

It is important that the local organizations and groups concerned advance in creating a support system in cooperation and collaboration, while also necessary that local societies understand, care, and can cooperate in ensuring that crime victims can recover from their damage and regain peace of mind.

In model projects implemented by the Cabinet Office in 2008 local governments proposed and realized projects that included general counseling and the provision of information to crime victims, and approaches to fostering the tendency to support them in local areas in cooperation and collaboration with the local governments, local organizations and groups concerned and the Cabinet Office.

In order to improve support for victims at the national scale the Cabinet Office is attempting to popularize and enlighten know-how obtained in model projects implemented by local governments.

The following includes some of the implemented model projects.

1 Project to promote university students participating in social activities (Hokkaido)

In order to foster understanding on the actual circumstances of crime victims, preciousness of life, and the need to support victims lectures and talks by supporter of victims and victims themselves were implemented in cooperation with universities for the purpose of increasing university student participation in society and in supporting victims.

The representative organizer of the union of victims of the Sarin gas attack in the Tokyo subway, Mrs. Shizue TAKAHASHI, persons engaged in support, and persons in charge of the police were invited to lecture at 4 universities in Hokkaido. They participated in a campaign on a street held under the auspice of private entities supporting crime victims and some of the students made documents on enlightenment of the issue.



Lecture at university



Street campaign

2 Life project (Ibaraki prefecture)

This project was implemented for the purpose of, through listening to the experiences of the families of crime victims, high school students realizing the preciousness of life, fostering minds that care for others with a prescriptive consciousness, and understanding the situation victims face and the need to support them.

An enlightenment DVD aimed at youths made by the Cabinet Office was shown at 2 high schools in the prefecture and a member of a family of a crime victim, Mr. Toshio IWATANI, and a member of the bereaved family of a crime victim, Mrs. Hisako YAMAUCHI, both also delivered a lecture. Panels were also used to introduce approaches taken by administrative groups and private entities supporting victims and brochures distributed.



Lecture delivered by crime victim

3. Project of top seminar on supporting victims in local areas (Kumamoto prefecture)

It is important that not only the State but also local governments take the necessary measures according to the actual circumstances of their area in ensuring that crime victims can recover from the damage caused to them by a crime and restore their peaceful life again in local areas.

A top seminar targeting the chiefs of municipalities in the Kumamoto prefecture was therefore held at which the director of the National Association of Crime Victims and Surviving Families (Asu-no-kai), Mr. Masaya MIYAZONO, delivered a lecture for the purpose of local governments realizing the actual situation crime victims face, fostering a consciousness on the need to support them, and promoting measures to support crime victims.

They also held training meetings for the purpose of improving the quality of persons engaged in supporting crime victims and in charge of practical affairs, with Mrs. Emiko OKUBO of Victim Support Center of Tokyo and Mrs. Satomi NAKAJIMA of National Institute of Mental Health: National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry both delivering lectures.

They then listened to the opinions of participants that included “I was able to realize the need to support them after listening to some victims” and “It was very easy to understand the lecture and helpful in my work”.



Lecture delivered by Mr. MIYAJIMA at the top seminar



Lecture delivered by Mrs. NAKAJIMA toward persons in charge of practical affairs

4. Project to train the human resources of private entities (Hokkaido)

Because of the size of Hokkaido people have requested activities to support victims that fill in any gaps in the area. Counseling training targeting counselors working at the counseling room in question was implemented, talents encouraged in order to improve the counseling of victims in all areas, and activities promoted to support no gaps existing in the area.

Persons engaged in support with a lot of experience and specialists in mental health were invited to deliver lectures and training through role plays etc held in the 5 places of Tomakomai city, Hakodate city, Asahikawa city, Kushiro city and Kitami city, where private counseling rooms are located.



Role play