

1 Purpose and progress

Taking measures for crime victims is important not only in resolving difficulties victims are confront with at all times but also in ensuring their peace of minds. “Continuous support” therefore needs to be implemented to ensure support is consistently to the crime victims in question even if the systems and organization in charge change, and thus every one of them can receive the appropriate support in the necessary place at the necessary time.

In order to realize that “continuous support” improving and reinforcing the cooperative network between organizations and groups concerned was reviewed at the “Investigate Commission for Cooperative Support” that will be finally consolidated in August 2007. At this stage a “handbook on support for crime victims (tentative name)” with notes and ways of cooperating in supporting them needed to be drawn up and provided at the basic autonomous and prefectural levels and the Cabinet Office made a model proposition of the same handbook. The Cabinet Office therefore created a “model proposition of handbook on support for crime victims” with the help of experts, and the ministries and government offices concerned.

2 Way of making

A committee and a working team were established within the Cabinet Office in April 2008 with 3 committee sessions and 6 working team sessions having been held by November 2008.

Before making the model proposition questionnaires were made available to crime victims featuring questions such as “What kind of thing would you like supporters to pay attention to” and “what kind of information would you need when introduced to another organization or group” in ensuring that the model proposition would be drawn up from the point of view of the victims. The results were used by the secretariat in drawing up a draft, which the working team composed of practical victim support persons then reviewed. It was also reviewed over and over again from various points of view by a committee composed of expert representatives working for organizations, groups concerned and in special fields to ensure the handbook will be used by various organizations and groups.

A questionnaire was also provided to organizations and groups concerned throughout the entire country and opinions exchanged on the content of the model proposition in ensuring it will be of practical use to supporters.

In this way the model proposition was completed in December 2008 in cooperation with the many persons concerned.

The model proposition of handbook on support for crime victims



3 Contents

The model proposition was written with the minimum but essential content in the simplest way possible in ensuring that persons getting involved in supporting crime victims for the first time can easily understand it. It was then reviewed to ensure that not only supporters but also crime victims and those close to them can also refer to it.

Concretely the manual incorporates the following content.

(1) Various problems of crime victims

The difficulties, mental disorders and problems in daily life that crime victims confront, damage caused by the behavior of the people surrounding them, further damage from the perpetrator, and the problems that accompany investigations and judicial decisions.

(2) Points of concern when involved in support

Notifications when responding to crime victims, concrete ways of talking to them, their characteristics classified by the type of damage such as murder, traffic accident, sexual violence, etc

(3) Cooperation with organizations and groups concerned in order to respond to various needs

Notifications when introducing other organizations and groups to crime victims and information provided to crime victims and organizations and groups introduced etc

(4) Support service of individual organizations and groups

Presentation of support, systems, organizations and groups that can be used in supporting crime victims

(5) Solutions according to needs

Presentation of representative support and system for each individual consultation with crime victims such as “it’s hard mentally, and my physical condition is bad”, “I’d like to reduce my medical expenses”, “I’m worried about falling victim again” or “I want to know what happened to my perpetrator” etc.

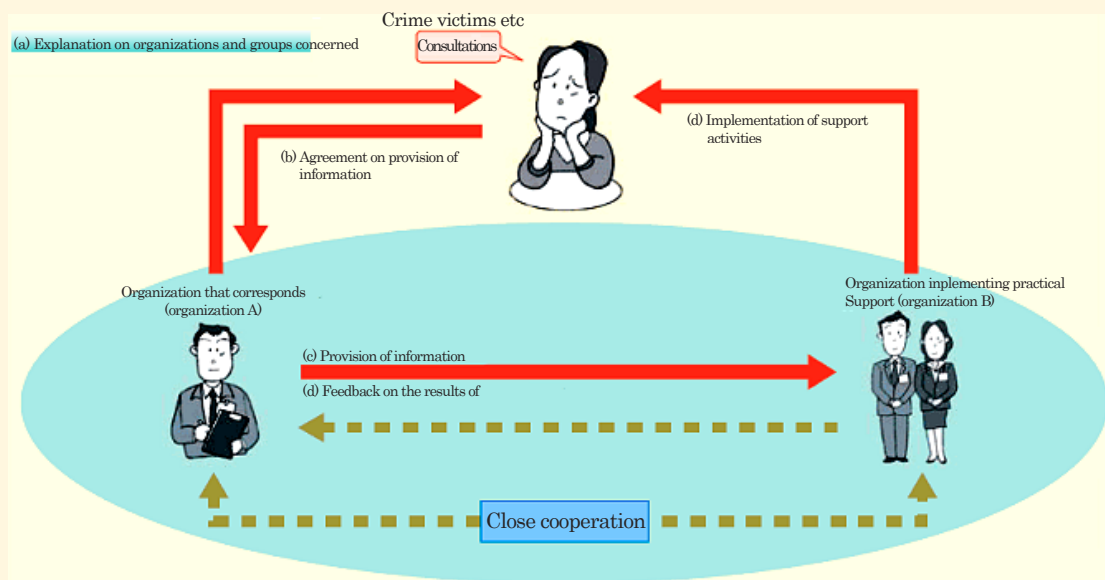
(Documents)

- “Declaration of crime victim (tentative name)” format

Illustration of the format crime victims can use if they find it difficult to declare their damage.

- Form of information with supporting crime victims to communicate to the organizations and groups concerned

Illustration of a form in case a certain style is necessary to communicate the necessary information when introducing crime victims to organizations and groups concerned.



4 Creation of handbooks for individual areas

The model proposition created has been posted on the website for the public by The Office for Policies on Crime victims, Cabinet Office: <http://www8.cao.go.jp/hanzai/shien/index/html>). However, it is a model and hence the different areas were requested to draw up a handbook according to their actual circumstances.

For this reason the Cabinet Office requests that organizations and groups in each area think about creating their own handbook after distribution of the model proposition to local public entities throughout the entire country and training staff etc.

We need to create and use a handbook as soon as possible so that each individual crime victim can receive support in the appropriate place and at the appropriate time. A variety of organizations and groups are involved in supporting victims, thus making it necessary to train the supporters working for them and share resources. In realizing “continuous support” it’s also important to build up a relationship of confidence between them and to steadily advance the construction of a base in each area.