

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 7

Campaigns of Crime Victims’ Week

Article 20 stipulates that “The State and local governments are to take the necessary measures to improve the public understanding of the situation of crime victims, etc. of the importance of respecting their reputation or peace in life, etc. through educational and public relations activities.” Based on the Article, the Cabinet Office carried out a project of “Crime Victims’ Week” (November 25 to December 1) under the First and Second Basic Plans.

The Third Basic Plan states that with the cooperation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, the National Police Agency is to plan “Crime Victims’ Week” and to implement focused advocacy projects during that week.

In FY 2016, the Agency held the 11th Central Meeting (December 1) in Tokyo for the first time, and regional meetings in Hokkaido (November 17) and Yamaguchi Prefecture (November 26) under the joint auspices of local governments.

○ Central Meeting

The theme of the Central Meeting was “Knowing, introducing and supporting - knowing the reality of sexual crime damage introducing appropriate support to crime victims - Let’s support crime victims by the entire society.” Under the theme, the awarding ceremony for slogans, keynote speech, and panel discussion were carried out.

To the awarding ceremony, Mio Takahashi whose slogan won the grand prize was invited and commended by Chairperson of the National Public Safety Commission, Jun Matsumoto.

The keynote speech was given by Seiko Konishi, head of the Human Science Department Clinical Psychology Center of Musashino University under the theme of “The reality of sexual crime damage and support for crime victims.” She explained the situation of sexual crime damage, effects of crimes on mind and body, necessary support, and how to respond when our acquaintances should suffered sexual crime damage.

The panel discussion was about “efforts on support for sexual crime victims and future issues.”

The participants were Nozomu Asukai, Director of the Victim Support Center in Tokyo and psychiatrist, as a coordinator; Akiko Mochizuki, a lawyer and representative of NPO Corporation Rape Crisis Center TSUBOMI, as a panelist; Hiroshi Maeda, Director of the Metropolitan Police First Investigation Division (criminal investigation advisor, also as a panelist) and Seiko Konishi, a keynote speaker. They explained the ongoing efforts toward crime victim support and discussed how to do so as not to make sexual damage be hidden.



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



Poster for the Crime Victims' Week

○ Meeting in Hokkaido

In the meeting in Hokkaido, a keynote speech, panel discussion, and panel exhibition by relevant institutions/groups were carried out.

In the keynote speech, Yoko Takaishi, one of the bereaved families of traffic accidents and leader of the Bereaved Families Nationwide Liaison Council Seeking Severe Punishment on Drinking, Hit-And-Run Crimes talked about her thoughts brought by the fact that she had lost her son in the traffic accident and her activities to eradicate drunk driving, under the theme of "To eliminate tragedies."

The participants in the panel discussion were Keiko Zenyoji, Director of the Family Life General Counseling Center of Hokkaido, as a coordinator; Satomi Kimura, Chief Director of the J-CAPTA, as a panelist; Seiko Ohba, a Special Adviser of the Victim Support Center of Miyagi; Mayumi Yashiro, Chairperson of the Sapporo Human Rights Volunteers Council and Vice-Chairperson of the Sapporo Bar Association for Crime Victim Support. They discussed the efforts toward crime victim support and damage prevention, and the importance of close cooperation in crime victim support.

Mr. Kazushi Sakuraba, a singer song writer, and the Hokkaido Police Music Band held a concert.

Additionally, 12 institutions/groups exhibited panels, posters, leaflets, etc. in the exhibition corner, offering information on crime victim support.



Yoko Takaishi's speech



Panel discussion

○ Meeting in Yamaguchi

At the meeting in Yamaguchi, a keynote speech and panel discussion were carried out.

In the keynote speech, Mie Itoga, one of the bereaved families of murder cases, talked about such families' thoughts and what kind of support crime victims want, under the theme of "Necessary support for crime victims."

The participants of the panel discussion were Keiko Katoda, Vice-President (head of the Community Harmony Center) of Yamaguchi Prefectural University, as a coordinator; Yoshikatsu Tsuru, Chairperson of the Yamaguchi Bar Association for Crime Victim Support and Director of the Yamaguchi Victim Support Center, as a panelist; Misao Nakamura, Chief of the Yamaguchi Prefectural Police Headquarters Police Affairs Division Citizens Department and Director of the Yamaguchi Victim Support Liaison Council; Retsuko Ota, Director of the

Clinical Psychologist Association's Victim Support Division of Yamaguchi Branch and victim support counselor; and Mie Itoga, a keynote speaker. They talked that relevant institutions/groups should closely cooperate to enhance support, and the importance of considering what we can do for crime victims, etc. to restore their peaceful life. The crime victims-related groups exhibited panels in the hall.



Panel discussion



Panel exhibition

The crime victim support symbol mark, Gyutto-chan

