 letter d defines "personal data" as information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person, and letter e defines "transferring Party" as the party transmitting the data in response to a request or as part of a joint investigation team or, for Chapter II, section 2, a Party in whose territory a transmitting service provider or entity providing domain name registration services is located. 'Personal Data' refers to personal information about an individual subject to the right of privacy. From a sextortion perspective, personal data includes personal information manipulated or abused by sextortion perpetrators to coerce or threaten victims, such as personal images or confidential information. The term 'Transferring Party' refers to the party transmitting data in response to a request or as part of a joint investigation team. In the case of sextortion, this can refer to the country that shares electronic evidence related to sextortion offenders with another country for investigative or prosecutorial purposes.

#### *3.2.4 International Legal Rules Unaddressed by the Indonesian Government through Ratification and Other Means*

International law provides a framework for holding states accountable for cybercriminal activities and offers a framework to prevent a surge in cybercrime. International law also regulates states' responses to cyber activities aided by states that violate international law by specifying conditions under which a state will be internationally responsible for violations of international law and by providing remedies for victim states. Sexual crimes in the virtual world, such as sextortion, often involve cross-border elements, making international cooperation essential in investigating and prosecuting perpetrators. Despite the awareness of the importance of this cooperation, concrete steps must be taken to strengthen and reinforce international collaboration in addressing cybercrime sextortion. The Indonesian government can be more active in building cooperation with other countries and international organizations to mitigate these threats more effectively.

Some international legal rules related to sextortion that the Indonesian government has not addressed through ratification or implementation include: (1) The Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention): This convention is an international instrument that provides a framework for international cooperation in law enforcement related to cybercrimes, including sextortion. Indonesia has not ratified this convention; and (2) The Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime on Enhanced Cooperation and Disclosure of Electronic Evidence: This protocol addresses international cooperation in disclosing electronic evidence, including evidence related to sextortion. The Indonesian government may not have ratified this protocol. There are also various human rights instruments that protect women and children from violence, including sextortion. These instruments include the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Indonesian government may have an obligation to adopt laws and policies that align with these instruments.

## **4. Conclusion**

The rapid evolution of digital technology and the extensive use of social media platforms transformed how adolescents interact and engage in the modern world. Like other nations, Indonesia must grapple with the intricate challenges posed in this virtual world packed with sophisticated digital technology shift, particularly in addressing the vulnerability of its adolescent population to online sexual violence. This paper has elucidated the multifaceted dimensions of this critical issue, employing a normative legal research method and qualitative data analysis. The adolescent phase, a pivotal period marked by significant physical, psychological, and social changes, is intertwined with extensive digital interactions. Adolescents actively

utilize social media to explore their identities, build relationships, and seek validation. However, this online engagement also exposes them to potential harm, including cyberbullying, revenge porn, sexting, and sextortion. These forms of online sexual violence can lead to severe emotional, psychological, and reputational damage, necessitating a comprehensive understanding of their dynamics and impact. The Indonesian youth are deeply involved in the digital landscape, with a substantial portion of the population actively engaging in social media. The lack of specific legal protections against sextortion, particularly in cross-border cases, reveals an urgent need for enhanced legal frameworks and international cooperation. While Indonesia has ratified international conventions related to children's rights, further steps are essential to address the evolving threats posed by the digital realm. Therefore, it is crucial to bridge the legal gaps and bolster international collaboration to combat online sexual violence effectively. The Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention), among other international instruments, presents viable frameworks for cooperation. Hence, by ratifying and aligning domestic legislation with these instruments, Indonesia can enhance its ability to protect its adolescent population from the far-reaching consequences of online sexual violence.

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