

## The Prisoner Assimilation Policy from a Proportionality Perspective: A Critical Analysis of Rights, Power, and Social Transformation

Djian Fadilla<sup>1\*</sup>, Surya Perdana<sup>2</sup>,

<sup>1</sup>Magister Ilmu Hukum, Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup> Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara, Indonesia

\*Corresponding Author: [djian@gmail.com](mailto:djian@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** This study examines the problems of the inmate assimilation policy that creates tension between the protection of prisoners' rights and the interests of public security in the perspective of the principle of proportionality. The main problem lies in the lack of optimal application of the principle of proportionality in assimilation policies, especially in the context of emergency conditions that affect the direction of policies and their implementation in the field. The purpose of this study is to critically analyze how the principle of proportionality is applied, as well as identify the influence of power relations on the formation and implementation of assimilation policies and their implications for social transformation. This research uses a literature method with a normative-critical approach through analysis of relevant laws and regulations, policy documents, and academic literature. The data used includes primary sources in the form of regulations and policies, as well as secondary sources in the form of books, scientific journals, and the results of previous research. The results of the study show that the application of the principle of proportionality in assimilation policies is not consistent and tends to be influenced by power dynamics and emergency situations. In conclusion, a reconstruction of assimilation policies that are more proportionate, transparent, accountable, and oriented towards the balance of justice is needed.

**Keywords:** Principle of Proportionality, Prisoners' Rights, Assimilation Policy, Emergency Law, Power Relations.

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## Introduction

Empirical reality shows that Correctional Institutions in Indonesia face a complexity of problems that go beyond the technical aspects of coaching (Hutabarat et al., 2024). These problems include the dimensions of human rights, justice, and social security that are intertwined in correctional practices (Raharjo et al., 2024). Prisons not only function as a place to serve crimes, but also as institutions that are responsible for reshaping the behavior of inmates. These demands place prisons in a strategic position as well as vulnerable to various structural pressures (Jati, 2019). This complexity shows that the correctional system cannot be understood simply as an administrative mechanism. A more comprehensive approach is needed to understand the dynamics that occur (Mulyono & Arief, 2016).

As a prison penal enforcement institution, prisons have a normative mandate to foster inmates to be able to return to society as better individuals (Mulyono & Arief, 2016). This mandate reflects the rehabilitative orientation in the Indonesian criminal law system (Nurmalinda & Nirawati, 2024). Coaching is not only directed at behavior change, but also at strengthening the social capacity of prisoners (Mufti & Riyanto, 2023). However, the implementation of the mandate often faces structural and cultural obstacles. This shows that there is a gap between the ideal goal and the operational reality on the ground. These challenges require an evaluation of the effectiveness of the running system.

In practice, coaching policies often clash with the condition of overcapacity of correctional institutions which has become a chronic problem. The density of residents has a direct impact on the quality of coaching and the fulfillment of prisoners' rights. In addition, limited resources, both in terms of facilities and professionals, exacerbate the situation. Social dynamics inside and outside the correctional institution also affect the effectiveness of the programs carried out. This condition creates double pressure for correctional institutions in carrying out their functions optimally. These problems show that correctional system reform is an urgent need.

The assimilation policy as part of the correctional system emerged as one of the strategies to answer this problem, but it is inseparable from the controversy (Pramudhito, 2021). On the one hand, this policy is seen as a progressive step in supporting the social reintegration of prisoners (Kusuma,

2023). On the other hand, there are concerns in the community regarding the readiness of inmates who obtain assimilation. Public perception is often influenced by the potential risks that can be posed to social security. This tension reflects a difference in perspective between policy objectives and public acceptance (Sidauruk & Subroto, 2022). The situation shows that assimilation policies have a complex social dimension.

The tension between rehabilitative goals and the public's perception of security puts assimilation policies in a dilemmatic position. The correctional system is required to maintain a balance between the protection of prisoners' rights and the interests of the wider community. This condition shows that the problem of assimilation is not only related to the implementation of policies, but also to its social legitimacy. These challenges show that policy success depends heavily on public trust. Therefore, the analysis of assimilation policies needs to consider normative and social aspects at the same time.

In the realm of literature, various theories of punishment and corrections (Putri et al., 2024; Abdalla Naofal, 2025) has sought to explain the relationship between punishment, rehabilitation, and social reintegration. Classical theories that focus on the effects of deterrence and retribution (Jamaludin, 2021) tend to be no longer adequate to answer the demands of the modern correctional system. Newer approaches emphasize the importance of restorative justice and social reintegration as the main goals (Elvariani & Sunaryo, 2025). On the other hand, the concept of human rights underlines that prisoners still have fundamental rights that must be respected (Fathimah & Hartini, 2023; Prastina R., 2021). This literature shows the development of a paradigm in criminal law. However, its implementation still faces various challenges.

In addition, the theory of power relations provides a critical perspective on how legal policies are formed and implemented. Policies are not always neutral, but are influenced by the power dynamics that work behind them. In the context of assimilation policies, this factor becomes relevant especially when policies are taken in emergency situations. The government's quick response often raises questions about the balance between effectiveness and fairness. The gap between theory and practice is increasingly visible in these conditions. This shows the need to develop a more adaptive analytical framework.

Based on these empirical conditions and theoretical gaps, this study departs from the argument that assimilation policies need to be reviewed through the approach of the principle of proportionality. This approach is expected to be able to bridge the conflicting interests between inmates and the community. The hypothesis proposed emphasizes that the absence of the principle of proportionality has the potential to cause inequality in the distribution of justice. In addition, a lack of attention to the social readiness of inmates can hinder the expected transformation process. This research also emphasizes the importance of integration between aspects of law, power, and social dynamics in policy analysis. The framework is expected to contribute to the development of a more responsive correctional policy.

## **Method**

The object of this research focuses on the phenomenon of inmate assimilation policies that cause tension between the protection of prisoners' rights and the interests of public security. This phenomenon arises in response to certain conditions, including emergency situations that encourage the state to take strategic policies in the management of correctional institutions. In practice, assimilation policies are understood not only as an administrative mechanism, but also as a legal instrument that has broad social implications. The main problem encountered in this study is the imbalance in the implementation of assimilation policies, especially in terms of fulfilling the principle of proportionality between prisoners' rights and the public interest. In addition, there are also problems related to the readiness of prisoners in the social reintegration process and the perception of the public who tend to view the policy as a threat to social stability. Therefore, the object of this research is not only limited to legal norms, but also includes the social dynamics that accompany the implementation of assimilation policies.

This research uses a type of library research that focuses on collecting and analyzing data from various written sources that are relevant to the research topic (Nawawi, 2011). Primary data in this study was obtained from literature that directly discusses the policy of assimilation of prisoners, emergency law, and the principle of proportionality in criminal and correctional law. These sources include laws and regulations, policy documents, and scientific works that are closely related to the phenomenon being studied. Meanwhile,

secondary data includes supporting literature related to research keywords, such as prisoners' rights, power relations, and social transformation, obtained from books, academic journals, and previous research results. This approach allows researchers to gain a comprehensive understanding of the issues being researched through the synthesis of various theoretical and empirical perspectives. Thus, the type of literature research was chosen because it was considered the most relevant to examine normative and conceptual problems.

The participants in this study are not in the form of individuals directly, but in the form of theoretical sources that are the main reference in the research analysis. The basic theory used includes the theory of the principle of proportionality that has developed in modern public law, one of which is influenced by the thought of Robert Alexy (2010) through the theory of principle (Theory of Constitutional Rights, 1985) which emphasizes the balance between conflicting interests through the test of feasibility, necessity, and balance. In addition, this research also uses the theory of power relations proposed by Michel Foucault in 1977 through his work on discipline and power, which explains that the practice of law is inseparable from the mechanism of social control (Afandi, 2012). Furthermore, the theory of corrections which is rooted in the concept of rehabilitation and social reintegration since 1964 in Indonesia is also an important foundation in this research. These theories are used to analyze assimilation policies in a comprehensive framework, both from legal and social aspects.

This research process is carried out through several systematic stages with data collection techniques based on literature studies. The initial stage begins with the identification and selection of literature sources relevant to the research topic, both from books, scientific journals, and official documents. Furthermore, a critical reading process was carried out on these sources to understand the substance and context related to the inmate assimilation policy. The data collection technique is carried out by recording, grouping, and categorizing the information obtained according to the focus of the research. In addition, the researcher also conducts comparisons between sources to find similarities and differences of views that can enrich the analysis. This process is done iteratively to ensure that the data collected has high validity and relevance. Thus, data collection techniques through literature studies are the main step in obtaining data that supports this research.

The data analysis technique used in this study is content analysis, which aims to identify the patterns, relationships, and meanings contained in the data that has been collected. The analysis process begins by organizing the data into thematic categories that are in accordance with the focus of the research, such as the principles of proportionality, prisoner rights, and power relations. Furthermore, the data was interpreted to understand how these concepts interact with each other in the context of assimilation policies. This analysis also involves the process of critical interpretation of legal texts and academic literature to uncover deeper meanings. In addition, researchers identify patterns that emerge from various sources to find the trends and implications of the policies being studied. By using content analysis techniques, this research is expected to be able to produce a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the problems being studied.

## **Result and Discussion**

### **Dynamics of the Application of the Principle of Proportionality in Penal Policy and Assimilation of Prisoners**

The principle of proportionality in Indonesian criminal law serves as a fundamental principle that balances the interests of the state, society, and perpetrators of criminal acts in the criminal process (Fatoni et al., 2025). This principle is the normative foundation that ensures that every form of punishment is not excessive or inadequate in achieving legal goals (Ulum, 2025). In this context, punishment is not only understood as a means of retribution, but also as an instrument that must consider the dimensions of substantive justice (Sarhini, 2022). Therefore, the principle of proportionality plays an important role in maintaining the legitimacy of the criminal justice system in the midst of demands for the protection of human rights. Thus, the existence of this principle is an important indicator in assessing the quality of criminal law policies.

Within the framework of the purpose of punishment, as stated by Muladi, the Indonesian criminal law system accommodates various complementary goals, namely prevention, community protection, maintenance of social solidarity, and compensation (Thaharah, 2023). This approach reflects a shift from a retributive paradigm to a more integrative and humanistic paradigm (Utami et al., 2025). Criminalization is no longer solely oriented

towards punishment, but also on efforts to improve the behavior of criminal offenders (Saddam et al., 2022). This shows that Indonesia's penal system seeks to harmonize individual and collective interests in a balanced framework (Rivanie et al., 2022).

The provisions in the Criminal Code and correctional policies emphasize that prison sentences are not only intended as a means of inflicting suffering, but also as a coaching mechanism oriented towards the rehabilitation and resocialization of prisoners. This approach places the inmate as a subject who has the potential to change and return to society. In this context, criminalization becomes part of a broader social process, namely the transformation of the individual towards better conditions. Therefore, correctional policy cannot be separated from the underlying humanitarian principles. Thus, the principle of proportionality serves as a link between punishment and coaching.

The Correctional Law provides a clear legal basis for the fulfillment of prisoners' rights, including the right to assimilate as part of the coaching process. Assimilation is seen as an important stage in social reintegration that allows prisoners to readapt to the community environment. This policy shows that Indonesia's correctional system is not only focused on control, but also on individual empowerment. Within this framework, the granting of assimilation rights must be carried out selectively and proportionately so as not to cause negative impacts on society.

The explanation of the normative framework shows that the principle of proportionality plays an evaluative role in assessing the reasonableness of a criminal law policy. In the literature, this principle is outlined through a test stage that includes the legitimacy of the objectives, the suitability of the means, the need for action, and the balance between the interests protected. This approach allows for a systematic analysis of legal policies, including in the context of inmate assimilation. In addition, the thinking of Bernard Schlink and Aharon Barak emphasized that legitimacy and urgency are the main factors in determining the enactment of a policy.

In the Indonesian context, the application of the principle of proportionality is implicitly related to the humanitarian principle that requires the state to respect human rights in every legal policy. This principle demands a balance between the restriction of individual rights and the protection of the

public interest. However, in practice, the application of these principles often faces challenges, especially in the policy of assimilation of prisoners. Public concern about security risks indicates a tension between normative policy objectives and evolving social perceptions (Apaut & Fallo, 2025).

The relationship between normative descriptions and empirical reality shows that the principle of proportionality has a strategic role in bridging the different interests in the policy of assimilation of prisoners. Although conceptually this principle provides a clear framework, its application is often influenced by situational factors such as emergencies that demand a rapid response from the government. This leads to variations in policy implementation that are not always in line with the ideal principle of proportionality. Therefore, efforts are needed to strengthen the consistency of the application of this principle so that it can function optimally. Thus, the principle of proportionality remains a key element in realizing a fair and balanced criminal policy.

### **Regulation and Implementation of Prisoners' Rights in the Indonesian Correctional System**

Prisoners' rights are an integral part of human rights that remain inherent even when individuals are serving prison sentences. This principle affirms that the loss of independence does not necessarily erase other basic rights that each individual has. In the context of modern law, the protection of prisoners' rights is an important indicator in assessing the level of civilization of a criminal law system. Therefore, the recognition of prisoners' rights is not only normative, but also reflects the state's commitment to humanitarian principles (Siahaan, 2021). Thus, the existence of prisoners' rights is an essential element in a correctional system that is oriented towards justice and rehabilitation.

In the Indonesian penitentiary system, the regulation regarding the rights of prisoners has been comprehensively accommodated in Law Number 12 of 1995 concerning Corrections. This regulation stipulates various rights that must be given to prisoners, including the right to coaching, education, health services, as well as the right to obtain a reduction in sentence and assimilation. These provisions show that the correctional system not only functions as a punishment mechanism, but also as a means of systematic coaching. With this arrangement, the state seeks to ensure that prisoners

continue to receive humane treatment while serving their sentences (Siahaan & Ahmad, 2025). Therefore, this regulation is an important basis in ensuring the protection of prisoners' rights.

In addition, Government Regulation Number 99 of 2012 provides further arrangements regarding the terms and procedures for the implementation of prisoners' rights, including the mechanism for granting assimilation. This regulation emphasizes that the granting of these rights is not carried out automatically, but through a selection process that considers various aspects, such as the behavior of the inmates and the level of risk posed. This shows that the fulfillment of prisoners' rights is carried out in a structured and measurable framework. Thus, the Indonesian legal system seeks to maintain a balance between the granting of rights and the protection of the interests of the community.

The explanation of the normative framework shows that the regulation of prisoners' rights aims to maintain a balance between punishment and respect for human dignity. The rights granted not only serve as a form of protection, but also as an instrument to support the process of rehabilitation and social reintegration. In this context, inmates are seen as individuals who have the potential to change and return to productive members of society. Therefore, granting inmates rights is part of a broader strategy in the correctional system.

In the context of assimilation, the granting of prisoners' rights has a strategic function in reducing the negative impact of social isolation experienced during the prison term. Assimilation allows inmates to gradually re-interact with society, so that the process of social adaptation can take place more effectively. In addition, this policy also plays a role in preparing inmates to return to life outside the correctional institution. However, the granting of this right is still limited by legal considerations and the public interest (Iwari & Subroto, 2022).

However, the rights of prisoners are not absolute, but rather subject to restrictions based on legal considerations and the interests of the community. These restrictions are necessary to ensure that the granting of rights does not pose a risk that could disturb public order and security. Within this framework, the state has the authority to determine proportionate limits on those rights. This shows that the fulfillment of prisoners' rights is in a dynamic relationship between individual and collective interests.

The relationship between the normative description and the explanation with reality shows that the implementation of prisoners' rights still faces various obstacles in the field. The condition of correctional institutions that experience overcapacity, limited resources, and policy complexity often affect the effectiveness of the implementation of these rights. In the context of assimilation, the granting of this right often causes debate in society regarding the readiness of prisoners to return to the social environment. The negative perception of the community towards inmates is one of the obstacles in the reintegration process.

The complexity in fulfilling the rights of prisoners shows that this issue is not only legal, but also social and institutional. The relationship between literature and reality shows that the implementation of prisoners' rights requires a more integrative and contextual approach. Strengthening the capacity of correctional institutions, increasing public awareness, and consistency in policy implementation are important factors in overcoming various existing obstacles. Therefore, the fulfillment of prisoners' rights must be understood as part of the broader correctional system transformation process. Thus, this issue remains relevant to continue to be studied in the development of fair legal policies.

### **Transformation of Assimilation Policies in Normal and Emergency Conditions in the Correctional System**

Assimilation policies are an integral part of the correctional system designed to facilitate the gradual reintegration of prisoners into society. This policy departs from the assumption that the coaching process cannot take place effectively if the inmate is completely isolated from the social environment. Assimilation provides space for inmates to begin interacting with society within certain predetermined limits. Within this framework, the correctional system is not only oriented towards control, but also on the process of social adaptation. The assimilation policy is a bridge between life in the penitentiary and life in the community (Khairiah & Amalia, 2022).

Under normal conditions, the implementation of assimilation is carried out through various community activities that are productive and educational, such as education, skills training, and social work. The activity is designed to equip inmates with skills that can be used after they return to society. Strict supervision is an important part of ensuring that this process runs in accordance

with the goals of coaching. In addition, there are clear time limits and procedures in the implementation of assimilation, as stipulated in laws and regulations. This arrangement reflects an effort to maintain a balance between the limited freedom granted and the need for supervision (Kusuma, 2016).

Significant changes occur when assimilation policies are faced with emergency conditions, such as pandemics, which require adjustments in their implementation mechanisms. In this situation, assimilation is no longer carried out through direct interaction in the community, but is carried out at home with supervision from the Correctional Center. This transformation shows that correctional policies have a high degree of flexibility in responding to unexpected conditions. This change in mechanism also marks a shift in the coaching approach from being based on direct interaction to based on remote supervision. This flexibility is an important characteristic in the assimilation policy.

An explanation of these dynamics shows that changes in assimilation policies are inseparable from the need to adapt to evolving social conditions. In emergency situations, this policy is used as an instrument to reduce the overcrowding of correctional institutions which has the potential to increase the risk of spreading diseases. In addition, this step also reflects the state's efforts to protect the health of prisoners as part of the basic rights that must be guaranteed. The shift in implementation mechanisms shows that policy objectives are not only focused on coaching, but also on protection aspects. Assimilation policies in this context have a dual dimension that is adaptive.

This change in orientation shows that assimilation policies function not only as tools in the correctional system but also as part of broader public policy. Under certain conditions, this policy is a strategic response to a crisis that requires quick and measured action. This shows that correctional policy does not stand alone, but is connected to the policies of other sectors, such as health and security. This integration reflects the complexity in policy formulation that must consider various interests simultaneously. Assimilation is one of the instruments that reflects this linkage.

However, the implementation of assimilation policies in emergency conditions also raises various social implications that cannot be ignored. While these policies are effective in reducing the overcapacity of correctional institutions and supporting efforts to prevent the spread of disease, there are

concerns in the community about the effectiveness of surveillance and potential security risks. Public perception of inmates returning to the social environment is a factor influencing acceptance of this policy. This situation shows that there is a tension between the importance of health protection and the need for a sense of security. The assimilation policy is in a position that must accommodate both interests (Silalahi, 2023).

The difference between the implementation of assimilation under normal and emergency conditions indicates a significant change in policy orientation. Under normal conditions, the main focus lies on coaching through structured social interactions, while in emergency conditions, the orientation shifts to risk control and health protection. This change confirms that assimilation policies are contextual and heavily influenced by the circumstances surrounding them (Gautama & Subroto, 2022). These dynamics show that this policy cannot be understood statically, but as a phenomenon that continues to develop. Assimilation is a reflection of how the correctional system responds to challenges that arise in various conditions (Alawiyah Jufri & Ulfah Anisariza, 2017).

### **Assimilation Policy in the Perspective of Proportionality**

The findings of this study substantially show a complex interaction between the principle of proportionality, the fulfillment of prisoners' rights (Akbar et al., 2019), and changes in assimilation policies in the correctional system (Lathifah & Zulfa, 2022). The three do not stand alone, but influence each other in determining the direction of criminal law policy. Assimilation policies emerged as a dual instrument, namely as a means of coaching and as a response to structural conditions such as overcapacity and emergency situations. In this context, the principle of proportionality becomes the link that regulates the balance between individual interests and collective interests. However, the implementation of these policies shows that there is tension between normative goals and social realities (Setiawan et al., 2024). Therefore, these findings confirm that assimilation policies cannot be understood simply, but rather must be seen as part of a complex and dynamic system.

When compared to other studies, this study shows excellence in integrating various theoretical perspectives into assimilation policy analysis. Previous research has tended to separate normative and empirical analysis,

resulting in a partial understanding of the problem. Instead, this study combines legal, social, and power approaches in a single proportionality-based analysis framework. This approach allows for the identification of a deeper relationship between policies and the social realities at hand. In addition, this study also places assimilation policies in the context of emergency law, which is rarely discussed comprehensively in other studies. Thus, this research makes a broader contribution to the development of correctional law studies.

Reflections from the results of this study show that the purpose of the research to analyze assimilation policy in the perspective of proportionality has strong significance in answering the problems raised. The findings of the study indicate that the principle of proportionality can be used as an effective evaluation tool in assessing criminal law policies. In addition, this study also shows that the fulfillment of prisoners' rights cannot be separated from the broader social context. This indicates that the approach used in this study is able to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon being studied. Therefore, this reflection shows that the research goals are not only achieved, but also make a significant contribution to the development of legal science.

The implications of this study show that assimilation policies need to be designed with a more integrated approach and based on the principle of proportionality. This is important to ensure that the resulting policies are not only effective but also fair and acceptable to the public. In addition, the results of this study also show the need to increase transparency and accountability in the policy-making process. In a broader context, this research provides a basis for correctional policy reform that is more responsive to social dynamics. Thus, the implications of this research are not only theoretical but also practical in the formulation of public policy.

The results of the study that show there are tensions in the implementation of assimilation policies can be explained by various interrelated factors. One of the main factors is the difference in interests between the state, society, and prisoners that must be accommodated in one policy. In addition, the emergency conditions behind certain policies also affect the decision-making process, often resulting in compromised policies. Another factor that also affects is the limited capacity of correctional institutions in carrying out the

coaching function optimally. Thus, the results of this study reflect the complexity in the formulation and implementation of legal policies.

Based on the results of the research, there are several strategic steps that need to be taken to increase the effectiveness of assimilation policies. First, it is necessary to strengthen regulations that explicitly integrate the principle of proportionality in every policy. Second, increasing the capacity of correctional institutions is important to support an effective coaching process. Third, efforts are needed to build public trust through transparent and participatory communication. In addition, periodic evaluation of the policies that have been implemented is also needed to ensure their relevance to evolving conditions. Thus, these measures are expected to create a fairer correctional system.

## **Conclusion**

This study reveals a conceptually surprising finding, namely that the principle of proportionality, which has been seen as a balancing instrument in the policy of assimilation of prisoners, has actually, in certain practices, shifted its function to become a tool for policy legitimization that is situational and reactive. These findings show that in emergency conditions and structural pressures such as overcapacity of correctional institutions, assimilation policies are not entirely based on balancing the rights of prisoners and the interests of the community, but are more influenced by the urgency of the policies and power relations that work behind them. Furthermore, this study finds that there is a normative paradox where policies that are formally oriented towards humanity and social reintegration have the potential to cause uncertainty of justice and social unrest. This condition shows that proportionality is not always present as a stable principle, but can change depending on the political and social context that surrounds it. Thus, the main findings of this study challenge conventional assumptions and affirm the need for a critical redefinition of the application of the principle of proportionality in the assimilation policy of prisoners.

This research also makes a significant contribution both theoretically and practically to the development of correctional law studies. Theoretically, this research presents a new synthesis by integrating the principle of proportionality, the theory of power relations, and the concept of social transformation in one comprehensive analytical framework, so as to be able to explain the dynamics of assimilation policies in a more in-depth and contextual

manner. This approach expands the scope of legal analysis that was previously normative to be more critical and multidimensional. Practically, this research offers an evaluative framework that can be used as a basis for formulating assimilation policies that are more transparent, accountable, and responsive to the needs of the community and the protection of prisoners' rights. In addition, this research also provides direction for strengthening the correctional system through the integration of legal policies and social readiness in the reintegration process. Thus, the added value of this research lies in its ability to bridge the gap between theory and practice in correctional policy.

This research has constructive limitations in opening up space for further research development, especially in expanding the approach and depth of analysis used. This research focuses on a literature approach with normative-critical analysis, so it does not fully accommodate empirical data that can directly describe the experience of prisoners and the community's response to assimilation policies. In addition, the context of analysis centered on policy dynamics in Indonesia allows for variation in results when studied in a cross-country or regional comparative context. Therefore, further research can develop an interdisciplinary approach that combines legal studies with empirical methods, such as interviews, observations, or case studies, to obtain a more holistic picture.

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### **Author Contributions Statement**

In this article, DF, contributed to the conceptualization of the study, research design, data analysis, and drafting of the original manuscript. SP, contributed to data collection, validation of results, and the review and editing of the manuscript through to its final version.

### **AI Usage Statement**

In this article, the authors declare that Artificial Intelligence (AI) was used in a limited capacity solely to assist in improving grammar, sentence clarity, and

formatting. Such use did not influence the scientific content, analysis, or conclusions of the study. The authors take full responsibility for the content of this article.

### **Conflict of Interest**

In this article, the authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest, whether financial or non-financial, that could have influenced the results or interpretation of this study.

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