

Chapter 5 Effort to Foster the Understanding among Citizens and to Earn Their Consideration and Cooperation

1. Fostering Understanding of Citizens (related to Article 20 of the Basic Act)

○ Major efforts

• Implementation of focused advocacy projects during the “Crime Victims’ Week

[Policy No. 239]

Column 6

▶ Crime Victims’ Week

In the Third Basic Plan, the “efforts to foster understanding among the citizens and to earn their consideration and cooperation” have been set as one of the priority tasks, and “it is necessary to make long-term efforts such as educational or publicity activities taking advantage of various kinds of opportunities, so as to cultivate citizens understanding and sympathy about the situation crime victims, etc. are in and the importance of consideration for victims’ honor and the tranquility of their lives and to ensure such consideration for crime victims, etc. and cooperation for policies taken for them”.

For this reason, the National Police Agency sets November 25 to December 1 each year as Crime Victims’ Week with the cooperation of the relevant ministries and agencies, and implements focused advocacy projects during the week.

In FY 2017, the Agency held the Central Meeting (December 1) in Tokyo, and regional meetings in Tokushima Prefecture (November 28) and Saga Prefecture (November 15) under the joint auspices of local governments.

Central Meeting

At the central meeting, an awards ceremony for slogans, the keynote speech, panel discussion and other activities were carried out.

Miss Mutsuki Tanaka, was presented with an award for her slogan on crime victim support by Mr. Hachiro Okonogi, the Chairperson of the National Public Safety Commission at the awards ceremony.

In the keynote speech, Ms. Ruriko Take, a bereaved family member of a crime victim (representative of the Association of Parties Related to Juvenile Crime Victims), gave a speech based on the theme of “the feelings of a mother who was robbed of her son through a juvenile crime”, and spoke about the grief she felt over losing her son due to a crime and her own situation afterwards, the status of activities of the “Association of Parties Related to Juvenile Crime Victims” which she herself had launched, and the activities being conducted together with other bereaved families of juvenile crimes.

The theme of the panel discussion was “For Ongoing Support – Considering the Ways of Providing Crime Victims with Medium-and Long-Term Support” with Professor Fujie Ito (Professor of the Faculty of Human Sciences, Department of Social Services of Sophia University) acting as coordinator, and Ms. Ruriko Take, Ms. Manami Sato (Counselor at the Victim Support Center of Tokyo and clinical psychologist), Mr. Katsumi Kimoto (officer of the Human Rights Department of the Yokohama Civil Service Bureau (in charge of social welfare), psychiatric social worker, and clinical psychologist) as panelists, and for the first time ever, two university students who are studying social welfare in Professor Fujie Ito’s seminar at Sophia University were invited to attend, and discussions took place on the current situation and issues of multi-institutional collaboration for medium-and long-term support, the role of local governments and private victim support organizations in crime victim support, and ways in which anyone can support crime victims.



The Grand Prize winner for slogan and Chairperson of the National Public Safety Commission



Poster for the Crime Victims’ Week

Tokushima meeting

The Tokushima Meeting was co-hosted by the Agency, Tokushima Prefecture, Tokushima Prefectural Police and the Tokushima Victim Support Center.

In the keynote speech, Ms. Kazumi Yanagitani (representative of Oyako Hiroba OuBaiTouRi), a psychologist and counselor, spoke on the theme of “As a victim of sexual abuse, and life afterwards” about her experience of suffering sexual abuse when she was a child, and the impact it had on her life afterwards, and how by dealing with her traumatized feelings she was able to change her life.

The theme of the panel discussion was “Necessary support after suffering sexual abuse”, with Ms. Chigusa Uchiumi (Associate Professor, Graduate School of Technology, Industrial and Social Sciences of Tokushima University, Trustee of the Tokushima Victim Support Center) acting as coordinator, and Ms. Yoshiko Nagamoto (attorney, Chair of the Crime Victim Support Center of the Tokushima Bar Association), Mr. Shinichi Niki (Director of the Tokushima Central Children and Women’s Consultation Center, Sexual Victims Support Center (Yorisoi no ki Tokushima Central)), Mr. Takashi Tada (Director of the First Criminal Investigation Department of the Tokushima Prefectural Police Headquarters) and Ms. Kazumi Yanagitani as panelists, and discussions took place on the importance of having the related organizations and groups cooperate with one another and to reinforce efforts in order to ensure ongoing support which is close to the sexual crime victims.

In the exhibition corner, panels and posters were exhibited and leaflets distributed by the related organizations and groups.



Scene of speech by Ms. Kazumi Yanagitani



Scene of the panel discussion

Saga meeting

The Saga meeting was co-hosted by the Agency, Saga Prefecture, Saga Prefectural Police and the Victim Support Network Saga VOISS.

In the keynote speech, Mr. Norihiro Hongo, a bereaved family member of a crime victim spoke on the theme of “Keeping children safe – So as not to repeat the tragedy” spoke about this mental state at the time of losing his daughter in the case of the murder and injury of the children of Ikeda Elementary School attached to Osaka Kyoiku University, and the importance of protecting the safety of children.

The theme of the panel discussion was “Ways in which We Can Support Crime Victims” with Mr. Takao Kanetoshi (Head of the Department of Children’s Studies, Faculty of Children’s Studies of Nishikyushu University, Chair of the Saga Prefecture Clinical Psychologists Association) as coordinator, and Mr. Atsuhide Himeno (Director of Traffic Regulations, Transportation Division, Kyoto Prefectural Police Headquarters, former Director for Promotion of Secure and Safe Town Planning, Kyoto Prefecture Citizens Life Division), Ms. Yuka Ooka (Associate Professor, Department of Psychology and Social Welfare, Faculty of Letters, Mukogawa Women’s University) and Ms. Yoko Shirakawa (Associate Professor of Community Futures, Saga Women’s Junior College) as panelists, and discussions took place on the importance of ongoing consideration for crime victims, etc., appropriate support and measures to prevent secondary damage.

At the venue, posters were exhibited by the related organizations, and a “Messages of Life Exhibition” was displayed showing life-size image panels of victims of crimes and accidents.

In addition, as part of the implementation of Crime Victims Week, the “Messages of Life Exhibition” was displayed at seven local venues in the prefecture, including the Saga meeting, from October 6 to November 15 through joint sponsorship by the National Police Agency and Saga Prefecture.



Scene of the panel discussion



Scene of a panel exhibit at the venue

• **Effective enlightenment and PR to people**
[Policy No. 241]

To provide an opportunity for people to think about support for crime victims and promote understanding of crime victims' support, the National Police Agency has publicly invited crime victim support slogans. In FY 2017, more than 6,000 slogans were received, and the

work of Miss Mutsuki Tanaka, a second-year senior high school student, "Words from you which convey warmth", was chosen as the winner of the grand prize. This slogan was used as a tool to have the general public familiarize themselves with crime victim support, such as through its use in posters for public awareness activities during Crime Victims' Week.

The crime victim support symbol mark, Gyutto-chan

