

## **Reconsidering Justice for Female Victims of Intimate Partner Violence: A Sociocultural and Legal Framework**

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**Abstract:** The pervasive internalization of patriarchal norms within Indonesian society perpetuates the victimization of women, particularly evident in cases of intimate partner violence. This study examines the escalating instances of violence against women within personal relationships, be it in marital or dating contexts. Despite the increasing prevalence of such incidents, the measures employed to address and safeguard victims remain inadequate. This paper employs an explanatory analysis method, focusing on two case studies of intimate partner violence (IPV) in both dating and domestic contexts. Utilizing a criminological framework, the analysis aims to scrutinize the pervasive injustice experienced by a significant portion of the female population. The selected case studies serve as illustrative examples to demonstrate the challenges inherent in the legal process, emphasizing the difficulty in access attributed to a law enforcement perspective that has yet to fully embrace a gender justice worldview. The findings of this study draw attention to the nuanced dynamics surrounding IPV in the legal domain. A crucial aspect highlighted is the need for a comprehensive understanding of these dynamics. The investigation extends to social reactions, with the virtual community, or "netizens," emerging as a significant influencer in shaping the trajectory of IPV cases. The collective voices of netizens are acknowledged for their potential impact on the handling of such cases. The discussion in this paper highlights the factor of injustice faced by the female victims of IPV which is a sociocultural factor specifically the perpetuation of the following: 1) gendered stereotype understanding, and 2) stigmatization and repeat victimization toward the victims. By amplifying the importance of equitable punishment for perpetrators of intimate partner violence, the collective online discourse has the potential to shape societal attitudes and contribute to a more just resolution of these cases. In conclusion, this paper underscores the necessity for transformative changes in legal structures and societal perspectives, as well as the urgency of online advocacy in addressing the persistent issue of IPV and its impact on women's pursuit of justice.

**Keywords:** Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Female Victims, Sociocultural Factors, Legal Framework, Justice

**Abstrak:** Internalisasi norma-norma patriarki yang meluas dalam masyarakat Indonesia melanggengkan viktimisasi terhadap perempuan, terutama dalam kasus-kasus kekerasan yang dilakukan oleh pasangan intim. Studi ini mengkaji tentang meningkatnya kasus kekerasan terhadap perempuan dalam hubungan pribadi, baik dalam konteks pernikahan maupun pacaran. Meskipun prevalensi kasus serupa meningkat, upaya yang dilakukan untuk menangani dan melindungi korban masih belum memadai. Tulisan ini menggunakan metode analisis eksplanatif, dengan fokus pada dua studi kasus kekerasan pasangan intim

(IPV) dalam konteks pacaran dan rumah tangga. Dengan menggunakan kerangka kriminologis, analisis ini bertujuan untuk meneliti ketidakadilan yang dialami oleh sebagian besar perempuan. Studi kasus yang dipilih digunakan sebagai ilustrasi untuk menunjukkan tantangan yang dihadapi dalam proses hukum, menekankan pada kesulitan akses yang disebabkan oleh perspektif penegakan hukum yang belum sepenuhnya berkeadilan gender. Hasil penelitian ini memfokuskan pada dinamika yang ada di sekitar IPV dalam ranah hukum. Aspek penting yang disoroti adalah perlunya pemahaman komprehensif mengenai dinamika ini. Penelitian ini juga mencakup reaksi sosial, dimana komunitas virtual, atau “warganet”, muncul sebagai pengaruh yang signifikan dalam menentukan arah kasus IPV. Persepsi warganet diakui sangat berdampak besar terhadap penanganan kasus-kasus tersebut. Pembahasan dalam tulisan ini fokus pada faktor ketidakadilan yang dihadapi oleh perempuan korban IPV yang merupakan faktor sosiokultural khususnya pelestarian terhadap hal-hal berikut: 1) pemahaman stereotip gender, dan 2) stigmatisasi dan viktimisasi berulang terhadap para korban. Dengan memperkuat pentingnya hukuman yang adil bagi pelaku kekerasan oleh pasangan intim, advokasi kolektif di dunia maya berpotensi membentuk sikap masyarakat dan berkontribusi pada penyelesaian kasus-kasus ini secara lebih adil. Sebagai kesimpulan, tulisan ini menggarisbawahi perlunya perubahan transformatif dalam struktur hukum dan perspektif masyarakat, serta pentingnya advokasi daring dalam mengatasi masalah IPV yang terus berlanjut dan dampaknya terhadap upaya perempuan untuk mendapatkan keadilan.

**Kata Kunci:** Kekerasan Pasangan Intim, Korban Perempuan, Faktor Sosial Budaya, Kerangka Hukum, Keadilan

## Introduction

In general, women's susceptibility to violence as victims is a complex issue that frequently arises in the modern world. According to WHO reports, one in three women has been victims of violence, including sexual and physical abuse (MoWECP, 2018). In this instance, it is undeniable that the men who are closest to the victim—her husband or boyfriend—are typically the ones who abuse them (Azanella, 2020; MoWECP, 2018; UNICEF, 2022). The problem of violence against women in personal relationships is always popular. Intimate partner violence is the term used to describe this in detail (IPV). As a subset of violence that includes both dating and domestic abuse, IPV is not widely recognized yet in Indonesia.

Violence in the context of the domestic sphere, which includes destruction, anger, and injury, ought to be eliminated in a loving and happy family environment. Domestic violence can occur in a variety of family relationships, including those between partners, children and parents, siblings, and dating partners. It is critical to remember that victimization is not merely caused by personality traits, family origin, or other factors that distinguish individuals. Domestic violence can occur to anyone, regardless of particular characteristics, who becomes involved with someone who dominates and controls their family members (Payne & Wermeling, 2009, p. 1). Men tend to have a desire for control in the home.

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Related to the issue above, most victims of domestic violence are women. They endure significant psychological suffering, and economic constraints frequently hinder their attempts to break free from the cycle of abuse (Payne & Wermeling, 2009, p. 2). A feminist perspective on domestic violence underscores that patriarchal values in society predominantly drive this violence, reinforcing gender inequality (Azanella, 2020; National Commission on Violence against Women, 2023). These values, emphasizing male dominance over women, often manifest in the use of domestic violence as a tool for control by men. Some men even justify resorting to physical violence if they perceive women's behavior as a threat to their dominance within the family hierarchy (Payne & Wermeling, 2009, p. 2). However, there is a growing acknowledgment that domestic violence is not merely a social issue but also a criminal offense. Initiatives to criminalize domestic violence aim to strengthen both criminal and civil laws related to this pervasive problem.

Despite efforts to hold abusive husbands accountable, women who have encountered domestic violence and engaged with the legal system often confront a lack of sympathy and empathy from the police (Payne & Wermeling, 2009, p. 3). It is crucial to recognize that legal experts are cognizant of the necessity to incorporate women's interests into the legal process, aiming for a satisfactory resolution. Many women opt to leave abusive relationships to mitigate the risk of retaliation, either against themselves or their children. Research indicates that the threat of severe injury or death escalates during divorce or when seeking separation from an abusive partner (Fraser, 2003, p. 2). This demonstrates that the narrative of women's domestic violence extends beyond the physical realm, encompassing psychological, economic, and legal dimensions. Hence, there is a pressing need for a comprehensive approach to address and prevent domestic violence in society.

Concurrently, the issue of violence in teenage dating is a similar yet distinctive concern, not only due to its alarming implications for physical and mental health but also because it emerges during a crucial period of initiating romantic relationships, potentially carrying learned interaction patterns into adulthood (O'Keefe, 2005, p. 1). Researchers suggest that accurately gauging the level of violence poses challenges. Men often downplay or trivialize their actions, while women tend to exaggerate blame (Jackson, 1999 in O'Keefe, 2005). Emphasizing gender parity in dating violence raises fundamental issues, especially considering the physical advantage men typically have. Consequently, many women may not recognize themselves as victims, attributing the violence to deserved punishment for their mistakes (Khaninah & Widjanarko, 2016, p. 153; O'Keefe, 2005, p. 2). Additionally, the physical challenge for women to retaliate is notable, given their perceived biological 'weaker' stature (Okefee,2). In connection with these observations, O'Keefe and Treister (1998) discovered gender differences in the experience of being victims of violence in dating. Female victims primarily

reported feeling "emotionally hurt" and "scared," whereas males expressed reactions such as "found it funny" and "angry." Gender, therefore, plays a crucial role in shaping the motives behind committing violence. Felson and Messner (2000) argue that understanding and controlling motives for violence are particularly relevant to male-against-female violence compared to other gender combinations (O'Keefe, 2005, p. 3). This assertion underscores gender as a significant factor contributing to violence in dating, where women often find themselves vulnerable to victimization by their partners.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the situation, leading to a significant surge in domestic and dating violence cases (Azanella, 2020; Faridz, 2021). WCC Rifka Annisa reported 660 cases of violence against women between January and September 2020, with 579 of these cases occurring during the pandemic. The most prevalent form of violence reported was violence against wives (*Kekerasan Terhadap Istri/KTI*), accounting for 124 cases, followed by violence in relationships (*Kekerasan Dalam Pacaran/KDP*) with 46 cases (Azanella, 2020). The escalating violence against women during the pandemic can be attributed to a severe economic downturn, resulting in heightened stress levels. The economic decline, coupled with isolation measures, has contributed to this distress. Isolation manifests in two ways: geographic isolation, where people are restricted in a certain area, and sociocultural isolation, which primarily has limited access to knowledge (Lanier & Maume, 2009, p. 1312). This isolation dynamic varies between urban and rural settings, with rural areas generally experiencing more inherent isolation. The context of COVID-19 further underscores the relevance of isolation in shaping a culture of violence within society.

As time goes on and the pandemic diminishes, the prevalence of violence against women, especially in the intimate sphere, remains alarmingly high. According to the data from the National Commission on Violence Against Women in the 2023 annual records, out of the 8172 reported cases to service institutions, violence in relationships ranked the highest with 3528 cases, followed closely by 3205 cases of violence against wives (National Commission on Violence against Women, 2023). It's essential to note that these figures likely underestimate the actual occurrence of such cases in Indonesia, as many incidents go unreported, possibly due to the prevalent issue of cases being disregarded.

Two specific cases that highlight this issue will be the focus of this paper: the murder of a wife in Bekasi and the abuse of a girlfriend leading to her death in Surabaya. In both instances, the female victims experienced recurrent violence. Unfortunately, due to society's tendency to compartmentalize personal matters and the often-negligent response from law enforcement officials, these women found themselves trapped in the cycle of violence, ultimately losing their lives at the hands

of their partners. This paper aims to explore endeavors to address the challenges faced by women who are victims of IPV. It adopts an intersectional perspective, recognizing that improvements in the law enforcement process are intricately linked to raising broad public awareness. Additionally, fostering public discourse through social advocacy is crucial, as cases with a viral element can garner heightened attention and concern from law enforcement.

## **Methods**

The research employs an explanatory case study method, wherein the author seeks to uncover the "why" and "how" behind a given case (Priya, 2021, p. 96). This entails a meticulous data collection process that involves digging into news articles about two distinct cases of IPV. The first involves repeated domestic violence, culminating in the tragic murder of the wife. The second is a case of dating violence, in which the victim was killed as a result of continuous abuse. Both cases represent progressing depictions of IPV in the contexts of domestic and dating relationships. Notably, these cases have sparked widespread public interest, both offline and online. The ultimate result of death, which marks the end of the violence cycle, heightens awareness of the pervasive threat that women face in their personal lives. The analysis draws on a contextual data analysis method to establish connections between various societal phenomena (Priya, 2021, p. 97). This includes investigating the context of handling cases of IPV, the role of law enforcement, and the pursuit of justice for women who are victims of these incidents.

## **Findings**

These findings are collected from data derived from several news articles that have been processed by the author. The selection of the two cases under examination was predicated on the extensive discourse observed in both the virtual and real domains. These cases, encompassing instances of domestic and dating violence, garnered considerable public attention. Notably, both cases faced allegations of a perceived lack of objectivity in the handling by law enforcement agencies. In instances of domestic violence, the deficiency in meaningful police intervention may arise after the initial victim report. Conversely, in cases of dating violence, the potential influence of the perpetrator's authoritative status may contribute to a perceived bias in handling. Furthermore, a common thread between these cases lies in the victims' experiences of sustained violence, culminating in fatal incidents. The focus on repeated violence leading to fatal outcomes underscores the urgency of scrutinizing systemic issues surrounding IPV.

### **Case 1: Unraveling the Devastating Realities of Mega Suyani Dewi's Domestic Violence Ordeal**

The tragic murder of 24-year-old Mega Suryani Dewi by her husband Nando (25) in their rented house in Cikedokan Village, Sukada Village, North Cikarang District, Bekasi Regency, on September 7, 2023, at 22:00 WIB, sheds light on the perilous consequences of unchecked domestic disputes. This incident, initially concealed from the public eye, came to light on September 9, 2023, when the victim's mother conducted a desperate search in her daughter's rented house. This revelation triggered a thorough examination of the circumstances surrounding this distressing event, prompting an exploration of the factors contributing to this serious violation of human life.

West Cikarang Police Chief, AKP Rusnawati, provided insights into this disturbing incident, unveiling the motive behind the suspect's despicable actions. According to the Head of the Criminal Investigation Unit for West Cikarang Police, Inspector Said Hasan, the core issue lies in the longstanding domestic violence committed by the suspect against the victim. The initial motive stemmed from hurt feelings, with the perpetrator feeling aggrieved by his wife's words, which were also related to economic problems. The deadly climax of their tumultuous relationship unfolded amid an argument, where the emotionally charged suspect, searching the kitchen for utensils, turned a verbal dispute into a horrific act of violence.

Despite the repeated violence experienced by the victim, which had been reported to the police, the legal process did not progress. The victim's older brother claimed that despite evidence and information submitted to the police, the legal proceedings were not continued. On the contrary, the victim's family offered a different perspective, asserting that the victim's report had indeed been received and processed by the police. Linda (52), the victim's mother, mentioned that they had received a summons for Mega regarding the report, but due to her busy schedule, Mega couldn't fulfill the invitation.

Retrieved from: (Janati & Ihsanuddin, 2023; Noviansah, 2023; Redaksi CNN, 2023a)

### **Case 2: The Disturbing Tragedy of Dini Sera Afrianti's Abusive Relationship**

The tragic death of Dini Sera Afrianti, resulting from an abusive relationship with her lover, Gregorius Ronald Tannur, has captured the attention of netizens and thrust the pervasive issue of dating violence into the spotlight. Gregorius, the son of a prominent figure in the DPR RI, added a layer of complexity to this

distressing narrative, further intensified by the circulation of a video depicting his cruel actions against Dini. The incident unfolded at Blackhole KTV Surabaya on Thursday, October 5, 2023, quickly going viral on various social media platforms.

The gravity of the situation was heightened as the Surabaya Police officially named Gregorius Ronald Tannur as a suspect in the case, marking a crucial step in the pursuit of justice. The tragic night began with an ordinary dinner between the couple at G-Walk Surabaya, leading to an invitation to Blackhall KTV. Once there, they joined five others in room 7, but a heated argument escalated into violence, witnessed by KTV staff and security guards. The brutality continued in an elevator, where the victim was kicked until she fell. In the parking area, the victim was reportedly hit and dragged by the perpetrator's vehicle. The assailant then took the victim to an apartment at PTC, prompting resuscitation efforts due to her weakened condition.

In an attempt to conceal the severity of the situation, the suspect falsely reported the cause of the victim's death as stomach acid to the Lakarsantri Police, Surabaya. Detecting irregularities in the report, law enforcement initiated an investigation, forming a team within the Surabaya Police Criminal Investigation Unit. The victim's body was autopsied at Dr. Soetomo Hospital, Surabaya, exposing the extent of the tragedy. As these distressing accounts of abuse and deception emerge, they underscore the urgent need for societal reflection and concrete action to address the widespread problem of domestic violence. The narrative not only mourns the death of Dini Sera Afrianti but also calls for a collective demand for justice and a reevaluation of societal norms that permit such heinous acts to persist unchecked.

Retrieved from: (Ayuningtyas, 2023; Kurnia Dadang & Saubani, 2023; Redaksi CNN, 2023b)

## Discussions

### *Sociocultural Factors in Gendered Understanding and Stereotypes*

Throughout history, violence against women has been consistently underestimated, a trend that persists today (Gilmour, 2022, p. 23). Particularly in personal relationships, people tend to view it as a private matter between partners. Additionally, individuals who engage in violent behavior often don't take their actions seriously (De Coster & Heimer, 2021, p. 8). Mega's case illustrates this point, where her husband's repeated acts of violence seemed to lack a sense of gravity. Similarly, in Dini's case, ample evidence suggests that the violence leading to her tragic death was normalized by the perpetrator.

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The societal tendency to downplay issues considered personal contributes to the ongoing rise in crime rates. This is connected to awareness efforts in society, but paradoxically, a significant portion of society continues to normalize violence against women in intimate partner relationships (IPV) (Gilmour, 2022, p. 23; Meyer, 2016, p. 84). Beyond societal views, the prevailing understanding that reinforces traditional gender roles also exacerbates the problem. This perspective depicts women as avoiding risks rather than seeking them (Walklate, 2018, p. 2), perpetuating their vulnerability to becoming victims of violence. From the perspective of the perpetrator, a man's inclination to control relationships can manifest through violence. A woman's response to witnessing a man's violent behavior may involve submission, self-defense, seeking help, or attempting to make her partner leave (De Coster & Heimer, 2021, p. 7). These responses are exemplified differently in the two cases. Mega's case showcases self-defense and seeking help through family and law enforcement. Meanwhile, Dini's case reveals that she sought help implicitly through her online presence, though there is still visible submissiveness due to the lack of self-defense efforts on her part.

In most other cases, apart from the two mentioned, it becomes evident that society's understanding is still confined to rigid gender roles. Instances where society adheres to traditional gender values and stereotypes are associated with intimate partner violence (Nabors & Jasinski, 2009, p. 59). Internalized patriarchal values perpetuate male dominance in domestic and personal relationships. These two cases also show the existing power imbalance, portraying women as weak and helpless victims of a system that subordinates them.

Beyond the socio-cultural factors described above, another related factor ingrained in the culture of many societies is placing women in economically dependent positions on men. In a marital context, women dependent on their husbands as breadwinners become vulnerable to violence, especially when supporting children's growth and development (Gilmour, 2022, p. 20). This is evident in Mega's case, supported by police allegations and witnesses stating that the motive for her husband's murder was economic. Despite Mega having a job, her perceived dependence is reflected in allusions to her husband's income being insufficient to meet household needs.

On the other hand, unmarried couples living together statistically face a higher likelihood of vulnerability to intimate partner violence. Cohabiting partners, often younger, are more prone to violence associated with lower levels of commitment (Tillyer & Wright, 2014, p. 33). In the case of Dini and Gregorius, who are unmarried lovers living together, this aligns with studies by various scholars regarding the tendency of IPV in public spaces by unmarried couples. This is also reflected in the National Commission on Violence Against Women's annual

records, where cases of dating violence rank the highest, followed by cases of violence against wives.

### ***Stigmatization and Repeat-Victimization***

Although IPV is the most prevalent form of violence against women in Indonesia and likely in other regions, it often receives less attention. According to Nile Christie, society tends to identify 'ideal victims' as those who are perceived as weak, shy, and unrelated to the perpetrator (Meyer, 2016, p. 76). When a woman has a relationship with the perpetrator, her victimization is questioned, and public empathy is not as pronounced as it is for female victims of other crimes (Meyer, 2016, p. 77). However, in reality, women who become victims of violence from their partners, even if not physically, often endure psychological distress due to their attachment to the perpetrator. This is evident in many IPV cases, including those of Mega and Dini, who chose to remain in their relationships.

Various factors influence a woman's ability to break free from an abusive partner. In cases of dating violence, women may believe their partner can change for the better in the future (Khaninah & Widjanarko, 2016, p. 159). This belief could be a contributing factor to why Dini persisted in her relationship. Additionally, cultural expectations in Indonesia contribute to the pressure for mature women to have a partner. Studies show that dating becomes a social demand for women at a certain age, correlating with their difficulty in distinguishing affection from violent acts by their partners (Sari, 2018, p. 73). Considering Dini's complex background, these factors seem relevant. An unfortunate aspect is the public's focus on the victim's personal life, which is often unrelated to the violence they experience. When violence occurs against women, victims are frequently stigmatized, with society associating it with mental health issues, sexual behavior, addiction, and even criminal behavior as potential backgrounds for the victims (Meyer, 2016, p. 79). Regardless of the victim's background, they do not deserve to experience violence from their partner.

While there may be slight differences in the type of violence, wives who are victims of their husbands' violence also often face stigmatization. Those seeking help can be humiliated by those who perceive their husband's violence as trivial (Mallicoat, 2019, p. 355). This is evident in various cases where family or close acquaintances attempt reconciliation because divorce is considered disgraceful. This unfavorable environment, where awareness exists but intervention or prevention efforts are lacking, is observed in Dini's case, where she received insufficient support to break free from the cycle of violence.

Concerning the cycle of violence, several studies indicate that the problem of recurring violent acts is rooted in the perpetrator. Despite external intervention, the

perpetrator's aggressive tendencies and antisocial nature lead to repeated violence victimizing their partners (Piquero et al., 2014, p. 288; Walklate, 2018, p. 5). Therefore, repeat victimization is not the fault of the victim. In both the Mega and Dini cases, the perpetrators had difficulties controlling their emotions and expressed their anger through violence. Alcohol use allegations can exacerbate this, as substance involvement increases the likelihood of temper and aggressive behavioral issues (Tillyer & Wright, 2014, p. 32). Such behaviors trigger conflicts and unresolved issues in intimate relationships.

In these relationships, where conflicts are frequent, pressure builds both internally and externally, exposing them to violence, bad parenting, parental conflicts, or low family income. These factors contribute to additional fights and violence, leading to mutual victimization (Cardwell & Piquero, 2018, p. 1607; Piquero et al., 2014, p. 289; Tillyer & Wright, 2014, p. 36). In hetero relationships where men are culturally dominant, violence is more often perpetrated by men against women. The physical strength of men leads to women experiencing various injuries, including pushing, punching, kicking, or the use of sharp or blunt objects (Tillyer & Wright, 2014, p. 38). Both Mega and Dini experienced numerous physical injuries that ultimately led to their tragic deaths.

### ***Legal and Social Support in Advocating Justice***

Efforts to achieve justice are often hindered by inadequate social and legal support factors. The crucial social support that women victimized by IPV need, such as self-defense and protection, unfortunately, goes unmet by society at large. As previously discussed regarding stigmatization, the decision to stay with an abusive partner results in victim-blaming, as victims are seen as contributing to their suffering (Meyer, 2016, p. 80). This narrative persists, even in cases where victims have lost their lives. The prevailing perspective tends to blame the victims for choosing to be with an abusive partner, despite empirical evidence and study results demonstrating that victims face unfavorable situations regardless of their life choices.

Ironically, victim blaming seems to intensify when victims seek formal legal support (Meyer, 2016, p. 79; Pinchevsky & Wright, 2012, p. 113). In many domestic violence cases, when victims attempt to seek help from authorities, the response often suggests reconciliation or returning to the abusive partner, rather than prioritizing the victim's safety. In some cases, authorities even question the truth of the violence, disregarding substantial evidence provided by the victim (Alimi & Nurwati, 2021, p. 26). The slow and inadequate handling of Mega's case, with a lack of focus on protecting the victim, tragically led to her losing her life at the hands of her husband.

Legally, there are two methods of resolution for domestic violence—penal mediation and the legal process (Cristiana et al., 2019, p. 82). Similar to other criminal cases, the police must investigate to determine the truth of the criminal act. The legal framework for handling domestic violence is outlined in Law Number 23 of 2004 concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence. However, the implementation of these regulations faces obstacles, including the difficulty of finding strong evidence linking physical injuries directly to the reported person and challenges in obtaining objective information from family and the community (Cristiana et al., 2019, p. 86; Watt, 2008, p. 52). In cases like Mega's, where evidence is robust, overcoming these obstacles requires serious efforts from law enforcement or improvements to existing regulations and the legal system.

In contrast, dating relationships are not explicitly addressed by law, and the threat of punishment for dating violence perpetrators relies on existing violence articles in the Criminal Code. Implementing strict sanctions for perpetrators can empower women who are victims (Maxwell & Garner, 2012, p. 472). Social support, particularly from family and friends, is crucial for victim protection. This support can manifest in various forms, such as providing a safe space, financial assistance, or alternative solutions to help victims break free from violent relationships (Meyer, 2016, p. 81; Tillyer & Wright, 2014, p. 34). Unfortunately, in the cases of Mega and Dini, family and relatives provided minimal support, leaving them unable to escape their abusive relationships. Therefore, society must engage in ongoing discussions about violence against women, particularly in personal relationships. Collaborative advocacy efforts can make a difference by offering services that protect victims, including moral support, temporary shelter, and legal assistance (Mallicoat, 2019, p. 355). The very least that society can do is to amplify the voices of IPV victims through an online platform. In Indonesia, the "viral case" phenomenon appears to be able to "awaken" the appropriate handling of criminal cases. Aside from that, when a case is being investigated, the social surveillance of law enforcement can be encouraged. Through such efforts, the risk of IPV escalating to fatal outcomes can be minimized.

## Conclusions

Results of the preceding analysis illustrate the complexities of the problem of violence against women, particularly in the context of intimate relationships. Sociocultural factors, including gender stereotypes and stigma against victims, play a crucial role in trivializing violence, complicating law enforcement efforts, and reducing social support for victims. The two cases discussed, Mega and Dini, show how society's perception of rigid gender roles contributes to violence in intimate relationships. Society tends to normalize violence and often blames the victim,

especially when they choose to stay with an abusive partner. Apart from that, economic factors and women's financial dependence on men are also risk elements in relationships that can lead to violence. In Mega's case, for example, economic motives emerged as the catalyst for the murder, showing the importance of economic independence for women to protect themselves from potential violence. Stigmatization of victims in IPV cases makes it more difficult for women to seek help. The public and authorities may even question the legitimacy of the violence at times, impeding a fair law enforcement process. Obstacles related to difficult-to-obtain evidence and the unsupportive attitude of law enforcement are also major challenges in the context of legal handling. Reforms to the legal system, such as increased responsiveness to violence in relationships, are critical to ensuring effective victim protection. Social support, especially from family and friends, has a key role in assisting victims to escape the cycle of violence. Communities have to take part in collaborative advocacy efforts, even in the virtual world, to protect victims and provide moral support, shelter, and legal assistance. Through an in-depth understanding of the factors that contribute to violence against women, strategic steps can be taken to raise public awareness and reform the legal system. This is critical to create a safe and supportive environment for all women in which violence is no longer considered an everyday occurrence of life.

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