

Fiscal Year 2016
Policies for Crime Victims, etc.
(Summary)

**National Public Safety Commission and
National Police Agency**

This report compiles the Policies for Crime Victims, etc. taken by the government as the annual report to the Diet pursuant to the Article 10 of the Basic Act on Crime Victims, etc.

This 12th issue of the report (White Paper) describes, with a focus on five priorities, about policies for crime victims, etc. taken in FY 2016 based on the Third Basic Plan for Crime Victims, etc. (decided by the Cabinet on April 1, 2016)

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The Basic Act on Crime Victims, etc. (hereinafter referred to as the “Basic Act”) was enacted in December 2004 stating that “Now that everybody has a higher probability to become a Crime Victim, it is required to make policies from the Crime Victims’ viewpoints, and to make a step forward to realize a society where their rights and profits are well protected.” (Preamble of the Basic Act)

The Basic Act stipulates that the Government shall establish a basic plan concerning the Policies for Crime Victims, etc., in order to promote the Policies for Crime Victims, etc. comprehensively and systematically. (Article 8, paragraph 1 of the Basic Act)

Pursuant to the Basic Act, the Basic Plan for Crime Victims, etc. (hereinafter referred to as the “First Basic Plan”) was formulated in December 2005 (decided by the Cabinet on December 27, 2005). The Plan manifests the four fundamental principles; ([1] guarantee the right of victims to be treated accordingly to their dignity; [2] take each measure properly, mindful of individual victim’s circumstance; [3] provide a seamless and continuous support, and [4] progress while building the national consensus). Also, based on these four fundamental principles, the Plans categorized those specific policies to be carried out by relevant government ministries into five priorities; ([1] efforts to recover the victims’ damages and to provide them with economic support, [2] efforts for the victims to recover from mental and/or physical damage and to prevent further damages, [3] efforts to broaden the opportunity for victims to participate in criminal procedures, [4] efforts to improve the systems to support crime victims, etc. and [5] efforts to foster the understanding among citizens and to earn their consideration and cooperation)

The Council for the Promotion of Policies for Crime Victims appreciated the result of the First Basic Plan its duration which expired at the end of FY 2010, stating that its implementation was steadily promoted and achieved a certain result, especially in “the efforts to broaden the opportunity for victims to participate in criminal procedures” and “the efforts to recover the victims’ damages and to provide them with economic support,” because “the systems were broadly reformed, including the introduction of victim participant system, the introduction of the damage compensation order system, and the Benefit System for Crime Victims.” (decided by the Council for the Promotion of Policies for Crime Victims on October 13, 2010)

In March 2011, the Second Basic Plan for Crime Victims, etc. (hereinafter referred to as the “Second Basic Plan”) was formulated aiming to realize the society where rights and interests of crime victims, etc. are further protected. (decided by the Cabinet on March 25, 2011).

As for the implementation of the Second Basic Plan which was in effect until the end of FY 2015, the Council for the Promotion of Policies for Crime Victims stated “the relevant ministries and agencies

made comprehensive and cross-sectional efforts, based on the four fundamental principles and five priorities (identified following the First Basic Plan). These policies were steadily promoted and a certain result was achieved” (decided by the Council for the Promotion of Policies for Crime Victims on November 18, 2015).

In April 2016, in light of the results of the First and Second Basic Plans, the Third Basic Plan for Crime Victims, etc. (hereinafter referred to as the “Third Basic Plan”) which has effect until the end of FY 2020 was formulated under the four fundamental principles and five priorities, aiming to realize the society where rights and interests of crime victims, etc. are further protected (decided by the Cabinet on April 1, 2016). On the same day on the above Cabinet decision, the National Government Organization Act was partially revised to reinforce the government’s function in implementing important policies, and clerical affairs for preparing and promoting basic plans for crime victims, etc. were transferred from the Cabinet Office to the National Public Safety Commission (National Police Agency).

Currently the National Public Safety Commission (National Police Agency) is appropriately promoting the policies for crime victims, etc., based on the Third Basic Plan through close collaboration with the relevant government ministries.

This edition describes the policies for crime victims, etc. implemented in FY 2016 by relevant government ministries, by describing each of the five priorities in the Third Basic Plan.