

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”



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 FY2019, the National Police Agency held its Central Meeting on November 29 in Tokyo and regional meetings in Toyama Prefecture (November 21) and Tochigi Prefecture (November 28) 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.

At the award ceremony, Ms. Shiho Ito, the winner of the highest award for the slogan on crime victims, etc. was commended.

The keynote speech was delivered by Mr. Norihiro Hongo, the bereaved family member of the crime victim, under the theme of “Lessons Learned from the Ikeda Elementary School Massacre ~ Protecting Children’s Safety~.” He spoke about the situation of the horrific incident, the feelings of the bereaved families, the system of the school that failed to prevent the incident, and the lessons learned from it, including the importance of creating a crisis management manual for schools, and the need for cooperation of the local community and schools.

The panel discussion was held under the theme of “Support for Crime Victims in Local Communities ~Aiming for Meticulous Support through Cooperation between Local Governments, Relevant Organizations and Groups~,” regarding how to support the recovery of the victims and the reconstruction of their lives, the roles of local governments, related organizations and groups, and how to cooperate among them. Invited were Ms. Yuka Ooka (Associate Professor at Mukogawa Women’s University) as coordinator, and Ms. Satoko Aoki (a member of the Crime Victims’ Family, representative of NPO Network OASISU for Crime Victims), Mr. Masataka Hojo (Attorney, a member of the Crime Victims’ Support Committee of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, Director of Nara Crime Victims Support Center), Ms. Nobuko Tsuruta (Head of Psychological Counseling for Victims, Crime Victims Counselor, Tokyo Metropolitan Center for Victims Support), and Mr. Katsumi Kimoto (Yokohama City Civil Affairs Bureau Human Rights Division, in charge of social welfare, mental health worker, certified psychologist, clinical psychologist) as panelists.



Winners of Slogan and National Public Safety Commissioner
Mr. Shinichi Kitajima



Crime Victims Week poster

[Toyama Meeting]

The Toyama Meeting was co-hosted by the National Police Agency, Toyama Prefecture, Toyama Prefectural Police and Toyama Victims Support Center.

In the keynote speech, Ms. Ruriko Take, a mother who lost her son to a juvenile crime and a representative of the Association of Juvenile Crime Victims, talked about her grief of losing her son to the crime and her own situation afterwards, as well as her activities and meetings with students as a representative of the Association of Juvenile Crime Victims.

The panel discussion was held under the theme of “What We Can Do to Support Crime Victims.” Invited were Ms. Noriko Nishio (Associate Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, Takaoka University of Law) as coordinator, and Ms. Yuka Ooka (Associate Professor of Mukogawa Women’s University), Ms. Nagi Kimura (Director of the Toyama One-Stop Support Center for Victims of Sexual Violence), Ms. Ruriko Take (Keynote Speaker), and Mr. Yoshihiro Zaida (FY2019 Chairman of the Board of Directors of Toyama Junior Chamber of Commerce) as panelists as panelists. The discussion was about what the public can support crime victims, etc. and the activities that individuals can do with their initiatives.

In the exhibition corner, panels, posters, leaflets, etc., were displayed and distributed by related organizations and groups.



Scene from the panel discussion



Scene from panel exhibit

[Tochigi Meeting]

The Tochigi Meeting was co-hosted by the National Police Agency, Tochigi Prefecture, Tochigi Prefectural Police and Victim Support Center Tochigi.

In the keynote speech, Mr. Takahiko Yasuda (Advisor to the National Network for Victim Support, Kyoto University Specially Appointed Professor of the Integrated Studies in Human Survivability, former President of the National Police Academy) talked under the theme of “Aiming for the enhancement of support for victims in the community,” in which he talked about the development of support for crime victims and the importance of enacting ordinances to support crime victims in local governments.

The panel discussion was held under the theme of “To Gather the Momentum for Victim Support.” Invited were Mr. Keisuke Tsuji (Professor of Musashino University) as coordinator, and Mr. Tomohiro Toguchi (Chief of the Community Safety Team, Wakayama Prefectural Citizen’s Life Division), Mr. Takahiko Yasuda (keynote speaker), Mr. Mitsuhiro Kudo (Director of Crime Prevention and Public Information Consultation Division, Tochigi Prefectural Police Headquarters), and Ms. Michiko Waki (Executive Director of the Victim Support Center, Tochigi) as panelists. They discussed the thoughts of crime victims and the necessity of local government ordinances to support crime

victims.

The award ceremony was also held to give a letter of appreciation to the donors and those who installed vending machines with donations for victims.

In the exhibition corner, panels, posters, leaflets, etc., were displayed and distributed by related organizations and groups.



Keynote speech by Takahiko Yasuda



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.

In FY2019, the Grand Prize was awarded to Ms. Shiho Ito, a fifth-grade student from Hiroshima Prefecture, for her entry, “Support each other, show courage, and start with me,” out of about 3,600 entries. The slogan is used as a tool to promote public awareness of support for crime victims, such as on public enlightenment posters for the Crime Victims Week.

- **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 appearances in pornographic materials and “JK Business” on the Cabinet Office website (http://www.gender.go.jp/policy/no_violence/avjk/index.html).



The Crime Victim support symbol mark, Gyutto-chan