

**Press Release**  
**Indonesian Footwear and Textile Garment Workers Alliance (APBGATI)**  
*The urgency of the Draft Law on the Elimination of Sexual Violence (RUU PKS) for the  
Garment Sector Workers*

Jakarta, September 1, 2021.

Our Indonesian Footwear and Textile Garment Workers Alliance (APBGATI) consists of 6 federations/ confederations of trade unions namely FKSPN, KSBSI92, FSP TSK-SPSI, GARTEKS KSBSI, FSP TSK KSPSI, and RTMM Garteks K-SARBUMUSI, representing 70% of the garment, footwear & textile workers export textile products with a total of about 850,000 members. Most of the workers in this sector are women.

The Indonesian Garment Workers Alliance (APBGATI) **supports** the Bill on the Elimination of Sexual Violence, to be invited immediately into law delivered by APBGATI at a Meeting with the Legislative Body of the House of Representatives on Thursday, August 25, 2021, led by the deputy chairman Legislative Board of the House of Representatives Republic of Indonesia, Willy Aditya from the Nasdem Faction.

Why is the Elimination of Sexual Violence Bill urgent to be passed?

1. The garment sector is a sector where workers or workers are majority women.
2. Victims of sexual violence need protection up to the recovery of the condition, both physically and psychologically. The Elimination of Sexual Violence Bill in general provides more protection for women workers compared to the rules in the Criminal Code.
3. Labor unions have been trying to protect women workers by actively coordinating the Collective Labor Agreement (CLA) which contains articles that protect women workers in the workplace, but negotiations on CLA will be difficult if there is no national legal umbrella in the form of law such as Law on the Elimination of Sexual Violence.
4. The conditions and cases of sexual violence in garment factories that afflict female workers are increasing, they have reached an alarming stage and are in an emergency condition of sexual violence. This can be seen from the many research results that highlight this. This is just an iceberg phenomenon, there are still many unreported cases. It is necessary to protect all parties from prevention, supervision, case handling, and recovery for victims with a gender-sensitive approach

**So we stated:**

- 1) The government and the House of Representatives shall immediately establish The Elimination of Sexual Violence Bill to become law.
- 2) The Bill in general has a similar perspective with the ILO Convention 190, so it is very necessary to ratify ILO C 190 to protect women workers from sexual violence in the workplace more broadly.
- 3) The Bill needs to encourage mechanisms for handling cases of sexual violence at the corporate level by:
  - a. Encouraging companies to make CLAs containing prevention and handling of sexual violence in the workplace.

- b. Encouraging companies to have a mechanism for handling gender-based violence by involving unions in the company that relates/coordinates with the Integrated Service Center for Victims of Sexual Violence as mandated in this bill.
- 4) The House of Representatives and the Government shall conduct discussions of this bill in a participatory and inclusive manner.

This statement is signed by

Chief Presidium APBGATI  
Ary Joko Sulistiyo, SH

## **APPENDIX OF RESEARCH RESULTS ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN GARMENT FACTORIES**

1. A study conducted by Mahardhika Women in 2017 entitled “Sexual Harassment and Ignorance of Maternity Rights in Garment Workers: A Study of Women Garment Workers at KBN Cakung in 2017”. The results of this study show that 437 respondents or 56.5 percent of the 773 female workers who work in 38 garment companies have experienced sexual harassment in a garment factory.
2. Another study conducted by Asia Floor Wage in 2018, a survey conducted by the Asia Floor Wage Alliance showed that a work environment that is prone to sexual violence is one of the factories located in Indonesia. The data mining method was carried out by in-depth interviews with 898 female workers in 142 factories, a series of focused discussions, case studies, and observations were involved. The research was conducted from January to May 2018. The results of the research found that the factory became a place for the emergence of a systemic chain of sexual violence. In addition, the study also found the practice of sexual harassment and physical violence against workers who refused sexual harassment from their superiors in the form of sexual harassment, rape, sexual assault; Sexual acts from management and mechanics, and retaliation for reporting gender violence, Sexual harassment from management and male coworkers, Unwanted physical touch, including inappropriate touching, grabbing, and body contact from male managers and coworkers -Men, Rape outside the factory at the worker residence.
3. Survey on Harassment of Female Workers in the Workplace - Endang Rohani in 2010-2011. Finding: more than 70% of garment workers admit that they have experienced sexual harassment. This figure is higher than the automotive sector (45%) and hospitality (23%). The types of harassment experienced by garment workers included: shouting (60%), stares (23%), reprimands (50%), harsh words (22%), harsh instructions (24%). Most of the perpetrators are supervisors (83%), and co-workers (7%).