

**Article History**

Received: 01 Feb 2026

Reviewed: 20 Apr 2026

Accepted: 23 May 2026

Published: 31 May 2026

Criminal Liability of Those Who Disseminate Pornographic Content from the Perspective of the Law on Information and Electronic Transactions

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Abstract

The study aims to analyze criminal liability for perpetrators who disseminate intimate content without consent (revenge porn) and to assess the effectiveness of legal protections for victims based on the framework of the Electronic Information and Transactions Law (ITE Law) and Indonesian criminal law.

The method employed is normative legal research using a legislative and conceptual approach, supplemented by an examination of relevant law enforcement practices to assess the application of norms and principles of criminal liability.

The novelty of this study lies in its critique of the inability of Indonesia's cybercriminal law regime to classify revenge porn as a consent-based crime. To date, the provisions in the ITE Law have placed greater emphasis on aspects of public decency, and thus have not been fully capable of addressing the harms arising from violations of the victim's privacy. This study proposes a new normative framework that establishes a violation of consent as the basis for criminal liability, thereby ensuring that the concept of revenge porn is understood not only as a violation of public decency but also as a violation of an individual's right to privacy and dignity.

The findings indicate that although the ITE Law has established a legal basis for criminalizing the dissemination of intimate content without consent, its implementation still faces normative and technical obstacles, such as ambiguous legal provisions, overlapping regulations with the Pornography Law and the Criminal Code, weak digital evidence mechanisms, and insufficient protection for victims who continue to suffer psychological and social harm.

The conclusions of this study underscore the need for more specific regulatory updates regarding electronic-based sexual crimes, clarification of legal boundaries within the ITE Law, strengthening of the "right to be forgotten" mechanism, and capacity building for law enforcement officials so that legal protection for victims of revenge porn can be realized more effectively, fairly, and with a focus on the victims' recovery.

Keywords: Revenge Porn; Victim Protection; Criminal Law; Pornography

Abstrak

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis pertanggungjawaban pidana terhadap pelaku penyebaran konten intim tanpa izin (revenge porn) serta menilai efektivitas perlindungan hukum bagi korban berdasarkan kerangka Undang-Undang Informasi dan Transaksi Elektronik (UU ITE) dan hukum pidana Indonesia.

Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah penelitian hukum normatif dengan pendekatan perundang-undangan dan konseptual, disertai kajian terhadap praktik penegakan hukum yang relevan guna menilai penerapan norma dan asas pertanggungjawaban pidana.

Kebaruan penelitian ini terletak pada kritik terhadap ketidakmampuan rezim hukum pidana siber di Indonesia dalam mengkualifikasikan revenge porn sebagai tindak pidana yang berbasis pelanggaran persetujuan (*consent-based crime*). Selama ini pengaturan dalam UU ITE lebih menitikberatkan pada aspek kesusilaan, sehingga belum sepenuhnya mampu menjangkau kerugian yang timbul akibat pelanggaran privasi korban. Penelitian ini menawarkan konstruksi normatif baru yang menempatkan pelanggaran persetujuan sebagai dasar pertanggungjawaban pidana, sehingga konsep revenge porn dipahami tidak hanya sebagai pelanggaran kesusilaan, tetapi juga sebagai pelanggaran hak privasi dan martabat individu.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa meskipun UU ITE telah menyediakan dasar pemidanaan bagi pelaku penyebaran konten intim tanpa izin, implementasinya masih menghadapi kendala normatif dan teknis, seperti multitafsir norma, tumpang tindih pengaturan dengan UU Pornografi dan KUHP, lemahnya mekanisme pembuktian digital, serta belum optimalnya perlindungan terhadap korban yang terus mengalami kerugian psikologis dan sosial.

Kesimpulan penelitian ini menegaskan perlunya pembaruan regulasi yang lebih spesifik mengenai kejahatan seksual berbasis elektronik, penegasan batasan norma dalam UU ITE, penguatan mekanisme *right to be forgotten*, serta peningkatan kapasitas aparat penegak hukum agar perlindungan hukum bagi korban revenge porn dapat diwujudkan secara lebih efektif, adil, dan berorientasi pada pemulihan korban.

Kata Kunci: Revenge Porn; Perlindungan Korban; Hukum Pidana; Pornografi

1. INTRODUCTION

Advances in information and communication technology (ICT) have revolutionized the way people interact, communicate, and express themselves in the digital age.¹ The Internet, which was originally designed as a platform for sharing scientific and academic information, has now evolved into a global social space that facilitates the free and instant publication of content.² Social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok, as well as messaging apps such as WhatsApp and Telegram, allow individuals to share photos, videos, and text with millions of users in a matter of seconds.³

However, freedom of expression in the digital space is often abused, one example being the distribution of intimate content without consent, also known as "revenge porn."⁴ Revenge porn is the act of distributing sexually explicit photos or videos of another person without their consent, typically with the intent to seek revenge, intimidate, or exert psychological control.⁵

¹ T Fajriah and E R Ningsih, "Pengaruh Teknologi Komunikasi Terhadap Interaksi Sosial Di Era Digital," *Merdeka Indonesia Journal International (MIJI)*, 2024.

² Abigail Virginia Christiani, Allysha Khansa Salsabila, and Intan Ditya Putri Savara, "Peran Media Sosial Sebagai Ekosistem Mikro Dalam Mendukung Platform E-Learning Berbasis Komunitas: Kajian Literatur Sistematis," *Jurnal Ilmiah Sistem Informasi* 4, no. 2 (2025): 210–23, <https://doi.org/10.51903/twpgeq37>.

³ A Qadir and M Ramli, "Media Sosial (Definisi, Sejarah Dan Jenis-Jenisnya)," *Al-Furqan: Jurnal Agama, Sosial, Dan Budaya*, 2024.

⁴ Alfirah Destriannisa, "Analisis Pornografi Balas Dendam (Revenge Porn) Dan Regulasinya Di Indonesia," *Journal of Contemporary Law Studies* 2, no. 2 (2024): 115–28, <https://doi.org/10.47134/lawstudies.v2i2.2222>.

⁵ Abdullah Husein Al Aziz and Zainudin Hasan, "Pertanggungjawaban Pidana Pelaku Tindak Pidana Pengancaman Dengan Revenge Porn Dalam Era Digital Di Kota Bandar Lampung," *Jurnal Hukum, Politik Dan Ilmu Sosial* 4, no. 3 (2025): 85–99, <https://doi.org/10.55606/jhpis.v3i4.4476>.

This phenomenon is on the rise as digital technology advances, making it easier to store and distribute content quickly and widely.⁶

According to data from international organizations such as the Cyber Civil Rights Initiative (CCRI), revenge porn has become a global problem, with the majority of its victims being women.⁷ In Indonesia, cases of the unauthorized distribution of intimate content have also been on the rise, causing serious consequences for victims, including psychological trauma, social stigma, and negative impacts on their personal and professional lives.⁸

Under Indonesian law, the unauthorized distribution of intimate content was initially regulated by the ITE Law, specifically Article 27(1), which prohibits the distribution of content that violates public decency. However, its enforcement still faces challenges such as difficulties in digital evidence collection, varying interpretations of what constitutes indecency, and limited protection and redress for victims. Since the enactment of the TPKS Law, revenge porn has also been recognized as a form of electronic-based sexual violence, requiring a more comprehensive approach to victim protection.⁹

Revenge porn occurs when intimate content obtained within a personal relationship is distributed without consent, typically with the intent to seek revenge, extort, or control the victim. This act has serious consequences, both socially and psychologically, and causes stigma and long-lasting trauma. Victim protection under the ITE Law is still considered suboptimal, particularly regarding content removal and victim recovery. With the enactment of the TPKS Law, revenge porn is now classified as electronic-based sexual violence, which prioritizes victim protection as its primary focus. This raises questions regarding the relevance of Article 27(1) of the ITE Law as the basis for criminal liability.¹⁰

However, since the enactment of Law No. 12 of 2022 on Sexual Violence Crimes (TPKS Law), the handling of revenge porn cases no longer relies solely on the provisions of the ITE Law. The UU TPKS has recognized electronic-based sexual violence as a criminal offense that directly provides protection for victims of the dissemination of intimate content without consent. The enactment of the UU TPKS signifies a paradigm shift from an approach focused on violations of public decency toward one that prioritizes victim protection, privacy rights, and rehabilitation as the primary objectives of law enforcement. Therefore, the existence of the TPKS Law raises questions regarding the extent to which the use of Article 27(1) of the ITE Law remains relevant and effective as a basis for criminal liability in revenge porn cases

⁶ Zul Khaidir Kadir, "Dari Privasi Ke Eksploitasi: Memetakan Jejak Kriminalisasi Revenge Porn Dalam Era Media Sosial," *Dewantara: Jurnal Pendidikan Sosial Humaniora* 4, no. 1 (2025): 133–52, <https://doi.org/10.30640/dewantara.v4i1.3812>.

⁷ Loso Judijanto and Budi Nugroho, "Regulasi Keamanan Siber Dan Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Cybercrime Di Indonesia," *Sanskara Hukum Dan HAM* 3, no. 3 (2025): 118–24, <https://doi.org/10.58812/shh.v3i03.544>.

⁸ U Sunan and K Yogyakarta, "Revenge Porn Dan Hak Atas Martabat Manusia: Tantangan Hukum Dalam Menjamin Perlindungan Korban," *Staatsrecht: Jurnal Hukum Kenegaraan Dan Politik Islam*, 2023.

⁹ Y Prasetyo, "Hati-Hati Ancaman Tindak Pidana Pencemaran Nama Baik Di Media Sosial Dalam Undang-Undang Informasi Dan Transaksi Elektronik," *Jurnal Legislasi Indonesia* 18, no. 4 (2021): 502–13.

¹⁰ A F Z Harhap et al., "Implikasi Kesehatan Mental Akibat Kasus Kekerasan Seksual Terhadap Anak Di Bawah Umur," *JERUMI: Journal of Education Religion Humanities and Multidisciplinary* 2, no. 1 (2024).

following the enactment of more specific regulations regarding electronic-based sexual violence.

A normative study of the criminal liability of perpetrators of revenge porn is important for assessing the effectiveness of legal frameworks in addressing digital sexual crimes.¹¹ This study focuses on the compatibility of legal norms with the principles of criminal law, the protection of victims' privacy and dignity, and issues regarding the interpretation of Article 27(1) of the ITE Law, which has the potential to create legal uncertainty and inconsistencies in law enforcement.¹²

The urgency of this research lies in the need to assess the effectiveness of legal frameworks in addressing revenge porn as a form of electronic-based sexual violence that impacts victims' rights to privacy, sense of security, and dignity. Although it is regulated under the ITE Law and the TPKS Law, issues remain regarding the clarity of legal norms, the consistency of law enforcement, and victim protection. Therefore, this study is important for providing an academic foundation for the development of legal policies that are more responsive to digital sexual crimes.

The study by Sinaga & Lidya (2024), titled "Legal Protection and Criminal Liability Under the ITE Law and the TPKS Law," shares similarities with this study, as both examine criminal liability for the dissemination of sexually explicit content via electronic media within the framework of the ITE Law and the TPKS Law. However, that study places greater emphasis on legal protection in general. Meanwhile, the novelty of this study lies in its more in-depth normative analysis of the criminal liability of perpetrators of revenge porn under the ITE Law, particularly regarding the clarity of legal norms, the principles of criminal liability, and the potential for multiple interpretations of Article 27(1) in law enforcement practice.¹³

Meanwhile, the study titled "Criminal Liability of Perpetrators of Digital Sexual Violence in Indonesia" conducted by Alfahrizi et al. (2025) also shares similarities with this study, as both examine digital sexual violence from the perspective of Indonesian criminal law using a normative approach. Another similarity lies in the recognition that the unauthorized distribution of intimate content constitutes a form of digital sexual crime. However, the novelty of this study compared to the aforementioned one lies in its more specific analytical focus on revenge porn, featuring an in-depth examination of normative issues, digital evidence, and the

¹¹ Tiara Bastari Putri, Sinta Dewi, and Enni Soerjati Priowirjanto, "Aspek Hukum Praktik Penghapusan Akun Pengguna Sistem Elektronik Secara Sepihak Untuk Memoderasi Konten Oleh Marketplace Menurut Peraturan Menteri Komunikasi Dan Informatika Nomor 5 Tahun 2020 Tentang Penyelenggara Sistem Elektronik Lingkup Privat," *Jurnal Hukum, Politik Dan Ilmu Sosial* 4, no. 1 (2024): 10–27, <https://doi.org/10.55606/jhpis.v4i1.4550>.

¹² Rabith Madah and Khulaili Harsya, "Tinjauan Yuridis Terhadap Tanggung Jawab Platform Digital Atas Konten Ilegal Menurut Hukum Indonesia," *Sanskara Hukum Dan HAM* 4, no. 1 (2025): 276–86, <https://doi.org/10.58812/shh.v4i01>.

¹³ Sinaga, D., & Lidya, I. Perlindungan Hukum Dan Pertanggungjawaban Tindak Pidana Revenge Porn Berdasarkan UU No. 11 Tahun 2008 Tentang Informasi Transaksi Elektronik (Ite) Dan Uu No. 12 Tahun 2022 Tentang Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual (TPKS). *Padjadjaran Law Review*, 12(1), 32-45, (2024).

position of victims within the criminal justice system under the ITE Law, thereby yielding a more focused and practical analysis.¹⁴

The research titled "A Legal Analysis of Law Enforcement and Judicial Considerations in Criminal Case No. 71/Pid.Sus/2023/PN.Pdl" written by Wulandari examines the criminal offense of revenge porn as a form of digital sexual crime that generally originates from unhealthy personal relationships and is committed through the dissemination of intimate content without the victim's consent. The research findings indicate that this crime has serious consequences for victims, both psychologically, socially, and legally, and underscore the importance of digital evidence in the evidentiary process during trial. This study also found that law enforcement in these rulings still relies primarily on the application of the Electronic Information and Transactions Law and the Pornography Law, while the use of the Sexual Violence Crimes Law, which places greater emphasis on victim protection, has not yet been optimally implemented. Previous research has focused on analyzing judges' legal reasoning and the effectiveness of sentencing for perpetrators, whereas the author's study places greater emphasis on a normative analysis of the criminal liability of perpetrators who disseminate intimate content without permission, based on the provisions of the Electronic Information and Transactions Law (ITE Law).¹⁵

Based on previous research, it is evident that studies on revenge porn generally still frame this issue within the broader context of digital sexual violence or focus solely on victim protection and regulatory harmonization. These studies have not specifically and in-depth elaborated on the legal construction of Article 27(1) of the ITE Law in the context of the unauthorized dissemination of intimate content, particularly regarding the element of "content that violates public decency," which remains open to multiple interpretations in law enforcement practice.

Furthermore, previous research has not provided a comprehensive analysis of the implications of the principles of criminal liability or the challenges of digital evidence, which directly impact legal certainty in revenge porn cases. Studies on the victims' position also tend to be descriptive and normative in nature, failing to recognize the uncertainty of legal norms as a factor that exacerbates the ongoing harm suffered by victims. Given these conditions, there is a gap in the literature regarding a critical assessment of the effectiveness of Article 27(1) of the ITE Law as the basis for the criminal liability of revenge porn perpetrators within the Indonesian criminal justice system. Therefore, this study is important to fill this gap through a normative analysis that focuses more on the construction of the offense, the principles of criminal liability, and the problems of interpretation and proof in law enforcement.

¹⁴ Alfahrizi, R., Gorda, A. N. T. R., Darma, I. M. W., & Yuliantari, I. G. A. E. Pertanggungjawaban Pidana Pelaku Kekerasan Seksual Berbasis Digital di Indonesia. *Al-Zayn: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial & Hukum*, 3(6), (2025). 11177-11185.

¹⁵ Wulandari, F., Mulyanto, R., & Soetijono, I. K. Analisis Yuridis Penegakan Hukum dan Pertimbangan Hakim pada Tindak Pidana Revenge Porn Putusan 71/Pid. Sus/2023. *Al-Zayn: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial & Hukum*, 3(4), (2025). 5143-5153.

2. METHOD

This study employs the method of normative legal research (doctrinal legal research), as its focus is on “law in books,” that is, examining legal norms, principles, and doctrines to address the issue of criminalizing the dissemination of intimate content without permission and to formulate recommendations for legal reforms.¹⁶ The nature of this research is both descriptive-analytical (examining and testing the construction of legal norms and elements of a crime) and prescriptive (providing arguments and normative solutions).^{17,18}

The approaches used are: (1) the statutory approach, involving the inventory and harmonization of relevant regulations (e.g., the provisions of the ITE Law and its amendments, criminal norms related to public decency, and victim protection regulations), to assess the clarity of the wording, the scope of the prohibitions, and the coherence among the norms; (2) the conceptual approach, to refine the analysis through the concepts of criminal liability, fault, the victim’s right to privacy and dignity, and the principles of criminal punishment.

The research sources consist of primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials collected through literature reviews and document analysis. The legal materials were then analyzed qualitatively and juridically through the following stages: identification of legal issues → classification and systematization of legal materials → interpretation (grammatical, systematic, and teleological) → legal reasoning to draw conclusions and formulate operational recommendations.¹⁹

3. DISCUSSION

3.1. Legal Framework, Criminal Liability, and the Status of Victims in Criminal Offenses Involving the Unauthorized Distribution of Intimate Content (Revenge Porn)

The criminal act of distributing intimate content without consent, known as “revenge porn,” is a new criminal phenomenon that has emerged alongside the rapid development of information and communication technology.²⁰ The ease of accessing the internet and social media has created a free space for users to share various forms of content, including sensitive personal content. However, these technological advances also open the door to abuse, where individuals can easily distribute sexually explicit content without the consent of the person concerned. In the context of criminal law, such actions constitute crimes that violate a person’s right to privacy, dignity, and decency, thereby requiring firm legal measures to address them.

Under Indonesian positive law, acts of revenge porn are generally prosecuted under the ITE Law, specifically Article 27(1), which prohibits the distribution of electronic information

¹⁶ Soerjono Soekanto and Sri Mamudji, “Penelitian Hukum Normatif: Suatu Tinjauan Singkat” (Rajawali, 2003), hlm. 69.

¹⁷ Peter Mahmud Marzuki, *Penelitian Hukum* (Jakarta: Kencana, 2019), hlm. 149

¹⁸ Jonaedi Efendi and Johny Ibrahim, *Metode Penelitian Hukum: Normatif Dan Empiris* (Jakarta: Kencana, 2018), hlm. 35

¹⁹ Soekanto and Mamudji, “Penelitian Hukum Normatif: Suatu Tinjauan Singkat.”

²⁰ D K T Swandewi, “Analisis Yuridis Pengaturan Revenge Porn Dalam Sistem Hukum Indonesia Terhadap Pelaku Tindak Pidana Kesusilaan,” *Jurnal Media Akademik (JMA)* 3, no. 10 (2025).

containing indecent content.²¹ Although this provision is often used as the basis for criminal prosecution, the wording of the provision raises legal issues because it does not provide clear boundaries regarding the standard of “public decency,” thereby leaving ample room for interpretation in law enforcement practice. This situation has the potential to create legal uncertainty, particularly in determining whether the dissemination of intimate content without consent automatically satisfies the elements of a crime. Furthermore, the use of the ITE Law as the primary basis also reveals limitations in addressing the nature of revenge porn as a form of relationship-based violence and a violation of consent, thereby sparking debate regarding the effectiveness and relevance of this provision within the modern criminal justice system.

In addition, Article 45(1) of the ITE Law provides for criminal penalties for those who disseminate content that violates public decency, while Article 29 may be applied if there is an element of illegal access to an electronic system. Under general criminal law, such acts may also be linked to provisions in the Criminal Code (KUHP) governing indecent acts and violations of public decency. However, following the enactment of Law No. 12 of 2022 on Sexual Violence Crimes, the dissemination of intimate content without consent is now specifically classified as electronic-based sexual violence. This indicates a shift in the normative basis, whereby the Law on Electronic-Based Sexual Violence (TPKS) is substantially more appropriate to apply because it specifically regulates forms of electronic-based sexual violence; thus, the relevance of using the ITE Law as the primary basis for criminal liability requires a more critical analysis within the framework of the *lex speciali* principle.

Nevertheless, the application of the ITE Law in revenge porn cases still faces a number of normative and practical challenges.²² One of these is the interpretation of the phrase “violating public decency,” which is subjective and lacks a clear legal definition, often leading to differing views among law enforcement officials and judges. As a result, law enforcement becomes inconsistent and sometimes fails to support the victims. Therefore, a progressive and adaptive interpretation of the provisions of the ITE Law is needed to ensure it can keep pace with societal dynamics and advancements in information technology. Clear and actionable legal regulations are essential to ensure that revenge porn is not merely viewed as a moral offense but also as a serious crime that violates human rights, particularly the right to privacy and personal dignity.

Criminal liability for perpetrators of revenge porn is based on a fundamental principle of criminal law, namely the principle of culpability (*geen straf zonder schuld*).²³ This means that a person can only be held criminally liable if it has been proven that they committed an unlawful act with full awareness and of their own free will. In cases involving the unauthorized distribution of intimate content, the element of fault is established when the perpetrator

²¹ H Christianto, “Konsep Hak Untuk Dilupakan Sebagai Pemenuhan Hak Korban Revenge Porn Berdasarkan Pasal 26 Undang-Undang Informasi Dan Transaksi Elektronik,” *Mimbar Hukum: Jurnal Berkala Fakultas Hukum Universitas Gadjah Mada* 32, no. 2 (2020): 175–92.

²² A Aprilianti, “Efektivitas Dan Implementasi Undang-Undang Informasi Dan Transaksi Elektronik Sebagai Hukum Siber Di Indonesia: Tantangan Dan Solusi,” *Begawan Abioso* 15, no. 1 (2024): 41–50.

²³ I Rasiwan and R Terranova, “Pertanggungjawaban Pidana Pelaku Revenge Porn Di Indonesia: Antara Celah Hukum Dan Urgensi Perlindungan Korban,” *Jurnal Hukum Indonesia* 3, no. 4 (2024): 158–67.

intentionally distributes or transmits the victim's private content with the intent to harm, humiliate, or seek revenge. Intent (*dolus*) is the key element that distinguishes unintentional acts, such as personal data leaks, from criminal acts involving malicious intent (*mens rea*).²⁴

In the context of legislation, the provisions of Article 27(1) in conjunction with Article 45(1) of Law No. 11 of 2008 on Electronic Information and Transactions (the EIT Law) provide the legal basis for imposing criminal penalties on perpetrators.²⁵ The penalty is imprisonment for a maximum of six years and/or a fine of up to one billion rupiah.²⁶ If the perpetrator also uses such content to gain economic benefit, commit extortion, or exploit the victim, then the criminal provisions in the Criminal Code (KUHP) such as Article 368 on extortion and Article 335 on offensive conduct may be applied cumulatively. This demonstrates the synergy between general criminal law and cyberlaw, where the principle of *lex specialis derogat legi generali* is used to affirm that the ITE Law applies more specifically to digital crimes. However, in law enforcement practice, there are challenges in proving the elements of intent and the perpetrator's involvement.²⁷

In many cases of revenge porn, only the primary perpetrator is prosecuted, while others who repost the content or are part of the distribution chain often escape legal consequences. The difficulty in proving these cases stems from the anonymous nature of the online world and the limited digital forensic capabilities of law enforcement agencies. Yet, in crimes like this, the spread of content often occurs on a massive scale and at a rapid pace, resulting in far-reaching and difficult-to-reverse harm to the victims.²⁸ Therefore, the technical aspects of digital evidence need to be strengthened with adequate policy and technological support.

Furthermore, criminal liability should not be focused solely on individual perpetrators, but should also extend to parties that bear legal responsibility within the digital system, such as platform providers that fail to promptly remove content after receiving an official report.²⁹ This is in line with the concept of strict liability in cyberlaw, which places legal responsibility not only on the direct perpetrator but also on parties that fail to control the dissemination of illegal content on their platforms. Thus, there is a need to harmonize national laws and personal data protection policies so that criminal liability for perpetrators of revenge porn can be enforced comprehensively and serve as a genuine deterrent.

The position of victims in revenge porn cases remains relatively weak because Indonesia's criminal justice system is more oriented toward punishing perpetrators (retributive

²⁴ A M Air et al., "Peran Niat (*Mens Rea*) Dalam Pertanggungjawaban Pidana Di Indonesia," *JIMMI: Jurnal Ilmiah Mahasiswa Multidisiplin* 1, no. 3 (2024): 240–52.

²⁵ A Ardiansah et al., "Politik Hukum Perubahan Materi Muatan Undang-Undang Informasi Dan Transaksi Elektronik (ITE)," *Teaching and Learning Journal of Mandalika (Teacher)* 4, no. 2 (2024): 146–63.

²⁶ A Harefa, "Analisis Hukum Terhadap Penjatuhan Pidana Di Bawah Ancaman Minimum Kepada Pelaku Tindak Pidana Korupsi," *Journal Education and Development* 8, no. 1 (2020): 561–655.

²⁷ T K Monairchi and Y Triana, "Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Pelaku Tindak Pidana Perjudian," *Collegium Studiosum Journal* 8, no. 1 (2025): 168–78.

²⁸ H Praiyoga and H Tuiasikail, "Penyebaran Konten Deepfake Sebagai Tindak Pidana: Analisis Kritis Terhadap Penegakan Hukum Dan Perlindungan Publik Di Indonesia," *Abdurrauf Law and Sharia* 2, no. 1 (2025): 22–38.

²⁹ I J Alfreda, R R Permata, and T S Ramli, "Pelindungan Dan Tanggung Jawab Kebocoran Informasi Pada Penyedia Platform Digital Berdasarkan Perspektif Rahasia Dagang," *Jurnal Sains Sosio Humaniora* 5, no. 1 (2021): 1–16.

justice) than toward restoring victims (restorative justice).³⁰ In fact, victims have a constitutional right to have their human dignity, honor, and privacy protected, as guaranteed by Article 28G, paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, which states that every person has the right to protection of their person, family, honor, dignity, and property under their control.³¹ This provision is further clarified in Article 32(2) of Law No. 39 of 1999 on Human Rights, which affirms that every person has the right to protection against violations of their dignity and reputation. In practice, victims of the unauthorized dissemination of intimate content often experience multiple layers of suffering, including psychological, social, and economic distress, and therefore require comprehensive legal protection.

Normatively, protection for victims of revenge porn is provided for in Article 26(1) of the ITE Law, which guarantees every individual's right to the protection of personal data in the digital realm.³² This provision also incorporates the "right to be forgotten" principle, namely the right of victims to request the removal of content that violates their privacy from electronic media. On the other hand, Law No. 13 of 2006 on the Protection of Witnesses and Victims, as amended by Law No. 31 of 2014, grants victims the right to legal assistance, medical care, and psychological rehabilitation. However, the implementation of these provisions remains weak because there is still no standardized mechanism to ensure the swift and comprehensive removal of content across various digital platforms. As a result, victims often continue to be targets of cyberbullying and social stigma even after the perpetrators have been punished.³³

In addition to structural barriers, victims also face cultural issues that exacerbate their situation. The phenomenon of victim blaming, namely the tendency of society to blame victims for the events that befall them, remains very strong in Indonesia. Victims of revenge porn, particularly women, are often considered partly to blame for having provided or recorded the intimate content, without regard for the fact that the content was distributed without their consent.³⁴ This situation has led many victims to be reluctant to report incidents to the authorities, either out of fear that their shame will be further publicized or because they are concerned about a lengthy legal process that fails to take their psychological well-being into account. This demonstrates that the issue of legal protection for victims is not only related to the substance of the law, but also to legal culture and the sensitivity of law enforcement officials in handling cases involving privacy and human dignity.

Therefore, legal reforms that prioritize victims are needed in addressing digital crimes, particularly revenge porn. The government must strengthen the implementing regulations of

³⁰ V S A C Suradipraja, "Tinjauan Viktimologis Terhadap Korban Revenge Porn Menurut Undang-Undang Nomor 12 Tahun 2022 Tentang Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual Berdasarkan Tipologi Korban," *Padjadjaran Law Review* 12, no. 1 (2024): 20–31.

³¹ G Nabilah et al., "Perlindungan Hukum Bagi Korban Kekerasan Seksual: Upaya Pemulihan Dan Hak Privasi Korban Kekerasan Seksual Di Era Disrupsi Digital," *Padjadjaran Law Review* 10, no. 1 (2022): 79–96.

³² D Sinaga and I Lidya, "Perlindungan Hukum Dan Pertanggungjawaban Tindak Pidana Revenge Porn Berdasarkan UU No. 11 Tahun 2008 Tentang Informasi Transaksi Elektronik (ITE) Dan UU No. 12 Tahun 2022 Tentang Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual (TPKS)," *Padjadjaran Law Review* 12, no. 1 (2024): 32–45.

³³ G I Widayat, R T Vinata, and N R Fadzillah, "Penegakan Hukum Kejahatan Cyberbullying Yang Dilakukan Oleh Lebih Dari Satu Orang," *Recht Studiosum Law Review* 4, no. 1 (2025): 49–62.

³⁴ Kadir, "Dari Privasi Ke Eksploitasi : Memetakan Jejak Kriminalisasi Revenge Porn Dalam Era Media Sosial."

Article 26 of the ITE Law so that the “right to be forgotten” mechanism can be effectively implemented through interagency cooperation, including the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, the police, and digital platform providers. In addition, a restorative justice approach needs to be developed with a focus on victim recovery, not merely on punishing perpetrators. Ideal legal protection should include restoration of reputation, psychological support, legal aid, and guarantees of digital security.³⁵ Thus, victims of revenge porn can obtain substantive justice as well as dignified redress in accordance with human rights principles.

3.2. Challenges and Alternatives for Improving the Legal Framework Governing Revenge

Normative obstacles in the enforcement of Law No. 11 of 2008 on Electronic Information and Transactions (ITE Law) regarding the criminal offense of revenge porn are primarily due to the lack of clarity in the formulation of legal norms.³⁶ Article 27(1) of the ITE Law uses the phrase “content that violates public decency” without clear limitations, which has the potential to lead to multiple interpretations in law enforcement practice. However, the issue lies not only in the open-ended nature of the provision but also in the variations in its application across court rulings. In some cases, judges have applied this provision differently, both to prosecute the primary perpetrator and, in certain situations, to hold victims liable for allegedly redistributing the content. These differing interpretations indicate inconsistencies in the application of the law that can undermine legal certainty and justice, particularly in cases of digital sexual violence. Consequently, the multiple interpretations of the “public decency” element are not merely theoretical but have a direct impact on sentencing practices and the position of victims within the criminal justice system.

In addition to the lack of clarity in the law, another serious obstacle lies in the area of digital evidence. In cybercrimes such as revenge porn, electronic evidence is a key element in proving that an unlawful act has been committed.³⁷ Such evidence can include activity logs, metadata, screenshots, and even the history of content distribution within electronic systems. However, law enforcement agencies often face difficulties in securing and verifying this digital evidence due to limited human resources, a lack of digital forensic equipment, and slow interagency coordination. Furthermore, the process of gathering evidence is often disrupted by the dynamic nature of the digital world, where content can be quickly deleted or redistributed, thereby obscuring the perpetrator’s digital trail. As a result, many cases of revenge porn cannot be legally proven in court, even though it is socially and morally clear that a violation of the victim’s privacy has occurred.³⁸

³⁵ J K L Toruian and J Sidauruk, “Analisis Hak Serta Rehabilitasi Nama Baik Korban Tindak Pidana Pencemaran Nama Baik Melalui Media Sosial,” *Perspektif Administrasi Publik Dan Hukum* 2, no. 1 (2025): 1–14.

³⁶ T R Nurdin, “Revenge Porn Dan Hak Atas Martabat Manusia: Tantangan Hukum Dalam Menjamin Perlindungan Korban,” *Staatsrecht: Jurnal Hukum Kenegaraan Dan Politik Islam* 3, no. 1 (2023): 49–70.

³⁷ A Handoko and I Sari, “Pertanggungjawaban Pidana Penyimpan Video Porno: Antara Norma Kesusilaan Dan Hak Privasi Berdasarkan Undang-Undang Republik Indonesia Nomor 44 Tahun 2008 Tentang Pornografi,” *MALAINSE: Jurnal Hukum Pidana, Kriminologi, Dan Viktimologi* 1, no. 2 (2024): 62–78.

³⁸ P Ayu, M Pawenne, and I Abbas, “Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Korban Tindak Pidana Penyebaran Konten Pornografi Balas Dendam,” *Journal of Lex Philosophy (JLP)* 5, no. 2 (2024): 611–28.

The next obstacle arises from regulatory overlap between the ITE Law, Law No. 44 of 2008 on Pornography, and the Criminal Code (KUHP). Each of these laws has different objectives and definitions of offenses, yet they are often applied simultaneously to the same case. The difference in focus between the protection of public decency under the Pornography Law and the protection of privacy under the ITE Law creates legal uncertainty in determining which provision is most appropriate to apply.³⁹ This situation is exacerbated by the lack of implementing regulations that specifically govern mechanisms for protecting victims of revenge porn in cyberspace. This overlap causes confusion in the investigation and prosecution processes, preventing the legal objectives of providing legal certainty and justice from being fully achieved.

In addition to social and cultural factors, the effectiveness of law enforcement against revenge porn is also influenced by normative weaknesses in the ITE Law, particularly Article 27(1), which uses the term “content that violates public decency” without clear and measurable boundaries. This lack of clarity allows for a wide range of interpretation in law enforcement practice, both by investigators and judges, resulting in inconsistent application. In this context, the main problem lies not only in the open-ended nature of the norm but also in the absence of legal indicators that can be used to unequivocally classify the act of distributing intimate content without consent.⁴⁰ This situation leads to legal uncertainty, as similar acts may be adjudicated differently in judicial practice, depending on the interpretation of individual law enforcement officials. Therefore, it is necessary to formulate more specific legal norms or to clarify the element of “without consent” as the key element of the offense, so that the application of the law is not merely repressive but also provides legal certainty and fairer protection for victims.

Improving the legal framework governing the crime of revenge porn has become a matter of great urgency so that Indonesia’s legal system can better adapt to the ever-evolving dynamics of digital crime.⁴¹ Currently, the provisions in the ITE Law and the Criminal Code remain general in nature and do not yet fully provide comprehensive protection for victims. Therefore, the first step that can be taken is to enact a specific law on electronic sexual crimes, which explicitly regulates various forms of digital crimes, including revenge porn.⁴² The law must provide a clear legal definition, specify the elements of the offense in detail, and include criminal penalties commensurate with the social and psychological impact experienced by the victims. Such a model has been implemented in several countries, such as the United States

³⁹ A R Karunia et al., “Mengurai Kejahatan Tindak Pidana Kesusilaan Dalam Kompleksitas Hukum Di Indonesia Ditinjau Dari Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Pidana Nasional, Undang-Undang Perlindungan Anak, Dan Undang-Undang Informasi Transaksi Dan Elektronik,” *Lentera Ilmu* 1, no. 1 (2024): 28–40.

⁴⁰ T Taintimin, “Victim blaming Pada Korban Kekerasan Domestik Di Masa Pandemi COVID-19: Perspektif Viktimologi,” *Gorontalo Law Review* 4, no. 2 (2021): 277–89.

⁴¹ S T Cahyono, W Erni, and T Hidayat, “Rekonstruksi Hukum Pidana Terhadap Kejahatan Siber (Cyber Crime) Dalam Sistem Peradilan Pidana Indonesia,” *Dame Journal of Law* 1, no. 1 (2025): 1–23.

⁴² A F Faizah and M R Hariri, “Pelindungan Hukum Terhadap Korban Revenge Porn Sebagai Bentuk Kekerasan Berbasis Gender Online Ditinjau Dari Undang-Undang Nomor 12 Tahun 2022 Tentang Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual,” *Jurnal Hukum Lex Generalis* 3, no. 7 (2022): 520–41.

and Australia, which have specific regulations to prosecute perpetrators who disseminate intimate content without consent, with a focus on protecting victims.

The next step is to revise Article 27(1) of the ITE Law, specifically the phrase “content that violates public decency,” so that it has clear boundaries and does not give rise to multiple interpretations. This clarification is essential to prevent the misuse of this provision, which has often been misapplied and has instead ensnared victims. The government also needs to strengthen the implementation of the “right to be forgotten” as stipulated in Article 26 of the ITE law, namely the right of an individual to request the removal of digital content that is harmful to them.⁴³ This mechanism must be implemented in a concrete manner by involving digital platform providers so that content containing intimate material can be promptly removed from cyberspace. In addition, the establishment of a gender-based cybercrime response unit involving institutions such as the National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan), the Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK), and the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (Kominfo) can enhance cross-sectoral coordination in providing psychological, legal, and technical protection to victims.

Furthermore, legal reforms must also be accompanied by capacity-building for law enforcement officials. Officials such as investigators, prosecutors, and judges need specialized training on handling digital evidence, gender perspectives, and approaches to victims of cybercrime.⁴⁴ With the improvement of law enforcement officials’ technical competence and empathy, it is hoped that the judicial process will become fairer and more sensitive to the victims’ suffering. Furthermore, strengthening international cooperation is also important, given that revenge porn is a borderless crime, in which content can be disseminated through servers located abroad. Through the mechanism of mutual legal assistance (MLA), Indonesia can collaborate with other countries to track down perpetrators and remove content across jurisdictions.

The final factor, which is no less important, is improving the public’s digital literacy and legal awareness. Public education must be promoted to raise awareness about the importance of protecting digital privacy, understanding the risks of sharing personal content, and knowing the legal recourses available if one becomes a victim of revenge porn.⁴⁵ The government, educational institutions, and the media need to play an active role in fostering a healthy digital culture that respects privacy. Through synergy between regulatory reforms, institutional strengthening, capacity building for law enforcement officials, and public awareness, the national legal system is expected to provide more humane, fair, and effective protection for victims of revenge porn in Indonesia, while also creating a safe and dignified digital space.

⁴³ F R Ardamijariah and J Kameo, “The Right to Be Forgotten Sebagai Hukum Perlindungan Data Pribadi Korban Revenge Porn,” *Jurnal Ilmu Hukum: Alethea* 8, no. 1 (2024): 69–82.

⁴⁴ Cahyono, Erni, and Hidayat, “Rekonstruksi Hukum Pidana Terhadap Kejahatan Siber (Cyber Crime) Dalam Sistem Peradilan Pidana Indonesia.”

⁴⁵ R C Aslam, “Respon Negara Dalam Menangkal Konten Pornografi Di Media Sosial: Peluang Dan Tantangan Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Konten Pornografi,” *Staatsrecht: Jurnal Hukum Kenegaraan Dan Politik Islam* 4, no. 1 (2024): 29–50.

4. CONCLUSION

The dissemination of intimate content without consent (revenge porn) indicates that the provisions of the ITE Law have not yet been fully effective in providing legal certainty, as there remains ambiguity regarding the elements of the offense of "content that violates public decency," which leads to varying interpretations in law enforcement practice. This situation is exacerbated by overlapping regulations with other legal instruments as well as limitations in digital evidence, resulting in inconsistent effectiveness of criminal prosecution and suboptimal victim protection. These findings indicate that the primary issue lies not only in the technical aspects of evidence but also in the legal framework, which has not explicitly incorporated the element of lack of consent as the core of electronic sexual violence. Theoretically, this underscores the need for a shift in approach from offenses based on public decency to consent-based offenses in cyber criminal law. Based on this, from a legal policy perspective, it is necessary to strengthen regulations by harmonizing the ITE Law with the TPKS Law, clarifying the elements of the offense more specifically, and strengthening victim protection mechanisms, including recovery and the removal of digital content. Additionally, enhancing the capacity of law enforcement officials in the fields of digital forensics and victim-centered perspectives is a critical factor in achieving more effective and just law enforcement.

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