

Chapter 2 Concrete Measures for Crime Victims and Their Progress

1 Efforts to Recover the Victim's Damages and to Provide Them with Economic Support

(1) Supporting Victims' Claims to Compensation for Damages, etc.

○ Major efforts

- Support by the Japan Legal Support Center (Ministry of Justice)

Depending on crime victims' individual circumstances, the Japan Legal Support Center (commonly called "Houterasu") introduces an attorney with experience and knowledge of victim support from among the attorneys recommended by Bar Association. The Center has a list of 2,985 attorneys as of April 2015, and has already introduced attorneys to 1,491 cases between April 1, 2014 and the end of March 2015.

Japan Legal Support Center discussed the necessary arrangements in order to implement measures with regard to the Center to support the fee to allow the attorney to have psychological counselor present at meetings with crime victims in the process of preparation and litigation to claim compensation for damages. As a result, the Center decided to grant payment for such counsellors under the Civil Legal

Aid System from April 2014, subject to satisfaction of the required support conditions.

(2) Improvement of Systems Concerning Benefits and Other Payments

○ Major efforts

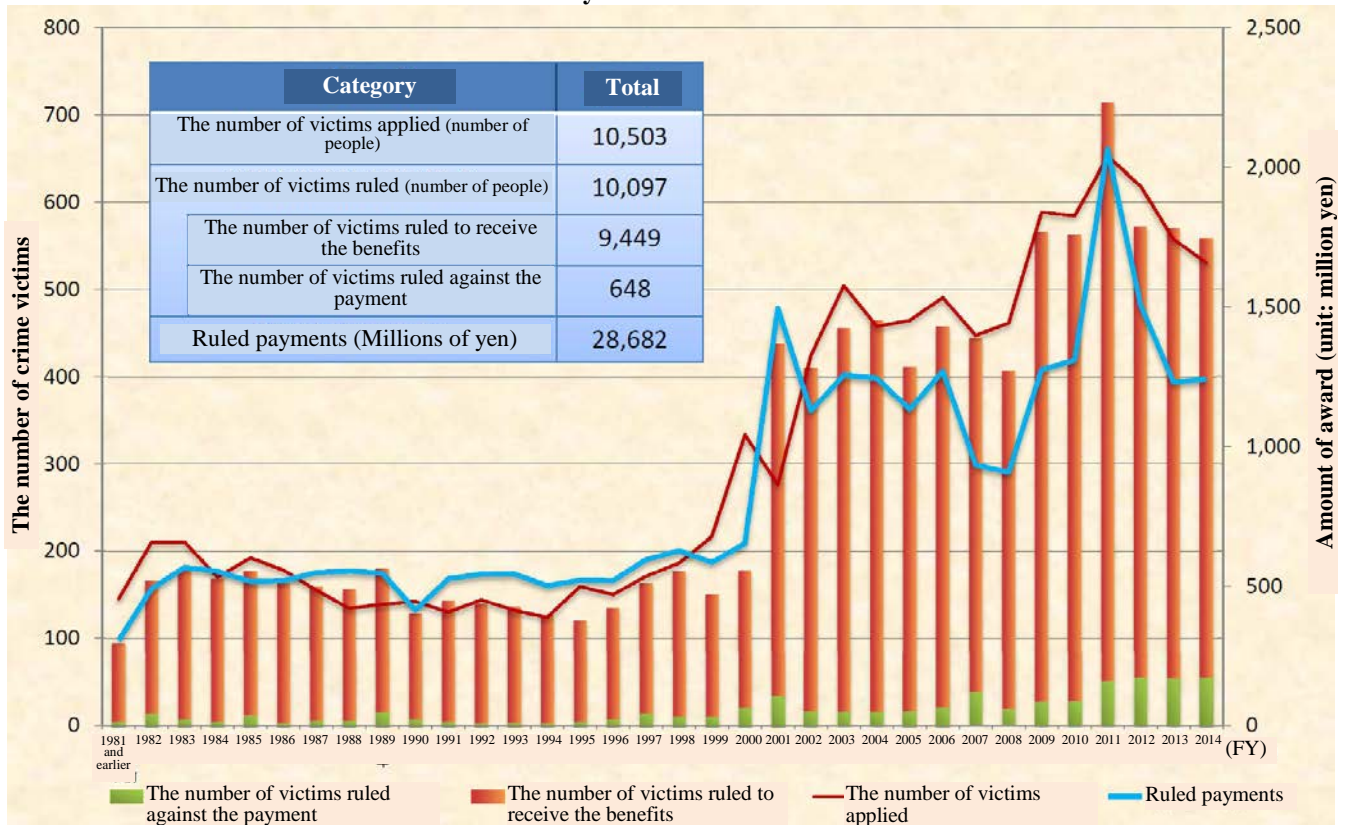
- Improvement of Practices on the current Benefit System for Crime Victims (National Police Agency)

The System has undergone continuous expansion and the total amount of the benefits paid in the fiscal year 2014 reached around 1.243 billion yen.

The assessment period from application to decision was 6.9 months on average in fiscal year 2014 (in comparison with 7.4 months in 2000 when the Second Basic Plan was established).

The criteria of judgment about denial or reduction of benefit were revised in November 2014 based on the proposals made in a consultation meeting on the feasible expansion of the Benefit System for Crime Victims and/or establishment of a new compensation system (see Column 6 on P.22).

Benefit System for Crime Victims



Source: National Police Agency

Column (6) Revision of Ordinance for Enforcement of the Crime Victim Support Act

1. Background of the revision

In January 2014, the ordinance for enforcement of the Crime Victim Support Act by the payment of the benefit for crime victims was revised based on the proposals made in a consultation meeting on the feasible expansion of the Benefit System for Crime Victims and/or establishment of a new compensation system (National Public Safety Commission regulation No. 6) (effective on November 1, 2014).

2. Contents of the revision

- (1) Revising of the reasons for ruling against payment when there is a sibling relationship between the crime victims and perpetrator

In the past, when there was a sibling relationship between the crime victim and perpetrator during the crime act, basically the benefit was not granted regardless of their living within the same household or separately. However, now the victim is ruled against the payment only if the victim lived with said siblings in the same household.
- (2) Revising of the regulation on the special provision in the crimes against relatives which is acknowledged as child abuse
 - (a) Among relatives which the benefit will not be granted as stated in the regulation Article 2 (spouse, blood relatives or siblings living in the same household)
 - (b) Among relatives which the benefit will be reduced to 2/3 as stated in the regulation Article 3 (relatives within the third degree other than (a))

In the case of the crime acts in (a) or (b), the benefit will be granted up to its full amount when there is a special condition that the denial or reduction of the benefit is considered to be socially inappropriate, and the said crime acts are considered to fall into the following:

- Child abuse stated under the Child Abuse Prevention Act
- Elder abuse stated under the Act on the Prevention of Elder Abuse, Support for Caregivers of Elderly Persons and Other Related Matters (Act No. 124, 2005)
- Persons with disability abuse stated under the Act on the Prevention of Persons with Disability Abuse, Support for Caregivers of Persons with Disability and Other Related Matters (Act No. 79, 2011)

- Consultations on possible ways for public funds to cover the costs of psychotherapies including counseling (Cabinet Office, National Police Agency, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)
The consultation meeting on psychotherapies for crime victims utilizing public funds, held in January 2013, discussed the psychological support provided by the existing public agencies and systems such as counseling by certified professionals in the police, and proposed that measures should be taken with a plan to train personnel to implement such services so that crime victims can receive more substantial psychotherapy and counseling regardless of the region.

In addition, it was proposed to establish a seminar to determine the scope of the psychotherapy and counseling covered by public funds from the viewpoint of those who judge the needs of psychotherapy and counseling, types of psychotherapy and counseling, as well as those who conduct the psychotherapy and counseling, so that the introduction of the public funding system based on the study can be expected. The contents of the proposal were reported to the Meeting on Promoting Measures for Crime Victims held in March, 2013 and a decision was made to take measures in line with the proposal. Consequently, the National Police Agency held a seminar on a policy serving the recovery from mental trauma in crime victims (See Column 7 on P. 23).

Column (7) Seminar on a Policy Serving the Recovery from Mental Trauma in Crime Victims

From March 2014, a total of five seminars on a policy serving the recovery from mental trauma in crime victims was held at the National Police Agency, from the proposal made in a meeting of experts (a meeting to discuss public expense of psychological therapy for crime victims) based on the Second Basic Plan. This seminar studied various measures to reduce out-of-pocket payment by crime victims with mental damage for their psychotherapy, and summarized the Report on a Policy Serving the Recovery from Mental Damage in Crime Victims

(<https://www.npa.go.jp/higaisya/study/kaifuku/houkoku/shien-report.pdf>) in April 2015 with the following contents:

- It is desirable to introduce the public expense system of counseling cost across the country, which is already operated in some prefectures under the government's support and involvement.
- Along with the introduction of the system, it is expected to publicize the system and strengthen the training of doctors and psychologists who conduct the psychotherapy.

(3) Ensuring a Stable Residence

○ Major efforts

• Securing residence immediately after the incident and on a medium-term. (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, National Police Agency, and Cabinet Office)

The women's Consulting Offices provides temporary shelter (including contracted shelter) for women who need protection. The number of temporary protection cases of spousal violence and trafficking in persons was 11,623 (6,125 in women and 5,498 in family members) in fiscal year 2013.

The numbers of temporary protection and contracted cases in the Child Guidance Center were 21,281 and 12,016, respectively, in fiscal year 2013. Since 2007, the National Police Agency has provided victims with temporary accommodation at public expense to alleviate their economic and emotional burdens when staying at their own residence became difficult because, for instance, the residence was demolished because of the crime and the victims are unable to personally secure a place to stay. (Government subsidy for temporary accommodation for crime victims: 17 million yen in fiscal year 2014; 17 million yen in fiscal year 2015)

Column (8) On-Site Report (1) (Introduction of Efforts on Crime Victim Support by a Local Government Employee in FY 2014)

The city A has provided support for a victim (female) of a violent act (threat) by her neighbor. The perpetrator of the case was a man with a developmental disability. He was living alone with his mother who had dementia and he has been abusing his mother with violence, such as pouring hot water over her on a regular basis.

This case was one of intimidation, in which the perpetrator, who had hatred towards the victim from being ignored, pulled a knife on her yelling, "I'm going to kill you!"

The perpetrator was arrested for the charge against the Act concerning Punishment of Physical Violence and Others, and was in custody for 60 days but was then released and went home.

The victim consulted the city A reporting that she "shivers remembering the scene from the incident", and she is "worried that she may get stabbed". The city held a support meeting for crime victims formed by internal related sections to share information and discussed on supporting measures. As the result, the city made arrangements for her to move into public housing.

The related service agencies continuously work together to provide support for both crime perpetrators and victims.

(4) Stabilization of Employment

○ Major efforts

• Disseminating and enlightening the leave system for recovery (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

In fiscal year 2014, in order to disseminate and enlighten the leave system for the recovery of crime victims for businesses and workers, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare created leaflets and posters, sent them to 222 organizations including relevant administrative organs, economic organizations and labor organizations, and held seminars.

Poster to promote the Leave System for Victim's Recovery



Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

2 Efforts for the Victims to Recover from or to Prevent Mental and/or Physical Damage

(1) Provision of Healthcare and Welfare

○ Major efforts

- Specialist Training Seminars to Prevent PTSD (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)
The MHLW holds specialist training seminars for physicians, nurses, public health nurses and medical health welfare professionals to prevent PTSD (posttraumatic stress disorder), encouraging preventive activities in respective facilities. People with PTSD can consult the mental health welfare centers, hospitals, and public health centers.
Training for crime victims' mental care is also provided at the seminars, and 226 persons participated in fiscal year 2014.
- Enhancement of counseling opportunities offered by police for sexual crime victims (National Police Agency)
Currently, prefectural police is commissioning outside psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, or other professionals for counseling crime victims or to act as adviser to improve the counseling skills of police staff.
For juvenile crime victims, juvenile guidance officials and other officials are to provide counseling, with advice from external experts. Since 2012, the National Police Agency has established the counseling guidance section and placed counseling staff members with clinical psychologist qualifications and rich experience to give guidance to police authorities throughout the country.

Further, since 2007, the National Police Agency has been approaching police officers or other staff with clinical psychologist qualifications to participate in further professional training in order to improve their counseling skills. (Government subsidy for training of counseling professionals: 10 million yen in fiscal year 2014; 13 million yen in fiscal year 2015)

(2) Securing Safety

○ Major efforts

- Consideration on further enhancement of the system to provide victims with information of offenders after their final and binding judgment or decisions on protective measures, and implementation of relevant measures (Ministry of Justice)
As a result of the review of the Victim Notification System, the Ministry of Justice decided to additionally include from April 1, 2014 the notification of rewards and punishments received by offenders in penal institution, and reward, punishment, and education of problematic behavior received by juvenile offenders in juvenile training school.
As for the beginning of probation, the ministry had been relaying the probation end year and month, which was changed to the year, month and date. In addition, the ministry will notify the implementation status of a Professional Treatment Program, which will be carried out under the Special Compliance Rules to improve specific criminal tendencies.

Column (9) Act on Prevention of Damage Caused by the Provision of Private Sexual Image Records

The Act on Prevention of Damage Caused by the Provision of Private Sexual Image Records (Act No. 126) (as known as the Revenge Porn Prevention Act) was enacted on November 27, 2014.

The purpose of this act is to punish the provision of private sexual image records and prevent damage caused by dishonoring of individuals and invasion of peace in one's private life to occur and its outspread, provided by the special provisions such as the Act on the Limitation of Liability for Damages of Specified Telecommunications Service Providers and the Right to Demand Disclosure of Identification Information of the Senders (Act No. 137, 2001) (as known as Act on the Limitation of Liability of Service Providers).

Section 2 below (punishments) and section 3 also below (special provision on the Act on the Limitation of Liabilities of Service Providers) came into force on December 17, 2014 and December 28, 2014, respectively.

1. Definition

'Private sexual image records' are digital and other forms of recorded images, such as a figure in sexual or quasi-sexual activities, completely or partially nude, exposing or emphasizing one's sexual body parts to excite or stimulate one's sex drive (Article 2, paragraph 1), and the private sexual image recording items' are the tangible objects such as pictures recording such images or the recording medium (Article 2, paragraph 2). However, the images, in which the recorded subject voluntarily approves the recording while acknowledging the viewing by a third party, are excluded in both cases.

2. Punishments

The act of provision of private sexual image records is considered applicable to other existing crimes, such as defamation (Penal Code, Article 230), Distribution of Obscene Objects (Article 175) or Punishing Acts Related to Child Pornography, however, these provisions could not correspond to all crimes to be punished, and there was a possibility that some crimes may fall through a loophole. In this Act, the following punishments are newly established in order to cover such loophole.

- A person who has provisioned private sexual image records to many and unspecified people through telecommunication means, has provisioned private sexual image recording items to many and unspecified people, or has displayed them in public shall be punished by imprisonment with work for not more than three years or a fine of not more than 500,000 JPY (Article no. 3, paragraph 1 & 2).
- A person who has provisioned sexual image records through telecommunication means or has provisioned private sexual image recording items for the purpose of the above article shall be punished by imprisonment with work for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than 300,000 JPY (paragraph 3).

The purpose of these punishments is to protect sexual privacy of the recorded subject, however since there is possibility of further invasion of privacy during the process of trial, the prosecution can only take place when the victim files a complaint (paragraph 4).

3. Special provision on the Act on the Limitation of Liability of Service Providers

Paragraph 4 of the Act on Prevention of Damage Caused by the Provision of Private Sexual Image Records states the special provision on the Act on the Limitation of Liability of Service Providers. Specifically, it is regulated that the service provider which has deleted the concerned information will not be liable for compensation of losses when the service provider receives a delete request from a person who claims to be dishonored or has had his/her privacy invaded by information related to his/her private sexual image records circulating on the Internet, and makes an inquiry to the sender of the concerned information but does not receive a response of whether or not the deletion of the contents is agreed.

If the recorded subject of the images or movie has already passed away, his/her spouse, linear descendant or siblings can make a delete request of the concerned information to the service provider.

*The Act on the Limitation of Liability of Service Providers sets 7 days for an inquiry period to the sender on the deletion of the contents.

Column (10) On-Site Report (2) (Introduction of Efforts on Crime Victim Support by a Local Government Employee in FY 2014)

City B provided support to a victim of domestic violence.

The victim's family consisted of a couple and two children.

The wife, who was the victim of this case, consulted the city about physical and psychological abuse from her husband. The abuse happened on a daily basis, but the wife had been tolerating the abuse thinking that everything would be fine if she did so.

The counseling staff was sympathetic to the victim and offered support to include cooperation with police. One day, the victim urgently evacuated to a temporary shelter with the help of the police.

However, she went home because she had left her children and the husband apologized and showed remorse for what he had done.

However, the abuse once again started after 2-3 weeks. The husband's violence has extended to the wife's parents, threatening their lives.

The city B prioritized the wife's feelings and her physical safety, and moved the wife and her children to a safe place in cooperation with the police and related government agencies. The city also respected her wish to establish an independent life without receiving social aid, and offered support in employment in cooperation with related agencies in order for her to carry out a stable life.

(3) Considerations and Other Regards to be Shown during the Process of Protection, Investigation, and Trial, etc.

○ Major efforts

- Appropriate operation of measures such as video links (Ministry of Justice)

The Ministry is striving for proper operations of systems allowing victims to state their opinion at the trial so as to properly reflect their perspectives to court proceedings, and promoting the use of video links and other protective measures to reduce victims' burdens and anxiety during witness testimony.

Between January and December of 2014, the total number of witnesses who were allowed to have accompanying person during the

witness examination was 112, the total number of witnesses who used shielding measures was 1,661, and the total number of witnesses whose examination was conducted through video link was 299.

Application of witness protection

Year	Witness Protection Measures		
	Attendant	Shield	Video link
2010	102	1,295	261
2011	136	1,317	242
2012	121	1,757	288
2013	116	1,792	278
2014	112	1,661	299

(Notes)

1. Data (approx. figures) from General Secretariat of the Supreme Court

2. The number of witnesses represents the total number who appeared at High Court, District Court and Summary Court

Source: Ministry of Justice

3 Efforts to Broaden Opportunity for Victims to Participate in Criminal Procedures

(1) Development of System to Broaden Opportunities to Participate in Criminal Procedures

○ Major efforts

- Consideration to broaden the scope of information provided to victims for them to

state opinions on parole examination and implementation of relevant measures (the Ministry of Justice).

In order to facilitate crime victims to state opinions on parole of the perpetrator from the penal institution or the juvenile training school, the Ministry of Justice is to consider the possible enhancement of notices under the Victim Notification Scheme, by reviewing the current operation of the system, potential problems to

rehabilitation of perpetrators and/or privacy of individuals, and to reach a conclusion within 3 years, after following all necessary measures. As the result of the above examination, it was decided to additionally include from April 1, 2014 the notification of rewards and punishments received by offenders in penal institution, and reward, punishment and education of problematic behavior received by juvenile offenders in juvenile training school.

Column (11) Bill to Revise a Part of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Policy on Witness Protection)

On March 13, 2015, the cabinet decision on a Bill to Revise a Part of the Code of Criminal Procedure was made, and submitted to the Diet. This bill is to optimize and diversify the means of evidence gathering as well as to enhance measures related to trial hearings in order to make criminal proceedings more functional and suitable for today's standard, therefore, the bill contains measures to protect witnesses in criminal proceedings including crime victims.

The measures for witness protection are the following:

- 'The measure regarding the disclosure of name and address of a witness' which is to protect **name and address of the witness** at the time when a prosecutor discloses evidence to a defendant.
- 'Suppressing the **name and other information of a witness** in open court' to protect **name and other information of a victim** in open court.
- 'Enhancement of video link witness examination' to prevent harm to a witness and reduce his/her burden during testimony.

Here is the summary of the above three measure.

<The measure regarding the disclosure of name and address of a witness>

During criminal proceedings, when a prosecutor requests examination of a witness, it is required to provide an opportunity for the defendant to know the **name of the witness and address**. By the previous revisions of this Act, the prosecutor may request the defense counsel to give consideration to not disclosing **witness information** to a defendant if there is a risk of harm against the witness. In addition, a prosecutor may request the defense counsel to give consideration to not disclosing victim information to a defendant if there is a risk that the victim of a sexual crime may be dishonored or harmed.

The current bill proposes 'measures regarding the disclosure of name and address of a witness', which provides the following measures to the extent not infringing the defendant's right to a defense in a case in which there is a risk that a witness requested by a prosecutor may be harmed.

- The measure to disclose information to the defense counsel under condition that the **name and address of the witness** shall not be disclosed to the defendant.
- If there is a risk that the above measure is not sufficient to prevent harm, the measure to disclose an alternative name and address to the defense counsel without providing the name and address of the witness.

<Suppressing the name and other information of witness in open court>

The revision of this Act in 2007 allows the decision of not disclosing the name and other information of a victim of a sexual crime in open court, and when such decision is made, court proceedings such as the reading of indictment can be taken without disclosing the victim's name and other information.

In this bill, such measures to 'suppress the **name and other information of witness** in open court' are to be expanded to witnesses other than victims.

< Enhancement of video link witness examination >

As a general principle in a criminal trial, the witness has to testify in an open court. However, since the revision of this Act in 2000, when a victim of a sexual crime testifies as a witness, the witness can attend the examination using a video link procedure, which is to keep the witness in a separate room from the defendant and the public while providing testimony through a video monitor.

In the former system, sitting in a separate room of the courthouse in which the trial took place was the only way. However, this bill proposes the measure to 'enhance video link witness examination' by allowing the witness to appear at a courthouse other than the one in which the trial takes place and attend the video link witness examination under the following circumstances:

- When there is a risk that the witness may bear psychological burden by appearing at the courthouse where the trial takes place, such as when a victim of a sexual crime testifies;
- When there is a risk of being harmed upon the appearance at the courthouse where the trial takes place, or being followed and harmed after the appearance for testifying against organized crime;
- When a witness resides in a remote location, and it is difficult to appear at the courthouse where the trial takes place.

4 Efforts to Improve the System to Support Crime Victims

(1) Providing Consultation, Information and others

○ Major efforts

- Promotion to establish comprehensive response desks at local governments (Cabinet Office)

The Cabinet Office requested to promote the foundation of a crime victim policy desk (crime victim policy division) at municipalities, as well as the establishment of a comprehensive consultation desk, which responds to consultations and requests from crime victims through various occasions such as the director meeting of the

crime victim policy division or training for local municipality employees.

As of April 1, 2015, of 1,721 municipalities (excluding ordinance-designated cities and including Tokyo 23 wards), 1,710 municipalities (approximately 99%) have a crime victim policy division, while 1,549 municipalities (approximately 90%) have a comprehensive consultation desk.

(2) Assisting Private Entities

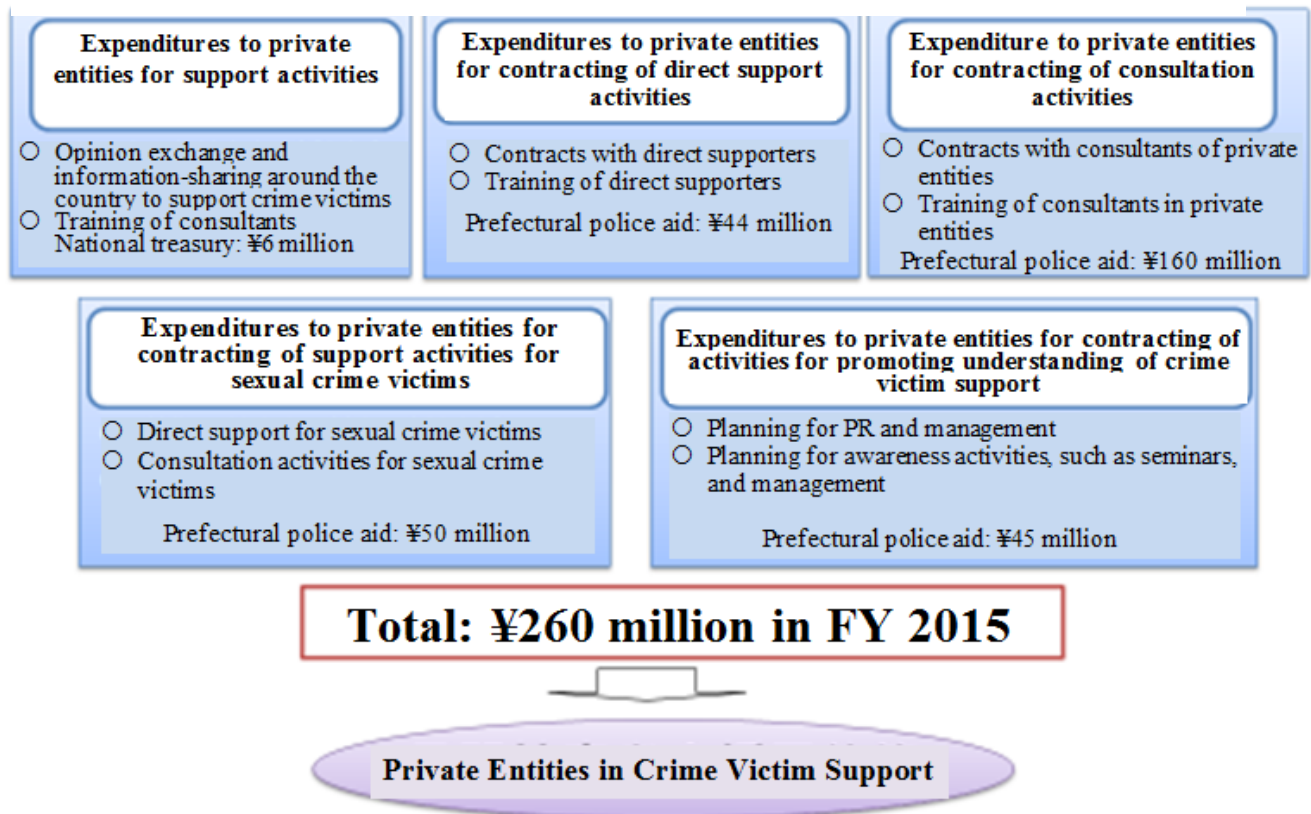
○ **Major efforts**

• Enhancement on the assistance to private entities (Cabinet Office, National Police Agency, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)

The National Police Agency assists the activities of private crime victim support organizations in various ways, including by dispatching lecturers for their training. The police have been taking budgetary measures to provide financial aid for private entities in crime victim support for the contracting of direct support and consultation activities to aid the early recovery of victims of sexual crime.

Government Financial Aid for Private Entities in Crime Victim Support

Government Financial Aid for Private Entities in Crime Victim Support



Source: National Police Agency

Column (12) Crime Victim Support System Promotion Project

The Cabinet Office co-hosts the Crime Victim Support System Promotion Project with prefectures and ordinance-designated cities. In 2014, it took place in Hokkaido, Akita, Aichi, Wakayama, Okinawa and Niigata.

In Hokkaido, a Tie-up Seminar on Criminal Victim Support was held with a theme of damage caused by crime and child's psychological support in order to provide an appropriate support system at an early stage for child victims in cooperation with teachers, school counselors, police and private support organizations.



Panel Discussion

In Akita, a Seminar on Measures for Crime Victims was held, which included the introduction of support system by cabinet office, talk sessions on the measures and crime victims, a lecture by a university researcher (theme: the role of local governments in measures for crime victims), and a group discussion with a case study.



Group Discussion

In Aichi, a seminar was held which included the introduction of a support system in Yokohama, a talk session by crime victims, and panel discussion focusing on the roles and coordination between local governments, police and private support organizations. In addition, panels appealing the necessity for support of crime victims, etc. were presented at the venue.



Talk session

In Wakayama, a Crime Victim Support Delivery Lecture and Crime Victim Support Forum were held, which both focused on the 'roles of people working at social welfare in crime victim support' and studied the topic with students and local residents.



Forum

In Okinawa, a seminar was held to improve support skills in coordination with other organizations. In the seminar, there was a lecture on interview methods to avoid secondary damage followed by a role-play based on a compound case of DV and child sexual abuse.



Role-play

In Niigata, a Seminar on Crime Victim Measures was held, focusing on the needs of crime victim support at a civil service section such as family register/residential basic book, welfare or tax, which has direct contact with citizens.



‘Sunflower’ made with pictures of crime victims

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

(1) Fostering Understanding among Citizens

○ Major efforts

- Implementation of advocacy projects to raise

public awareness on the actual situation that crime victims are in (Cabinet Office)
Refer to the Column below

Column (13) Campaigns of Crime Victim’s Week

The Cabinet Office has been carrying out various events for PR and awareness during the Crime Victim’s Week (November 25-December 1) in collaboration with the National Police Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

As the 9th project (Central Event) of 2014, the Cabinet Office hosted in Tokyo on December 1 a central event. There were also cosponsored local events in Kumamoto (November 25) and Saitama (November 29). The details of events during the Crime Victim’s Week are available to the public on the website of the Measures for Crime Victims by the Cabinet Office.

(<http://www8.cao.go.jp/hanzai/joho/week/week.html#tsudoi>).

Since 2007, the Cabinet Office invited suggestions for this year’s slogan for supporting crime victims. In 2014, a slogan “Our hands that support your wounded heart” by Hayato Narimatsu from Hiroshima won the best award out of 2,700 submissions, and received the award at the central event. Posters of the Crime Victims’ Week events with this motto were distributed to local governments around the country for the use of PR and awareness projects and posted in subways, related organizations and entities, and universities.

In 2014, the Cabinet Office collected information on events that had been independently held in each prefecture to enlighten people on crime victims’ struggles. The data was publicized on the Promotion of Policies for Crime Victims Office website, and Facebook.

The Cabinet Office will further strive to make the Crime Victims’ Week (November 25 to December 1) known to all as a nation-wide activity.



Crime Victim’s Week Poster

- Implementation of advocacy projects on crime victim related measures during respective promotion periods (Cabinet Office, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

The Cabinet Office has been addressing the elimination of violence against women through the “Campaign for Eliminating Violence against Women” (from November 12 to 25 every year) in cooperation with local governments, women’s groups, and other related organizations.

The Cabinet Office also carried out the Nationwide Traffic Safety Campaign in spring (from April 6 to 15, 2014) and autumn (September 21 to 30, 2014) on Prevention of Traffic Accidents of Children and Elderlies, to appeal the misery of traffic accidents and preciousness of life to the public while incorporating perspectives of traffic victims.

The Ministry of Justice, in order to promote consideration and protection for the human rights of crime victims, carries out various promotion activities, under the slogan of “Consider the Human Rights of Crime Victims and their Families,” as one of the annual priority targets of activities for human rights awareness-raising, such as holding lectures

and workshops, distributing leaflets dealing with human rights issues of crime victims and crime victim support, during the Human Rights Week (December 4 to 10) and other times throughout the year.

In 2004, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare is conducting intensive advocacy activities during November as the Month to Promote Prevention of Child Abuse to deepen the understanding and to raise awareness of every parts of the society on child abuse in collaboration with related ministries and agencies, local governments, and related organizations. In fiscal year 2014, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare adopted a monthly slogan, “Don’t hesitate. Let us know and be connected in the circle of life”, held a National Forum on Child Abuse Prevention in Wakayama City (November 24), prepared and distributed posters, leaflets, and handbooks that introduce the Child Guidance Centers’ nation-wide common hotline, and thus, through Government PR media and various media (radio and Internet TV, etc.), propagated the principle that child abuse is an issue to be resolved by society as a whole.



The crime victim support symbol mark Gyutto-chan (holding a victim tight)