

## COLUMN

### Efforts of Local Governments

The Basic Act, established in 2004, seeks to promote comprehensively extensive measures concerning crime victims, such as providing consultation and information, health care, providing welfare services, employment and housing stability and promoting understanding of the local people etc., corresponding to local circumstances, in the prefectural areas as well as the municipality.

Here, we introduce the outline of ‘Study on measures for crime victims in local government’ conducted in fiscal 2007 and some special efforts of the local government.

#### 1. ‘Study on Measures for Crime Victims in Local Government’

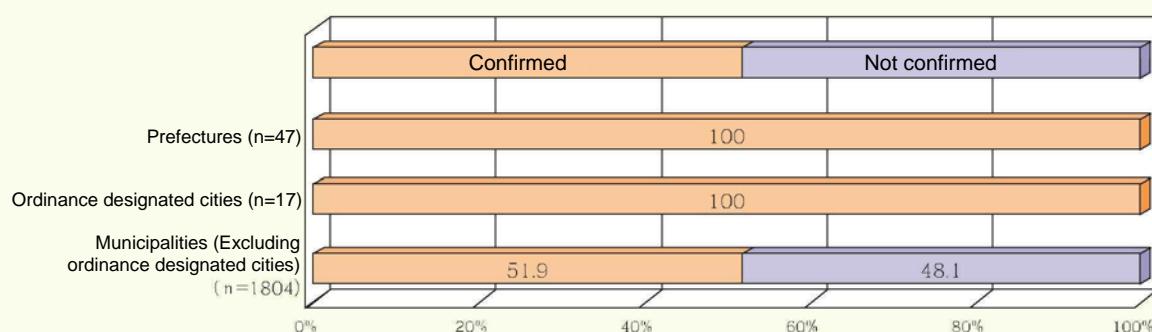
In year 2007, the Cabinet Office conducted a ‘Study on measures for crime victims in local government’ (\*1), targeting at all local governments (47 prefectures and 1,823 municipalities on November 8, 2007) in order to comprehend the current status and advanced programs, problems etc. related to comprehensive promotion of measures for crime victims in local governments (<http://www8.cao.go.jp/hanzai/report/h19-2/index.html>). The Cabinet Office has, until now, tried to share information with the prefectures and ordinance-designated cities through the Meeting of Principle Division Directors but this study is the first national study targeting municipalities also apart from the above.

(\*1) The investigation documentation was distributed and recovered in 2007 from November to December and based on the result, in 2008 from January to February, 13 groups were interviewed for investigation.

##### (1) Status of determining the departments in charge of measures for the crime victims

The departments in charge of measures for the crime victims are fixed in all prefectures and ordinance-designated cities. However, apart from these, the number has stopped at 51.9% in the municipalities and most of them have still not fixed the prospective period of determination.

Status of determining the departments in charge of measures for the crime victims and the likes

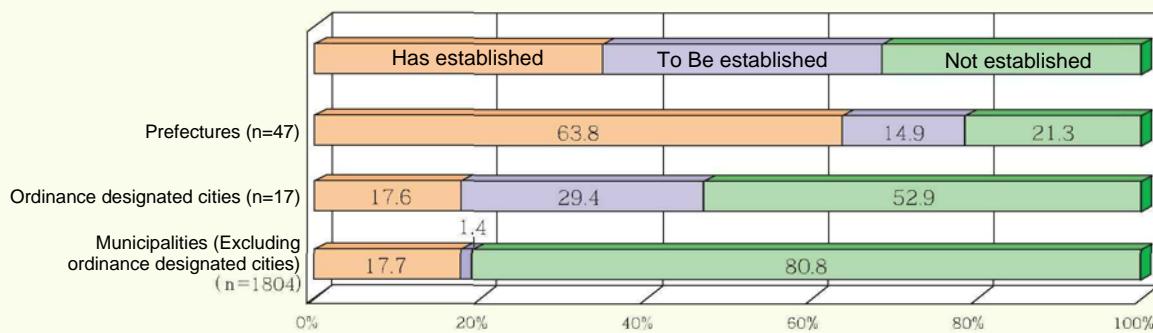


##### (2) Status of establishing counseling office (comprehensive response desk) to respond to inquiries from the crime victims

The organizations, which have established or plan to establish comprehensive response desk are 78.7% in prefectures, 47% in ordinance-designated cities and 19.1% in other municipalities (Out of these, the prefectures and ordinance-designated cities have 60% dedicated counseling offices. In the other municipalities, most of them are offices, which give various other counseling also. Regarding the establishment status of comprehensive response desks in prefectures and ordinance-designated cities

in July 2008, please refer to '7. List of national government and local government counseling offices in charge of measures for crime victims' in Basic Data related to measures for crime victims)

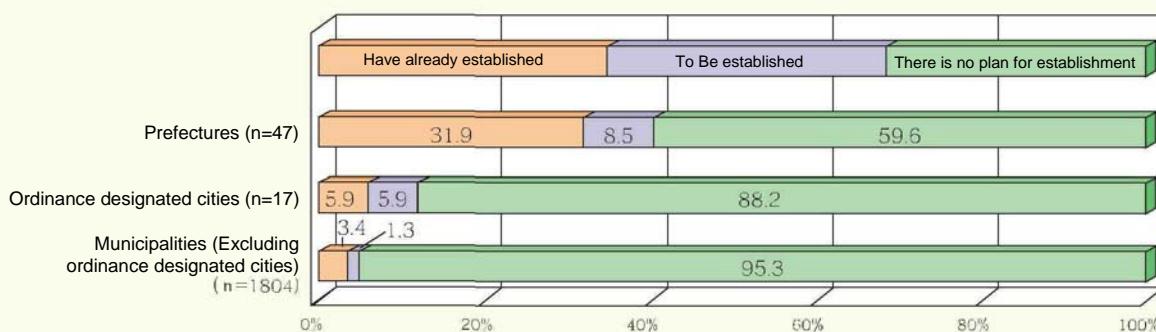
Status of establishing counseling office to respond to inquiries from the crime victims



### (3) Ordinance formulation

The organizations, which have formulated (or planned) the ordinance, containing regulations pertaining to measures for crime victims, were 40.4% in the prefectures, 11.8% in ordinance-designated cities and 4.7% in other municipalities.

Status of Formulation of ordinance including regulations for measure of crime victims



From the result of this study, it was understood that efforts are being made continuously in prefectures and ordinance-designated cities. However, in other municipalities the understanding and awareness about overall measures is low and there is sluggishness in efforts.

Henceforth, if the measures for crime victims have to bear fruit, the municipalities closest to the crime victims must use various present systems in the fields such as health care, welfare, education and housing etc. and at the same time, as the local government, it is necessary for them to study by themselves about what is possible and what should be implemented for the support of the victims. For this, at first, it is necessary to fix counseling offices in the municipalities, which would take the charge of measures and with these offices at the center, efforts should be started for deepening the understanding towards the Basic Act, Basic Pans of the State and crime victims.

For such efforts of the municipalities, the prefectures, which are large self-governing bodies, should provide information through trainings and communication meetings etc. and promote assistance positively. At the same time, it is important that they go on improving their measures successively in future also and make progress in their efforts.

## 2. Distinctive Efforts of Local Governments

About three years after the establishment of the Basic Act, some organizations amongst the local governments are seen making distinctive efforts in response to the circumstances in the region. Here we introduce some examples.

<Kyoto prefecture Efforts>

Establishment of Kyoto prefecture Crime Victim Support Team and Coordinator for Crime Victims Support

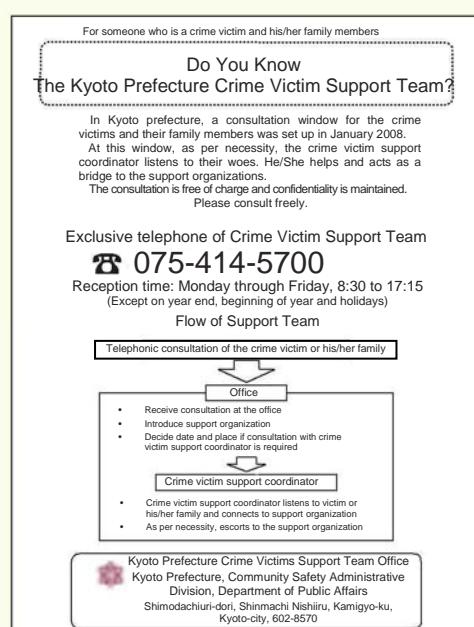
In Kyoto prefecture, in order to support crime victims comprehensively, the operation of a first network system in Japan was started on January 30, 2008 in coordination with the relevant administrative organizations, private institutions and entities and a coordinator for crime victims support, who would play the central role, was appointed.

The Crime Victims Support Team gives support with the cooperation from not only the relevant administrative organizations in prefectures and municipalities under jurisdiction, but also from private organizations, such as, bar association, doctors association, judicial scriveners association, clinical psychologists association, social welfare association and crime victim support centers. The office is located at Community Safety Administrative Division, Department of Public Affairs and dedicated telephone lines are provided.

The crime victim support coordinator bears the task of playing central role of the support team, such as judging about the crime victims, who require the support extended by the organizations and determining the necessary assistance in accordance with the situation by helping bridge the support agencies. The coordinator is attached to the office of support team as a part-time employee and he himself/herself also is a surviving member of the family of a crime victim, having lost his/her son in an injurious accident. He/She, along with one certified social worker and two clinical psychologists takes charge of the support to the crime victims. (<http://www.pref.kyoto.jp/anshin/1202255070243.html>).



(Source: Kyoto Prefecture)



<Fukuoka Prefecture, Fukuoka City, Kitakyushu City Efforts>

#### Establishment of a Fukuoka Crime Victim Comprehensive Support Center

In Fukuoka prefecture, on May 7, 2008, three organizations in the prefecture, Fukuoka city and Kitakyushu City formed a joint working group and established the 'Fukuoka Crime Victim Comprehensive Support Center', with the NPO 'Fukuoka Victim Support Center', which is a private crime victim support entity, as the main operating body. (<http://www.pref.fukuoka.lg.jp/a02/higaisha-support.html>).

Due to this effort, a comprehensive response desk was established in Fukuoka prefecture, Fukuoka city and Kitakyushu city. Along with it, the system of support to crime victims in the Fukuoka Victim Support Center was made more exhaustive through increase in the contact and consultation days and extension of the consultation time.

The 'Fukuoka Crime Victim Comprehensive Support Center', which has collaboration with administration and private victim support entity, corresponds comprehensively with the so called One Stop Service to the crime victims, by arranging for the required support, such as,

- response to telephone counseling from a counselor for Crime Victims
- if necessary, conducting interviews with the actual person and family
- support corresponding to consultation
  - If mental care is needed, talks or counseling are conducted by clinical psychologists and physicians
  - If escort to hospital, court etc. is desired, support for attendance is given
  - If support by administration, such as public assistance, moving into public housing etc. is required, the concerned organization is introduced and the necessary support is arranged
  - If any special help is required, the exclusive organizations, such as bar association, hospitals or DV consultation window etc. are introduced.

Telephone Consultation	Telephone consultation	092-477-3156
	Consultation hour	Monday to Friday 10:00-16:00 Saturday 13:00-16:00
Counseling and interview	Fukuoka area	Venue Fukuoka Victim Support Center (Hakata Ward) Opening hours Monday to Friday 10:00 to 16:00
	Kitakyushu area	Venue Kitakyushu City Hall office first floor house traffic accident consultation. Opening hours by appointment
Consulting System	Consultant, such as Clinical psychologists, attorneys, doctors, OB of police, etc. correspond	

<Settsu City Efforts>

#### Enforcement of 'Settsu City Crime Victims Support Ordinance' and 'Ordinance concerning the Payment of Condolence for Crime Victims in Settsu City'

The Basic Act does not perform the duty of enacting the ordinances on measures for crime victims or forming the plans in the local governments.

However, it is considered to be an effective method for promoting the measures, such as, being able to comprehend unitarily the measures or work that the crime victims can use and showing it to the citizens, making it easier to go ahead with the efforts important from the viewpoint of the crime victims.

In the national survey described above, if we see the enactment status of the ordinance, we find that in the prefectures and ordinance-designated cities, there are several organizations, which have

established the ordinance that includes regulation on measures for crime victims. However, most of them have the measures for crime victims incorporated in the ordinance for Promotion of Safety and Security Ordinances.

On the other hand, amongst the other municipalities, many organizations were seen in Akita prefecture and Shiga prefecture, having the enactment of ordinance especially for economic support, such as payment of condolence etc. to the crime victims and ordinance with regulations for basic measures etc. for crime victims. In other regions also, several organizations having the enactment of ordinance especially for the crime victims were seen. However, in the municipalities, in spite of including the organizations that have the measures for crime victims incorporated in the ordinance for Promotion of Safety and Security Ordinance, overall there are very few organizations enacting the ordinance.

In such a situation, the ‘Settsu City Crime Victim Support Ordinance’ and ‘Ordinance concerning the payment of condolence for crime victims in Settsu city’ were enforced in Settsu city in Osaka Prefecture, on July 1, 2008.

The ‘Settsu City Crime Victim Support Ordinance’ incorporates five support measures, such as, 1) consultation and information provision (establishment of a comprehensive response desk), 2) payment of condolence, 3) daily life support (sending home helper if nursing, housekeeping or child care is required), 4) assistance for rent and security deposit etc. and 5) employment support. It was the first time in Western Japan that an ordinance, which stipulated concrete measures for crime victims, apart from the payment of condolence was enforced.

In Settsu city, already in the same year in May, a Settsu City Crime Victims Support Communication Meeting was set up, formed by all concerned sections in the agencies, but a comprehensive response desk was also set up along with enforcement of ordinance for support. They are taking further efforts for promotion of measures so that a life of peace can be restored as quickly as possible for the crime victims.



(Source: Settsu City)