

FY 2019

**Policies for Crime Victims, etc.**  
**(Summary)**

National Public Safety Commission and  
National Police Agency

This report (White Paper) states measures for crime victims, etc. formulated by the government based on Article 10 of the Basic Act on Crime Victims, and is submitted to the Diet, as an annual report.

This is the 15th report (White Paper), describing both the measures taken for crime victims, etc. in FY2019 based on the Third Basic Plan on Crime Victims, etc. (Cabinet decision on April 1, 2016) and their progress in line with five priorities.

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The Basic Act on Crime Victims (hereinafter referred to as the Basic Act) was enacted in December 2004, stipulating that “As every citizen is susceptible to becoming a crime victim, etc., and the chances of that happening have increased, more than ever we need to create policies from the viewpoint of crime victims, etc. taking another step forward to realizing a society where they have their interests and rights protected.” (Preamble of the Basic Act)

The Basic Act stipulates that the government must establish a basic plan concerning policies for crime victims, etc. in order to promote policies for crime victims, etc. in a comprehensive and planned manner. (Article 8 (1) of the Basic Act) Thus the Basic Plan for Crime Victims, etc. (Cabinet decision on December 2005, hereinafter referred to as the First Basic Plan) was enacted in December 2005. The First Basic Plan includes four fundamental principles: (1) Guarantee the right of crime victims, etc. to be treated accordingly to their dignity, (2) Take each measure properly, mindful of individual victim’s circumstance, (3) Provide a seamless and continuous support, and (4) Progress while building the national consensus. These strategies are subdivided into five priorities: 1) Efforts to recover the victims’ damages and to provide them with economic support; 2) Efforts for the Victims to Recover from or to Prevent Mental and/or Physical Damage; 3) Efforts to broaden the opportunity for victims to participate in criminal procedures; 4) Efforts to improve the systems to support crime victims, etc.; and 5) Efforts to foster the understanding among citizens and to earn their consideration and cooperation.

The First Basic Plan lasted until the end of FY2010. The measures were steadily implemented to achieve certain results. Especially, as for “Efforts to broaden the opportunity for victims to participate in criminal procedures” and “Efforts to recover the victims’ damages and to provide them with economic support,” the systems were broadly revised, leading to creation of a victim participation system; establishment of a damages order system; and expansion of a crime victimization benefit system. Thus the progress was highly evaluated (2010-

October Decision at the meeting on the promotion of measures for crime victims).

Aiming at further protection of crime victims’ rights and interests, the Second Basic Plan for Crime Victims, etc. (Cabinet decision on March 2011, hereinafter referred to as the Second Basic Plan) was formulated in 2011.

In the Second Basic Plan, lasting until the end of FY2015, four fundamental principles and five priorities were set, and based on the Plan the concerned government agencies steadily promoted the measures in a comprehensive, cross-sectional manner. It was evaluated as having achieved good results (2015-November Decision at the meeting on the promotion of measures for crime victims, etc.). Aiming at further protection of crime victims’ rights and interests, the Third Basic Plan for Crime Victims, etc. (2016-April decision of the Cabinet, hereinafter referred to as the Third Basic Plan) lasting until the end of FY2020 was formulated in April 2016, based on the results of the First and Second Basic Plans, setting four fundamental principles and five priorities.

Because the Act on Partial Amendment to the National Government Organization Act was revised in the same month in order to reinforce the function of comprehensive coordination on important policies of the Cabinet. Accordingly, the affairs handling preparation and promotion of basic plans for crime victims, etc. were transferred to the National Public Safety Commission (National Police Agency). Now the National Public Safety Commission (National Police Agency) closely works with the concerned government agencies, periodically checking the progress of each measure stated in the Third Basic Plan to promote it appropriately, and holding meetings with the basic plan preparation/promotion expert committee, thus studying how to formulate the Fourth Basic Plan for Crime Victims, etc. (tentative name) starting from FY2019, regarding five priorities stated in the Third Basic Plan.