

2. One-stop support centers as comprehensive support for victims of sexual crimes

○ Various measures to promote establishment of one-stop support centers

Following measures were included within the Second Basic Plan based on the requests from crime victim organizations and crime victim support organizations to promote the establishment of support centers, where the sexual crime victims could receive comprehensive support in one location immediately after the victimization.

- Preparing and distributing the Guideline for the Establishment and Operation of One-Stop Support Centers (Cabinet Office)
- Verification of model project for the centers to address sexual crime victims and Providing the results (National Police Agency)
- Edification to medical institutions and Collection and provision of information on medical institutions that can provide

cooperation (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

- Adding information with regards to whether or not an one-stop support center is established within the medical facility as an item to be registered at the Medical Function Information Provision System (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

○ Research and examination necessary to promote the establishment

In order to assist local governments, civil organizations and others that are considering the establishment of one-stop support centers, the Cabinet Office had conducted following researches and examinations necessary to promote the establishment.

- Interviews with sexual crime victims concerning their experience after the victimization including second victimizations

Responses in the victim interview (partial)	
<p>[Physical/mental effects]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ suddenly burst into tears, cannot stop shivering, convulsions ○ When awake, I try not to think about the incident so can bear but at night, I am seized by fear. I become conscious not to sleep and awake until dawn. ○ My dreams are so realistic that it is becoming hard for me to distinguish the reality from the dream and I am constantly afraid of being attacked by the perpetrator again. It calmed me to sleep relatively well when I had a knife by the pillow side. ○ I didn't feel anything. No pain, No sadness. ○ I was hoping to die every day. I always was thinking how I could die. ○ Harming myself (wrists and ankles) ○ Diagnosed as PTSD at the hospital <p>[Social effects]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It became difficult for me to go out since the perpetrator had not apprehended and I was in fear of him coming to my home or attack me again. ○ I can not work in the place where men work. ○ My capabilities to memorize or to make a judgment have lowered so I started to make mistakes at work that I wouldn't have before. ○ I became unable to talk to anyone, even to those colleagues I got along well, so I resigned. ○ I had just moved a year before the incident but had to move again. Moving sunken me to poverty. <p>[The person/place the victim sought for help after the victimization]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mother, father, boyfriend, friend ○ Medical institutions (obstetrics-gynecology, psychosomatic medicine, surgery, oral surgery, psychiatry, etc.) ○ Lawyers ○ The police ○ Employer ○ Counseling center and other places to offer counseling service ○ Victim support center, Women's center, the Purple Dial, etc. <p>[Second victimization at medical institution]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ My friend searched a gynecology clinic with a woman doctor and came along with me to the clinic. But the clinic refused to see me for not wanting to be involved with police matters. ○ I was hiding while my friend was talking with the hospital receptionist for me but a nurse was rude to come see me. She didn't seem to be concerned about me but just was curious about a sexual crime victim. <p>[Other remarks]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I tried hard to find some kind of support after the victimization but what I gained was so little. ○ I often found that I won't be able to receive appropriate assistance only after I explained the situation. It was painful. ○ Hospital, the police and judicial proceedings all were repeating same questions. Responding to them was painful. ○ I finally found a good lawyer on third try. Mostly my efforts. 	<p>[The reason to have reported to the police]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ By suggestion from the medical institution two weeks after the victimization ○ I was told to go to the police for the time being and after went there, the police officer strongly persuaded me to file a report. ○ There was no explanation from anyone on what would happen to me after I filed a report so I did. Now I am regretting to have done so. ○ At first, I feared to invite vengeance from perpetrator by reporting so I didn't intend to file a report but one month after the victimization, I made up my mind. <p>[The reason not to have reported to the police]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ My workplace had atmosphere to be forced to resign if had any involvement with police matters, including being a victim. I wanted to continue with my work. ○ I did not want anyone to know. ○ The perpetrator was a family member so I had hesitation. ○ I thought that it is not that much of an issue as to go to the police. ○ I went to the police but they didn't let me know about the procedure to file a report. ○ I also was to be blamed. <p>[Secondary victimization during criminal proceedings]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I understand their sense of justice but those who are dealing with hard criminals regularly seems to be mixing up the manner to deal with perpetrators and with victims. When I told them that I won't/cannot talk about the incident (because the perpetrator is a family member/a colleague or other reasons), they criticized me. ○ I had injury but they took domineering attitude. The atmosphere did not permit me to seek advice of any sort. ○ The attitude wasn't to be helpful but was just demanding to answer their questions. ○ I had to tell the whole story from the beginning again for the public prosecutor. ○ (In the court proceeding,) there are too many issues that the victim's side is to prove. I was telling a truth but they didn't believe me. They controlled me by using the law as an excuse. When they asked if it was an agreed sex, I said no but it is very difficult to prove that it was not my fault. They jump to a conclusion of consensual sex just because I wasn't injured or I wasn't hit. <p>[Secondary victimization at the consultation desk of local administration or civil organization]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I was told that they are not the place. I called three times and was referred to three different places. But the referred place also referred me to other place. ○ They consider someone who has work and no child as economically independent so declined to help me without any further thoughts. ○ Each time I had contacted them, a different person responded and gave me a different answer so it was very confusing. ○ Even they requested me to explain clearly, if I tried recall about the victimization, I had flashbacks so was not in condition to talk. They lacked the understanding on the state of mind or the condition of victims. With my difficulty to express, I just could not communicate with them.

The Cabinet Office requested clinical practitioners to conduct face-to-face interviews with 11 sexual crime victims on the physical and mental impacts of the victimization the impacts on their social lives, if the victim sought for consultation with anyone and other relevant topics.

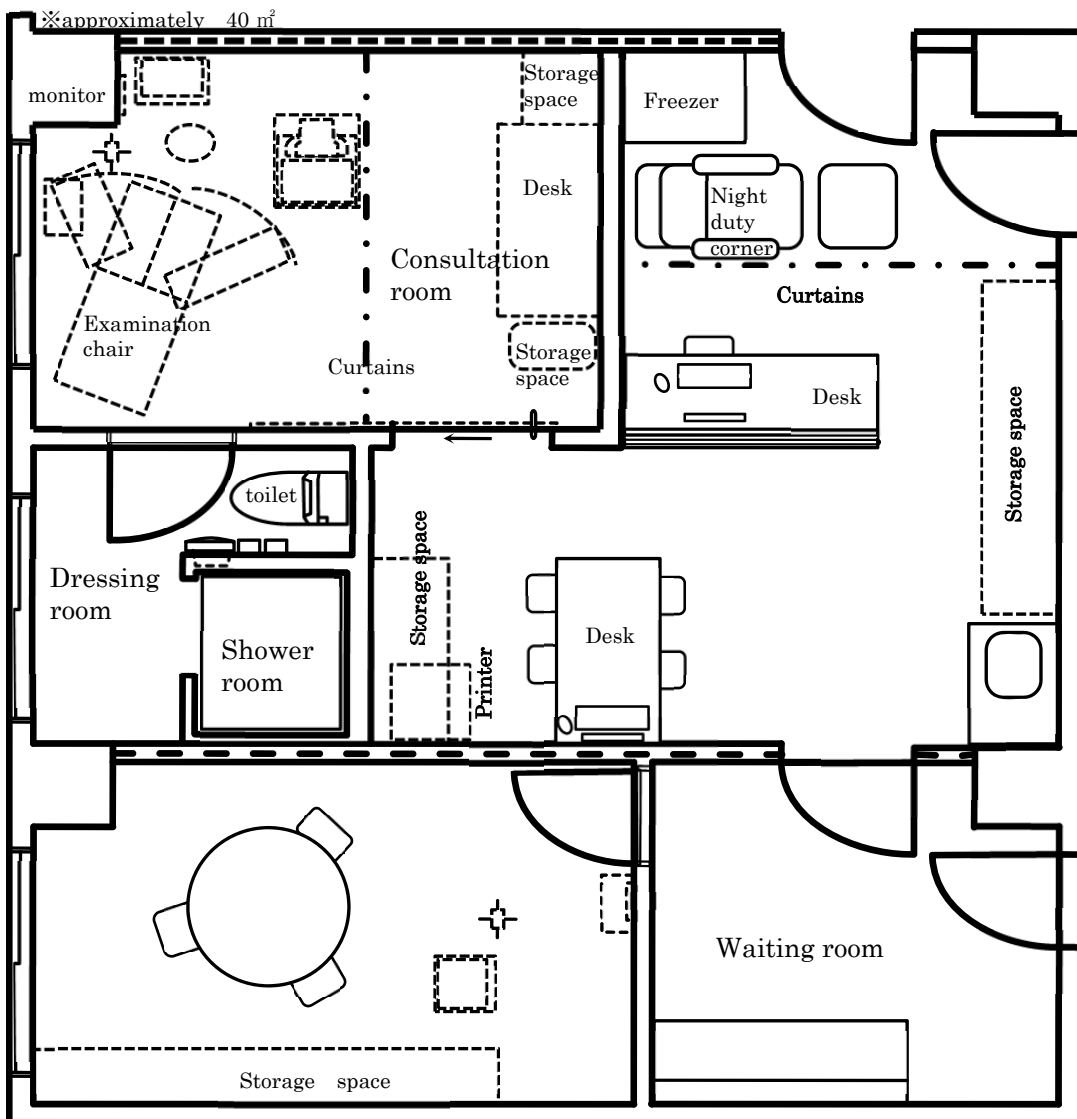
- Research and examination on exiting one-stop support centers in Japan.

The Cabinet Office conducted research and examination on the operational status of following two existing centers and referred to the results of the evaluation

done by National Police Agency on their model project for the center to address sexual crime victims.

1. Sexual Assault Crisis Healing Intervention Center Osaka (Known as “SACHICO”, in Osaka Prefecture, Matsubara city, Hannan Central Hospital.)
2. Heartful Station, Aichi (2010 model project for the center to address sexual crime victims carried out by National Police agency and Aichi Prefectural Police in Daiyukai Daiichi Hospital, Ichinomiya City, Aichi Prefecture)

Floor plan SACHICO



SACHICO, is located in a corner of Hannan Central Hospital, isolated from other outpatient and general wards of the hospital and is equipped with independent waiting room, interview room, examination room, staff room, a toilet and shower room.

○**Sexual crime victims support in other countries**

The Cabinet Office conducted site visits to Canada and Korea to learn examples of advanced system to support sexual crime victims.

- Support for sexual crime victims in Ontario, Canada

At the visited site, Ottawa, services are provided to victims mainly in three areas; counseling support services, medical care and criminal justice. "Sexual Assault Protocol" describes service providers, content of services being offered, and how to use the services, and made publicly available to the victims and the general public.

- One-stop support center in Korea

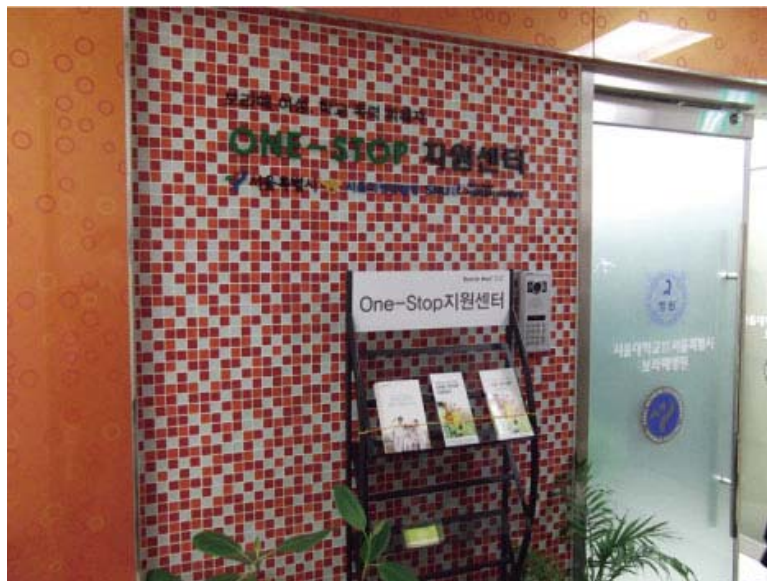
The first one-stop support center in Korea was established within a police hospital at Seoul, in August 2006. As of

March 31, 2012, these centers have been established at 16 locations, in national and public hospitals (including the police hospital), university hospitals, and private hospitals.

○**Making guideline to promote the establishment of one-stop support centers**

Based on the research and examination as above, the Cabinet Office has compiled the "Guideline on Establishment and Operation of One-Stop Support Centers for Victims of Sexual Crimes and Sexual Violence". The Guideline aims to create an environment that promotes the establishment of One-Stop Support Centers by raising the level of cooperation and coordination between relevant agencies and entities through sharing common understandings and recognitions on this issue, and to enhance the support for victims of sexual crimes and sexual violence depending on available resources and existing conditions of each region.

Porame One-Stop Support Center within the Porame hospital, Seoul



Column 2 Memoir of a crime victim (excerpt)

by PANSAKU Keiko Yamamoto

■ Introduction

My name is “Pan” (real name: Keiko Yamamoto). I am the vocalist/guitarist of the acoustic female duo called "PANSAKU".

A charity concert against sexual violence held in Osaka in June 2010, led me to perform in public events supporting victims across the country.

I, myself, being a victim of a sexual crime, released a song called "STAND" in June 2010, which is based on my own experience. All profits from CD sales are being donated to the "STAND ~ the true faces of survivors of sexual violence ~" photo project created by photojournalist Nobuko Oyabu, and have been used towards the eradication of sexual violence.

■ Being a victim

July 15, 2004: On my way back from band practice, feeling tired, I stopped in the parking lot of a convenience store, where suddenly, a stranger got into my car. He was strangled my neck, threatened me by saying, "I'll kill you", and took the money I had on me. Then, I was forced to drive to a secluded area and was raped in my own car.

"I'm going to be killed..." I thought. I felt deep despair during this humiliating time that I desperately endured in fear of death, as if my life so far, even my own existence itself, all of it was denied.

"I've been defiled. How am I supposed to live from now on? God, please help," I repeated over and over in my mind. The criminal walked away out the passenger door and has not been caught yet even today.

■ What I think about measures for victims of sexual crimes

As I mentioned earlier, immediately after I was raped, I did not know where to ask for help. Not knowing what to do, I ran to the police station, because the phrase “when you fall victim to a crime, first dial 110” was instilled into me since childhood. However, I heard that in real life, very few people report to the police like I did.

Victims of sexual violence suffer from deep mental scarring. On top of this, I think the embarrassment adds insult to injury and many people cannot talk about the harm done. Without being able to talk to anyone, they need to bear alone all the physical concerns, like pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, as well as sense of despair for their lives from here on.

Now in Japan, there are movements to establish one-stop centers for victims of sexual violence all across the country, starting with Heart-full Station Aichi and Sexual Assault Crisis Healing Intervention Center Osaka (SACHICO).

I think it is necessary and important to create a support system centered around victims that can offer services like medical care, psychological care by supporters, police investigation leading to arrest of perpetrator, when victims come to the location after being harmed.

Still now, there are an overwhelming number of people in our society who do not know of the existence of one-stop centers, which are already in operation. I think “knowing” of their existence after being harmed is too late.

I think we need to find a way to publicize the phrase, “when you become a victim of sexual violence or sexual crime, first go to a one-stop center”, so that people who have never experienced such crimes and think “this has nothing to do with me” can have this idea in the back of their heads.

"To make the existence of this place known to all people." Under this premise, I hope that people concerned with this matter will continue to proceed with discussions, considering all aspects, in order to make these places where victims can trust to turn to, and safe places that can protect victims.

■ In conclusion

To be honest, I am only a victim of a sexual crime and a musician, and what I do cannot really be called victim assistance. Therefore, I am filled with gratitude from the bottom of my heart when thinking about the people throughout Japan who are out there struggling to support victims. At the same time, when I think that there are people somewhere even today who are surrounded by darkness after being a victim of a sexual crime, it makes my heart hurt.

In order to support the life of each victim physically, mentally and also economically over the long-term, I hope a social system will be built, with a cooperative system of the police, hospitals, administration, judicial branch and other institutions, constantly working as a network.

Perhaps in reality, in developing such a support system for victims, it may not be possible to reach the ideal 100% due to budget concerns, location restrictions, or personnel issues.

Yet, being a victim myself, I feel that even if there are limits in the "System", “the wish to help other people”, it is simple, though, is what truly sets people apart and I think that is something that has no limitations.

I think that instead of trying to respond through one’s credentials, above all when one has the “attitude to approach a wounded heart” as a human being, only then can one give peace of mind to victims.

I sincerely hope that from now on one-stop centers for victims of sexual crimes are established one by one, and in progressing support for victims of sexual violence in various regions, a society is realized where it is common to offer support to victims even on the individual level, filled with the kind mindset of “people caring about people”.