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ANALYSIS OF THE PHENOMENON OF ONLINE SCAMS IN ONLINE JOB SEARCHES SYNDICATED WITH TRAFFICKING CRIMES INTERNATIONAL LAW PERSPECTIVE

Qorry Ulfah Lasia Faculty of Law, Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara E- mail: <u>qorryulfah@umsu.ac.id</u>

ABSTRACT

This research is interesting to discuss because of technological developments that give rise to the occurrence of Online scams carried out in terms of offering foreign workers through job vacancies advertised by utilizing social media pages. The problem in the study is related to the criminal responsibility of the country perpetrating online scams according to international law. and related to the extent of intervention of the country of origin of sending labor to the country of online scam perpetrators legally. The type of research used in the form of normative juridical research is sourced from secondary data through data processing from primary legal materials, secondary legal materials and tertiary law. Based on the results of research in trafficking in persons, International Law provides policies to States parties in taking steps to implement the law through arrangements in the States of the Parties based on agreed conventions, one of which is through protocols to prevent, prosecute, and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children (United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Woman and Children). Located in Italy, the United Nations formulated the Palermo Protocol and related interventions were carried out by means of international cooperation that could include the exchange of information, training, and technical assistance between countries.

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INTRODUCTION

The development of science and technology today certainly has a great influence on human behavior. Progress in the technology of life in modern society is one of the keys to the success and progress of development. Indonesia is currently one of the countries whose technological development is increasingly rapid. Of course, this also has an impact on the number of internet users in the community, and the number of internet users is increasing every year. The internet is a means and medium of electronic communication which is now widely used for various activities such as looking for news, emailing each other, trading, to looking for job vacancies. The existence of high unemployment rates causes many job seekers to search for work by utilizing technological advances. The same applies to job providers such as companies or entrepreneurs who take advantage of technological sophistication through timelines, both in terms of introducing company profiles to finding workers according to the company's criteria.

Term *online scam* itself has been known for a long time since the rise of dating applications that are done online. Some cases of online dating that occur early in the occurrence of online frauds. This also applies in the online selling business that sometimes provides goods that do not match what is offered with what is received by the buyer.

Term *online scam* itself is defined as fraud carried out through the internet network. *Online scam* Itself is also carried out in terms of offering foreign workers through job vacancies advertised by utilizing social media pages. By offering very high salaries to very tempting facilities for job seekers. *Online scam* became rife to befall Indonesian Citizens (WNI) who were tempted to work abroad.

Fraud in the form of job offers through social media is done by offering jobs through advertisements and posts on social media attractively, realistically and as professionally as possible. The modes are increasingly diverse and very difficult to distinguish from real job vacancies. It is very difficult to validate whether qualified or not. Ads offered on certain social media groups are only to entice victims to apply for jobs. In this case, the perpetrator deceives the victim by demanding that the victim send the necessary amount of money as collateral for employment, administrative expenses or single expenses and many other reasons.¹

Related National Research *online scam* in Indonesia with modes, mediums, and recommendations conducted using online survey methods with non-probability sampling, and involving 1,700 respondents from demographically varied

¹ Laurentius Chrisendo M.S. dkk, 2023, Analisis Yuridis Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Tindak Pidana Penipuan dengan Modus Lowongan Kerja Melalui Media Sosial Berdasarkan Hukum Positif di Indonesia, Comserva: Jurnal Penelitian dan Pengabdian Masyarakat, Volume 2 No. 12 April 2023, Halaman Halaman 3197-3198.



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respondent groups in 34 provinces of Indonesia, explaining the reality of fraud in the digital world. In the results of the research, there are five types of fraud that respondents most receive are fraud under the guise of gifts (91.2%), illegal digital loans (74.8%), sending links containing malware or viruses (65.2%), fraud under the guise of family crisis (59.8%), and illegal investments (56%). While the five types of fraud that received the least response included fake school admissions/scholarships (19.9%), acceptance in the job admission process (20.6%), hijacking/hacking digital wallet accounts (25.6%), fraud under the guise of romance (27.7%), and personal identity theft (29.2%). Scams under the guise of gifts are the type of fraud messages most often received by respondents because they tend to be delivered randomly and en masse through various types of mediums, especially through features inherent in every cell phone.² But lately there have been rampant cases *online scam* involving fraud related to employment in a foreign country syndicated with trafficking.

Quoting from data from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Head of Intelligence and Immigration Enforcement, that from January to October 2022, there were 934 Indonesian citizens who became victims *online scammer* or fraud with the lure of a job offer abroad. Of these, the vast majority of cases *online scam* involving Indonesian citizens in a number of ASEAN regions, including Cambodia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Laos and Thailand. Increase in cases of Indonesian victims *online scam* It is said to be a warning for the public to be careful of job offers abroad, especially those spread through social media. The mode commonly used by fraudsters is that prospective workers are asked to submit incorrect data in the departure process, among others, going abroad without a work visa but using a tourist visa or ASEAN visa-free facility.³

As in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, there were 34 Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI) from North Sulawesi who were released on December 9, 2022, who were victims of *online scam*. The Indonesian Embassy (KBRI) Phnom Penh intensively coordinated with the Cambodian Police and Cambodian Immigration to evacuate them from Poipet to Phnom Penh.⁴

² Andrean W. Finaka, 2022, *Maraknya Penipuan Digital di Indonesia*, https://indonesiabaik.id/infografis/maraknya-penipuan-digital-di-indonesia, diakses pada tanggal 6 juli 2023.

³ Kanwil Jateng Kemenkumham, 2022, *WNI Menjadi Korban Online Scam Internasional, Pembina Apel : Hati-Hati Jangan Mudah Tergiur*, https://jateng.kemenkumham.go.id/pusatinformasi/artikel/7677-wni-menjadi-korban-online-scam-internasional-pembina-apel-hati-hatijangan-mudah-tergiur, diakses pada tanggal 6 juli 2023.

^{4 4} KBRI Phnom Penh, 2022, *34 WNI Korban Perusahaan Online Scam di Poipet Berhasil Dievakuasi ke Phnom Penh*, https://kemlu.go.id/portal/id/read/4273/berita/34-wni-korban-perusahaan-online-scam-di-poipet-berhasil-dievakuasi-ke-phnom-penh, diakses pada tanggal 6 juli 2023.

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The next case is Indonesian citizens who are victims of human trafficking who are employed in *online scams* in Myawaddy, Myanmar. Myawaddy is located 415 km from Yangon, 500 km from Bangkok, 567 km from Naypidaw, and 11 km from Mae Sot, this is the Myanmar-Thailand border. Myawaddy is an area over which the central authority of Naypydaw does not have full control.⁵

Further information was obtained through the Indonesian Embassy in Manila which explained that *Philippines National Police* (PNP) accompanied by foreign representatives in Manila, including the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia (KBRI) Manila, has successfully carried out rescue operations against a number of foreign nationals working in the company *online scam* in the Metro Manila area. In this operation, as many as 2,714 people from 18 countries, including 137 Indonesian Citizens (WNI).⁶

The Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur intervened after receiving a complaint from an Indonesian citizen (WNI) who was allegedly employed in an online gambling company in Malaysia. The Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur received reports of four Indonesian citizens who were framed to work in scam online companies. In the report, it was found that several other Indonesian citizens were also victims. The Director of Indonesian Citizen Protection at the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, estimates that there are 30 Indonesian citizens related to online gambling problems in Kuala Lumpur.⁷

The number of cases recorded in *online scam* shows the shape of *human trafficking* or trafficking through trafficking for forced labor, trafficking for forced criminal activity, trafficking in women for sexual exploitation, trafficking to sell or remove human organs, and smuggling in persons.⁸ In case of casualties *online scam* What is meant here is self-confinement and detention of all identities of Foreign Workers (TKA) when arriving in the recipient country with the threat of identity detention and captivity, TKA is forced to find new victims with the promise of being released or if they do not want to do so, then forced to pay compensation with a fantastic nominal for all costs and facilities offered in order to be released again.

⁵ Eri Sutrisno, 2022, *Indonesia Tuntaskan Penanganan 1.841 Kasus Online Scams*, https://indonesia.go.id/kategori/editorial/7090/indonesia-tuntaskan-penanganan-1-841-kasus-online-scams?lang=1, diakses pada tanggal 6 juli 2023.

⁶ KBRI Manila, 2023, *PNP dan KBRI Manila Selamatkan WNI dan Warga Asing dari Perusahaan Online Scam di Metro Manila*, https://kemlu.go.id/portal/id/read/4889/berita/pnp-dan-kbri-manila-selamatkan-wni-dan-warga-asing-dari-perusahaan-online-scam-di-metro-manila , diakses pada tanggal 6 juli 2023.

⁷ CNN Indonesia, 2023, *KBRI Turun Tangan soal Kasus 30 WNI Terjerat Online Scam di Malaysia*, https://www.cnnindonesia.com/internasional/20230526201527-106-954597/kbri-turun-tangan-soal-kasus-30-wni-terjerat-online-scam-di-malaysia. diakses pada tanggal 6 juli 2023.

⁸ Lalu Maulana Ukhrowi .dkk, 2020, *Dampak Pekerja Migran Ilegal Terhadap Meningkatnya Kasus HumanTrafficking di Pulau Lombok*, IJGD: Indonesian Journal of Global Discourse: Vol. 2 Ed.2. Pages 17 - 31, July - December 2020 Halaman 18.



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The West Nusa Tenggara region itself is an area with a delivery rate *human trafficking* high international scale to Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, and Saudi Arabia, including exploitation in labor *sex*, domestic workers and factory or plantation workers. Malaysia is the most popular destination for migrant workers from NTB, most of whom come from the island of Lombok, with most migrant workers undocumented which leads to cases *human trafficking* and exploitation. Migrant workers who leave illegally or non-procedurally are more likely from East Lombok, followed by Central Lombok and West Lombok, with the main reasons being poverty and debt. This was explained by one of the former PMI who explained the case of illegal migrant workers and their relation to trafficking cases, even at the end of 2018 until mid-2019, there were still many illegal migrant workers from Lombok working in destination countries such as Malaysia which also had cases of exploitation and trafficking or *human trafficking*.⁹

All of the cases that occurred together above show that there is a need for a study that can link the legal solution of trafficking crimes to migrant workers. Given the limitations on access to the country of origin in terms of providing legal protection to its citizens because there are territorial boundaries between countries which causes the applicable law to be limited.

METHOD

The method set out in a study is the main key to assessing the good and bad of a study. The scientific method is what sets the flow of research, from searching for data to conclusions.¹⁰ The scientific method can be defined as a way in which research should be conducted, following certain ways that are justified.¹¹ This research uses a type of normative juridical research, because in this research it focuses more on library research or document studies or commonly called doctrinaire legal research because this research is carried out only on written regulations or other related legal materials.¹² The nature of this research is descriptive analytical, which is research that describes or describes facts and conditions or symptoms that are seen, and aims to describe or describe facts related to finding the meaning of legal terms contained in laws and regulations, so that researchers can obtain new meanings from legal terms and test their actuality by

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰Tampil Anshari Siregar, 2011, *Metode Penelitian Hukum Penulisan Skripsi*, Cetakan Ketiga, Pustaka Bangsa Pers: Medan, Halaman 15.

¹¹ Bambang Waluyo, 1996, *Penelitian Hukum Dalam Praktek*, cet. 2, Jakarta: Sinar Grafika, Halaman 2.

¹² *Idem*, Halaman 13.



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analyzing the application of legal rules.¹³ The source of data from the research is to use secondary data consisting of three legal materials, namely, primary legal materials in the form of laws, secondary legal materials in the form of books, literature, research results, and related scientific papers, and tertiary legal materials in the form of dictionaries, encyclopedias, legal magazine indexes, and others. The data collection tool used by this research is a literature study (*Library Research*), either by *offline* or *Online*.

DISCUSSION

Criminal Responsibility of Online Scam Perpetrator Countries According to International Law

Basically, at the international level, there are many legal products that provide protection such as the UN Refugee Convention (1951), the Immigration and Nationality Act 1952/1965, and the Immigration Reform and Control Act (1986). At the regional level, there are also special rules that respond to migrant problems such as the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers and the European Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers. These legal rules, including several national laws, actually clearly provide legal standing for a migrant, namely workers from other countries working in the destination country. But what becomes different is when the migrants are part of migrant smuggling.¹⁴

In accordance with the 1975 Convention on Migrant Workers (Additional Provisions), it notes that the organization's underlying Philadelphia Declaration of Principles affirms that "work is not a commodity" and that "everywhere poverty is a threat to prosperity everywhere". It also recognizes the importance of the ILO's responsibility to promote programmes that primarily provide opportunities for full employment through "labour mobility, including employment" (International Labour Organization (ILO), 1978). Taking into account the Employment Convention and Recommendations 1949 (Revised), the Recommendations for the Protection of Migrant Workers (Undeveloped States) 1955, the Employment Policy Conventions and Recommendations 1964, the provisions of the Labour Services Convention and Recommendations 1948 and the Employment Services Convention 1948. and in the Convention on Employment Agencies Withdrawing Fees (Revised) 1949.¹⁵

¹³Zainuddin Ali, 2009, *Metode Penelitian Hukum*, Sinar Grafika, Indonesia, Jakarta, Halaman 106.

¹⁴ Yohanes Hermanto Sirait, 2022, *Dari Pelaku ke Korban Penyelundupan Pekerja Migran Sukarela: Pilihan Hukum Internasional atau Hukun Indonesia*, Legitimasi: Jurnal Hukum Pidana dan Politik Hukum, Vol. 11, No. 1, January-June 2022, Halaman 18.

¹⁵ Lalu Maulana Ukhrowi. dkk, *Op.Cit*, Halaman 25.



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The provisions contained in the above conventions deal with such matters as regulation of recruitment, introduction and placement of migrant workers, provision of accurate information with respect to migration, minimum conditions to be enjoyed by migrants during transit and on arrival, adoption of an active employment policy and international cooperation in these matters (International Labour Organization (ILO), 1978). Under this convention evidence of labour smuggling requires further standards aimed primarily at eliminating abuse of labour agency policies and responsibilities. Then, there is Article 2 Part I on Migration Under Conditions of Abuse.¹⁶

In this regard, there is an international legal framework that sets standards for the treatment of trafficking victims and the fulfillment of their rights, namely the United Nations Protocol on Trafficking in Persons, also known as the Palermo Protocol.¹⁷ The origin of the Protocol refers to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 53/111 of 9 December 1998, in which the General Assembly decided to establish an unrestricted *intergovernmental ad hoc* committee with the aim of drafting a comprehensive international agreement to oppose international organized crime and discussing the development of one of them, an international instrument to address trafficking in women and children.

Based in Italy, the United Nations formulated the United *Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.*¹⁸ The Palermo Protocol entered into force on December 25, 2003, aimed to strengthen and enhance international cooperation to prevent and combat human trafficking. The Palermo Protocol is also being promoted to enhance protection and support for victims. The Palermo Protocol obliges each State Party to take legislative and other measures it deems necessary to prevent, prosecute and punish trafficking in persons, in particular women and children.¹⁹

International law reinstates the criminal offence of trafficking in persons to take steps to apply to arrangements in states of the parties. In Indonesia, it is regulated in Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of Trafficking in Persons. A trafficked person is someone recruited, carried, bought, sold, transferred, received or hidden. This is done in various ways, some by means

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ United Nations Protocol, 2000, to Prevent, Suppress and Punish *Trafficking* in Persons Especially Women and Children Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime.

¹⁸ Marcella Nirmala Chrisna Moeri, Idin Fasisaka, dan Putu Titah Kawitri Resen. "Implementasi Protokol dalam Menanggulangi Permasalahan Tenaga Kerja Wanita Indonesia yang Menjadi Korban *Human Trafficking*". *Jurnal Hubungan Internasional*, Volume 1 Nomor 1 (2016), diakses pada 15 Agustus 2017, Pukul 21:00 WITA, https:// ojs.unud.ac.id/index.php/hi/article/view/24370/15809.

¹⁹ Rahmah Daniah dan Fajar Apriani, 2017, *Kebijakan Nasional Anti-TraffickingDalam Migrasi Internasional*, FISIP: Universitas Mulawarman Kalimantan Timur, Halaman 145.



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of threats, use of verbal and physical power, kidnapping, fraud, deception, exploiting positions of vulnerability (for example when one has no other choice), isolation, drug dependence, and entrapment.²⁰

Perpetrators of trafficking in persons can be charged with Article 2 paragraph (1) of Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning Trafficking in Persons, as the Article has explained the details of sanctions that can be imposed. In more detail the Article reads:²¹

"That any person who recruits, transports, shelters, sends, transfers, or receives a person by threat of violence, use of force, kidnapping, captivity, forgery, forgery, fraud, abuse of power or vulnerable position, debt bondage or giving payment or benefit despite obtaining the consent of the person in control of another person, for the purpose of exploiting that person in the territory of the Republic Indonesia, shall be punished with a maximum imprisonment of 3 (three) years and a maximum of 15 (fifteen) years and a fine of at least Rp.120,000,000.00 (one hundred twenty million rupiah) and a maximum of Rp.600,000,000.00 (six hundred million rupiah)".

This same sanction also applies to any action committed by the perpetrator that results in the person being exploited. In addition to the specific provisions of the *Trafficking Law* above, the regulation of human trafficking can also be seen in Article 297 of the Criminal Code which reads:

"Trafficking in immature women and men is punishable by imprisonment for not more than six years".

Then in Article 324 of the Criminal Code also states that:

"Whoever, at his own expense or others, engages in the slave trade or engages in the slave trade or knowingly interferes therewith, directly or indirectly, shall be punished with imprisonment for not more than twelve years".

Considering that victims of human trafficking include children, the arrangements in addition to Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication

²⁰ Oksidelfa Yanto, *Tanggung Jawab Negara Dalam Pemberantasan Orang*, ADIL: Jurnal Hukum Vol.5,2014, hlm.9.

²¹ Gabrielle Valentia Putri Sahetapy. dkk, *Pertanggung Jawaban Hukum Pelaku Trafficking In Person BerdasarkanHukum Internasional Di Indonesia*, SANISA: Jurnal Kreativitas Mahasiswa Vol. 2 No, 1, 2022, hlm 40.



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of Trafficking in Persons, are also regulated in Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection.²²

Intervention of the Country of Origin of the Sender of Labor to the State of *Online Scammers* Legally

Discussing the protection of Indonesian migrant workers abroad, there are several rules that regulate it, namely, the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia Year 1945 Preamble Alenia IV, Law Number 1 Year 1982 Ratifying the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic and Consular Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, Law Number. 37 of 1999 concerning Foreign Relations, Law No. 24 of 2000 concerning International Agreements, Law Number 39 of 2004 concerning Residence and Protection of Indonesian Workers Abroad (now updated by Law Number 18 of 2017 concerning Protection of Indonesian Workers), Law Number 12 of 2006 concerning Citizenship, Law Number. 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of Trafficking in Persons, Presidential Decree of the Republic of Indonesia Number 108 of 2003 concerning the Composition of Indonesian Representative Organizations, Presidential Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 6 of 2006 concerning the reform policy of a country. Housing and Protection of Indonesian Workers, Decree of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia No. 02/ANIII/2005/01, 2005 concerning Organization and Work Procedures of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Decree of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia No. 06/A/OTNI/2004/01, 2004, concerning Representative Organizations of the Republic of Indonesia Working Abroad and Labor Work Procedures and Indonesian Laws and Regulations as well as other related international laws and customs.²³

According to Article 1 of the Law on the Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers Number 18 of 2017, an Indonesian migrant worker, or better known as an Indonesian Manpower (TKI), is any Indonesian citizen who performs, is doing or has done any work that is his responsibility, paid, outside the territory of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. Indonesian migrant workers are Indonesian citizens working abroad. As citizens, migrant workers have rights and obligations towards their country due to nationality.

The implementation of protection for migrant workers is widely taken in the following ways; provision of shelter, repatriation, provision and assistance in

²² Deypend Tommy Sibuea, *Pemberantasan Perdagangan Orang Melalui Instrumen Hukum Nasional danHukum Internasional Di Indonesia*, Jurnal Cendekia Hukum, Vol.3, No.2, Maret 2018, hlm.11

²³ Salmon Abertnego Manurung1 dan Nabitatus Sa'adah, 2020, *Hukum Internasional Dan Diplomasi Indonesia Dalam Perlindungan Tenaga Kerja Migran Indonesia*, Jurnal Pembangunan Hukum Indonesia, Volume 2, Nomor 1, Tahun 2020.



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the fields of law, rehabilitation and recovery of health both physically and psychologically, reintegration (reunification of Indonesian citizens with their families or the community), as well as economic empowerment and education of migrant workers.²⁴

Article 36 paragraph (1) of Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of Trafficking in Persons states that during the investigation, prosecution, and examination before a court hearing, the victim has the right to obtain information about the progress of the case involving her. By providing information, the public is expected to have a role as a controller of government performance or the smooth running of the legal system to carry out the eradication of trafficking crimes.²⁵

The government shall open the widest possible access to community participation for the purpose of preventing and handling victims of trafficking crimes, both nationally and internationally in accordance with the provisions of applicable international laws and regulations, laws, and customs.

The implementation of legal protection for trafficking victims has been established and regulated in Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of Trafficking in Persons, which is implemented based on the provisions of Law Number 13 of 2006 concerning the Protection of Witnesses and Victims and has been explained in Law Number 21 of 2007 Article 43 that provisions regarding the protection of witnesses and victims in cases of trafficking in persons are implemented based on Law Number 13 of 2006 concerning the Protection of Witnesses and Victims, unless otherwise provided in this law.

The settlement of trafficking victims that occur in Cambodia according to Indonesian law is carried out based on the events and conditions experienced by the victims, the first thing done by the government and/or enforcers based on Indonesian laws and regulations is to rescue victims from where they work and repatriate the victims to Indonesia.

International cooperation is becoming a key element in tackling *scam online crime*. This cooperation may include information exchange, training, and technical assistance between countries. These efforts are embodied in the development of international legal instruments and form the basis for countries to coordinate with each other.

²⁴ *Ibid*.

²⁵ Masrina Yanggolo, *Implementasi Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Korban Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang Di Kamboja*, Jurnal Fakultas Hukum Unsrat Lex Administratum Vol. 12 No.4. Mei 2024, hlm. 5.



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CONCLUSION

The regulation of *human trafficking* in international instruments is basically formulated in the Palermo Protocol of 2000 that trafficking in persons is a form of transnational crime, which is also considered a form of human rights violation, which in its forms includes sexual exploitation, forced labor, domestic slavery, illegal adoption between children, debt bondage, and order brides. In addition, the causes of trafficking in persons are also caused by poverty, population movement, discrimination, lack of education, promiscuity, and excessive lifestyle demands. Legal responsibility for human trafficking perpetrators based on international law as formulated in the 2000 Palermo Convention, the Convention established to address trafficking. The Convention is divided into three parts of the Protocol. In particular, the prohibition of trafficking and the protection of trafficking victims are set forth in Protocol II, the Protocol *to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime."* Transnational organized crime).

While countries can intervene by conducting international cooperation is a key element in tackling *online scam crime*. This cooperation may include information exchange, training, and technical assistance between countries. These efforts are embodied in the development of international legal instruments and form the basis for countries to coordinate with each other.



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