

Section 3 Efforts towards expansion of participation in criminal procedures

1. Development of a system to expand opportunities to participate in criminal procedures, etc.

(Basic Act, Article 18)

- Improvement of information provision regarding criminal procedures, etc.

Along with implementation of new systems to protect and support victims such as system to improve the participation of victims by providing information to them on criminal procedures and a juvenile judge hearing system the content of a brochure was improved again and “For Victims of Crime” drawn up targeting crime victims.

For Victims of Crime



Resource: the Ministry of Justice

- Establishment of victim participation system
A system was established that enables crime victims authorized to participate by a court to attend to trial days as a general rule and allow them to examine witnesses, and under a certain requirement, question the accused and state their opinions (December 2008).
- Establishment of a system of appointing court-appointed attorneys at law for victim participants
In order to enable victim participants authorized to participate in courts to receive help from attorneys, even if they do not have the necessary funds, a national system of appointing court-appointed attorneys at law for them was established (December 2008).
- Establishment of juvenile judge hearing system
Through the “Act for Partial Revision of the Juvenile Act” a system was established that

enables juvenile judge hearings by crime victims etc of affairs of a certain importance and the range of reference and copying of records by crime victims enlarged (December 2008).

Section 4 Efforts towards system improvement for support

1. Consultation and Provision of Information (Basic Act, Article 11)

- Establishment of comprehensive response desks at local governments

In the administrative divisions (prefectures) and cities designated by government ordinance, the request to set up facilities for a comprehensive response in case there was an enquiry or consultation from the crime victim was addressed through the opening of a meeting of principle division directors. As of April 2009, such comprehensive response desks had been set up in 41 prefectures and 9 cities designated by government ordinance.

Comprehensive response desk for crime victims



- Supply of global information through the creation of a list of counseling organizations
On the Cabinet Office Crime Victims Policies website, ‘Counseling Institutions’ page is displayed and the outline of important support systems and information about the counseling windows for crime victims is provided. More organizations and groups were then inserted in April 2009.
- Improving the content of “Brochure for Crime Victims”
The model proposition for “Brochure for Crime Victims” was revised in November 2008. The prefectural police supplies crime victims with the appropriate information on the status of investigations, arrests of suspects, and summaries of criminal procedures etc.

Guidance for victims



Resource: the National Police Agency

○ Support from the Japan Legal Support Center

A support dial for crime victims (0570-079714) of the Japan Legal Support Center (known as “Houterasu”) and its regional offices all over the country provide crime victims with various information such as attorneys who are well-versed in assisting crime victims as the most appropriate specialized organizations to help them as necessary. Furthermore, they provide information actively through creation of leaflets and posting information from the relevant institutions on websites.

Moreover, in response to the start of the crime victim participation system and the court-appointed attorney for crime victim participants system, the Japan Legal Support Center started the new business such as ensuring candidate attorneys for participants, designating and notifying the court of candidates of court-appointed attorney (from December 2008).

Resource: the Ministry of Justice

○ Establishment of portal site dedicated to crime victim groups

The ‘Reference of crime victims organizations’ which was set up on the Cabinet Office website introduces crime victims organizations and support organizations for crime victims including self help groups and gives the activity contents of the organizations, and its contact points.

○ Approaches in reinforcing cooperation

Based on the final synthesis of an “Investigative Commission for Cooperative Support” the Cabinet Office drew up a “Model proposition handbook on support crime victims” and a “model training curriculum”.

2. Promotion of research studies, etc.

(Basic Act, Article 21)

○ Research into the condition of the mental health of crime victims and their recovery

The three year research of ‘Research regarding mental health conditions and the recovery of crime victims’ was launched in 2005. Up to now, studies of the mental condition status of the crime victims, their needs, the treatment for trauma, the creation of manual for staff at mental health and welfare centers were conducted.

In 2008 “guidance on local mental health and welfare activities to support crime victims” was drawn up and distributed to mental health and welfare centers.

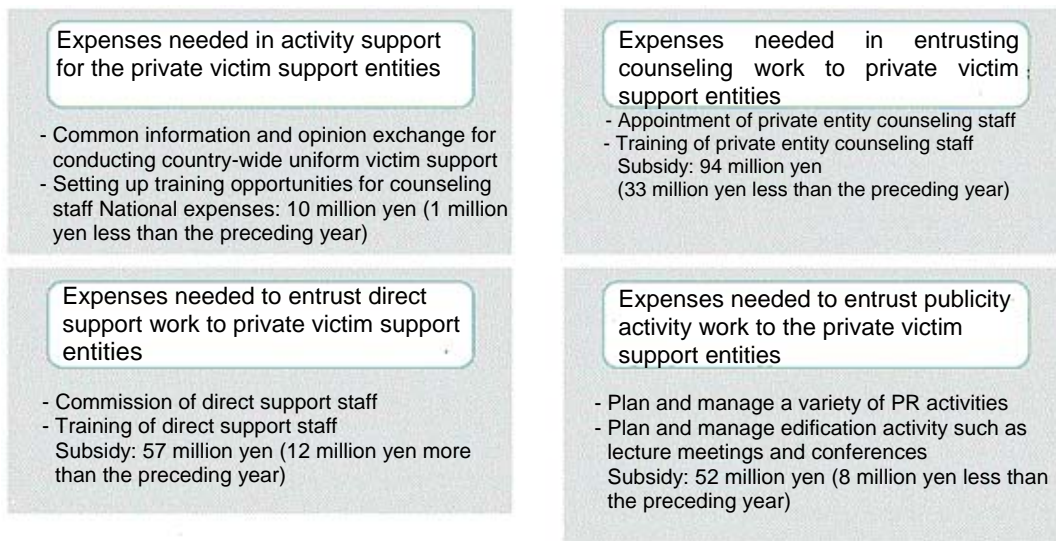
3. Aid for private entities

(Basic Act, Article 22)

○ Entrustment of direct support service to private entities that support victims

Implemented financial support through activity support for private victim support entities, entrusting of counseling work to private victim support entities, entrusting of work related to publicity activities, entrusting of direct support work to groups to aid crime victims early on, etc.

Financial assistance towards private crime victim support entities by the States



Year 2008: 212 million yen (30 million yen less than the preceding year)



Other aid to private entities that support victims



- Implementation of model project in creating the tendency to support victims Based on the final synthesis of “Investigative Commission for Support for Private Entities”

model projects have been implemented in creating the tendency to support victims.

Section 5: Efforts towards fostering citizens' understanding and consideration and ensuring cooperation

- 1. Fostering understanding of citizens (Basic Act, Article 20)
- Implementation of enlightenment project in attempting to foster the understanding of citizens on the situation victims face

In the 'Crime Victims' Week' (November 25 to December 1), with the slogan 'the support of everyone provides us with the courage to move o', the Central Public Meeting sponsored by the Cabinet Office and the other 4 public meetings at four different prefectures with the cooperation of local governments were held. The result of the meetings was displayed on the Cabinet Office Crime Victims Policies website and information was provided. In 2009 too, there are plans to hold the Central Public Meeting in Tokyo and local meetings in a plurality of areas.
- Provision of information in order to attempt to foster the understanding of citizens

In March 2009 the "(the third) conference on measures for crime victims" was held with the theme of "Seeking the truth about crime victims and the establishment of a compensation system" that targeted staff

Conference on measures for crime victims



working at the ministries and government offices concerned and local governments. The outline of the lecture was displayed on the website of the Cabinet Office Policies for Crime Victims and information was widely provided.

Section 6 Efforts toward measures concerning promotional systems

- Mutual cooperation and coordination between national government administrative organs

Mutual cooperation and coordination are taking place between national government administrative organs through the Council for promotion, Basic Plan Establishment Promotion Experts Committee and meetings of a liaison of ministries and government offices concerned.

In December 2008 the fifth Experts Committee was held and reports made by the ministries and government offices concerned regarding the progress made in the plan.
- Cooperation and coordination with local governments

In May 2008 the third meeting of the principle division directors of measures for crime victims from prefectures and cities designated by government ordinance was held. Well-informed persons gave lectures, participants working in pioneering efforts reported cases, the State explained the status with efforts, and information was mutually shared.

An "E-mail magazine on measures for crime victims" was also distributed to the ministries and government offices concerned and local governments in sharing information. From the end of January until the beginning of February 2009 block training meetings were held on measures for crime victims in 6 areas throughout the country.

Local governments also proposed plans for efforts to take concerning the production of a tendency for people to support victims through model projects implemented by the Cabinet Office.