

Providing Justice To Women In Conflict With The Law

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ABSTRACT

In the justice system, the principle of justice is the main foundation that must be upheld regardless of gender, race, or social background. However, in reality, women in conflict with the law often face different challenges and discrimination compared to men. It must be recognized that women are vulnerable in the legal and social context. They often experience structural and cultural inequalities, which can affect their access to justice. For example, negative perceptions and gender stereotypes sometimes affect the objectivity of law enforcement officials in handling cases involving women, both as victims and suspects. Therefore, providing justice to women in the legal process is a necessity that is not only normative but must also be realized in real terms through special policies, approaches, and protection. This article analyzes how gender-responsive legal protection and assistance mechanisms are crucial for women dealing with the law. This research uses descriptive qualitative methods to gain an in-depth understanding of the problems faced by women in the legal process. The results showed that providing justice to women in conflict with the law requires a real commitment from various parties, from law enforcement agencies and legal counsel through mechanisms to strengthen advocacy and gender mainstreaming. Thus, justice can be felt and given without gender discrimination, and women can be protected, treated fairly, and have their rights by applicable regulations.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Women who encounter legal issues within the criminal justice system defined under Article 1, Number 1 of the Regulation of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia Number 3 of 2017 regarding Guidelines for Adjudicating Women in Conflict with the Law include those who are witnesses, victims, or suspects. Women in

these situations have rights that must be upheld, which include the protection of their dignity and access to justice in the criminal justice system [1]. Despite legal guarantees designed to protect women and the state's obligation to ensure non-discriminatory access to justice, the reality is that women often face inequality before the law, and their access to justice is severely limited. The Supreme Court regulation explicitly states that women in conflict with the law have the

right to fair treatment without discrimination within the criminal justice system. Additionally, women who are victims of crimes are entitled to recovery and compensation for the suffering caused by those crimes [2]. Furthermore, women who serve as witnesses are entitled to protection during the criminal justice process, especially in cases where they may be subject to threats related to their involvement [3].

There is still discriminatory treatment and gender stereotyping against women in the justice system, which is directly proportional to women's accessibility to justice. The more women experience discrimination and/or negative stereotyping, the more limited their access to justice becomes. The phenomenon of violence against women has recently become a prominent issue. This is not only because of the increasingly severe cases of violence experienced by women, but the intensity is even more worrying. Komnas Perempuan recorded 299,911 cases of violence against women throughout 2020; this number decreased significantly compared to the 2019 report, which recorded 431,471 cases. However, in 2021, Komnas Perempuan reported that the number of cases of gender-based violence against women increased, reaching 338,496 cases. This data is a compilation of three primary sources, from Komnas Perempuan (3,838 cases), service institutions (7,029 cases), and the Religious Courts Agency (327,639 cases). The most commonly reported violence includes physical, psychological, and sexual violence, with most incidents occurring in the family sphere. The data above illustrates that violence against women does not only happen in cases of sexual violence but also appears in a variety of cases.

According to the 2023 Annual Report of the Komnas Perempuan that launched on March 7, 2024. In 2022, the number of recorded cases of violence against women was relatively high, with a total of around 457,895 cases. Meanwhile, 2023 showed a decrease in the number of cases of violence against women to around 401,975 cases, a decrease of around 12% compared to 2022.

However, the number of complaints received by Komnas Perempuan remained relatively stable, at around 4,371 cases in 2022 and 4,374 cases in 2023. In 2023, of the total 4,374 complaints received by Komnas Perempuan, around 75.5% or 3,303 cases were gender-based violence, with the majority occurring in the personal sphere (59%) and the most reported form of psychological violence (41%).

Meanwhile, according to Komnas Perempuan's 2024 Annual Report, launched on March 7, 2025, recorded a significant increase in cases of gender-based violence against women (GBV), which amounted to 330,097 cases, up 14.17% from 289,111 cases in the previous year. Total cases of violence against women in general reached 445,502, an increase of almost 10% from 2023. Although the number of GBV cases increased, the number of complaints received by Komnas Perempuan in 2024 decreased to 4,178 cases, down 4.48% from 2023. The average complaint received was about 16 cases per day. Most cases of gender-based violence occurred in the personal sphere (309,516 cases) compared to the public sphere (12,004 cases) and the state sphere (209 cases). The region with the most cases was Java Island, followed by North Sumatra, Lampung, and South Sulawesi. Jakarta has the highest cases in the state sphere in 2024, with 23 cases reported.

This data shows a fluctuating trend in the number of cases of violence against women from 2020 to 2024, with a decrease in 2023 and an increase again in 2024, primarily for cases of gender-based violence. The increase in reporting is also considered an indication of victims' courage to report and increased access to complaint services. Although various laws and regulations have regulated the protection of women, in reality, getting legal protection and access to justice for women is not easy.

Women in conflict with the law in Indonesia face various challenges and complex dynamics in legal protection and social and family rights. For example, in the context of legal protection and women's rights, in some cases, women as victims of

violence, especially sexual harassment, often experience difficulties in obtaining justice and legal protection. This has an impact on the victim's psychology, such as trauma, fear, and low self-confidence, which results in not daring to report and be open [4]. In the context of divorce, although there are regulations governing the rights of women and children, their implementation in the field is still not optimal and is often only justice on paper. A comparison with the legal systems in Australia and Malaysia shows the need for more intensive and structured interventions to guarantee the rights of women after divorce in Indonesia [5].

The protection of women when dealing with the law in Indonesia has explicitly been regulated through Supreme Court Regulation (Peraturan Mahkamah Agung - PERMA) No. 3 of 2017 concerning Guidelines for Adjudicating Cases of Women Against the Law. This regulation aims to eliminate discrimination against women in the judicial process and provide fair protection and respect for the dignity of women. In conflicts with the law, women get gender-sensitive legal assistance, and in divorce cases, women get their rights fairly in the form of property and care for children [3], [6].

Perma No. 3/2017 emphasizes applying legal principles such as equality before the law, legal certainty, justice, expediency, and additional principles of respect for human dignity, non-discrimination, and gender equality. Judges are prohibited from discriminating, excluding, or limiting based on gender. In trials, judges are required to consider inequality of social status, physical and mental helplessness, power relations, history of violence, and psychological impact on women in conflict with the law. Judges are also prohibited from showing gender-biased attitudes or statements, justifying discrimination, or asking about the victim's sexual history. Judges can prevent and reprimand parties from demeaning or intimidating women during the trial process.

Before Supreme Court Regulation No. 3/2017, women in conflict with the law

often faced discrimination, gender stereotyping, and overcriminalization in the justice system. This made it difficult for women to obtain equality and access justice. As a result, women often experience obstacles in fulfilling their rights during the judicial process, including a lack of access to special rights such as compensation and recovery due to the cases they face [7].

The enactment of Supreme Court Regulation Number 3 of 2017 provides guidelines for judges and law enforcement officials to provide fair and equal treatment to women in conflict with the law, taking into account gender aspects and the special needs of women. This regulation aims to realize substantive justice for women by providing equal access to the trial process, including the right to participate in decision-making, obtain compensation, and explain the impact of the case and the need for recovery. However, implementing this regulation still faces obstacles in the field, such as the lack of understanding and commitment of law enforcement officials, supervision, gender-sensitive assistants, and continuous evaluation, so this regulation becomes a guideline on paper and is implemented.

In this article, the author highlights the role of Perma 2018 in providing gender-sensitive legal assistance. Legal assistance with a gender-sensitive approach is critical to help women in conflict with the law, given the differences in social, cultural, and economic conditions that often affect the judicial process. Gender-sensitive legal assistance is needed to provide adequate protection and build awareness of the importance of fair treatment for women facing legal conflicts. The author also hopes that the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Kemen PA) is committed to ensuring the protection and fulfillment of the rights of women victims in the legal process, from investigation to trial, with an objective and responsive attitude towards victims. The Judicial Commission also supervises the trials so that the principles of gender equality and anti-discrimination are applied.

2. METHODS

This research employs a qualitative method to provide an in-depth understanding of the challenges women face in the legal process. In conducting qualitative research, the author gathers data from credible sources. These reliable sources include national and international scientific journals, the National Human Rights Commission, the National Commission on Violence Against Women, as well as official government websites and reputable news media. Utilizing these credible sources enhances the validity and reliability of the analysis.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Strategic To Realize Substantive Justice for Women in Conflict with The Law

To ensure access to justice for all citizens, including vulnerable groups, the Constitution guarantees that everyone has the right to recognition, guarantees, protection, and certainty of a just law and equal treatment before the law. However, in practice, the provision of legal aid in Indonesia still does not reach all levels of society, especially in remote areas and vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children, the poor, pregnant women, and people with disabilities. This inequality is exacerbated by the limited number of formal legal aid implementers, namely Advocates or verified Legal Aid Organizations (Organisasi Bantuan Hukum/OBH) and their working areas, and the strong stigma against women in the law enforcement system.

Based on data from the Online Information System for the Protection of Women and Children (SIMFONI PPA), during the period January to June 28, 2025, there were 13,845 case reports, with the most significant proportion coming from sexual violence against women and children. This figure indicates that gender-based violence is still a systemic problem and has not been addressed thoroughly. In this context, the presence of paralegals becomes very relevant and urgent as key actors who can bridge the community's legal needs with the formal legal

system. Paralegals have an essential role in providing basic legal assistance, education, and non-litigation assistance at the community level, especially for vulnerable groups who have experienced structural barriers to accessing justice.

A concrete step in strengthening the role of paralegals is reflected in the Muslimat NU paralegal training initiative, which has now produced 600 paralegal candidates from Central Java Province as part of a total of 2,500 paralegals trained nationwide. The Minister of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (PPPA) expressed her hope that Muslimat NU paralegals, especially in Pati Regency, will be able to be at the forefront in fighting for more inclusive legal access for women and children. The paralegals have completed theoretical training and will undergo practical legal assistance for the next three months.

To answer these challenges, the role of paralegals is vital as a bridge between the community and the formal legal system, especially in helping to resolve non-litigation legal issues. Paralegals cannot be equated with advocates, but the state recognizes their position as part of community legal empowerment efforts. Paralegals assist women in accessing their rights, understanding the legal process, and dealing with structural and cultural injustices. Paralegals must show an identity card or official assignment letter as legitimization when carrying out their duties. The presence of paralegals is a state strategy to expand the reach of legal aid and strengthen legal protection based on gender justice. With the proper policy support, paralegals can contribute significantly to ensuring that women in conflict with the law are no longer marginalized but are involved, protected, and treated equally in the legal process.

Paralegals play a strategic role in expanding access to legal services, especially for people living in remote areas that have not been reached by verified Legal Aid Organizations (OBH). Based on Law No. 16/2011 on Legal Aid, only verified and accredited OBH can provide free legal aid. However, the unequal distribution of OBH,

which tends to be concentrated in urban areas, means that most poor and vulnerable people, especially women in conflict with the law, are unable to access formal legal aid services. In this context, paralegals are essential actors who bridge the community with the formal legal system by providing legal information, counseling, and non-litigation assistance.

According to Black's Law Dictionary, a Paralegal is a person who has been trained and holds authority to provide a specified number of legal services. A paralegal is not a lawyer, but is usually on their way to becoming one. A paralegal is an individual who has received training and holds the authority to provide a specified number of legal services, although not an advocate. The problem is that Permenkumham Number 3 of 2021 does not strictly emphasize that paralegals must come from a law degree background. This has caused some people to doubt the quality and capacity of paralegals, especially since most paralegals come from non-law backgrounds. However, the effectiveness of paralegals in the local context cannot be ignored, mainly due to their social and cultural closeness to the community. Paralegals operate at the community level and are socially close to their communities, allowing them to provide basic legal assistance, legal rights education, and assistance in non-litigation processes directly and quickly.

In practice, OBH can involve paralegals in implementing legal aid, including assistance at all levels of legal examination. For women as victims, paralegals not only provide administrative support when reporting to the police, but also psychological assistance and monitoring during the examination process in court. Meanwhile, paralegals are present for women who act as witnesses during the reporting process, provide a sense of security during the testimony process, and ensure that witness rights are fulfilled according to procedures. Thus, the involvement of paralegals not only fills the gap in access to legal aid, but also contributes to ensuring a more friendly, fair, and gender-perspective legal process.

Therefore, the inequality of access to OBH needs to be addressed by increasing the number of verified OBH and by recognizing, training, and strengthening the strategic role of paralegals in an inclusive and equitable national legal aid system.

Since the beginning of 2025, the government, through the Ministry of Law, has established 7,000 Legal Aid Posts (Posbankum) throughout Indonesia as part of a national strategy to expand public access to legal aid. This policy is a progressive step in responding to the limited reach of verified OBH, which has been more concentrated in urban areas or administrative centers. One innovative aspect of the program is the direct involvement of paralegals from Legal Awareness Family/Community Groups (Kadarkum Groups), who have undergone formal training by the Ministry of Law and Human Rights and graduated as community-level legal assistants. The involvement of Kadarkum paralegals in the Posbankum structure reflects a community-based approach that places citizens as the leading actors in bringing legal services closer to the community.

In the context of women in conflict with the law, whether as victims of violence, witnesses, or reported parties, the presence of a friendly and accessible Posbankum is significant. Paralegals have the potential to be at the forefront of providing information, assisting with reporting, and directing cases to protection services or verified OBH.

However, the success of this program cannot be separated from several structural challenges, especially the need for further capacity building for paralegals, the availability of adequate operational resources at Posbankum, and the need for functional synergy between paralegals, OBH, law enforcement officials, and women's protection institutions. In addition, regular monitoring and evaluation of Posbankum services is needed to ensure that the quality of legal aid provided is by human rights standards and the principles of gender justice, so that, in providing legal assistance, justice is truly felt by vulnerable, law-illiterate, and persecuted communities.

Based on the analysis of the strategic role of paralegals in expanding access to justice, particularly for women in conflict with the law, several policy recommendations or strategic steps are needed, as follows:

1. Several provisions in the Minister of Law and Human Rights Regulation Number 3 of 2021 concerning paralegals providing legal aid are needed, specifically regarding the basic requirements for prospective paralegals, particularly educational qualifications and relevant legal experience. Paralegals should ideally possess a willingness to assist the community but also be equipped with adequate basic legal competencies (at least a degree in law) so that the assistance provided does not mislead or harm justice seekers, especially women in vulnerable situations.
2. Paralegal training and certification mechanisms need to be strengthened by establishing regulations, both in terms of content, duration, and reporting systems. This should ensure a standard national curriculum combining substantive law, procedural law, a gender perspective, and a community-based approach. The certification process should be accompanied by objective and transparent competency testing and regular evaluations of the quality of paralegals already active in the field. This is crucial for maintaining accountability and enhancing public trust.

A code of ethics for the paralegal profession needs to be developed and implemented across all Legal Aid Providers (PBH). This code of ethics encompasses the principles of confidentiality, neutrality, non-discrimination, integrity, and a prohibition on abuse of authority. A shared code of ethics

will serve as both a moral guideline and a tool for monitoring paralegals' behavior in their community practice.

3.2 Provision of Challenges Faced by Women in the Legal Process

Justice is an essential goal for all individuals, including women who interact with the legal system. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the state to ensure that women have access to justice throughout the criminal justice process. Providing access to justice is part of the state's commitment to protecting its citizens. According to Article 1, Number 1 of the Regulation of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia Number 3 of 2017, which offers guidelines for adjudicating cases involving women in conflict with the law, and supported by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), specifically in Article 15, paragraphs (1) and (2), the obligations of states are clear: First, states must guarantee women equality before the law. Second, in civil matters, states must provide women with the same legal capacity as men and ensure that they have equal opportunities to exercise that capacity (UU No. 7 of 1984). Specifically, this means granting women equal rights to enter into agreements, manage property, and ensuring that they are treated equally at all stages of court proceedings and procedures.

Based on these provisions, Indonesia must provide equal opportunities for women before the law, including the right to receive equal treatment during court hearings. Therefore, when examining cases involving women in conflict with the law, judges must avoid displaying attitudes or making statements that demean, blame, or intimidate these women by invoking cultural norms, customary rules, or biased interpretations from gender-related experts [8]. In adjudicating cases involving women in conflict with the law, judges should take into account gender equality and gender stereotypes present in laws and regulations. They should interpret statutes, rules, and unwritten laws in a way that guarantees gender equality to ensure equal protection

and non-discrimination. Additionally, judges should consider the application of ratified international conventions and treaties related to gender equality.

As an integral part of society, women have the same rights as men in every aspect of life, including in the legal process. However, in reality, women often face various challenges that prevent them from obtaining full justice. These challenges not only reflect the persistence of gender inequality but also point to the need for reform and special attention in the legal system to ensure the protection and fair delivery of women's rights.

One of the main challenges women face in the legal process is gender-based discrimination. In some cases, entrenched social norms and stereotypes lead to differential treatment of women, both on the part of law enforcement officials and judicial institutions. For example, women victims of sexual violence are often faced with questions that allude to their morality or the way they dress, which can exacerbate trauma and hinder objective case resolution [9]. This kind of discrimination interferes with women's right to equal legal protection.

In addition, women also often experience obstacles to accessing justice due to structural and socio-economic factors. Many women from vulnerable or marginalized groups face difficulties meeting legal costs, lack of knowledge about legal rights, and limitations in obtaining adequate legal assistance [10]. This is compounded by cultural norms that may require women to get consent from male family members before taking legal action, limiting their freedom and independence in accessing the justice system.

Any legal steps taken by women can also pose social risks and stigma. In a society that still places women in a subordinate position, legal processes involving women, especially in cases of domestic violence or divorce, often bring social pressure and discrimination from the surrounding environment. This stigma can cause women to feel isolated, fearful, and reluctant to continue with the legal process, limiting their access to justice.

As a country that has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Indonesia is obligated to ensure that women have access to justice and are free from discrimination within the legal system. The state supports access to justice for women involved in legal matters through Supreme Court Regulation No. 3 of 2017, which provides guidelines for adjudicating cases involving women. According to Article 2 of Perma No. 3 of 2017, judges are required to base their decisions on respect for human dignity, non-discrimination, gender equality, equality before the law, justice, benefit, and legal certainty. This fulfillment of women's rights in legal matters reflects the state's commitment to achieving the goals outlined in the Preamble of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. However, there are still obstacles that hinder the provision of justice for women when they face legal challenges. These challenges include:

1. The diversity of customary and religious laws contributes to the Lack of equality among women and hinders women's access to justice. Different customary and religious marriage laws for different tribes or groups within the same country and how they impact differently on other women, depending on their tribe or religion.
2. Poverty and Lack of human rights knowledge also contribute to women's denial of access to justice and Lack of justice-seeking behavior among women. Unable to access formal State courts due to economic barriers or Lack of awareness of their legal or human rights or how to access these systems, for example, spousal violence because if they leave, it means they will lack shelter, food, and survival, Lack of income and livelihoods also creates a barrier to accessing justice. COVID-19 regulations also make it difficult

for women to leave their homes to file cases.

3. Ignorance and lack of legal understanding: many women have low legal knowledge, making it difficult to access and understand the legal process. This hinders their ability to effectively fight for their rights within the legal system [11].
4. Barriers to reporting cases of violence Women often face difficulties in reporting cases of violence, including domestic violence and sexual violence. These barriers can include lack of support from protection agencies, fear of social stigma, and complicated and lengthy legal processes [12].
5. Difficult evidentiary process: in cases of sexual violence, evidence is often a significant challenge due to the lack of conventional evidence. However, Law No. 12 of 2022 has rectified this by recognizing evidence as valid evidence, thus simplifying the proof process [13].

The challenges women face in the legal process reflect the structural inequalities and constraints still existing in the legal system and society. Addressing these challenges, therefore, requires a holistic approach involving legal reform, education, and social support so that women can fully enjoy their rights and obtain true justice.

3.3 Provision of Gender-Sensitive Legal Assistance

The provision of gender-sensitive legal assistance must be a joint effort in assisting women in conflict with the law (PBH) by paying attention to gender aspects so that the legal process becomes more fair, safe, and comfortable for women. This assistance aims to reduce the negative stigma, revictimization, and discrimination that women often experience in the justice system.

The concept and legal basis of gender-sensitive legal aid also refers to Supreme Court Regulation (Perma) No. 3 of 2017 concerning Guidelines for Adjudicating Cases of Women Against the Law. This Perma is a legal umbrella for judicial practices with a gender perspective, including providing women with the right to assistance during the judicial process [4]. Thus, this companion is categorized as an individual or organization that is trusted and has the skills and knowledge to accompany women to feel safe and comfortable when giving testimony in court. The companion also provides direct psychological strengthening to reduce the psychological burden on women.

To provide gender-sensitive legal advice that fosters a sense of security for women facing legal issues, legal professionals should adopt several key practices that can be practiced in Indonesia, including First, Ensure Confidentiality and Security; legal counsel should prioritize confidentiality and actively seek to protect clients from further harm or intimidation, especially in cases involving gender-based violence. Second, Utilize Gender-Sensitive Communication and Interpretation Services; for women with limited language skills, especially victims of sexual violence, it is essential to include gender-sensitive medical interpreters as part of the legal support team. This helps overcome language barriers exacerbating trauma and ensures that women feel understood and respected throughout the legal process [11].

Third, by applying a Trauma-Informed and Gender-Sensitive Approach, legal counsel should recognize the high prevalence of trauma among female clients, including those with serious mental illness or veterans, and should tailor legal advice accordingly. This includes identifying the impact of trauma on decision-making and communication and creating a safe, non-judgmental environment that respects their experiences and needs [9]. Fourth, Engaging Awareness of Intersectional Identities and Social Context Effective gender-sensitive counsel considers the complex social realities women face, such as poverty, violence,

cultural background, and mental health challenges. This holistic understanding helps advocates advocate more effectively and empower women clients [9].

Fifth, Providing Empowerment and Education, Educating women about their legal rights and options clearly and respectfully builds confidence and security. Empowerment-oriented counseling that also addresses psychological and social support needs can improve outcomes and client confidence [2]. Sixth, Collaborating with Multidisciplinary Teams, working with medical, psychological, and social service providers trained in gender-sensitive care enhances comprehensive support for female clients, addressing their legal and non-legal needs simultaneously [11].

By incorporating these gender-sensitive, trauma-sensitive, and culturally aware practices, legal counsel can give women facing legal problems a stronger sense of security and trust in the legal process. When women feel safe and trusted in the legal process, they tend to be more open and cooperative, facilitating fair and effective case resolution. Legal counsel also gains a deeper understanding of their client's needs and conditions so they can provide more targeted and humane assistance. Therefore, it is urgent for all relevant parties, especially legal counsel, to consistently adopt and implement this approach in upholding rights and justice for women facing legal problems.

To ensure that gender-sensitive legal assistance is practical, several strategic steps need to be carried out thoroughly and sustainably, for example, Training and Capacity Building for Legal Assistants and Law Enforcement Officials, by conducting intensive and sustainable training for legal assistants, law enforcement officials, and judges to understand gender perspectives and empathic and humanistic mentoring techniques. Also, a gender-responsive curriculum should be integrated into the training of law enforcement officials to reduce institutional bias and gender discrimination, as well as periodic supervision, monitoring, and evaluation. Regular monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of

assistance and policies related to women facing the law will be conducted to assess effectiveness and identify obstacles in the field. It also involves civil society organizations in monitoring so that the evaluation runs independently and objectively and can advocate for data-based improvements. Third, Strengthening Advocacy and Mainstreaming Gender in Policy. Through policy advocacy that supports the protection of women and gender mainstreaming in the legal system and related organizations. As well as implementing and enforcing Supreme Court Regulation No. 3 of 2017 in reality as a guideline for adjudicating cases of women in conflict with the law.

3.4 Effective Gender Sensitive Legal Assistance

Practical gender-sensitive legal assistance is crucial in realizing a sense of security, justice, and protection for women from various forms of discrimination. This assistance serves as technical guidance in undergoing the legal process and as a strategic effort to ensure that women's rights are respected and protected in accordance with the principles of gender equality. Such assistance recognizes the special needs and vulnerabilities of women, especially those who are victims of violence and discrimination. It adapts legal frameworks and practices accordingly [1].

Based on the above arguments, the author argues that legal assistance's success is measured not only by legal outcomes but also by how women feel safe and empowered during the process. Some of the leading indicators that show that women feel secure and get justice during legal assistance with a gender-sensitive approach include;

First, a sense of comfort and confidence is a fundamental indicator. When women feel valued and listened to without feeling judged, they will be more open in conveying their problems. Assistance that can create a supportive and empathetic atmosphere will increase women's confidence to participate actively in the legal process. This is important because a mentoring

program's success depends on the women's involvement.

Second, protection from discriminatory treatment and revictimization is a critical aspect. Women often face negative stigma and prejudice that has the potential to worsen their psychological and social conditions. Therefore, the security indicator also includes the absence of discriminatory actions or attitudes from law enforcement officials or other related parties during the assistance process. Efforts to prevent revictimization, namely the repetition or addition of trauma due to insensitive treatment, must be a priority to maintain women's dignity and mental health.

Third, the optimal fulfillment of women's rights during assistance shows respect for gender justice. These rights include the right to legal protection, the right to be accompanied by legal counsel, clear and understandable information, and adequate health and psychosocial services. When these rights are fulfilled, women feel their voices and needs are necessary, resulting in a stronger sense of security in the legal process. Finally, victim-friendly legal processes are another key indicator. A legal process designed with the special needs of women victims of violence in mind will reduce tension and fear. This can be realized through the provision of private consultation rooms, easy-to-understand language, and the presence of professionals trained in handling gender-sensitive cases. This victim-friendly approach not only facilitates the collection of more accurate evidence but also provides moral support to women so they can go through the legal process more calmly and confidently.

These indicators are the impact of practical gender-sensitive legal assistance. The implication is that women feel safe, comfortable, and confident, get protection from discriminatory treatment and revictimization, have their rights fulfilled optimally, and the legal process is victim-friendly. Thus, we need to realize a fair and inclusive legal system for women and encourage gender equality and justice in law enforcement.

4 CONCLUSION

The principle of equal treatment before the law is a manifestation of the rule of law as stipulated in Article 1, paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution. Its fulfillment is essential and fundamental because this principle is the central pillar in realizing a fair trial and being a form of protection and equality before the law. A fair trial is arduous if the parties are not in an equal position. This is especially the case when parties in conflict with the law (whether suspects, defendants, witnesses, or victims) become the object rather than the subject of a judicial process.

Women in conflict with the law are the ones who suffer the most, both directly and indirectly, in a criminal act. Women victims of criminal acts, for example, not only suffer as a direct result of criminal acts, but they also experience suffering as a result of the social construction of women's roles and morality, such as revictimization and stigmatization. Therefore, women and children who conflict with the law are entitled to a fair and impartial trial. The suspect/defendant is entitled to legal advice and to be represented by one or more lawyers; if they cannot afford the services of a lawyer, then the state must provide it.

Strategic steps are taken to overcome the problem of discrimination against women and children when dealing with the law both as victims, witnesses, and perpetrators, including.

1. First, The government, as the legislator, must revise Law No. 16/2011 on Legal Aid. This revision should include aligning it with the provisions regarding the right to legal aid found in other laws and regulations. Relevant laws include Law No. 23/2004 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence, Law No. 23/2002 on Child Protection, Law No. 11/2012 on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System, Law No. 8/2016 on Persons with Disabilities, and Perma No. 3/2017, which provides

- guidelines for adjudicating cases involving women.
2. Second, as legislators, the government needs to expand the definition of legal aid recipients by defining vulnerable and marginalized groups as recipients of legal aid in the legal aid law. The Legal Aid Law should extend protection to marginalized groups, which can include but are not limited to persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, women, children, and older people, by borrowing the definition of vulnerable in Dutch Law, for example.
 3. Third, as legislators, the government also needs to strengthen the guarantee of victim/witness protection by stating that victims have the right to legal aid at every investigation stage, similar to the rights of suspects/defendants. This is expected to equal legal aid rights between suspects/defendants and victims.
 4. Fourth, it is necessary to organize integrated training based on gender and human rights, involving paralegals, CSOs, and law enforcement officials, so that all parties have the same perspective on protecting vulnerable groups, the restorative justice approach,

and the principle of gender non-discrimination. It is necessary to conduct massive and continuous socialization with the community about the function and existence of paralegals by involving community leaders, religious leaders, and village officials. The presence of Paralegals is expected to be an effective agent of information dissemination in the community. This socialization is essential so that the community not only recognizes the function of Paralegals as legal assistants, but also feels safer and dares to report legal problems they experience without fear or hesitation, especially for women victims of violence. This socialization can be done through campaigns and legal counseling in villages or sub-districts aimed at increasing public legal awareness and introducing the existence and function of Paralegals. Local governments can facilitate the establishment of cross-sectoral forums involving OBH, police, prosecutors, courts, paralegals, and women's service institutions. This forum is a forum for routine communication, case evaluation, and emergency handling of cases of women victims of violence or violations of the law.

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