

MISSION PERMANENTE DU JAPON
AUPRÈS DES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES
GENÈVE-SUISSE

EM/UN/218

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and, with reference to the questionnaire prepared by the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, has the honour to transmit herewith the information from the Government of Japan.

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 19 May 2015

Enclosure mentioned



Information for the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to assess assistance and rehabilitation programmes for child victims of sale and exploitation, including sexual exploitation

1. Provide information on the legal, policy, institutional and budgetary framework developed by your country to establish assistance and rehabilitation programmes for child victims of sale and exploitation, including sexual exploitation.

(1) The Cabinet Office has compiled the "Guideline on Establishment and Operation of One-Stop Support Centers for Victims of Sexual Crimes and Sexual Violence". The Guideline aims to create an environment that promotes the establishment of One-Stop Support Centers by raising the level of cooperation and coordination between relevant agencies and entities through sharing common understandings and recognition on this issue, and to enhance the support for victims of sexual crimes and sexual violence depending on available resources and existing conditions of each region.

<http://www8.cao.go.jp/hanzai/whitepaper/english/2012/pdf/p7-11.pdf>

In the guideline, One-Stop Support Centers are defined as where the victims of sexual crimes and sexual violence can receive comprehensive support in one location (including introduction of relevant agencies and entities), immediately after the victimization.

(2) In order to enhance support services for the victims of sexual assault, the Cabinet Office conducts empirical research through pilot projects in some of the local governments, which aim to set-up or strengthen support and counselling services for the victims.

Through evaluating the effectiveness and results of each project, the Cabinet Office will provide practical information for local governments to raise their efforts in developing support systems and creating environments which make it easier for the victims to access needed assistance without any hesitation.

(3) The Human Rights Organs of the Ministry of Justice have developed a system to put children at ease in consulting the Organs and to contribute to the early detection of child victims by setting up a special helpline concerning children's rights called the "Children's Rights Hotline" (toll-free) and distributing "Children's Rights SOS Letter-Cards" (letters with prepaid envelopes to send for human rights counseling) to elementary and junior high school children nationwide.

(4) The following support shall be provided when a child guidance center receives any consultation concerning a child who has been harmed mentally and physically due to damage by sexual abuse or a crime of child pornography.

- Counseling by Child Psychologists and guidance and assistance by Child Welfare Officers
- Temporary custody when urgent custody is needed
- Referral to specialized agency such as a medical institution when medical care is needed

-Admission to a child welfare institution when the child's life needs to be rebuilt

In the process of consultation with the child guidance center, the case shall be reported to the police after confirming the intention of the child victim.

(5) Frameworks developed by the Police are as follows:

a) Guideline for Assisting Crime Victims

The Police are promoting the support for crime victims, including child victims, in line with the "Basic Policy for Supporting Crime Victims" following "The Second Basic Plan for Crime Victims" which was approved by the Cabinet in 2011.

b) Rules for Juvenile Police Activity

"Rules for Juvenile Police Activity" was established in 2002 to perform juvenile police activity, which includes helping the rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims.

c) Guideline for Preventing Juvenile Delinquency and Protective Measures

"Guideline for Preventing Juvenile Delinquency and Protective Measures" was established in 2004 to protect juveniles against crimes.

d) Comprehensive Measures to Eliminate Child Pornography

In close cooperation with related organizations and bodies, we have intensified law enforcement and efforts to raise public awareness of child protection and to prevent distribution of and access to images of child pornography on the Internet, following the "Second Comprehensive Measures to Eliminate Child Pornography" compiled by the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime in 2013.

2. Based on your experience, what elements are necessary for a comprehensive and rights-based care and recovery system of child victims of sale and exploitation, including sexual exploitation?

(1) Improved Counseling System

Crime victims, who have suffered great mental damage, need professional counseling in many cases.

The Police have established a counseling system in view of alleviating the victim's trauma as follows:

-Assign expert officers for counseling

-Work together with external psychiatrists and psychologists

Juvenile officers give counseling to child victims on the advice of external juvenile guidance specialists.

(2) Setting up Counseling Counters

The Police have a Comprehensive Counseling Center in most police headquarters to respond to citizens' requests for assistance.

The Police also run a telephone counseling system which citizens can reach from anywhere in the country by dialing #9110.

Such calls can be forwarded to the Comprehensive Counseling Center if necessary.

Additionally, the Police have set up specific counseling counters for sex crimes, juvenile issues, and consumer problems.

3. Provide examples of good practices and successful initiatives of assistance and rehabilitation programmes which facilitate the rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims of sale and exploitation, including sexual exploitation.

N. A.

4. Describe the challenges that your country has identified in the establishment and management of assistance and rehabilitation programmes for child victims of sale and exploitation, including sexual exploitation.

N. A.

5. How do you ensure that the views and needs of children are duly taken into account in the design and provision of care and recovery services?

N. A.

6. How do you ensure access of child victims to support services?

(1) Improvement of Police Juvenile Counseling Service

The Police have set up a face-to-face counseling room for young victims at each prefectural police headquarters to meet their specific needs. The counseling rooms are designed to be soundproof so that they can feel relaxed when speaking with police officers.

The Police are also running the "Young Telephone Corner" and receive counseling requests by fax, toll-free call, and e-mail to make the service more accessible to youth.

Police consulting and support services have been strengthened for victims of child pornography through counseling as well as requiring webmasters to delete the pornographic images of the victims.

(2) Continuous Support by Specialists

Juvenile officers with expertise in child psychology make a wide-ranging evaluation of the emotional shock of child victims during/after the abuse. When the officers believe it necessary to provide continuous support for them to get over their trauma, the officers offer continuous support to create a better familial environment for children in cooperation with parents, institutions and organizations concerned while giving counseling.

(3) Juvenile Support Center

Each prefectural police headquarters has a "Juvenile Support Center" where expert officers offer systematic support.

"Juvenile Support Centers" are located in cities where the prefectural police headquarters exist, and the juvenile officers of these centers extend assistance to child victims or their parents. At the same time, the officers build networks among schools, Child Guidance Centers, other organizations concerned and volunteers to offer multilateral support for their reintegration.

(4) Measures against Child Abuse

Child abuse by parents including sexual exploitation has a serious effect on children both mentally and physically, so that the Police are taking a proactive approach in line with the spirit of the Law on the Prevention of Child Abuse.

i. Early Detection and Reporting

The Police are required to identify cases of child abuse at an early stage, and quickly give notice to a Child Guidance Center.

ii. Assuring the Safety of Children

When a possible child abuse case is reported, an immediate confirmation is made by meeting the child and taking necessary measures with the top priority on assuring the safety of the child, including temporary protective custody when appropriate. For instance, the Police make a request to a "Child Guidance Center" to conduct an on-site investigation or take the child into temporary protective custody. The Police also establish a criminal case to have the authorities intervene in such abuses.

iii. Response to Requests for Assistance

When a person responsible for a Child Guidance Center or similar institution requests that police provide assistance in their child protective activities, the Police provide appropriate support with precise distribution of roles and consultation between both parties.

iv. Assistance to Children

Expert officers are engaged in child counseling and guidance for their guardians in close cooperation as well as under the role-sharing arrangement with a Child Guidance Center.

v. Incidents to Be Handled as Criminal Cases

The Police investigate possible child abuse cases as criminal cases.

vi. Strengthening collaboration among related Organizations

The Police are taking necessary measures for closer cooperation with Child Guidance Centers and Health & Medical institutions.

7. How do you ensure the adoption of a gender perspective in the establishment and management of the assistance and rehabilitation programmes?

Do the programmes provide gender-specific measures for the care and recovery of boys and girls?

(1) Appointment of a Senior Supervisor for Sex Crime Investigation

Prefectural police assign a senior supervisor to the instruction section of sex crime investigation in each headquarters. The officers of this section are engaged in instruction for and coordination of sex crime investigation, sex crime statistics and fostering of expert investigators.

(2) Investigation by Female Officers

The Police assign male or female officers as preferred by sex crime victims to alleviate their mental burden during police investigation.

Accordingly, each prefectural police is increasing the number of female officers for conducting sex crime investigation in headquarters, and assigning them for investigations in cases in which the victim is female.

The female officers are engaged in various rules related to the victims such as interviewing the victims, collecting evidence, accompanying them to a hospital, informing them of the investigative progress, etc.

(3) Establishment of Sex Crime Consultation Counters

Each prefectural police headquarters offers telephone counseling services such as "Sex Crimes 110", and a face-to-face counseling counter for sex crime victims to inform the victims of investigative information and advise them about recovery. Both are staffed by female officers.

8. Provide information on prevention programmes developed by your country with a specific focus on children at risk or in vulnerable situations (e.g. children working and/or living on the street, children placed in institutions, unaccompanied migrant children).

N. A.

(FIN)