

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)

○ Main efforts

• Implementation of Focused Advocacy Projects during “Crime Victims Week”

[Policy No. 239]



Crime Victims Week

The Third Basic Plan names “efforts to foster the understanding among citizens and to earn their consideration and cooperation” as one of the principal challenges and states, “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 for the situation of crime victims, etc. and the importance of consideration for victims’ honor and the tranquility of their lives and to ensure such considerations for crime victims, etc. and cooperation for policies taken for them.”

To this end, with the cooperation of the relevant ministries and agencies, the National Police Agency has announced the period from November 25 to December 1 annually to be Crime Victims Week, during which the National Police Agency implements focused advocacy projects.

In 2018, the National Police Agency held its Central Meeting on November 30 in Tokyo and regional meetings in Fukuoka Prefecture (November 28) and Okinawa Prefecture (November 21) in cooperation with the relevant local governments.

Central Meeting

The central meeting included an award ceremony for slogans related to crime victims, etc., keynote speech, panel discussion, and other activities. In the award ceremony, Mr. Yamamoto Juzo, the Chairperson of the National Public Safety Commission awarded the top prize for the best slogan related to crime victims, etc. to Miss Yamaoka Yuuri. In the keynote speech, Mr. Hase Mamoru, himself a relative of a crime victim (and the chairperson of the Hyogo Victim Support Center and former vice president of Asunokai) delivered a speech entitled, “The Importance of Continuous Support: Thoughts on Children Deceased and Left Behind,” in which he discussed the importance of timely and continuous support delivered chiefly with the victims’ perspectives in mind, and the education and psychological support of the siblings of crime victims based on his personal experiences.

The panel discussion on “Thoughts on the Support of Siblings of Crime Victims” was led by Ms. Fujimori Miwa (Professor of the Faculty of Human Sciences of Musashino University) as the moderator and included the panelists, Mr. Hase Mamoru, Mr. Mitarai (the brother of a 6th grade girl slain by her classmates at a Sasebo City Elementary School), Ms. Saito Azuza (full-time lecturer in psychological counseling in the Anthropology Department at Mejiro University and a clinical psychologist), and Mr. Hattori Tetsuya (division chief in charge of the Promotion of Regional Security of the Kobe Municipal Office of Crisis Management).



Winner of the prize for best slogan posing
with the chairperson of the National
Public Safety Commission



Crime Victims Week poster

The discussion covered topics, including strategies for providing support appropriate to the mental state of children based on the real experiences of siblings of crime victims who were unable to communicate their own suffering to those around them and were therefore forced to hide their psychological turmoil. Other topics included a discussion on creating an environment for children to prevent secondary victimization.

Fukuoka Meeting

The Fukuoka meeting was held jointly by the National Police Agency, Fukuoka Prefecture, and the Fukuoka Prefectural Police. In the keynote speech, Mr. Kitaguchi Tadashi, a relative of a crime victim, delivered a speech entitled, “The Situation in Which Crime Victims, etc. are Placed,” in which he spoke of his own experience of losing his sister in the Hatsukaichi City murder incident involving high school girls as well as secondary victimization and the importance of collecting information on cold cases.



Scene from the panel discussion



Scene from panel exhibit

The panel discussion, led by moderator Ms. Ura Naoko (Chief of the Fukuoka Victim Support Center) dealt with the topic, “Building a Community Where Everyone Supports Crime Victims, etc.” and included the panelists, Mr. Hayashi Makoto (attorney and head of the Fukuoka Bar Agency Committee on Support for Crime Victims), Ms. Kashima Ryoko (school counselor and clinical psychologist), Mr. Hideharu Tatebayashi (chief of the Fukuoka Mental Welfare Center and a psychiatrist), and Mr. Kitaguchi Tadashi, and included a debate on strategies for preventing secondary victimization and building communities that are supportive of crime victims, etc.

In the exhibit section, panels, posters, and leaflets produced by the relevant government organizations and agencies were displayed and distributed.

Okinawa Meeting

The Okinawa meeting was held jointly by the National Police Agency, Okinawa Prefecture, Okinawa Police, Okinawa Victim Support Center, and the Urasoe City. For the keynote speech, Ms. Take Ruriko, herself a relative of a crime victim, delivered a talk entitled, “Thoughts of a Mother Who Lost Her Son to Juvenile Crime,” in which she related her sorrow at losing her son to crime, her ordeal following the incident, and her activities such as her work as the president of the Agency of Parties Related to Juvenile Crime Victims which, among their activities, continues to hold meetings with students.

The panel discussion focused on the topic, “Supporting Juvenile Crime Victims and their Families.” The moderator was Mr. Ito Yoshinori (associate professor in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of Ryukyu University and a clinical psychologist), and the panelists were Ms. Murakami Naoko (attorney and head of the Okinawa Bar Committee on Crime Victim Support Agency), Mr. Inada Takashi (psychiatrist, vice administrator of Hakujukai Motobu Memorial Hospital, executive director of the Okinawa Medical Agency, and executive director of the Okinawa Victim Support Center), Mr. Yara Jun, (group leader of the Prefectural School Education Division of the Educational Bureau of Okinawa), Ms. Take Ruriko, and relatives of crime victims, who engaged in discussion about the situation of victims in cases of juvenile crime, the support necessary for these victims, and strategies for the whole community, including schools, for protecting children.

Also, “Mayumi Yamakawa” and “Ten, the Island Songstress” were performed on stage for the enjoyment of the audience.

Further, in the exhibit section, panels, posters, and leaflets produced by the relevant government organizations and agencies were displayed and distributed.



Scene from the keynote speech by Take Ruriko



Scene from the panel discussion

- **Effective Enlightenment and PR to People**
[Policy No. 241]

To create opportunities for the citizenry to think about support for crime victims and to promote their understanding of the issues, the National Police Agency collects slogans related to support for crime victims by the general public. Of the more than 4000 slogans collected in 2018, the National Police Agency awarded top prize to the submission by Miss Yanaoka Yuuri, second grader at a Gunma prefecture elementary school, who came up with a slogan, “Help each other. A little courage builds bonds.” The slogans are printed on public relations posters for use during Crime Victim Week as a tool for raising awareness about victim support throughout the citizenry.

- **Provision of Information for Victim Support**
[Policy No. 243]

The Cabinet Office has published information useful to victims of spousal violence concerning ordinances, policies, and relevant organizations, including translations of the Japanese text into other languages, on the Cabinet Office website (http://www.gender.go.jp/policy/no_violence/index.html)

The Cabinet Office has also published information on damage cases and consultation centers for sexual violence directed especially at younger women, such as the issues of so-called forced participation in pornographic materials “JK Business” issue on the Cabinet Office website (http://www.gender.go.jp/policy/no_violence/avjk/index.html).



The Crime Victim support symbol mark, Gyutto-chan