

Chapter 5 Efforts to Foster the Understanding among Citizens and to Earn their Consideration and Cooperation

1 Promoting Public Understanding (related to Article 20 of the Basic Act)

• Implementation of Effective Public Relations and Enlightenment Activities toward Citizens [Policy No. 241]

The National Police Agency solicits slogans on support for crime victims, etc. in order to provide the opportunity for citizens to think about support for crime victims, etc. and promote their understanding. In FY2020, the work “Small courage surely supports

somebody” of Ms. OHMOTO Honoka, who is a second-year student of the Junior High School attached to the Faculty of Education of the Ehime University in Ehime Prefecture, was selected as the grand prize out of the total of 5,669 applications. The slogan is used as a tool to disseminate support for crime victims, etc. in the general public, such as for the poster for dissemination and enlightenment during the Crime Victims Week (see the TOPICS “Crime Victims Week”).

Slogan on Support for Crime Victims, etc. in FY2020





Crime Victims Week

The Third Basic Plan features “Efforts to foster the understanding among citizens and to earn their consideration and cooperation” as one of the priorities and stipulates that “it is necessary to make long-term efforts such as educational or publicity activities by 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 tranquility of their lives, and to ensure such consideration for crime victims, etc. and cooperation for policies taken for them.” Therefore, the National Police Agency has designated the week from November 25 to December 1 as the “Crime Victims Week” in cooperation with relevant ministries to conduct public relations and enlightenment activities intensively during this week. In 2020, the central meeting was held in Tokyo on November 27 and regional meetings were held in Nagasaki on November 18 and in Gifu on December 1 respectively in cooperation with local governments. Each event was streamed live on the internet.

Poster of the Crime Victims Week



[Central Meeting]

The awards ceremony of the Grand Prize for the “Slogan on Support for Crime Victims, etc.” and of the Grand Prize for the “Essay Contests on Protecting Important Lives for Junior High and High School Students,” keynote speeches, panel discussions, etc. were held.

Scene from the awards ceremony (Slogan on Support for Crime Victims, etc.)



Scene from the awards ceremony (Essay Contests on Protecting Important Lives for Junior High and High School Students)



Keynote speech by Ms. TAKADA Kaori



Ms. TAKADA Kaori, who is a bereaved family of a crime victim, made a keynote speech entitled “Four years after losing my eldest son – Wishes for traffic safety with morning glory” and talked about the events from the day of the incident in which she lost her eldest son to the criminal trial, recovery process, experience of receiving encouragement from many supporters and activities that she conducts with the flower of morning glory as the symbol of traffic safety, which appeals for a society full of tenderness.

In the panel discussion entitled “In order to support crime victims, etc. in the society as a whole – Enhancement of support through familiar support services and ordinances,” discussions on the enhancement of support at the comprehensive support service of local governments and the modality of support by relevant organizations and group were held by Ms. TAKADA Kaori (keynote speaker), Mr. OGAWA Daisuke (Chief for crime victim support at the Crime Prevention and Traffic Safety Division, Community Affairs Department of Saitama Prefecture) and Ms. AKUTSU Terumi (Chief of the Consultation Office of the Tokyo Center) as panelists with Ms. SAITO Azusa acting as a coordinator (full-time lecturer at the Faculty of Psychology of Mejiro University, and certificated clinical psychologist

and certified public psychologist of the Tokyo Center).

[Meeting in Nagasaki]

The meeting in Nagasaki was jointly held by the National Police Agency, Nagasaki Prefecture, Nagasaki Prefectural Police and Nagasaki Crime Victim Support Center.

Opening by the Nagasaki Prefectural Police Music Band



Keynote speeches by Ms. MAEKAWA Kiho and Mr. NAKAMURA Akio



Scene from the panel discussion



In the keynote speech, a dialogue-based lecture entitled “We can work hard with a dream! – Power to dream together” was offered by Ms. MAEKAWA Kiho (victim of a traffic accident, teacher at the Nagasaki Prefectural Koka High School) and Mr. NAKAMURA Akio (mentor of Ms. MAEKAWA, teacher at Nagasaki Prefectural Sasebo Tosho High School), and Ms. MAEKAWA talked about the current situation in which she can work hard without giving up her hope of becoming a musician thanks to the support of her family, mentor and mates after the traffic accident.

In the panel discussion entitled “Familiar hidden danger of damage – Socialization of human relationship troubles and contact for consultation,” discussions were held centered on the feelings of crime victims and the modality of support for crime victims, etc. by local governments by Ms. MAEKAWA Kiho (keynote speaker), Mr. NAKAMURA Akio (keynote speaker), Mr. IIDA Naoki (attorney of the Nagasaki Bar Association) and Mr. IWAKI Hiroshi (Chief of Crime Victim Support Office of the Public Relations and Consultation Division of the Nagasaki Prefectural Police Headquarters) as panelists with Mr. MAEDA Kazuaki (President of the Nagasaki Crime Victim Support Center) acting as a coordinator.

[Meeting in Gifu]

The meeting in Gifu was jointly held by the National Police Agency, Gifu Prefecture, Gifu Prefectural Police and Gifu Crime Victim Support Center.

Opening Remarks by the governor of Gifu Prefecture



Keynote speech by Mr. YASUDA Takahiko



Scene from the panel discussion



In the keynote speech, Mr. YASUDA Takahiko (Counselor of the National Crime Victim Support Network, Specially-appointed Professor at Graduate School of Advanced Integrated Studies in Human Survivability of Kyoto University, former President of the National Police Academy) delivered a lecture entitled “In order to support victims by all citizens” and talked about the course of events for the development of the support system for crime victims, etc. and the importance of establishing ordinances to support crime victims, etc. in local governments.

In the panel discussion entitled “In order to provide better support for crime victims – What you can do for a crime victim,” discussions were held centered on the necessity of the establishment of ordinances to support crime victims, etc. in local governments by Mr. YASUDA Takahiko (keynote speaker), Mr. SUZUKI Masao (President of the Gifu Crime Victim Support Center, attorney) and Mr. MATSUI Katsuyuki (Director of the Gifu Crime Victim Support Center, bereaved family of a crime victim) with Mr. OHNO Masahiro acting as a coordinator.



Educational application “*Kokoro-chan*” for crime victim support

The National Victim Support Network is conducting its activities to realize “activities through which anybody can obtain support at any time and which respond to the needs of victims.” In FY2020, the educational application “*Kokoro-chan*” for crime victim support was released in accordance with the targets of “Promotion of recognition of the crime victim support activities among younger generation” and “Promotion of recognition of the crime victim support activities among the citizens in general.” specified in the Network Medium-term Plan.

This application aims to get people in a wide variety of ages “get interested to begin with” by including not only basic knowledge which is useful when a person becomes a victim of an incident or accident (crime victim) and information of organizations related to crime victim support, but also reading of personal notes (with subtitles) of victims themselves, bereaved families, families and brothers and sisters.

For the creation of the application, the following matters were taken into consideration:

- That, people not familiar with crime victim support get interested in.
- That, contents which are easily understood by children are included.
- That, technical terms are excluded as much as possible to allow the general public to understand the contents without expert knowledge by using general words and expressions.
- That, the amount of characters is not stressful for readers.
- That, the contents can be used for education and training.
- That, the application design is favorably accepted by people of all generations.

We expect that as many people as possible will use this application to deepen their understanding of persons who have been victimized by an incident or an accident and the activities for crime victim support is recognized and promoted.

[Introduction of the application “*Kokoro-chan*”]

- “Let’s talk”
Details about crime victims that you should know are explained in an easy-to-understand manner through animation.
- “When you are victimized”
If you are victimized by an incident or an accident. - The contents are divided into three categories for children, guardians and teachers.
- “Hear the opinions of victims”
Reading of personal notes (with subtitles) written by victims themselves and their families is available (read by voice actors Mr. SHINOMIYA Go and Ms. KURODA Manami).
- “Know supporters”
Personal notes of counselors who help crime victims are available.



The useful educational application for crime victim support “Kokoro-chan” can be downloaded from below (free).

