

The Role of NGO Rifka Annisa in Violence Against Women During The COVID-19 Pandemic

Maisarah Mitra Adrian^{1*}, Suswanta¹, Elsa Septia¹

¹Departement of Government Affairs and Administration, Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, Indonesia

*Correspondence Email: maisarahmitra@gmail.com

Received: 20 June 2022; Revised: 11 November 2022; Accepted: 27 November 2022

Abstract: *The purpose of this research is to determine the role of Rifka Annisa, a women's NGO, in responding to cases of violence against women in the city of Yogyakarta during the COVID-19 pandemic. Yogyakarta was chosen due to an increase in cases of violence against women. This is a qualitative study with a descriptive approach. The data used in this study is secondary data obtained from online media, websites, and related scientific articles that was then processed using NVivo 12 Plus software. The finding showed Rifka Annisa's role in cases of violence against women, with a focus or orientation on victims in three ways. The first is empowerment; the second is legal assistance; and the third is stigma reduction. According to the findings of the research, Rifka Annisa functions as an NGO, particularly in the non-political field, with a focus on empowering victims of violence.*

Keywords: *violence; women; COVID-19; Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs).*

Introduction

This article aims to analyze the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) Rifka Annisa against violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic in Yogyakarta. Rifka Annisa is one of the NGOs committed to eliminating violence against women. Its mission is to organize women and society to eliminate violence against women. This is realized by empowering victims of violence, including children, the elderly, and people with disabilities (Rifka, 2022b). Rifka Annisa, the first center for handling gender-based violence in Indonesia, was born out of deep concern for the rampant violence against women (Rifka, 2022a). This violence is in the form of physical,

psychological, economic, social, and sexual violence. All forms of violence against women are contrary to the fulfillment of Human rights (HAM).

Referring to the Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights, it is said that human rights are all rights inherent and contained in humans as God's creations, so these rights must be respected, protected, and guarded by the state through its legal instruments (Hamirul, 2019). However, even though there are laws that regulate human rights, cases of human rights violations are still rife, one of which is violence against women. Violence against women includes all forms of gender-based violence, including physical, sexual, and emotional

actions that make victims suffer (D. A. M. E. S. Adnyani & Sukaatmadja, 2019). This includes all forms of threats, intimidation, and violations of women's rights or freedoms, either openly or covertly (Mulyana et al., 2018).

Currently, the city of Yogyakarta is experiencing a crisis of violence against women, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic (Antara, 2021). Yogyakarta is a city that has experienced increased cases of violence against women. In the last two years, during the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an increase in violence against women in 2019, with as many as 122 cases. It increased in 2020 to 145 cases, and until October 2021, there were 175 cases (Rusqiyati, 2021). The poor personalities of the violent offenders, as well as economic factors and other factors, are the main causes of the increase in cases of violence against women.

In the era of the COVID-19 pandemic, economic factors became the dominant factor causing violence against women (Rusqiyati, 2021). This is due to the negative impact of COVID-19 on the community's economy, such as reduced or lost sources of livelihood (Lusasi & Mwaseba, 2020). Pressure and demands from the economy are the factors behind the occurrence of violence against women (Pratama, 2021). Any form of violence against women cannot be justified because it is a violation of human rights.

Human rights and the law as a regulatory instrument and instrument of protection aim to create harmonious, peaceful, fair, and balanced relations between legal subjects (Garrett & Brickell, 2015). The purpose of the law will be achieved if each legal subject gets his rights and carries out his obligations according to the rules. Efforts to handle and minimize the increase in violence against women require synergy between

institutions and community involvement, including the role of NGOs.

Based on the Instruction of the Minister of Home Affairs Number 8 of 1990 concerning the development of NGOs, what is said to be an NGO is an organization or institution formed by people who are citizens of the Republic of Indonesia and are voluntarily engaged in a particular field (N. K. S. Adnyani, 2017). The form of NGO participation in the community is an effort to improve the community's standard of living and welfare, which focuses on self-help services (Schetter et al., 2022). NGOs have a role in the development process of a country, including protecting victims of violence against women. Because the suffering felt by the victim multiplied, which resulted in physical, psychological, and self-esteem losses (Jamilah, 2019), this loss was even more severe when the government provided minimal attention or legal protection for victims (KOMNAS, 2021).

Fulfilling victims' rights in the form of protection are not only the government's responsibility or the state's because the state has limitations in reaching down to the primary layers. At that time, NGOs came and took part in replacing the government, which could not directly touch victims of violence; NGOs protected without expecting anything in return.

Noeleen Heyzer identifies three types of roles that NGOs can play, including increasing political influence broadly, through cooperative networks within a country, or with other international institutions. Furthermore, take part in determining the direction and agenda of development (MacLaren et al., 2013). Then support and empower the community at the most basic level, which

is essential to creating sustainable development.

In addition, Magar (2003) views NGOs as bridges between the community and the government with four roles to play in a country, including monitoring and supervising to create checks and balances in the implementation of the system and state administration. Even protest if it is considered not good and not in line with the goals of the common interest (Mundy & Seuffert, 2021). This is done to minimize the possibility of abuse of power and violations of the law, especially those committed by state officials and businesses (Irianto, 2010).

The second role is to accelerate system change by raising several critical societal issues, forming global awareness, advocating for changes in state policies, developing people's political will, and conducting experiments that encourage community initiatives (Grant & Le Billon, 2021). The third role is the implementation of service programs. Where NGOs can position themselves as institutions that realize several programs in society (Dressler, 2021).

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a non-political role in empowering the community in the socioeconomic field. Meanwhile, the role of NGOs in the political field is as a forum to bridge the community with the state. The presence of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as members of the community is required, particularly for their contribution of aspirations and programs, in this case, their role in mobilizing issues of violence against women. One of the main objectives of the presence of NGOs is to demand a sense of responsibility from state administrators when making and implementing decisions. So that there is no more arbitrariness in making and carrying out decisions and

that it is oriented to the community's welfare. This study tries to see how the role and involvement of the NGO Rifka Annisa affected cases of violence against women that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic in the city of Yogyakarta. The city of Yogyakarta, which is predicted to have the highest happiness index, was chosen for this study because it is one of the cities experiencing an increase in the number of violence cases against women.

Method

In this study, qualitative research methods with a descriptive approach were used to assess the role of Rifka Annisa's NGO against violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic in the city of Yogyakarta. The purpose of this study was to investigate the function of Rifka Annisa's NGO. Digging, searching, explaining, and distributing data from collected sources was the strategy that was going to be used for the approach that was selected to provide an overview of certain social phenomena (Adrian et al., 2022). The data that was collected is considered secondary data because it came from other sources such as online media, Rifka Annisa's website, government papers, and journals that were all relevant to the subject of violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic. After that, the data that had been acquired from these sources were displayed and analyzed with the assistance of the Nvivo 12 Plus software, specifically the word cloud and crosstab analysis tools. In addition, this investigation makes use of the Vosviewer program in order to recognize research variables. This is accomplished by gathering foreign publications from the Scopus database that contain the terms "woman," "violence," "NGO," and "COVID-19." (Kurnaedi et al., 2021).

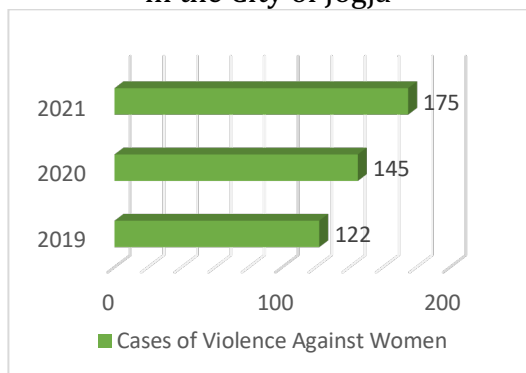
The analysis of the data was carried out with the help of an interactive model developed by Huberman and Miles, which included the following steps: data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion. This was done so that the method of data collection and analysis could provide an answer to the issue that was being investigated.

Result and Discussion

Cases of Violence Against Women

Based on data from the Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women (UPT PPA) of the City of Jogja from 2019 to 2021, there has been a significant increase in violence cases against women in the City of Jogja. This can be seen in Figure 1.

Figure.1 Case of Violence against Women in the City of Jogja

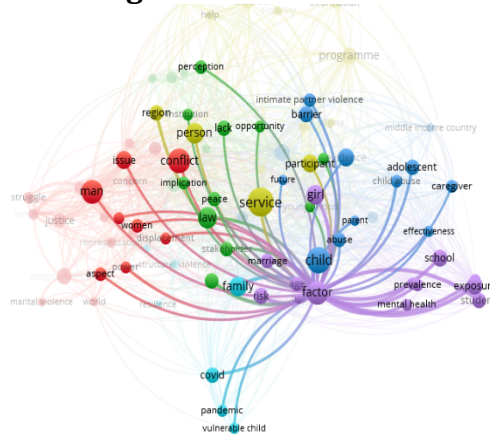


Source: Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Population Control and Family Planning (DP3AP2KB) Jogja City 2021

In 2019 there were 122 cases of violence against women; in 2020, there were 145 cases of violence, and in 2021 there were 175 cases of violence against women (Rusqiyati, 2021). In the last three years since COVID-19 entered Indonesia, there has been a significant increase in cases of violence against women. Several main factors influence the increase in

violence against women in the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on the results of data collection from the literature related to the role of NGOs in cases of violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic originating from Scopus, it was found that the factors causing violence against women were as follows.

Figure 2. Factors Cause



Source: Researcher Vosviewer

Figure 2 shows that the COVID-19 pandemic is one of the elements that contribute to violence against women. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this type of violence affects not only women, but also children and even men. However, the case data does not suggest a high level of violence against women. Violence against women departs from the background of the occurrence of conflict, as mentioned by COVID-19, because it is undeniable in this pandemic condition. These disputes might take the form of individual conflicts or conflicts within the family as a result of pressure from numerous sources.

Since the COVID-19 epidemic spread to numerous countries, the affected countries have suffered economically, politically, and socially (Jedrzejewski et al., 2017). The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the factors contributing to violence against women. Economic causes became the

primary factor in the occurrence of extreme violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is due to COVID-19's negative economic impact on the community, such as lower income or the loss of livelihood sources. The increased intensity of interactions between family members after the pandemic has made families more vulnerable to violence.

Violence against women is on the rise as victims are compelled to stay at home with the abusers. According to WHO data, the most common perpetrators of violence against women are husbands or partners (Sadewo, 2021). Internal disputes in the family environment can contribute to this. When the child is compelled to stay at home, one of the sources of this conflict is when parents are under pressure to become a teacher and a housewife, or a father with a different portion than before the commencement of COVID-19. Furthermore, the pressure on various economic demands is another domino effect driving the violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Similar to other cities, incidences of violence against women in Yogyakarta are driven by economic and psychological problems brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Rifka Annisa handles the majority of allegations involving violence against spouses committed by husbands in the home. In addition, parental violence toward children occurs. Because, according to Jamilah (2019), violence can occur in everyday life and is typically perpetrated by people closest to the victim. Violence against women happens as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which influences and impacts the mental health of perpetrators and victims unknowingly. The wheels of the economy froze in this situation due to limits on

community mobility, resulting in lower income or possibly the loss of a livelihood.

In addition, emotional instability, lust, and the desire to vent from the perpetrators are all reasons for violence against women. These different causes and the pressures that develop are to blame for the rise in cases of violence against women in Yogyakarta. All forms of violence against women have an influence on their lives as victims. Physical disabilities, such as bruises on body parts, will result from such assaults. Moreover, the victim's mental health is harmed, resulting in worry, lower self-confidence, depression, a lack of motivation, and divorce in the case of married people. Worse, it can cause stress, depression, and even death in the victim.

Rifka Annisa's Role in Cases of Violence against Women

Non-governmental organizations are institutions that seek social solidarity in response to the call of conscience to contribute to the creation of a prosperous society. In voicing the community's rights and aspirations, NGOs are said to act as an extension of the community. In the era of the COVID-19 pandemic, the role of NGOs as free institutions is very much needed in the community. This is because the government's attention and priorities are focused on controlling, handling, and recovering from COVID-19. So it is not uncommon for the effects that arise due to COVID-19 to escape the government's view, one of which is the increase in cases of violence against women. As a result, the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as an important component of society is critical, and in this case, the role of NGOs in cases of violence against women has increased since the COVID-19 pandemic. The following are the roles or

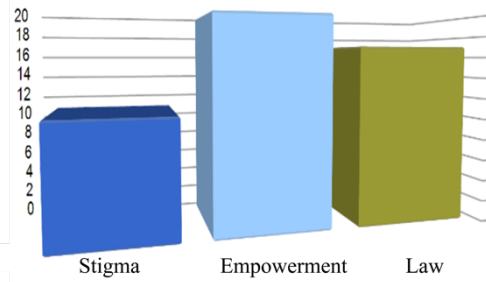
Figure 5. Rifka Annisa's Worldcloud



Source: NVivo 12 Plus

From Figure 5, it is known that Rifka Annisa, one of the gender-based NGOs in Indonesia, focuses on violence against women. This is also influenced by the complaint to the NGO Rifka Annisa, which was motivated by increased cases of violence against women in the city of Yogyakarta. In this case, Rifka Annisa has an orientation towards the victims of the violence. Cases of violence that have arisen include cases of sexual violence and physical violence, such as beatings, which have recently been rampant in families and even among students. The services provided by Rifka Annisa in responding to this case of violence are assistance to victims in the form of counseling assistance, assistance in demanding justice, and offering various other solutions for helping victims.

Figure 6. Rifka Annisa's role



Source: NVivo 12 Plus

Figure 6 shows that Rifka Annisa, in responding to reports and increasing cases of violence against women, emphasizes the aspect of empowering victims. This is because the violence directly affects victims, causing weakness and powerlessness from the pressure they feel. So with the empowerment efforts carried out, it is hoped that victims will be empowered to live, continue their lives, and demand rights and justice for the cases they experience. Because every human being has inherent human rights without any gender differences. One of the empowerment efforts carried out by Rifka Annisa's NGO is providing psychological counseling. Where this psychological counseling aims to empower victims, this psychological assistance service is carried out face-to-face or through telephone or mail intermediaries. This adjusts to the psychological condition of the victim and field conditions.

Next is the effort to fulfill victims' rights following applicable law. Rifka Annisa's efforts in providing services to victims are in the form of legal counseling in solving problems, especially in the legal process. Counseling or legal assistance is carried out from the essential stages, namely, a physical examination at the health service center for a post-mortem, reporting the case to the authorities, such as the police, to the stage of court

proceedings. However, direct assistance is only carried out when a case is brought to a criminal court, while Rifka Annisa only offers indirect assistance for civil cases.

In light of these circumstances, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have a responsibility to work toward the enhancement of the current environment in order to establish a civil society that is robust and self-sufficient. According to Mustika (2021), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) may occupy the first position as a countervailing force; this function is visible in the attempts of non-governmental organizations to control, prevent, and stop government exploitation of the community (Aji Setiawan & Handini Listyani, 2021). On the other hand, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a significant role in the consolidation of the democratic movement. They do this by fostering the growth of civil society through activities such as counseling, advocacy, and the education of the general public regarding particular issues.

The function of policy advocacy that is assigned to NGOs is frequently carried out through the use of lobbying, political statements, petitions, and protests (Pelor & Heliany, 2018). Second, as a community empowerment movement that is carried out by enhancing the institutional capacity, productivity, and independence of community groups, as well as public awareness to build independence, freedom, and participation (Wariyatun, 2019). In most cases, this activity is accomplished through the processes of teaching, training, community organizing, and mobilization. Thirdly, as institutions that play the role of mediators, NGOs work to improve communication between different groups, including the community and the state or government; the community and other NGOs; and NGOs

and the community (Naderi & Naderi, 2019).

Rifka Annisa's next effort in responding to cases of violence against women is to remove stigma from victims or those circulating in the community. Efforts to straighten out the stigma circulating in the community are realized by actively educating the public through print media, social media (Facebook, Twitter), visualization through video shows on Youtube, and the website Rifka Annisa's Official. The role of NGOs in the non-political field to empower the community in the social sector has been implemented by Rifka Annisa. In this case, Rifka Annisa, a gender-based NGO, plays a role in contributing to the community by dealing with outstanding issues in cases of violence against women.

The role of NGOs in the non-political field to empower the community in the social sector has been implemented by Rifka Annisa. In this case, Rifka Annisa, a gender-based NGO, plays a role in contributing to the community by dealing with outstanding issues in cases of violence against women. Through programs and efforts to assist victims in empowering themselves. As well as bridging the community in channeling their aspirations with the output of providing input to the government or related parties in overcoming the problems of cases of violence. So that it becomes a material consideration in taking policy steps. With the hope that there will be no more violence against women, or at least that there will be no increase in similar cases.

Conclusion

This study concludes that Rifka Annisa, as a women's NGO, should play its role as an NGO in responding to the increase in cases of violence against

women in the city of Yogyakarta during the COVID-19 pandemic. Efforts are made in the community as a form of contribution in responding to this case of violence by playing its role in the political and non-political fields. The role of politics is to provide recommendations to the authorities on cases of violence. Furthermore, the most dominant role carried out is the role in the non-political field, emphasizing three aspects of the role. The first role is one of empowerment, which focuses on the victim. The ultimate goal is to rebuild the victim's self-confidence from being helpless to being empowered. The simplest form of the empowerment program by Rifka Annisa is offering psychological counseling. Furthermore, Rifka Annisa also plays a role in fulfilling victims' rights before the law. This is realized by providing legal assistance or counseling to victims. In addition, it also assists the prosecution process, from reporting to court trials. The third is stigma; in this case, Rifka Annisa has a moral burden and responsibility to straighten out the stigma circulating in the community. Because there are still a lot of negative stigmas related to violence against women in society, such as that the wife must be obedient and be tolerant of all her husband's actions. The eradication of this stigma is achieved by educating the community, either directly or indirectly, using intermediary media.

Acknowledgments

Thank you to all colleagues who have helped in writing this article, as well as the Department of Government Affairs and Administration Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, which served as a facilitator.

References

- Adnyani, D. A. M. E. S., & Sukaatmadja, I. P. G. (2019). Peran Perceived Risk Dalam Memediasi Pengaruh Perceived Quality Terhadap Perceived Value. *8*(12), 7072–7092.
- Adnyani, N. K. S. (2017). Sistem Perkawinan Nyentana dalam Kajian Hukum Adat dan Pengaruhnya terhadap Akomodasi Kebijakan Berbasis Gender. *Jurnal Ilmu Sosial Dan Humaniora*, *6*(2), 168–177.
- Adrian, M. M., Nurmandi, A., Muallidin, I., & Purnomo, E. P. (2022). Social Network Analysis: How Twitter Social Media Used in Raising Tax Awareness During the COVID-19 Pandemic (pp. 331–339). https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-06391-6_43
- Aji Setiawan, M., & Handini Listyani, R. (2021). Peran Lsm Kps2K Dalam Upaya Pencegahan Pernikahan Usia Anak Di Masa Pandemi Covid-19. *Universitas Negeri Surabaya*, 1–20.
- Antara. (2021). Kasus Kekerasan Perempuan dan Anak di Jogja Meningkat selama Pandemi Covid-19. *InewsYogya.Id*. <https://yogya.inews.id/berita/kasus-kekerasan-perempuan-dan-anak-di-jogja-meningkat-selama-pandemi-covid-19>
- Dressler, W. (2021). Defending lands and forests: NGO histories, everyday struggles, and extraordinary violence in the Philippines. *Critical Asian Studies*, *53*(3), 380–411. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14672715.2021.1899834>
- Garrett, B. L., & Brickell, K. (2015). Participatory politics of partnership: Video workshops on domestic violence in Cambodia. *Area*, *47*(3), 230–236. <https://doi.org/10.1111/area.12149>

- Grant, H., & Le Billon, P. (2021). Unrooted responses: Addressing violence against environmental and land defenders. *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*, 39(1), 132–151. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2399654420941518>
- Hamirul, M. N. (2019). Lembaga Swadaya Masyarakat Aliansi Perempuan Merangin Untuk Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga. *Jurnal Marketing*, Vol 3 No., 181.
- Irianto, S. (2010). TINDAK KEKERASAN DALAM RUMAH TANGGA (MENCARI MODEL PENANGANAN PEMERINTAH, LSM DAN MASYARAKAT UNTUK PERLINDUNGAN HUKUM KORBAN KEKERASAN DALAM RUMAH TANGGA). 7(0854), 208–220.
- Jamilah, P. (2019). Makna Kekerasan Domestik Perempuan Korban KDRT di Komunitas Bale Istri LSM Sapa Institut Kec. Ciparay Kab. Bandung. *Simposium Nasional Ilmiah*, November, 874–881. <https://doi.org/10.30998/simponi.v0i0.246>
- Jedrzejewski, B. Y., Fennie, K., & Khoshnood, K. (2017). Violence Against Trafficked and Nontrafficked Sex Workers in Poland. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 3(2), 93–106. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23322705.2016.1158015>
- KOMNAS, P. (2021). Perempuan dalam Himpitan Pandemi: Lonjakan Kekerasan Seksual, Kekerasan Siber, Perkawinan Anak, dan Keterbatasan Penanganan di Tengah Covid-19. 4(1), 6.
- Kurnaedi, D., Purnomo, E. P., Salsabila, L., Setiawan, D., Fathani, A. T., & Agustiyara. (2021). Strengthening Food Security during the Covid-19 Pandemic: Case Study in Temanggung District, Central Java Province, Indonesia. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 837(1). <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/837/1/012005>
- Lusasi, J., & Mwaseba, D. (2020). Gender inequality and symbolic violence in women's access to family land in the southern highlands of Tanzania. *Land*, 9(11), 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.3390/land9110468>
- MacLaren, A. C., McMillan, C. L., & O'Gorman, K. D. (2013). The hospitality of Nepali tea houses: redefining the boundaries of empowerment. *Research in Hospitality Management*, 3(1), 9–17. <https://doi.org/10.1080/22243534.2013.11828298>
- Magar, V. (2003). Empowerment approaches to gender-based violence: Women's courts in Delhi slums. *Women's Studies International Forum*, 26(6), 509–523. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2003.09.006>
- Mulyana, N., Resnawaty, R., & Basar, G. G. K. (2018). Penanganan anak korban kekerasan. *Al-Izzah: Jurnal Hasil-Hasil Penelitian*, 13(1), 77–89.
- Mundy, T., & Seuffert, N. (2021). Integrated domestic violence services: A case study in police/NGO co-location. *Alternative Law Journal*, 46(1), 27–33. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1037969X20984598>
- Mustika, S. K. (2021). KEBERHASILAN MANAJEMEN STRATEGIS PENANGANAN KASUS KEKERASAN DALAM RUMAH TANGGA SEMASA PANDEMI COVID-19 DI DAERAH ISTIMEWA YOGYAKARTA (Studi Kasus Lembaga Swadaya Masyarakat

- Rifka Annisa Women Crisis Center). Universitas Gadjad Mada.
- Naderi, S., & Naderi, S. (2019). The role of NGOs on health and peace development through implementing support programs for victims of child abuse. *International Journal of Human Rights in Healthcare*, 12(5), 353–363.
<https://doi.org/10.1108/IJHRH-11-2018-0071>
- Pelor, S., & Heliandy, I. (2018). PERANAN LEMBAGA SWADAYA MASYARAKAT (LSM) TERHADAP PEMBANGUNAN POLITIK DAN DEMOKRASI DI INDONESIA. *Jurnal Ilmiah Hukum De'Jure: Kajian Ilmiah Hukum*, 3(1).
- Pratama, A. (2021). Tiga Faktor Penyebab Kasus Kekerasan Perempuan di Yogyakarta Meningkat Selama Pandemi. *MerahPutih.COM*.
<https://merahputih.com/post/read/tiga-faktor-penyebab-kasus-kekerasan-perempuan-di-yogyakarta-meningkat-selama-pandemi>
- Rifka, A. (2022a). Sejarah Rifka Annisa. Rifka Annisa. <https://www.rifka-annisa.org/id/2013-10-04-07-06-57/sejarah>
- Rifka, A. (2022b). Visi Misi. Rifka Annisa. <https://www.rifka-annisa.org/id/2013-10-04-07-06-57/visi-dan-misi>
- Rusqiyati, E. A. (2021). Kasus kekerasan perempuan dan anak Yogyakarta meningkat selama pandemi. *Antara News*.
<https://www.antaraneews.com/berita/2558069/kasus-kekerasan-perempuan-dan-anak-yogyakarta-meningkat-selama-pandemi>
- Sadewo, J. (2021). Kekerasan Seksual Jadi Pandemi Dunia, Korbannya Perempuan. *Republika.Co.Id*.
- Schetter, C., Mkutu, K., & Müller-Koné, M. (2022). Frontier NGOs: Conservancies, control, and violence in northern Kenya. *World Development*, 151.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2021.105735>
- Wariyatun, W. (2019). Creating zero tolerance for violence against women. *Asian Journal of Women's Studies*, 25(3), 459–467.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/12259276.2019.1638047>