

FY2019

The Protection of Human Rights

Building a Century of Human Rights

Caring about How Others Feel and
Passing down the Concept of Mutually
Recognizing Differences to the Future



Jin-KEN-Ayumi-Chan



Human rights promotion
characters

Jin-KEN-Mamoru-Kun

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Human Rights Bureau,
Ministry of Justice

Introduction

What impression do you have when you read or hear the term “human rights”? Does it sound like something very important, something formal and difficult to understand, or something that has nothing to do with yourself?

We consider that “human rights” refer to rights that all people are endowed with to secure their life and freedom and to pursue individual happiness, or rights inherent to human beings to live with dignity. We also consider “human rights” as something connected closely to our lives and important for everyone, something which can only be protected with our compassion to respect diversity. We teach our children that “human rights” is to cherish life and to be friendly with others.

“Human rights” is not something difficult to understand. Anyone can understand and feel it in their heart. In reality, however, there are cases of children’s deaths due to bullying or abuse and breach of privacy caused by slander posted on the internet. Some people face prejudice or discrimination because they have disabilities or they are patients or former patients of Hansen’s Disease or are family members of such people. So-called hate speech or other forms of discrimination against foreign nationals, and the *Dowa* issue (*Buraku* discrimination) still exist. These are all tragic and regrettable human rights violations. Why do these problems occur? How can we eliminate such human rights violations?

Based on the “White Paper on Human Rights Education and Awareness-Raising 2019” published in June 2019, this booklet describes the major human rights issues in Japan, outlines the mechanism and activities of the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, and explains the initiatives for human rights protection in the international community.

With the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics Games one year away, momentum for tackling human rights issues is intensifying in the society as a whole. On this occasion, we hope that this booklet will help you further deepen your understanding of human rights.

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1. Major Human Rights Issues

Have you ever felt that your human rights or those of someone near you have been breached?

This Chapter focuses on the major human rights issues that need to be addressed.

1- Women

Even today, some people make comments such as, “Because you are a woman...”. Women should not be deprived of opportunities to participate in society and to work because of their gender. It is also necessary to protect women from aggressions such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, stalking, etc.

The ideal of gender equality is stipulated in the Constitution of Japan and the principle of gender equality has been established through specific legislation such as the Act on Securing, Etc. of Equal Opportunity and Treatment between Men and Women in Employment (Equal Employment Opportunity Act for Men and Women). In reality, however, fixed ideas on gender roles, such as that men should work outside and women should remain at home, are deeply-rooted in society even today and cause various kinds of gender discrimination at home and in the workplace.

In addition, violence against women such as sex crimes, abuse by a spouse, etc., and sexual harassment in the workplace, as well as disadvantageous treatment due to pregnancy and childbirth, or so-called maternity harassment, have been frequently occurring in recent years.

With regard to women’s human rights issues such as those mentioned above, the Basic Plan for Gender Equality has been formulated based on the Basic Act for Gender-Equal Society that entered into force in June 1999. The current Fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality was formulated in December 2015.

The Act of Promotion of Women’s Participation and Advancement in the Workplace, which was enforced in April 2016, requires the national government and local governments and employers that regularly employ a certain number of workers to establish a plan of action with numerical goals and publicize the information on the status of female employees’ participation in the workplaces.

In this manner, efforts are being made to develop an environment where women can fully exercise their abilities and participate actively in their vocational lives according to their will.

Furthermore, relevant information and guidance are broadly provided so that employers properly take measures to prevent harassment in relation to pregnancy, childbirth or childcare leave, etc. as required under the Equal Employment Opportunity Act for Men and Women and the Act on Childcare Leave, Caregiver Leave, and Other Measures for the Welfare of Workers Caring for Children or Other Family Members.

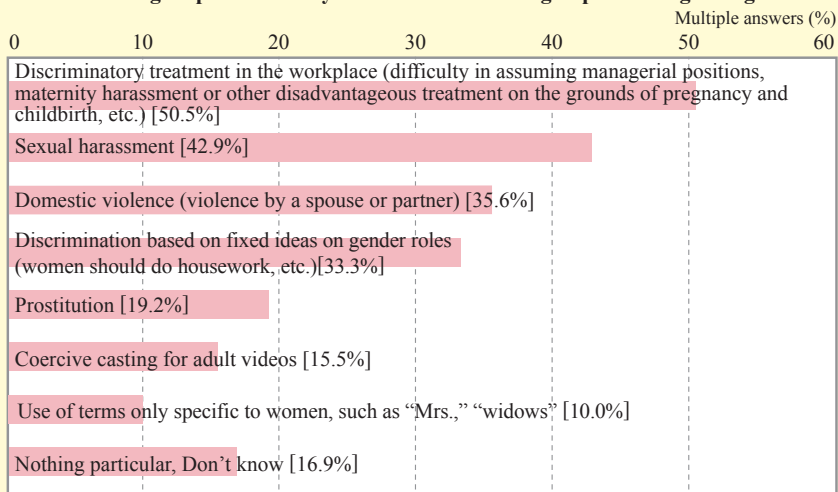
Regarding violence against women, under the Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and



the Protection of Victims, which was enforced in 2001, measures to prevent spousal violence and protect victims have been promoted.

● **Opinion poll on human rights protection (2017 October survey), Cabinet Office**

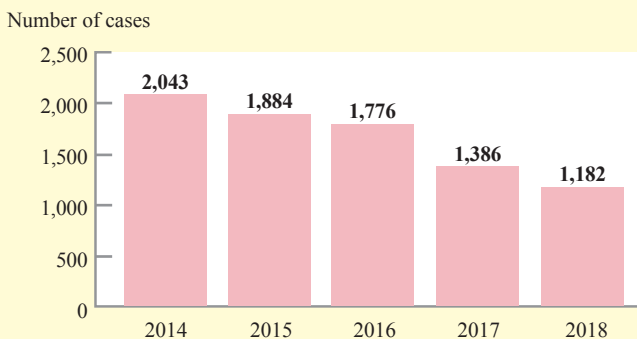
What human rights problems do you think are occurring at present regarding women?



The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice established the “Women’s Rights Hotline” (0570-070-810 (from anywhere in Japan)), a special telephone service for human rights counseling for women, at Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus (50 locations nationwide). Human Rights Volunteers with knowledge of women’s rights as well as officials of the Bureaus provide counseling for various human rights problems affecting women, such as abuse by a husband or partner (domestic violence), sexual harassment in the workplace, stalking behavior, and problems of so-called forced appearances in pornographic materials and “JK business” (JK stands for *joshi-kosei*, or high school girl). The bodies also carry out awareness-raising activities and human rights remedy activities supporting the human rights of women.

(Note*) Refer to pages 36 to 39 for details of human rights violation cases.

■ **Number of human rights violation cases* concerning assault and maltreatment of women**

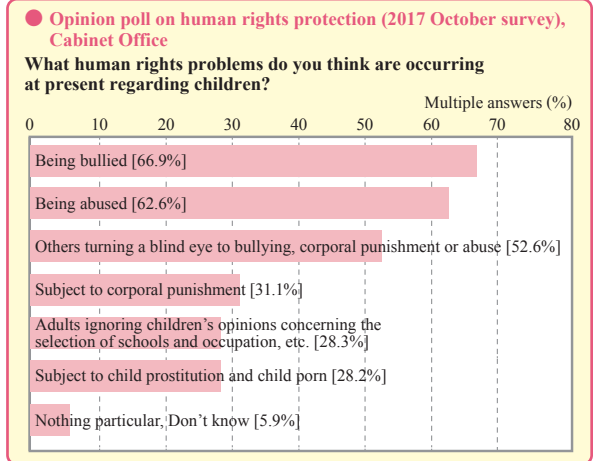


2- Children

“Suicides triggered by bullying” or “Corporal punishment,” “Arrests made for selling child pornography on the internet,”... These are only a few of the media reports on child victims and such tragic cases are being repeated. Children should be fully respected as individual persons and be protected.

Among human rights violation cases investigated and resolved in 2018 by the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, the number of cases of bullying at school was 2,955, that of corporal punishment by teachers was 201, and that of assault or abuse against children was 453, all remaining at high levels. It is urgently necessary to take measures to prevent damage and provide a remedy in order to protect children from such human rights violations.

* Efforts for preventing child abuse are compiled as the Special Feature section (refer to p.30 onward).



Bullying

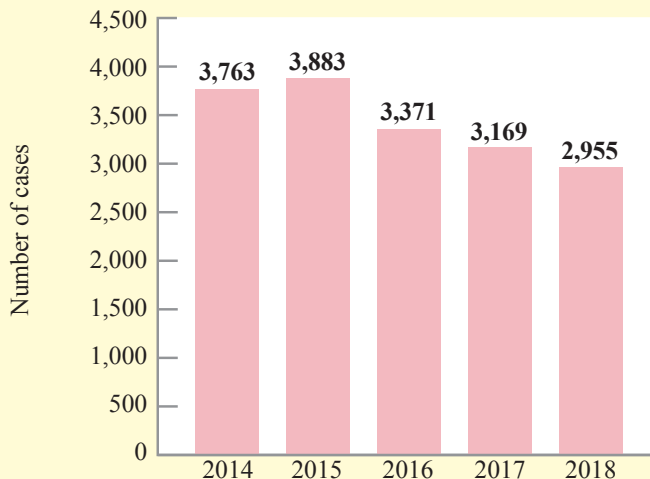
Bullying remains a big social problem. In response to the enactment of the Act for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Bullying in June 2013, the Basic Policies to Prevent Bullying was formulated and measures to prevent bullying and to early detect and early deal with bullying have been promoted based thereon.

Recent bullying among children is often committed via smartphones or is otherwise becoming less and less visible, and it is often the case that a trivial incident triggers escalation to serious bullying behavior. Therefore, bullying should be viewed as a serious problem also from the perspective of human rights.

The causes and backgrounds of children who commit bullying or who turn a blind eye to bullying are diversified, but it can be considered that the root of the problem is a lack of consciousness of respect for human rights, or in other words, a lack of compassion and kindness towards others. To solve this problem, it is important to cultivate a sense of human rights such as accepting differences in others and to respect them as individual characteristics.



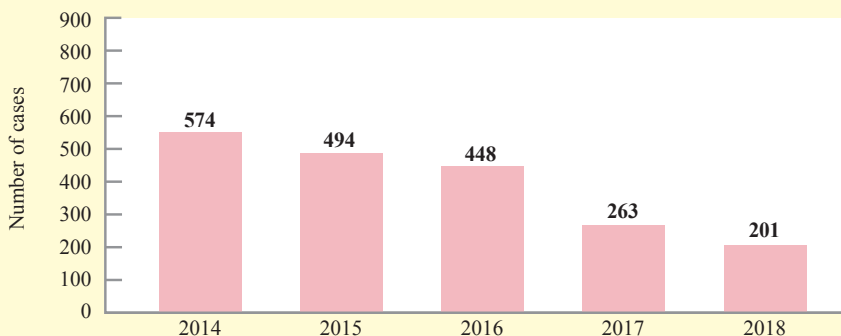
● Number of human rights violation cases concerning bullying



Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment is clearly prohibited in Article 11 of the School Education Act (Act No. 26 of 1947) and should never be permitted in any situation, because corporal punishment exerts serious harmful effect on children's minds and bodies, and may foment the idea of seeking settlement by force and create an environment for bullying and violence.

● Number of human rights violation cases concerning corporal punishment by teachers



Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual abuse and commercialized sexual exploitation, such as child prostitution and child pornography flooding the internet, have become a serious concern all around the world.

In June 2014, the Act on Punishment of Activities Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children was partially amended and retitled as the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children. This amended Act newly provides for punishment for acts of possessing or retaining child pornography or electronic or magnetic records thereof for the purpose of satisfying one's sexual curiosity and the act of producing child pornography by secretly depicting poses of a child. In this manner, controls have been strengthened for preventing children from being victimized by sexual exploitation and various measures are being taken to early detect and offer support to victimized children.

Efforts of the Ministry of Justice

There are still many cases of bullying taking place in schools. The number of domestic child abuse cases has increased and, in some of these cases, abuse of the victim has led to death. This has become a major social problem in Japan.

It is hard to spot such cases owing to their covert nature and also because many of the children suffering from abuse feel hesitant about consulting people around them. Therefore, it is not unusual for such problems to remain undetected until they have led to serious results.

In order to develop systems to enable children to have counseling sessions easily, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice have distributed Children's Rights SOS Mini-Letters (letters with a stamped envelope for human rights counseling) to all students of elementary and junior high schools throughout the country since 2006. Through them, the bodies aim to understand the concerns and problems of children who are not able or willing to consult teachers or parents, and to resolve various human rights problems concerning children in cooperation with the schools and relevant organs.

The bodies established the "Children's Rights Hotline" (toll-free; 0120-077-110 (from anywhere in Japan)), a special telephone service for human rights counseling for children, at Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus (50 locations nationwide), and also opened the "Internet Human Rights Counseling Services (SOS-e mail)" (<http://www.jinken.go.jp/>) on the website of the Ministry of Justice to offer counseling services via the internet as well. Children are able to enter their name, address, age, and details of their problems in a form and send it. Later, they will receive a reply from the nearest Legal Affairs Bureau or District Legal Affairs Bureau via email, telephone or in person.



When any suspected case in which children’s rights are violated, is found through human rights counseling, etc., the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice investigate the case as a human rights violation case and take appropriate measures depending on the circumstances. Additionally, the bodies carry out awareness-raising activities, such as holding Human Rights Lectures (refer to p.44) in collaboration with schools, etc. to develop children’s awareness of human rights and preparing and distributing awareness-raising booklets.

Results of the Children’s Rights SOS Mini-Letters Project

Collection period:

April 1, 2018–March 31, 2019

Collected data:

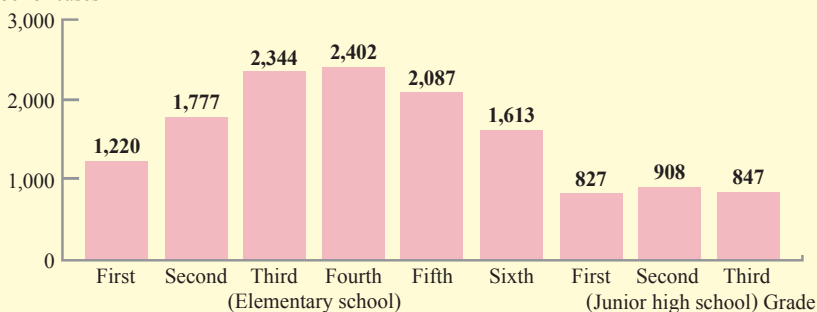
Children’s Rights SOS Mini-Letters from students in elementary and junior high schools throughout the country

- Number of counseling cases via the Mini-Letter: approximately 14,000
- Number of counseling cases by students’ grade



Children’s Rights SOS Mini-Letter

Number of cases



● Contents

[Breakdown]

*Multiple answers

Bullying: 5,204 (36.1%)

Abuse: 541 (3.8%)

Corporal punishment: 46 (0.3%)

Others: 8,619 (59.8%)

3- Elderly People

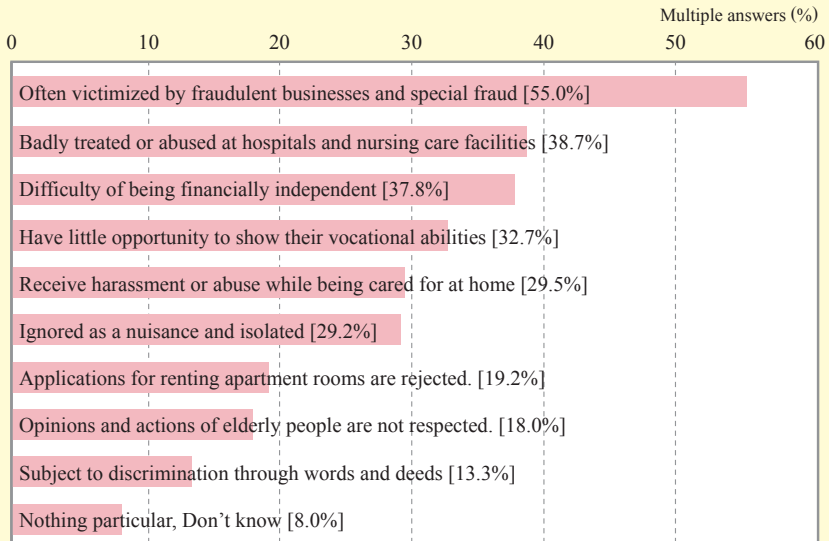
Cases where elderly people were abused while receiving nursing care or elderly person's property was disposed without permission have occurred. Elderly people have expressed such desires as, "I wish to continue to contribute to society using my knowledge and experience" and "I'd like to enjoy my hobbies while communicating with people." With the aim of realizing a society where elderly people can live actively, it is necessary to improve understanding towards elderly people and to nurture respect for them.

Due to the increased extension of the average life expectancy and the declining birth rate, about one-quarter of the population in Japan is composed of elderly people aged 65 or over. In such a situation, the human rights problems of elderly people, such as physical or psychological abuse by caretakers, and financial abuse such as family members disposing of the property of elderly people without permission, are now becoming social problems.

In October 1992, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution stating that 1999 would be the International Year of Older Persons. In Japan, the related ministries and agencies formed an agreement in July 1998 on the Basic Plan of Measures for the International Year of Older Persons. In addition, the Basic Law on Measures for the Aging Society entered into force in December 1995, and in accordance with the Act, the Government formulated the General Principles Concerning Measures for the Aging Society in July 1996 (revised in February 2018). It is important to prevent the abuse of the elderly in order to maintain the dignity of the elderly people. Based on this understanding, the Act on the Prevention of Elder Abuse, Support for Caregivers of Elderly Persons and Other Related Matters was enforced in April 2006.

● Opinion poll on human rights protection (2017 October survey), Cabinet Office

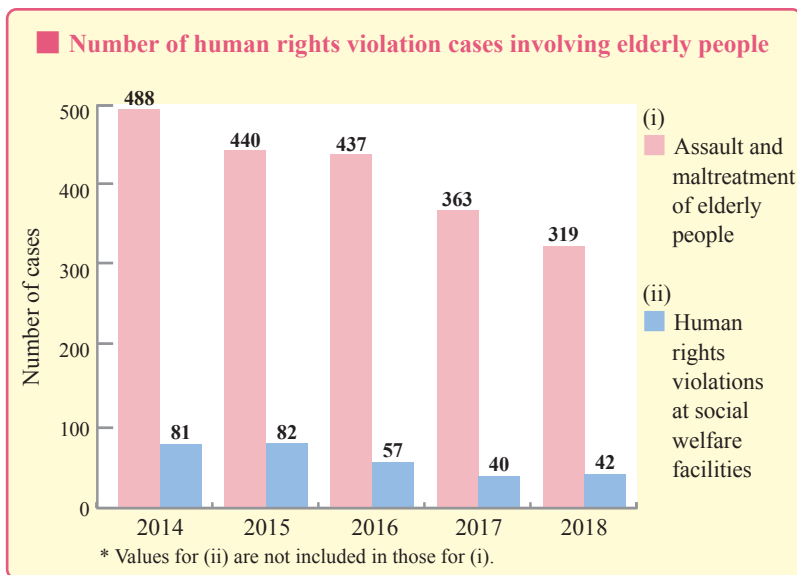
What human rights problems do you think are occurring at present regarding elderly people?





The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice have set up ad-hoc human rights counseling centers at social welfare facilities such as welfare facilities for the elderly, and provide the facility users and their family members with counseling services in cooperation with these facilities. By doing this, the bodies make counseling services accessible to those who usually have difficulty in visiting a Legal Affairs Bureau or District Legal Affairs Bureau. The bodies also strive to make human rights counseling activities widely known to social welfare workers, who work closely with elderly people, including home-visit care workers employed by care service facilities and offices. At the same time, the bodies call on them to help with reinforcing cooperation in such forms as providing information when they recognize a human rights violation case.

In this way, the bodies carry out human rights awareness-raising activities for the rights of elderly people and conduct remedy activities for human rights violation cases against elderly people, while improving human rights counseling services for elderly people and those who have close contact with them as aforementioned.



4- Persons with Disabilities

Cases where a person with disability in a wheelchair had been denied access to public transportation or had not been allowed to rent an apartment have occurred. It is necessary to understand fully and give due consideration to persons with disabilities.

In order to create a comfortable society equal for everyone, including persons with disabilities, it is necessary for all people in society to strive to fully understand and give due consideration to persons with disabilities, while various measures are being taken by the national government and local governments.

In Japan, the Basic Plan for Persons with Disabilities has been established under the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities with the aim of achieving a “inclusive society” where persons with and without disabilities are able to respect each other’s personality and individuality. The current Basic Plan for Persons with Disabilities (the fourth plan) was decided at the Cabinet meeting in March 2018. Under this plan, measures to assist persons with disabilities for their independence and social participation are being taken comprehensively and systematically.

The Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities designates the week from December 3 to December 9 every year as the Week of Persons with Disabilities. During this week, various events are held intensively in collaboration among the national government, local governments and private entities, etc. in order to disseminate the principle of an “inclusive society.”

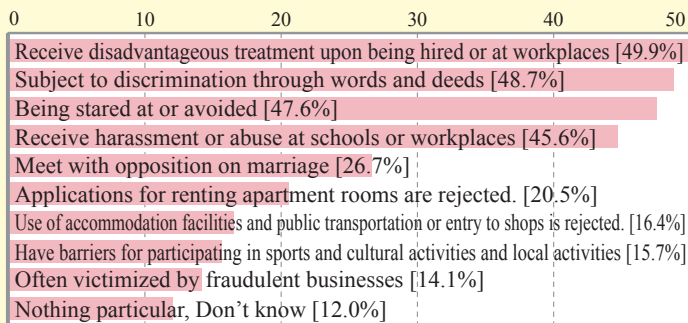
The Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, which was enforced in April 2016, prohibits unfair discriminatory treatment and requires reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities. Under this Act, administrative organs and private companies have been making efforts to prohibit unfair discriminatory treatment and give due consideration to persons with disabilities for eliminating discrimination on the basis of disability.

In February 2017, the Ministerial Council on Universal Design 2020 was held with participation of various organizations of persons with disabilities, for the purpose of promoting universal design-related efforts nationwide. At this meeting, the Universal Design 2020 Action Plan was approved. The Action Plan provides that all people should make the utmost efforts to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities on the basis of the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Furthermore, in December 2018, the Act on Comprehensive and Integrated Promotion of Measures for the Achieving a Universal Society was promulgated and enforced with the aim of promoting related measures in a comprehensive and integrated manner.



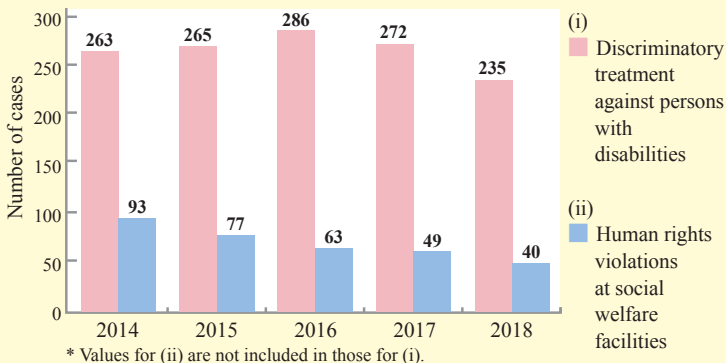
● Opinion poll on human rights protection (2017 October survey), Cabinet Office

What human rights problems do you think are occurring at present regarding persons with disabilities? Multiple answers (%)



The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice also conduct various awareness-raising activities in order to have the concept of normalization become more widespread among the people, and to encourage the independence and social participation of persons with disabilities. In addition, the bodies have set up ad-hoc human rights counseling centers at support facilities for persons with disabilities and provide facility users and their family members with counseling services in cooperation with these facilities. By doing this, the bodies make counseling services accessible to those who usually have difficulty in visiting a Legal Affairs Bureau or District Legal Affairs Bureau. The bodies also strive to make human rights counseling activities widely known to social welfare workers, who work closely with persons with disabilities, including caretakers employed by care service facilities and offices and call on them to help with reinforcing cooperation in such forms as providing information when they recognize a human rights violation case.

■ Number of human rights violation cases involving persons with disabilities



5- *Dowa Issue (Buraku Discrimination)*

There still remain cases where people are turned down for marriage or face discriminatory remarks or graffiti owing to prejudice against people from *Dowa* districts or *Buraku*. It is necessary to make efforts to eliminate a sense of discrimination toward resolution of the *Dowa* issue (*Buraku* discrimination).

Dowa Issue (Buraku Discrimination)

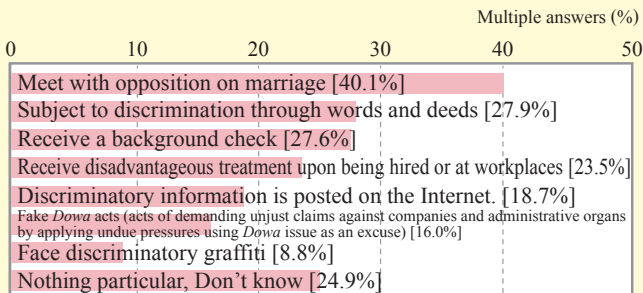
Due to discrimination based on the structure of social statuses which was formed in the course of the historical development of Japanese society, some Japanese people had been forced to endure a deprived status economically, socially and culturally over years, and they are still subject to various kinds of discrimination in their daily lives even today, such as meeting opposition to marriage or being subject to disadvantageous treatment upon employment on the grounds of being from a district called a *Dowa* district. This is the *Dowa* issue, which is a human rights issue unique to Japan.

In order to solve this issue, the national government, together with local governments, had worked for 33 years since 1969 on measures for regional improvements based on acts for special measures. As a result, developments in infrastructure in order to improve the impoverished environment of the *Dowa* districts have achieved steady results, and the regional disparity with other districts has become considerably smaller.

However, there remain cases of posting discriminatory comments on the internet and so-called fake *Dowa* acts, which have hampered the resolution of the *Dowa* issue (*Buraku* discrimination). Under such circumstances, the Act on the Promotion of Elimination of *Buraku* Discrimination was enforced in December 2016. The *Dowa* issue (*Buraku* discrimination) is to be dealt with properly based on the purport of this Act and the incidental resolutions.

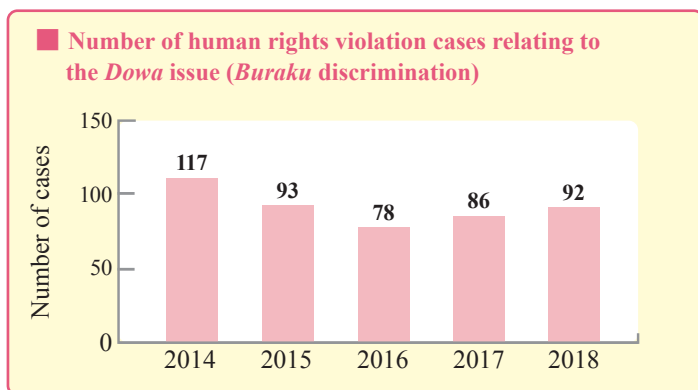
● Opinion poll on human rights protection (2017 October survey), Cabinet Office

What human rights problems do you think are occurring at present regarding the *Dowa* issue?





The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice carry out various awareness-raising activities and endeavor to disseminate the enforcement of the Act on the Promotion of Elimination of *Buraku* Discrimination in order to eliminate the public prejudice relating to the the *Dowa* issue (*Buraku* discrimination). Additionally, the bodies endeavor to provide a remedy for damage and prevent occurrence of human rights violations concerning the *Dowa* issue (*Buraku* discrimination) through human rights counseling and investigation and resolution of human rights violation cases. When the bodies find, through reports by relevant administrative organs, etc., any information on the internet citing a certain area as a *Dowa* district or the like, they demand the relevant provider, etc. to delete the information or otherwise take appropriate measures. In FY2018, they compiled the ideas concerning prosecution and handling of the *Dowa* issue (*Buraku* discrimination) in light of the peculiarities of the issue with the aim of further promoting proper measures and responses.



Elimination of Fake *Dowa* Acts

One of the major factors hampering the resolution of *Dowa* issue (*Buraku* discrimination) is the widespread occurrence of so-called fake *Dowa* acts. These acts refer to acts of demanding unjust profits or claims against companies and administrative organs (such as forcing them to purchase expensive books) by applying undue pressures using *Dowa* issue as an excuse.

In order to tackle fake *Dowa* acts, it is necessary for administrative organs and companies to take a firm attitude towards unfair claims in close cooperation.

In 1987, the Government established the Central Liaison Conference for Measures against Fake *Dowa* Acts with the participation of all of the ministries and agencies. Efforts to eliminate fake *Dowa* acts have also been made at the regional level through the establishment of the Liaison Conference among Relevant Organizations for Measures against Fake *Dowa* Acts, with Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus across the country acting as secretariats.

Additionally, the Ministry of Justice has conducted questionnaire surveys ten times since 1987 with the aim of ascertaining the actual status of fake *Dowa* acts. In FY2018, the Ministry conducted the 11th survey for a one-year period of 2018.

■ Guidelines for the Responses to Fake *Dowa* Acts can be downloaded from the following site.

<http://www.moj.go.jp/content/001290968.pdf>

Material : Act on the Promotion of Elimination of *Buraku* Discrimination (Act No. 109 of 2016)

(Purpose)

Article 1 In light of the fact that there has been *Buraku* discrimination at the present day and with the progression of the information technologies the situation of *Buraku* discrimination has changed, in accordance with the principles of the Constitution of Japan which guarantees all of the people the enjoyment of the fundamental human rights, given that elimination of *Buraku* discrimination with the recognition that it should not be tolerated is a significant issue, the purpose of this Act is to set out the basic principles for elimination of *Buraku* discrimination, to clarify the responsibilities of the national government and local governments, and to set out enhancement of a consultation system, thereby to promote the elimination of *Buraku* discrimination and to realize a society free from *Buraku* discrimination.

(Basic Principles)

Article 2 Measures relating to elimination of *Buraku* discrimination should be implemented in order to realize a society free from *Buraku* discrimination by endeavoring to deepen each people's understanding of the need to eliminate *Buraku* discrimination, in accordance with the principle that all of the people should be respected as precious individuals equally enjoying the fundamental human rights.

(Responsibilities of the National Government and Local Governments)

Article 3 (1) The national government has the responsibility to implement measures relating to elimination of *Buraku* discrimination, and to provide necessary information, give guidance and advice in order to promote measures relating to elimination of *Buraku* discrimination being taken by the local governments in accordance with the principles prescribed in the previous Article.

(2) The local governments shall endeavor to take measures relating to elimination of *Buraku* discrimination depending on the actual situation of each region, taking into account the sharing of appropriate roles with the national government, in coordination with the national government and other local governments in accordance with the principles prescribed in the previous Article.

(Enhancement of a Consultation System)

Article 4 (1) The national government shall enhance a system for responding adequately to consultations relating to *Buraku* discrimination.

(2) The local governments shall endeavor to enhance a system for responding adequately to consultations relating to *Buraku* discrimination depending on the actual situation of each region, taking into account the sharing of appropriate roles with the national government.

(Education and Awareness-raising)

Article 5 (1) The national government shall conduct necessary education and awareness-raising for the elimination of *Buraku* discrimination.

(2) The local governments shall endeavor to conduct necessary education and awareness-raising for the elimination of *Buraku* discrimination depending on the actual situation of each region, taking into account the sharing of appropriate roles with the national government.

(Survey of the Actual Condition of *Buraku* Discrimination)

Article 6 The national government shall do a survey related to the actual condition of *Buraku* discrimination contributing to implement measures relating to elimination of *Buraku* discrimination, with cooperation of local governments.

Supplementary Provisions

This Act comes into effect as of the date of promulgation.

Incidental Resolution

(House of Representatives)

The Government should pay attention to ensure that measures for eliminating *Buraku* discrimination under this Act are broadly based on the understanding of gaps in awareness of the issue among generations and the actual circumstances of respective local communities, and should make efforts for proper and careful operation of measures for achieving a society free from *Buraku* discrimination through promoting the elimination of *Buraku* discrimination, which is the very purpose of this Act.

(House of Councillors)

The Government and local governments should give special consideration to the following matters in light of the actual circumstances of respective local communities upon taking measures for eliminating *Buraku* discrimination under this Act:

(i) In order to achieve a society free from *Buraku* discrimination, the Government and local governments should not only make efforts to deepen understanding of people regarding the necessity to eliminate *Buraku* discrimination but also carry out measures comprehensively including countermeasures against excessive conducts of private organizations, while taking into consideration the fact that such excessive conducts in the past had hampered the resolution of the issue of *Buraku* discrimination.

(ii) The Government and local governments should carry out educational and awareness-raising activities with due consideration to the content and methods thereof so that such activities should not cause any new discrimination but would contribute to truly eliminating *Buraku* discrimination.

(iii) The Government should conduct a survey on the actual condition of *Buraku* discrimination for facilitating measures for the resolution of the issue of *Buraku* discrimination with due consideration to the content and methods thereof so that such survey should not cause any new discrimination but would contribute to truly eliminating *Buraku* discrimination.



6- The Ainu People

It is necessary to improve understanding on the Ainu people and eliminate prejudice and discrimination.

The Ainu people have an original and rich culture such as a unique language, traditional ceremonies and rituals, Yukar and other oral literature, but due to integration policies which were implemented in modern times, efforts for the preservation and the handing down of traditions have not been sufficiently made in the present day. In particular, people who understand the Ainu language and can uphold the traditions are aging and important foundations needed to pass on the culture show signs of diminishing.

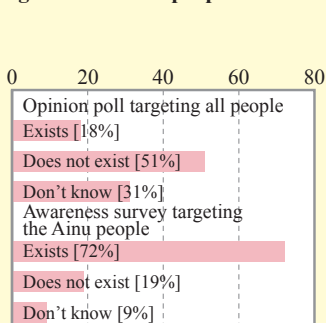
In addition, because of the lack of understanding about the Ainu people, prejudice and discrimination still exist against the Ainu people.

On the basis of the report by the Advisory Council for Future Ainu Policy held by the Chief Cabinet Secretary in response to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2007, and the Resolution to Recognize the Ainu as an Indigenous People, which was adopted by the Diet in June 2008, the Government has held meetings of the Council for Ainu Policy Promotion chaired by the Chief Cabinet Secretary in order to further promote comprehensive and effective Ainu policies. In April 2019, the Act on Promotion of Measures for the Achievement of Society with Respect for the Ethnic Pride of the Ainu People was enacted. Under this Act, the Ainu Policy Promotion Headquarters, consisting of relevant ministers with the Chief Cabinet Secretary serving as the Director-General, was established in the Cabinet.

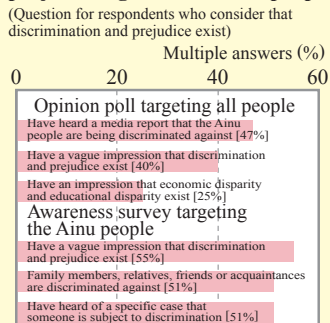
The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice carry out human rights awareness-raising activities, and conduct human rights counseling and investigation and remedy activities in order to eliminate prejudice and discrimination and improve understanding and recognition about the Ainu people.

● Survey on the public understanding about the Ainu people” (2016 February survey), Cabinet Secretariat and Cabinet Office

Discrimination and prejudice against the Ainu people



Reasons for discrimination and prejudice against the Ainu people



7- Foreign Nationals

Cases where foreign nationals are not allowed to rent an apartment or to use a public bath just because they are foreign nationals have occurred. Moreover, speech intended to exclude foreign nationals is made in public. It is necessary to recognize cultural diversity and to understand and respect the lifestyle of foreign nationals, and to eliminate discrimination and prejudice.

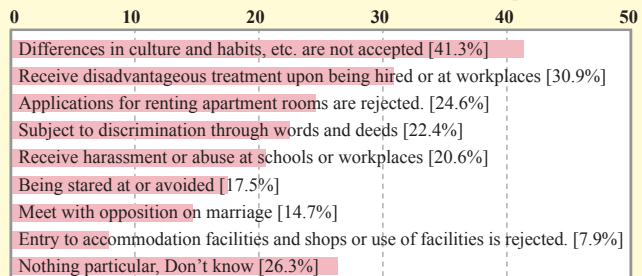
The number of foreign nationals who enter Japan has been increasing and reached 30.10 million people (including those who re-entered) in 2018, marking a record high. Due to differences in language, religion, customs and other factors, various human rights problems regarding foreign nationals have taken place.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice established the Foreign-language Human Rights Hotline in ten languages and the Human Rights Counseling Services in Foreign Languages website in two languages, as well as human rights counseling centers for foreign nationals at Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus (50 locations nationwide) to provide human rights counseling services to foreign nationals who cannot speak Japanese fluently. Furthermore, the bodies carry out human rights awareness-raising activities and conduct remedy activities in order to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against foreign nationals.

Recently, discriminatory speech and behavior intended to exclude people of certain ethnic groups or nationalities has become a public concern as so-called “hate speech”. In June 2016, the Act on the Promotion of Efforts to Eliminate Unfair Discriminatory Speech and Behavior against Persons Originating from Outside Japan was enforced. Such discriminatory speech and behavior not only causes a feeling of anxiety or repugnance but could also violate human dignity or generate a sense of discrimination. Therefore, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice is continuing awareness-raising activities focusing on human rights of foreign nationals, striving to disseminate the idea of not tolerating “hate speech” in an easy-to-understand manner, and proactively carrying out PR activities concerning counseling services for human rights violations including damage due to hate speech.

● Opinion poll on human rights protection(2017 October survey), Cabinet Office

What human rights problems do you think are occurring at present regarding foreign nationals residing in Japan? Multiple answers (%)






Material Human Rights Counseling Centers for Foreign Nationals

Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus nationwide provide human rights counseling services to foreign nationals who cannot speak Japanese fluently with an interview through a translator.

Service hours	9:00 a.m. - 17:00 p.m. on weekdays (excluding the year-end and New Year holidays)
Languages	English, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Nepali, Spanish, Indonesian, and Thai

Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus also accept consultations on human rights issues by phone and on the internet.

Foreign-language Human Rights Hotline (from anywhere in Japan)

 **0570-090911** (9:00 a.m. - 17:00 p.m. on weekdays)

(in ten languages: English, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Nepali, Spanish, Indonesian, and Thai)

*A call to this number is connected to the competent Legal Affairs Bureau or District Legal Affairs Bureau via a private multilingual call center.

Human Rights Counseling Services on the internet

Online human rights counseling services in English and Chinese are put in place.

Counseling services via the following websites are available from anywhere in Japan.

English: https://www.jinken.go.jp/soudan/PC_AD/0101_en.html

Chinese: https://www.jinken.go.jp/soudan/PC_AD/0101_zh.html

Human rights counseling offices are periodically opened at the following locations other than Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus.

City	Location	Service hours	Languages	Contact information
Fukuoka	KOKUSAI HIROBA ACROS Fukuoka 3rd Floor 1-1-1, Tenjin, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka-shi	13:00 p.m. - 16:00 p.m. on 2nd Saturday every month	English	Human Rights Department, Fukuoka Legal Affairs Bureau 092 (739) 4151
Takamatsu	Kagawa International Exchange Center (I-pal Kagawa) 1-11-63, Ban-cho, Takamatsu-shi	13:00 p.m. - 15:00 p.m. on 3rd Friday every month (Reservation required)	English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Portuguese	Human Rights Department, Takamatsu Legal Affairs Bureau 087 (821) 7850
Matsuyama	Ehime Prefectural International Center (EPIC) 1-1, Dougoichiman, Matsuyama-shi	13:30 p.m. - 15:30 p.m. on 4th Thursday every month	English	Human Rights Division, Matsuyama District Legal Affairs Bureau 089 (932) 0888

8- People Living with HIV and Hansen's Disease Patients, etc.

Correct knowledge and understanding of infections is necessary in order to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against patients or former patients of infections such as HIV. Prejudice and discrimination against patients and former patients of Hansen's disease and their family members also need to be eliminated in consideration of the hardships they have faced so far.

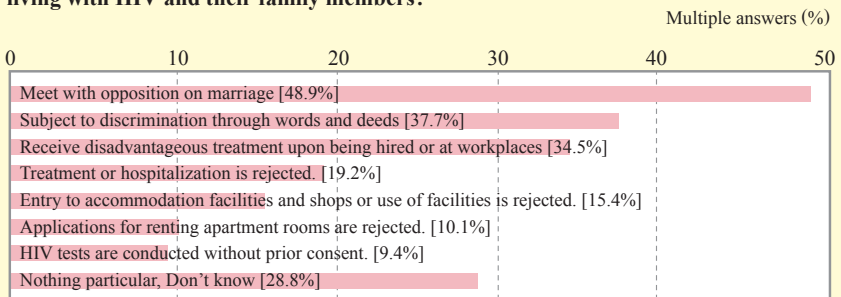
Correct knowledge and understanding of infections such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and Hansen's disease is still lacking. There have been such problems as patients or former patients of these diseases and their family members being discriminated against or suffering from violation of privacy in their daily lives, in their workplace, or in hospitals or clinics, due to incorrect knowledge or the prejudice of the people around them.

With regard to HIV, outside of sexual contact, there is almost no possibility of being infected in daily life.

Although the bacteria, *Mycobacterium leper*, found in Hansen's disease is contagious, it is extremely rare to contract the disease even if the bacteria has been acquired due to low infectivity. In the rare event of coming down with the disease, as effective treatment has been established and there are no aftereffects as long as the disease is detected early and treatment is administered appropriately.

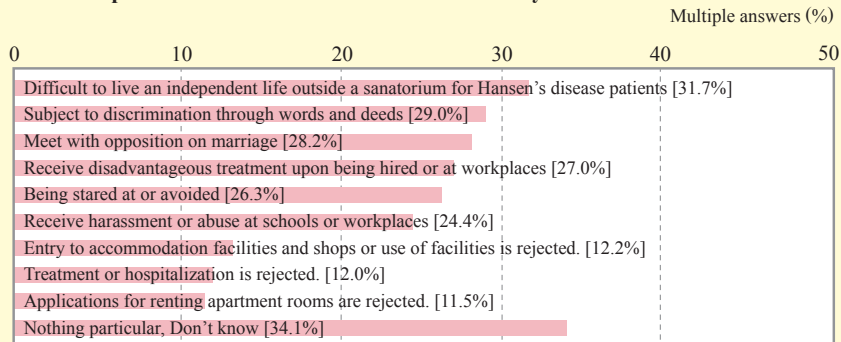
● Opinion poll on human rights protection (2017 October survey), Cabinet Office

What human rights problems do you think are occurring at present regarding people living with HIV and their family members?





What human rights problems do you think are occurring at present regarding patients or former patients of Hansen's disease and their family members?



The case in November 2003 of the hotel in Kumamoto prefecture rejecting people living in a sanatorium for former patients with Hansen's disease highlighted the fact that incorrect knowledge and prejudice still exist in society. In order to further promote the elimination of such discrimination and prejudice, the Act on the Promotion of Resolution of Issues Related to Hansen's Disease was enforced in April 2009. Moreover, from FY2009, June 22, the day of enforcement of the Act on Payment of Compensation to Inmates of Hansen's Disease Sanatorium, was designated as the Day to Restore Honor and Commemorate Victims of Leprosy Prevention Law.

On June 28, 2019, the Kumamoto District Court rendered a ruling to partially accept the claims for state compensation filed by family members of Hansen's disease patients. Under the policy adopted in the past to isolate Hansen's disease patients at care facilities, not only patients and former patients but also their family members were subjected to harsh prejudice and discrimination in society. Considering such history of the Government's measures for Hansen's disease and hardships faced by patients and former patients as well as their family members, the Prime Minister made an unusual decision not to file an appeal on July 12, 2019. He publicized the "Prime Minister's Statement upon Accepting the Ruling for the Lawsuit Filed by Family Members of Hansen's Disease Patients to Seek State Compensation" and the "Government's Statement" (Cabinet decisions on the same day).

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice have been conducting various human rights awareness-raising activities concerning the Hansen's disease issue, such as holding symposiums. Based on the purport of the publicized Statements, the bodies are further strengthening awareness-raising activities in light of the severe circumstances having been faced by patients and former patients of Hansen's disease as well as their family members. The bodies also conduct human rights counseling and remedy activities regarding cases of discrimination against people living with HIV and Hansen's disease patients, etc.

Material : Prime Minister’s Statement upon Accepting the Ruling for the Lawsuit Filed by Family Members of Hansen’s Disease Patients to Seek State Compensation

Cabinet decision on July 12, 2019

With regard to the ruling on June 28, 2019, rendered by the Kumamoto District Court for the lawsuit filed by family members of Hansen’s disease patients to seek state compensation, I made a very exceptional decision not to file an appeal, in consideration of the history of the measures that the Government has taken for Hansen’s disease and hardships faced by patients and former patients as well as their family members who have gone through harsh experiences beyond description.

I have considered seriously how to fulfill my responsibility and how to respond to this issue as the Prime Minister. It is an undeniable fact that under the policy adopted in the past to isolate Hansen’s disease patients at care facilities, not only patients and former patients but also their family members were subjected to harsh prejudice and discrimination in society. I reflect seriously on this fact and express my sincere apology as the representative of the Government to patients and former patients as well as their family members for their pains and hardships over the years. I would like to meet and convey my feelings directly to family members.

The ruling contains some serious legal problems, but we can no longer prolong the toils of family members who have endured numerous pains and hardships. In order to solve this issue as early as possible, the Government decided to publicize the statement to clarify its position on the legal problems contained in the ruling and not to file an appeal. The Government will promptly perform the compensation based on this final and binding ruling and will newly take compensatory measures targeting family members irrespective of whether they joined the lawsuit or not. The Government will commence deliberations therefor immediately. Furthermore, relevant ministries and agencies will collaborate and cooperate with each other to strengthen human rights awareness-raising activities, including human rights education, in light of the severe circumstances having been faced by patients and former patients as well as their family members.

While listening to opinions of family members, the Government will offer meticulous support and make all-out efforts to solve this issue, with the goal of achieving a society where family members can live safely in their respective communities.



9- People Released From Prison after Serving Their Sentences

Cases of discrimination against people released from prison after serving their sentences and their family members have occurred. To promote their reintegration into society, they must have a strong will for rehabilitation but understanding and cooperation from people around them are also indispensable.

Prejudice and discrimination against people released from prison after serving their sentences and their family members are deeply rooted and they frequently face discrimination in employment or difficulties in finding housing, and therefore the conditions are very severe for those people who are trying to reintegrate into society. In order to ensure their peaceful social life as a member of local communities, understanding and cooperation not only from their family members but also from their workplaces and local communities are indispensable, in addition to a strong will for rehabilitation on the part of people released from prison after serving their sentences.

In December 2017, a Plan on Promotion of Prevention of Repeat Offenses was decided by the Cabinet, based on the Act on Promotion of Prevention of Repeat Offenses enacted in December 2016.

The Ministry of Justice considers offering support for their employment as one of the important issues, and seeks cooperative employers who would hire people released from prison after serving their sentences and pays employment incentives to cooperative employers who provide lifestyle guidance and advice to such people necessary for their continued engagement in work, or otherwise proactively makes effort to prevent their repeat offenses. Additionally, in order to promote understanding and cooperation of citizens with regard to improvement and rehabilitation of persons who committed crimes and delinquent juveniles and to create local communities free from crimes and delinquency, the ministry of justice has been carrying out the “Campaign Towards a Brighter Society - Power of Local Communities to Prevent Crimes and Juvenile Delinquency and Support Rehabilitation” with the understanding and participation of local residents.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice carry out various awareness-raising activities and conduct human rights counseling and remedy activities in order to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against people released from prison after serving their sentences and contribute to their rehabilitation into society.

10- Crime Victims, etc

Crime victims and their family members sometimes suffer not only from the crime itself, but also from secondary damage such as groundless rumors, smear campaigns, and violation of their privacy. It is necessary to also pay due considerations to the human rights of crime victims and their family members.

It has been pointed out that the crime victims and their family members have not only been damaged psychologically and economically by the crime itself and its aftereffects, but they may also suffer other injuries such as defamation through rumors and mindless slander or disturbance of peace in their private lives.

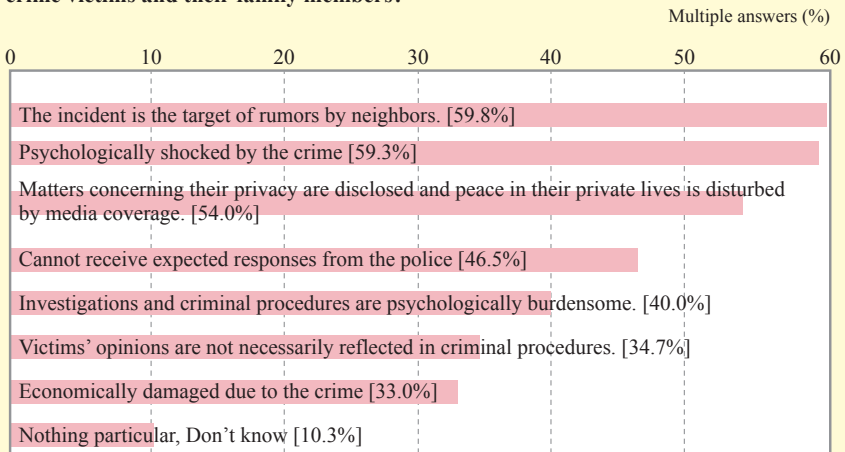
In order to counter these issues, the Basic Act on Crime Victims was enforced in April 2005 with the aim of promoting measures for crime victims in a comprehensive and systematic manner and of protecting the rights and benefits of crime victims.

On the basis of the Act, the Basic Plan for Crime Victims was formulated in December 2005 (the Third Basic Plan was established in April 2016) and the week from November 25 to December 1 was designated as Crime Victims' Week, during which time every year, activities are carried out to improve people's understanding of the situation of crime victims and the importance of giving consideration to the honor and peaceful lives of crime victims.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice carry out human rights awareness-raising activities and conduct human rights counseling and remedy activities in order to ensure consideration for the human rights of crime victims and protection of their rights.

● Opinion poll on human rights protection (2017 October survey), Cabinet Office

What human rights problems do you think are occurring at present regarding crime victims and their family members?





11- Human Rights Violations on the Internet

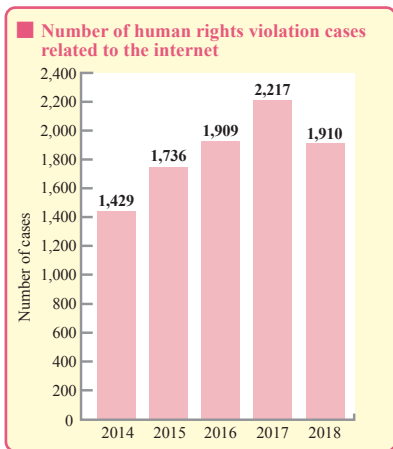
Various human rights problems, such as violation of individual reputations and privacy, have been taking place on the internet. It is necessary to use the internet correctly and to eliminate human rights violations on the internet.

Following increased use of the internet and owing to its anonymity and capacity to send out information with ease, various human rights problems have arisen, such as violation of individual reputations and privacy and publication of expressions that promote discrimination. Therefore, it is necessary to carry out human rights awareness-raising activities for general internet users in order to promote their correct understanding concerning individual reputations and privacy.

The number of young internet users such as elementary and junior high school students has been increasing every year and, in some cases of false accusation and slander, and copyright infringement, etc. through SNS, both the assailants and the victims of the human rights violations are children. The Government has been taking measures in response to this situation. For example, the Act on Development of an Environment That Provides Safe and Secure Internet Use for Young People, which was enforced in April 2009, obligates internet companies to provide filtering services.

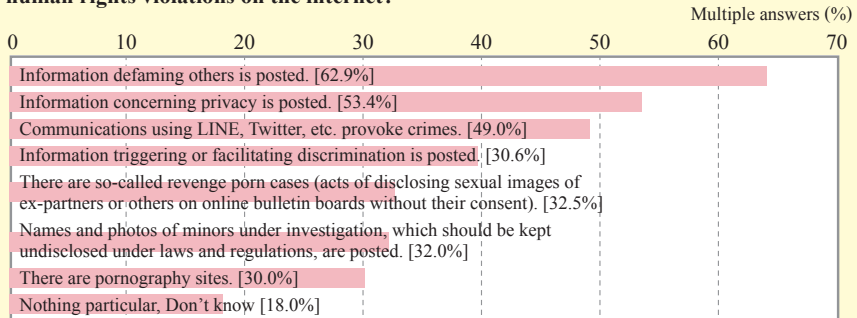
Furthermore, in December 2014, in order to prevent the occurrence and expansion of damage due to so-called revenge porn, the Government enforced special provisions of the Act on the Limitation of Liability for Damages of Specified Telecommunications Service Providers and the Right to Demand Disclosure of Identification Information of the Senders (so-called “Provider Liability Limitation Act”) that pertain to penal provisions concerning acts of disclosing sexual images shot personally or providing such images for disclosure and also pertain to deletion of images, and the Act on Prevention of Damage due to the Provision of Personal Sexual Records that provides for the development of a support system for victims of such acts.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice hold Human Rights Lectures nationwide, in collaboration with Smartphone and Mobile Phone Safety Lectures that are held by mobile phone companies mainly targeting junior high schools, as countermeasures against human rights violations by abuse of the internet, which are becoming increasingly serious mainly among young people. The bodies have also been working to improve the environment of internet use by young people by preparing an awareness-raising booklet, “Are you All Right? Let’s Think About the Internet and Human Rights,” targeting junior high and senior high school students and their guardians, and carrying out various awareness-raising activities regarding the issue of human rights violations on the internet. Additionally, the bodies have striven to take appropriate measures against malicious human rights violations on the internet, by means such as requesting providers to delete such information.



● **Opinion poll on human rights protection (2017 October survey), Cabinet Office**

What human rights problems do you think are occurring at present regarding human rights violations on the internet?



12- Victims Abducted by North Korean Authorities

The abduction of Japanese citizens by North Korean authorities constitutes violations of the national sovereignty of Japan and serious human rights violations.

In June 2006, the “Law to Address the Abduction Issue and Other North Korean Human Rights Violations” was enforced with the aim of improving public understanding of the issue of human rights violations by North Korean authorities and disclosing and preventing human rights violations by North Korean authorities in cooperation with the international community. The Law provided for the responsibilities of the national government and local governments and designated the week from December 10 to 16 every year as the North Korean Human Rights Abuse Awareness Week.

During the Week, various activities are conducted, including a symposium held by the Government, displaying of posters in relevant ministries and local governments as well as in train cars, distribution of flyers, promotion and public relations using the media such as local newspapers nationwide, and organizing of lecture meetings and a photography panel exhibition.

The abduction issue is an urgent national issue in Japan and the international community has been collaborating in order to address the issue of human rights violations by the North Korean authorities, including the abduction issue. Therefore, it is important to deepen understanding and recognition of this issue.

The issue of abduction by the North Korean authorities has been one of the annual priority targets of the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice. The abduction issue was also added as one of the human rights issues to the Basic Plan for Human Rights Education and Encouragement through a Cabinet decision in April 2011.



International Symposium held by the Government (Saturday, December 15, 2018)



13- Homeless People

Cases of harassment and violence perpetrated against homeless people have occurred. Care for the human rights of homeless people as well as the understanding and cooperation of the local community are necessary.

There are many people who, in spite of a desire to remain independent, have become homeless for unavoidable reasons and have found themselves unable to maintain a healthy and cultured life, and human rights violations, such as harassment and violence, are taking place against those people.

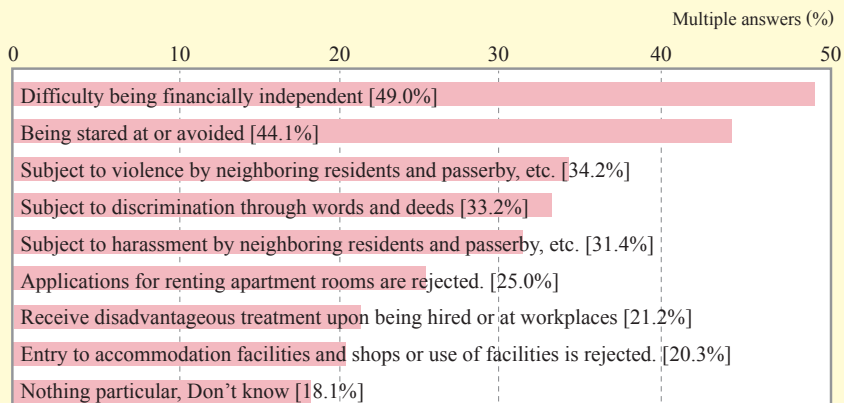
The Act on Special Measures for Self-Sufficiency Support for the Homeless, which was enacted in 2002, provides that self-sufficiency support for homeless people should be offered in consideration of their human rights. This Act was enacted as temporary legislation with a ten-year term limit, but the term was extended for five years in June 2012 and for ten years in June 2017.

Based on this Act and in light of the results of the nationwide survey on the status of homeless people that was conducted in July 2018, the Basic Policy to Support Self-Sufficiency of the Homeless was formulated. The Basic Policy states that it is necessary to promote protection of the human rights of homeless people through carrying out awareness-raising and PR activities and offering human rights counseling services, while giving due consideration to the human rights of both homeless people and neighboring residents.

Various measures need to be taken to support the independence of homeless people. The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, while taking the rights of neighboring residents into consideration, carry out human rights awareness-raising activities and conduct human rights counseling and remedy activities to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against homeless people.

● Opinion poll on human rights protection (2017 October survey), Cabinet Office

What human rights problems do you think are occurring at present regarding homeless people?



14- Sexual Orientation

Some people suffer owing to deep-seated prejudice and discrimination against same-sex relationships. It is necessary to eliminate prejudice and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and to deepen understanding of it.

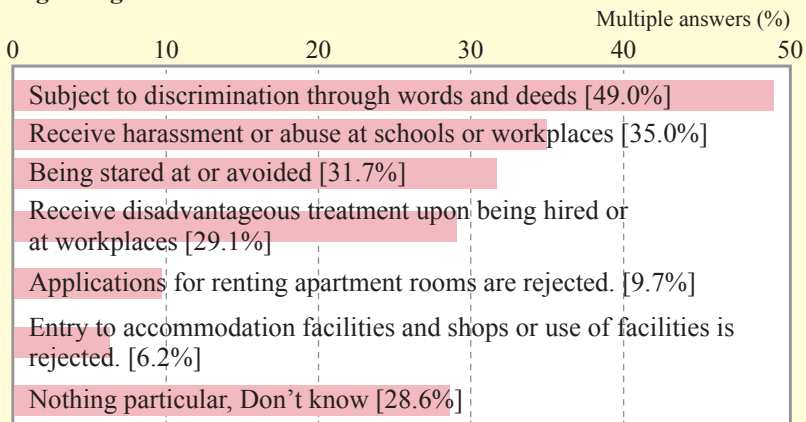
Sexual orientation refers to the object of one's love or sexual interest. It specifically means heterosexual when the object of the love or sexual interest is a member of the opposite sex, homosexual when the object is of the same sex, and bisexual when the object is of both sexes.

Since homosexual and bisexual people may be considered to be abnormal, they may even be forced to leave their workplace in some cases. Although discrimination based on sexual orientation is acknowledged to be unjust these days, prejudice and discrimination are still occurring.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice carry out human rights awareness-raising activities and conduct human rights counseling and remedy activities to eliminate prejudice and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.

● Opinion poll on human rights protection (2017 October survey), Cabinet Office

What human rights problems do you think are occurring at present regarding sexual orientation?





15- Gender Identity

Some people are affected by differences between their biological sex and the sex they identify with, and find that they are subjected to thoughtless curious stares from other people. It is necessary to eliminate prejudice and discrimination on the grounds of gender identity and to deepen understanding about it.

Gender identity is the concept of how an individual recognizes his/her gender or what identity (sexual identity) an individual feels about him/herself. For the majority, gender identity and biological gender are the same. However, persons whose gender identity and biological gender are mismatched suffer a sense of discomfort or want to make them match through gender reassignment surgery.

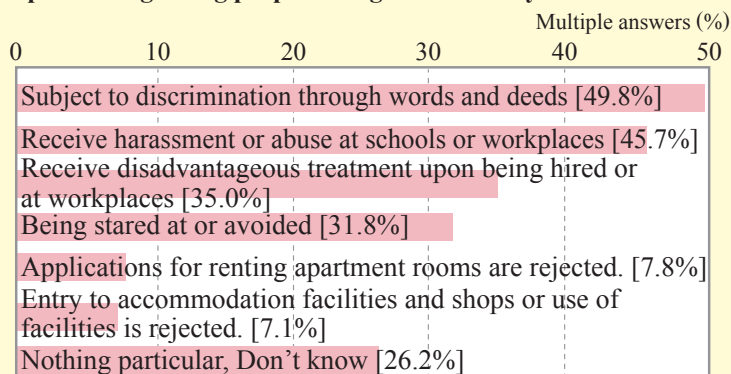
Persons whose gender identity and biological gender are mismatched are subjected to prejudice in society and discrimination such as facing unfavorable treatment in the workplace or being bullied at school.

The Act on Special Cases in Handling Gender for Persons with Gender Identity Disorder was enforced in July 2004. Under the Act, a person with a gender identity disorder, who satisfies certain conditions, is able to get a legal decision to change his or her officially recognized gender (conditions were eased through the Amendment Act in June 2008).

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice carry out human rights awareness-raising activities and conduct counseling and remedy activities to eliminate prejudice and discrimination on the grounds of gender identity.

● Opinion poll on human rights protection (2017 October survey), Cabinet Office

What human rights problems do you think are occurring at present regarding people with gender identity disorders?



16- Trafficking in Persons

Trafficking in persons is a grave violation of human rights and requires prompt and appropriate response from a humanitarian perspective as trafficking in persons causes serious psychological and physical pain for the victims and recovery from such damage is very difficult.

The Government has held the Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee Regarding Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons since April 2004, and endeavored to prevent and eliminate trafficking in persons and promote proper protection of victims based on the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons (December 2004) and the 2009 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons (December 2009). In order to continue responding with appropriate measures to the situation against trafficking in persons, and for the Government as a whole to carry out both integral and comprehensive measures against trafficking in persons more strongly, the 2014 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons was formulated at the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime in December 2014. The Government holds meetings of the Council for the Promotion of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which is composed of relevant Cabinet ministers, as needed, and measures under the 2014 Action Plan have been taken cooperatively by relevant ministries and agencies.



Poster “Measures against Trafficking in Persons”

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice have set up “Stop trafficking in persons” as one of the priority targets and carry out human rights awareness-raising activities and conduct human rights counseling and remedy activities.



17- Human Rights Problems Arising after the Great East Japan Earthquake

The Great East Japan Earthquake that occurred on March 11, 2011, was an unprecedented disaster, causing catastrophic damage on the Pacific coast in the Tohoku and Kanto districts due to a massive tsunami. In addition, owing to the accidents at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station caused by the earthquake and tsunami, evacuation orders were issued to residents living in the surrounding area and many people were forced into a life of evacuation.

In such a situation, human rights problems such as troubles caused by a prolonged life of evacuation and bullying against those who evacuated from affected area have occurred.

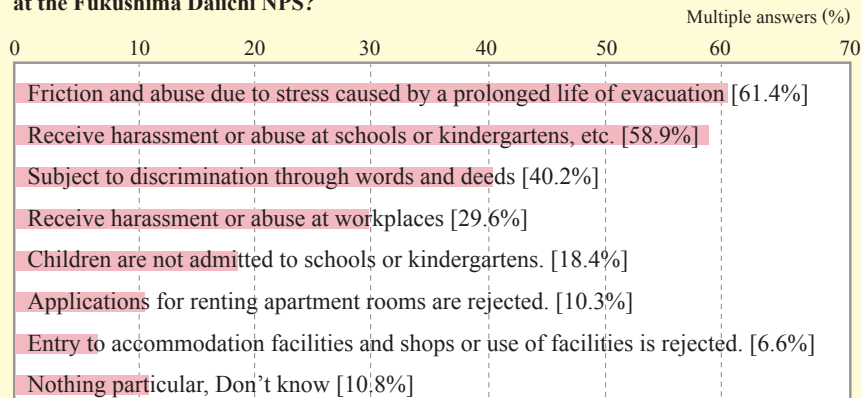
In order to respond to various human rights issues arising from the Great East Japan Earthquake, such as discriminatory treatment based on rumors due to the accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, and to prevent occurrence of new human rights violations, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice carry out various awareness-raising activities, such as holding symposiums and posting human rights awareness-raising digital contents, and conduct counseling and remedy activities.



Human rights symposium "Earthquakes and Human Rights - Support for Disaster Victims and Operation of Shelters with Due Consideration to Human Rights - What We Can Do Now -" (held in Kochi)

● Opinion poll on human rights protection (2017 October survey), Cabinet Office

What human rights problems do you think are occurring at present regarding people affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Accident at the Fukushima Daiichi NPS?



2. Special Feature: Efforts for Preventing Child Abuse

Regarding child abuse prevention measures, efforts for institutional improvement have been made such as through multiple amendments of the Child Abuse Prevention Act, which was enforced in November 2000, and the Child Welfare Act. However, in the meantime, the number of consultations concerning child abuse received at child guidance centers nationwide has increased constantly and reached 133,778 cases in FY2017, nearly 11.5 times the number immediately before the enactment of the Child Abuse Prevention Act. Serious child abuse cases such as those resulting in children's deaths occur frequently, and the prevention of child abuse is a problem to be tackled by society as a whole.

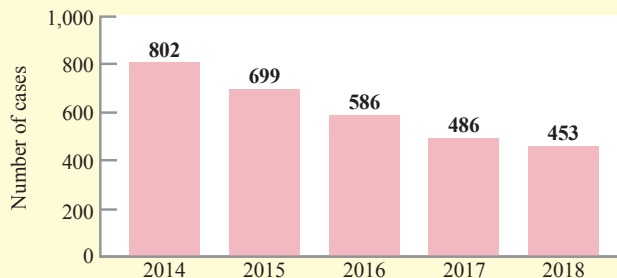
In order to address such circumstances, the Ministerial Council on Child Abuse Prevention Measures decided the Comprehensive Emergency Strategy to Strengthen Child Abuse Prevention Measures in July 2018 and the Policy to Fundamentally Strengthen Child Abuse Prevention Measures in March 2019. Under the strategy and policy, the Government is making all-out efforts for preventing child abuse.

Furthermore, in June 2019, the Act Partially Amending the Child Welfare Act, etc. for Strengthening Child Abuse Prevention Measures, which additionally provides for the protection of children's rights, enhancement of the system for child guidance centers, and strengthening of collaboration among relevant organizations, was enacted and child abuse prevention measures are being strengthened.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice are striving to further enhance awareness-raising activities and inform citizens of the existence of counseling services and the fact that all are obliged to report a case if they find any abused child. Additionally, the bodies have developed systems to enable children to have counselling sessions easily. Specifically, (i) there is a special toll-free telephone service, "Children's Rights Hotline," (0120-007-110 (from anywhere in Japan)); (ii) the Internet Human Rights Counseling Service (SOS-e mail) (<http://www.jinken.go.jp/>) was opened on the website of the Ministry of Justice; and (iii) Children's Rights SOS Mini-Letters (letters with a stamped envelope for human rights counseling) are distributed to all students of elementary and junior high schools throughout Japan.

When any suspected case is found in which children's rights are violated, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice investigate it as a human rights violation and take appropriate measures depending on the circumstances.

● Number of human rights violation cases concerning child abuse





The following are examples of concrete cases for which the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice took remedy procedures in 2018.

(Case examples)

(Case 1) Child abuse by a mother

This is a case in which an investigation was commenced in response to a Children’s Rights SOS Mini-Letter from an elementary school child alleging his/her mother’s abuse such as pulling his/her hair and kicking or beating him/her.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice recognized the urgency and immediately made contact with the elementary school and a child guidance center and had an interview with the child via the elementary school to confirm the circumstances. As a result, it was found that the child might have been abused. They consulted with the elementary school and the child guidance center on that day and built a system to closely watch the child and share information.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice continuously endeavored to ascertain the situation of the child through interviewing him/her and keeping in touch with relevant organizations and finally confirmed improvement in the child’s family environment as his/her mother stopped violence thanks to efforts by relevant organizations.

As a background of this case, the mother was considered to suffer from stress due to child rearing. Therefore, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice also requested the elementary school to not only watch the child but also provide the mother with support by school counselors (a case of “assistance”).

(Case 2) Child sexual abuse by a father

This is a case in which an investigation was commenced in response to a Children’s Rights SOS Mini-Letter from an elementary school child alleging that he/she was being sexually abused by his/her father.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice recognized the urgency and immediately made contact with a child guidance center and the elementary school. Relevant organizations had a meeting to share information on the child and discuss actions to be taken. Staff of the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice and a Human Rights Volunteer had an interview with the child and handed over the case to the child guidance center by obtaining the child’s consent. The child was temporarily taken into protective custody. Additionally, relevant organizations confirmed an approach to secure safety of the child by building a system to closely watch him/her (a case of “assistance”).

(Case 3) Child abuse by a mother’s partner

This is a case in which a female student conveyed via the Internet Human Rights Counseling Service that she and her brother were being abused by their mother’s partner, such as through physical violence like beating and verbal violence.

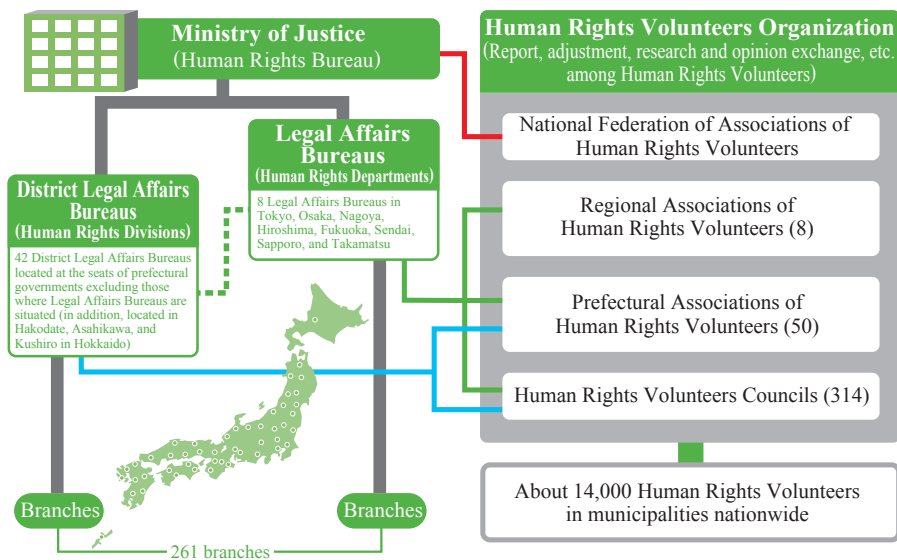
On the day of receiving the consultation, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice made contact with the school and relevant organizations and decided that each organization would share information and closely watch the children. The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice continuously endeavored to ascertain the situation of the children and could confirm several months later that the relationship between the children and their mother’s partner was improving (a case of “assistance”).

3. The Human Rights Bodies of the Ministry of Justice

As described in “1. Major Human Rights Issues,” various problems concerning human rights occur around us. This particular Chapter introduces the structure of the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, which were established to address these problems.



Diagram: Human Rights Bodies of the Ministry of Justice (as of June 1, 2019)



1- The Human Rights Bureau of the Ministry of Justice and Local Offices

The Human Rights Bureau of the Ministry of Justice is a national administrative organ in charge of human rights promotion and protection and its local offices are the Human Rights Departments of the Legal Affairs Bureaus and the Human Rights Divisions of the District Legal Affairs Bureaus. The Human Rights Bureau of the Ministry of Justice, Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus and their branches carry out the work of promotion and protection of human rights.

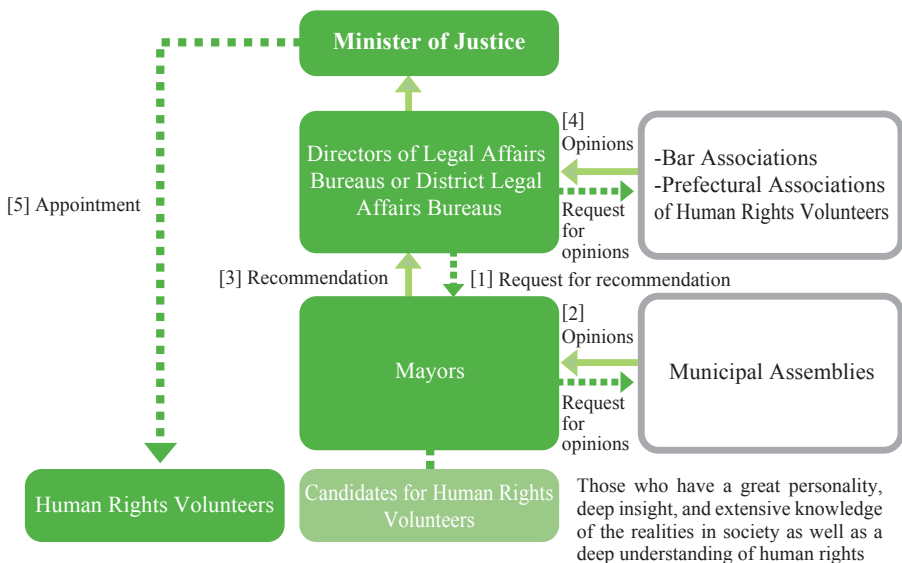
2- Human Rights Volunteers

Human Rights Volunteers are counseling partners available in your town. They provide counseling free of charge and will keep your case confidential. Feel free to consult them if you have any problems.

Human Rights Volunteers are private citizens appointed by the Minister of Justice. The Human Rights Volunteers System was established based on the concept that it would be effective for people in various fields to work in the local community to encourage respect for human rights, to make efforts to avoid violation of the human rights of the residents, and to promote and protect human rights. This system is unparalleled in any other country.

At present, there are approximately 14,000 Volunteers in all of the municipalities of cities, towns, and villages (including special wards in Tokyo) across the country, and they are carrying out proactive activities. Human Rights Volunteers' Organizations have subcommittees which deal with individual problems such as children's rights, gender equality, etc.

Appointment Process of Human Rights Volunteers



Symbol Mark for Human Rights Protection and Promotion Activities

This symbol mark has been used since December 1992 with the aim of ensuring the uniformity and originality of awareness-raising activities by the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice and building a sense of affinity concerning human rights protection activities among people to increase the effect of the activities.

■ Activities of Human Rights Volunteers



Activities in disaster areas
(visiting temporary evacuation homes)



Awareness-raising for human rights at a social
welfare facility



Lecture at a local company



Human rights awareness-raising activities using
local FM radio

Human Rights Volunteers provide human rights counseling services not only at Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus but also at ad-hoc centers for human rights counseling set up at public facilities such as municipal offices, social welfare facilities and department stores.

When a victim requests a remedy as his/her rights are violated at a human rights counseling session or using some other opportunity, Human Rights Volunteers conduct an investigation and strive to amicably settle the case by mediating between the parties in cooperation with officials of Legal Affairs Bureaus or District Legal Affairs Bureaus.

Moreover, Human Rights Volunteers carry out human rights awareness-raising activities that are aimed at raising local residents' awareness of human rights. For example, they hold "Human Rights Lectures" (refer to p.44) and the "Human Rights Flower Campaign" (refer to p.45), which are aimed at elementary school students and kindergarten children and are designed to teach them the importance of caring for other people. Human Rights Volunteers also give lectures on human rights at local companies.

In addition, Human Rights Volunteers carry out various other unique activities in each region. For example, they periodically publish and distribute journals of children’s rights and introduce their activities through local FM broadcasting with the cooperation of radio stations.

For further information about Human Rights Volunteers, ask the Legal Affairs Bureaus, District Legal Affairs Bureaus or their branches in your area.

June 1 is “Human Rights Volunteers’ Day”

The National Federation of Associations of Human Rights Volunteers has set June 1 as Human Rights Volunteers’ Day to commemorate the day on which the “Human Rights Volunteers Act” entered into effect (June 1, 1949), and around this anniversary every year, ad-hoc counseling centers are set up and various human rights awareness-raising activities are carried out across the country with the aim of deepening people’s understanding of human rights.



Human rights counseling through an interview

Emblem of Human Rights Volunteers



The design of wood sorrel on the exterior frame and a chrysanthemum with the kanji character “人” or human on the inside. Wood sorrel is a strong plant which spreads by sticking close to the ground and it symbolizes the hope that the concept of respect for human rights will spread.

4. Activities of the Human Rights Bodies of the Ministry of Justice

This Chapter will introduce how the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice protect your human rights. Their activities can be divided into the following areas: investigation and resolution of human rights violation cases, human rights counseling, and awareness-raising for human rights. The bodies make efforts to protect your human rights through these activities on a daily basis.

1- Remedy for Human Rights Violation Cases

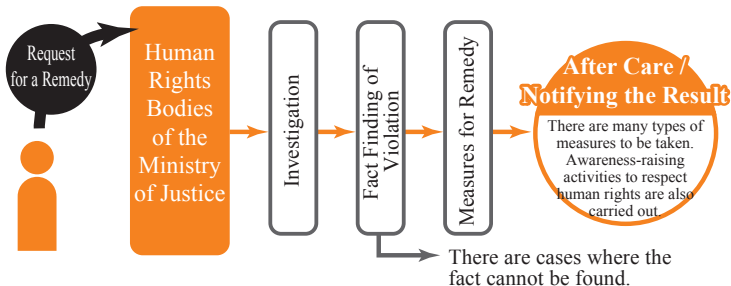
When a victim requests a remedy as he or she suffered violation of human rights, the bodies initiate remedy procedures. Based on an investigation result, the bodies take appropriate measures depending on the case.

Investigation Process of Human Rights Violation Cases

A case where human rights violation is suspected is called a “human rights violation case.” When a victim of human rights violation requests a remedy, the bodies immediately initiate remedy procedures. The bodies may also initiate remedy procedures when they become aware of a suspected case of human rights violation from other sources including newspapers or magazines.

During the procedures, the bodies conduct an investigation in order to determine whether or not human rights violation has really occurred. However, the bodies do not have compulsory measures for investigation like those of the police or of public prosecutors, and thus the investigation is based on the voluntary cooperation of the people concerned.

■ Flow of the Procedure

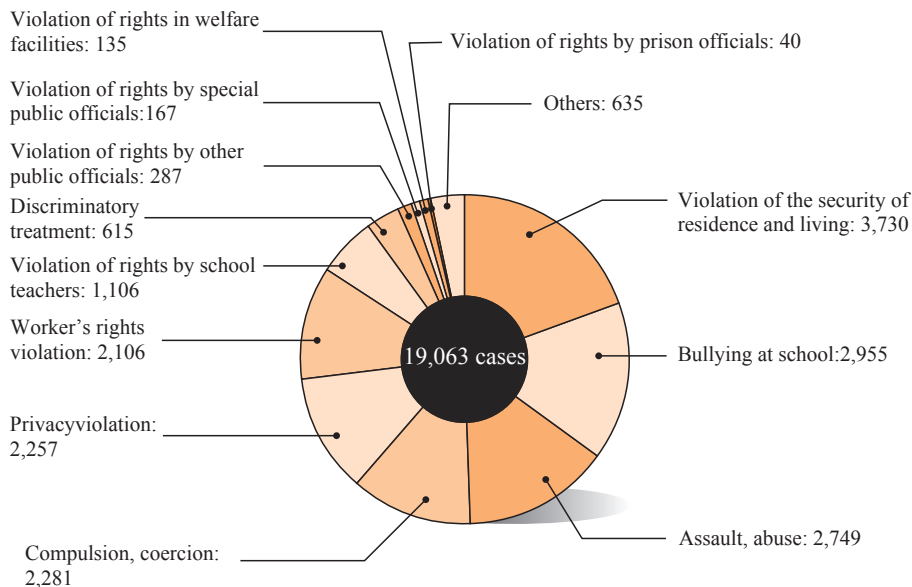




As a result of the investigation, the bodies take appropriate measures depending on the case. There are seven kinds of measures including “assistance” to provide legal advice and other assistance, “conciliation” to mediate talks between the parties concerned, “instructions” or a “recommendation” to make a human rights violator improve the situation, and “request” to a third party, which allows to make effective responses. Of these measures, the measures of “assistance” and “conciliation” may be taken at effective times even during the investigation.

The bodies also raise the awareness of the people concerned with regard to human rights depending on the case. After closing the case, the results are notified to the victim and, where necessary, aftercare is provided for the victim through cooperation with the related administrative organs or by contacting the people concerned.

■ Breakdown of the Number of Human Rights Violation Cases in 2018



Examples of Remedied Human Rights Violation Cases

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice conduct remedy procedures for human rights violation cases in accordance with the Regulations on Investigation and Resolution of Human Rights Violation Cases (Instruction of the Ministry of Justice). Under the Regulations, the bodies strive to take the following actions to seek a remedy for victims.

- (i) The bodies immediately initiate remedy procedures upon receiving a request aside from in exceptional cases.
- (ii) For the recovery from and prevention of the violation, the bodies conduct investigation promptly and flexibly and take appropriate measures from among seven kinds of measures, which include “assistance,” “conciliation,” “instruction” and “recommendation.”
- (iii) After having completed remedy measure, the results are notified to the victim and, if necessary, aftercare is provided.

The following cases are examples of the cases the bodies dealt with in 2018 based on the Regulations.

《Case examples》

1) Bullying at school

Inappropriate handling of bullying at an elementary school

This is a case in which an elementary school child complained of bullying by his/her classmates using a Children’s Rights SOS Mini-Letter.

As a result of an investigation, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice found that the school had recognized bullies’ conduct and the class teacher had provided them with guidance, but that they did not consider such conduct as bullying.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice requested the school to handle this case properly as a bullying case and the school agreed to strengthen guidance for the bullies and enhance a system to closely watch the victimized child.

Later, a Human Rights Volunteer sent a letter to the child in order to check the situation at school, enclosing a return Mini-Letter, and the child replied that he/she is enjoying school life. It is thus confirmed that the child is now able to attend school with peace of mind (a case of “conciliation”).

2) Compulsion and coercion case

Sexual harassment against a subordinate by a superior at workplace

This is a case in which a worker consulted with the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, alleging his/her superior’s sexual harassment, such as commenting on his/her appearance or starting sexual talk against his/her will.

As a result of an investigation, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice found that the superior had significantly worsened the victim’s working conditions by commenting on his/her appearance and having sexual talk regularly.

Therefore, they instructed the supervisor that such conduct falls under sexual harassment, causing psychological suffering to the victim, and should be stopped (a case of “instruction”).



3) Discriminatory treatment

Refusal of a foreign national's attendance at an English conversation class

This is a case wherein the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice received a consultation from a parent of a child whose attendance at an English conversation class was rejected on the grounds that the parents are both foreign nationals.

As a result of an investigation, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice found that the company operating the relevant English conversation class has a policy to accept children whose parents are foreign nationals if only the children have no difficulties in communication in Japanese language, but that such policy was not fully disseminated among the entirety of the company and the staff in charge of admission procedures uniformly rejected children whose parents are foreign nationals.

Therefore, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice raised awareness of the class to deepen correct understanding on the concept of respect for fundamental human rights and encouraged both parties to resolve the problem. Finally, the class developed an environment to also accept children with foreign parents. (a case of “conciliation” and “awareness-raising”)

4) Internet-related case

Violation of privacy and defamation on the internet

This is a case in which the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice received consultation from a victim who alleged that sexual images and video of him/her were posted on multiple websites.

As a result of an investigation by the bodies, it was found that the images and the video were shot upon an interview when he/she applied to be a cast member in an adult video and were posted without his/her consent for publication. The images and the video were found in breach of the victim's privacy and also harmed his/her reputation and credit. Therefore, the bodies requested the administrators of the websites to delete the images and video and many of them were deleted (a case of “request”).

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice provide a request form (picture on the right) at Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus so that people are able to easily make requests for remedy. The request form is also available on the website of the Ministry of Justice (http://www.moj.go.jp/JINKEN/index_chousa.html).

Additionally, a leaflet to explain the details of the counseling and remedy is also delivered.

The form is titled '人権侵害報告申請シート' (Human Rights Violation Report Form) and includes the following sections:

- Header: 人権侵害報告申請シート (Human Rights Violation Report Form)
- Section 1: 氏名 (Name) and 住所 (Address) fields.
- Section 2: 電話番号 (Phone Number) and 郵便番号 (Postal Code) fields.
- Section 3: 相談内容 (Consultation Content) section with a large text area for describing the violation.
- Section 4: 氏名 (Name) and 日付 (Date) fields for the requester.
- Section 5: 署名欄 (Signature Line) and 日付欄 (Date Line) for the requester.

Request form for reporting human rights violation

2- Human Rights Counseling

Do you know about the human rights counseling services?

Please use the services if you encounter a human rights problem and have questions about whether legal measures exist to solve it.

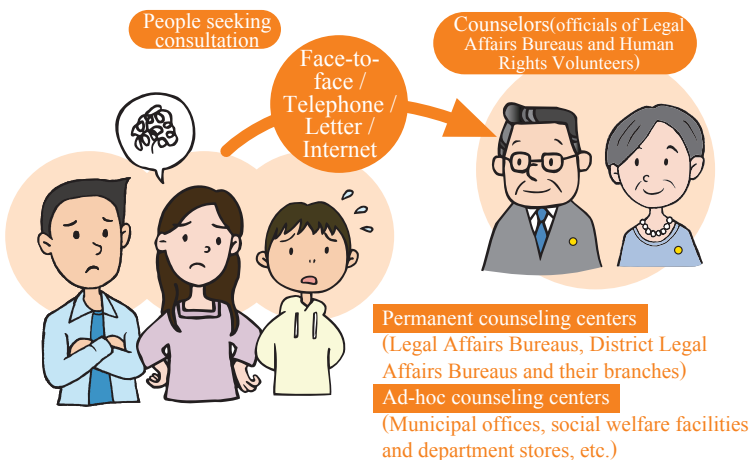
The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice provide human rights counseling services by officials of Legal Affairs Bureaus and Human Rights Volunteers. The counseling service is free of charge, with no difficult procedures, and is strictly confidential. If you would like to know more details (places, dates/hours and so on) about the counseling service, please ask any of the Legal Affairs Bureaus, District Legal Affairs Bureaus or their branches in your area.

Human rights counseling services via telephone have been provided through a nationwide number (Human Rights Hotline) since FY2011.

In addition, the bodies have established the Women's Rights Hotline, special telephone counseling services for women, and the Children's Rights Hotline, special telephone counseling services for children at Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus throughout the country. The officials of the Bureaus and Human Rights Volunteers conduct telephone counseling. Counseling for children using letters is also actively conducted by distributing the Children's Rights SOS Mini-Letters to elementary and junior high school students throughout the country.

For foreign nationals who are unable to speak Japanese fluently, the bodies have established Foreign-language Human Rights Hotline and Human Rights Counseling Centers for Foreign Nationals (refer to the back cover).

The bodies have also established Human Rights Counseling Services on the Internet.





3- Human Rights Awareness-Raising

As indicated in the previous pages, there are various human rights problems in Japan and many people are still suffering from human rights violations. The fundamental questions are why do human rights violations occur? How can we eliminate the violations? The answer lies in each person's awareness of human rights.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice have been carrying out various activities to improve each citizen's awareness and understanding of human rights.

Some examples of the activities are the holding of symposiums, lectures, and movie viewings; conducting various forms of training such as Human Rights Lectures; utilizing publicity using broadcasts such as TV and radio, etc.; running articles in newspapers and public relations magazines; and displaying banner ads on the internet. These activities are collectively called "human rights awareness-raising activities."

Human rights awareness-raising activities are indispensable in preventing human rights violations in advance.

The Priority Goal of Awareness-Raising Activities

Ever since FY1966, the bodies have set a priority goal for the year and have conducted awareness-raising activities based on the goal.

"Building a Century of Human Rights - Caring about How Others Feel and Passing down the Concept of Mutually Recognizing Differences to the Future" was set as the priority goal for FY2019. The bodies publicize and stress the importance of caring about the feelings of others to each and every citizen so that people will be able to reaffirm to themselves that the 21st century has been designated as the Human Rights Century, and each citizen will be able to understand the importance of respect for human rights and, on the basis of this, people will pay closer attention to the human rights of others. The bodies thus carry out awareness-raising activities with the aim of telling people the importance of giving due consideration to others, and the same time, fostering the concept of mutually recognizing differences and passing it down to the future. Specifically, the bodies set the 17 human rights issues given in the section titled "1. Major Human Rights Issues" (refer to p.2 and onwards) as priority targets, and conduct awareness-raising activities relating to these targets.

Priority Targets of Awareness-Raising Activities

- ① Protect Women's Rights
- ② Protect Children's Rights
- ③ Protect Elderly People's Rights
- ④ Eliminate Prejudice and Discrimination on the Grounds of Disabilities
- ⑤ Resolve the *Dowa* Issue (*Buraku* Discrimination)
- ⑥ Eliminate Prejudice and Discrimination against Ainu People
- ⑦ Respect the Rights of Foreign Nationals
- ⑧ Eliminate Prejudice and Discrimination against People Living with HIV and Hansen's Disease Patients
- ⑨ Eliminate Prejudice and Discrimination against People Released from Prison after Serving Their Sentences
- ⑩ Consider the Human Rights of Crime Victims and their Families
- ⑪ Eliminate Human Rights Violations on the Internet
- ⑫ Deepen Understanding of the Issue of Human Rights Violations by North Korean Authorities
- ⑬ Eliminate Prejudice and Discrimination against Homeless People
- ⑭ Eliminate Prejudice and Discrimination on the Grounds of Sexual Orientation
- ⑮ Eliminate Prejudice and Discrimination on the Grounds of Gender Identity
- ⑯ Stop Trafficking in Persons
- ⑰ Eliminate Prejudice and Discrimination Arising from the Great East Japan Earthquake

Awareness-Raising Activities in Coordination with Remedy Activities

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice investigate a suspected case of human rights violation and take appropriate remedy measures (refer to p.36 and onwards). Among these cases, some have common characteristics and there is a high possibility that similar cases will occur in future. In these cases, the bodies carry out awareness-raising activities beforehand to prevent possible similar cases from occurring.

Human Rights Week

The United Nations designated December 10 as Human Rights Day at its 5th General Assembly on December 4, 1950 in commemoration of December 10, 1948, the day that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted at its 3rd General Assembly, and recommended that member states further promote the development of human rights. In Japan, the week ending on December 10 each year was designated as Human Rights Week in 1949, the year following the adoption of the Declaration, and human rights awareness-raising activities have been carried out throughout the country since then.



The Networks of Human Rights Awareness-Raising Activities

The Prefectural Network Associations of Human Rights Awareness-Raising Activities was established at a prefectural level and the Regional Network Associations of Human Rights Awareness-Raising Activities was established at a municipal level as an interlinking network among the bodies implementing human rights awareness-raising activities, such as the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, the prefectural governments, municipal governments, and public interest corporations.

Members have been cooperating through this network in conducting human rights awareness-raising activities, drawing up annual programs for human rights awareness-raising activities, and providing relevant information through the human rights information website (<http://www.moj.go.jp/jinkennet>).

National Essay Contest on Human Rights for Junior High School Students

The National Essay Contest on Human Rights for Junior High School Students has been held since FY1981 for the purpose of enabling junior high school students, who will lead the next generation, to deepen their understanding of the importance and necessity of human rights and to foster awareness of human rights through writing essays on human rights issues, while making the award winning essays public to broadly disseminate the idea of respecting human rights to the general public. In FY2018, 933,992 students from 7,342 schools entered the contest.

Some of the past essays that received awards can be viewed on website of the Ministry of Justice (<http://www.moj.go.jp/-JINKEN/jinken111.html>) (refer to p.46 onward for the essay that received the Prime Minister's Award).

■ Results of National Essay Contests on Human Rights for Junior High School Students

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018
Number of schools participating	7,083	7,295	7,338	7,358	7,342
Number of entrants	953,211	973,865	972,553	960,390	933,992

Human Rights Lectures

Human Rights Lectures are one of the human rights awareness-raising activities carried out under the initiative of Human Rights Volunteers nationwide, with the aim of nurturing compassion in children and having them learn about the preciousness of life by providing them with an opportunity to think about bullying and other topics. Lectures are held, targeting elementary and lower secondary school students, on such occasions as school visits for the Human Rights Flower Campaigns (refer to p.45) or moral education classes.

In recent years, targets are being expanded to cover not only kindergarten and school children and students but also university students, or even adults by incorporating

■ Results of the Human Rights Lectures

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018
Number of times	19,871	20,946	21,968	22,907	23,977
Number of participants	796,748	856,935	922,731	997,815	1,108,404

Human Rights Lectures in corporate training programs.

Additionally, Human Rights Lectures with Sports have been held by inviting athletes and coaches as lecturers to have children learn the spirit of fair play based on mutual support and deepen compassion for others through lessons they learn from the lectures, and Experience-based Human Rights Lectures, such as using wheelchairs or enjoying blind soccer games, are also being held to have participants become aware of the importance of realizing a society in which people with or without disabilities can live together.



Human Rights Lecture

Material Experience-based Human Rights Awareness-Raising Activities in Collaboration with Private Companies, etc.

Ahead of the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics Games in 2020, various initiatives are being carried out with the aim of realizing a universal society (an inclusive society) in which all people mutually respect each other while understanding and naturally accepting differences in terms of race, disabilities, etc.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice are holding events for enjoying sports for persons with disabilities or using wheelchairs or lectures by Paralympians, in collaboration with private companies.

These experience-based human rights awareness-raising activities are intended to promote people's "mental barrier-free" to mutually support each other with respect for the personalities and characteristics of others, thereby having them fully understand the significance of a universal society.



Boccia experience at an elementary school



Blindness experience at an elementary school



Human Rights Flower Campaigns

The Human Rights Flower Campaigns have been held since 1982 as a human rights awareness-raising activity carried out mainly for elementary school students. During the Campaigns, children are given flower seeds or bulbs and grow flowers by cooperating with one another. Through this experience, children are anticipated to understand the preciousness of life, nurture a warm-hearted spirit and learn about tenderness and compassion.

Flowers grown by children are sent to social welfare facilities, etc. and sketching and viewing events are held to strengthen communication with local people. In this manner, the Campaigns are also providing opportunities for those local people to deepen their understanding of human rights.



Human Rights Flower Campaign

■ Results of the Human Rights Flower Campaigns

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018
Number of schools participating	3,816	3,669	3,823	3,870	3,794
Number of participants	483,788	470,540	481,863	478,113	439,470

Material Awareness-Raising Booklet “Private Companies and Human Rights - Starting Efforts from Workplaces to Create Society with Respect for Human Rights”

In recent years, there has been media coverage of various human rights issues in workplaces, such as *Karoshi*, or fatigue deaths from prolonged work, sexual or power harassment, undue discrimination against sexual minorities, persons with disabilities or foreign nationals, and fake *Dowa* acts.

The way in which each corporate entity deals with these issues often has a significant impact on its evaluation. With growing interest in corporate social responsibility (CSR) and socially responsible investment (SRI), an increasing number of companies are positively incorporating the idea of respect for human rights in their corporate policies or are providing in-house training on human rights.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice prepared an awareness-raising video “Private Companies and Human Rights” (<http://www.moj.go.jp/JINKEN/jinken96.html>) and an awareness-raising booklet detailing the content of the video (<http://www.moj.go.jp/-content/001296336.pdf>), and have used them in various training sessions for human rights awareness-raising targeting companies.

The video and booklet explain why companies need to cope with human rights issues and what the major human rights issues faced by companies are in an easy-to-understand manner.

The 38th National Essay Contest on Human Rights for Junior High School Students

“To Study Is to Live”

Konishi Tamaki, Eighth Grade (second year of three grades)

Okayama Prefectural Okayama Sozan Junior High School, Okayama Prefecture

Close your eyes and let's suppose you are a Japanese adult. Once you leave your house, you feel nervous, uneasy, and unconfident. When you walk around town, you cannot understand what is written on signs or information boards. You think, “What does it mean?” Then, you think you are such a rubbish person because you do not understand something so simple. You are afraid of getting on a bus because you cannot read the signs written in Chinese characters that tell the fares and destinations. You feel that you are always surrounded by things uncertain and unknown. Why are you having so much trouble?

This summer holiday I worked at the Okayama Voluntary Night Junior High School as a volunteer. What I have just described is the story of Mr. A, who has been studying at this school. Mr. A suffered an acute illness when he was small, and stopped going to school when he was in grade three of primary school. He is a “proforma graduate” of a junior high school, having received a graduation certificate, albeit after barely attending the school. Mr. A got a job with heavy labor but quit the job because of his illness, and then moved from one job to another. Not being able to read, write or calculate, he could not choose his work and had to suffer many embarrassing experiences.

Night school was established to guarantee the opportunities of people from various backgrounds to receive compulsory education. Students include those who finished junior high school without sufficient education for various reasons, such as nonattendance like in the case of Mr. A. There are also current junior-high school students who are not attending any classes, people who missed the opportunity to learn amid the post-WWII chaos, or people with foreign nationalities. At present, there are 31 publicly-run night junior high schools in eight prefectures, and 37 schools run by volunteers in 16 prefectures. At the night school where I worked, around 40 students with five different nationalities and with ages ranging from 10s to 80s are studying. Looking around the classroom at the different types of students, I was genuinely surprised how varied junior high school students can be in our society.

One day I helped Ms. B to study fractional numbers. Ms. B is older than my grandmother. At the school, students and teachers basically study one-to-one. Ms. B was surprised that a current junior high student like me was working there as a volunteer. She then told me her story, explaining why she is studying at night school and



how many difficulties she went through because of her lack of compulsory education. “If I could have studied like this when I was as young as you, Tamaki, would I be much happier now?” she murmured and then she said something rather surprising, “Please give me some homework because I don’t want to forget what I have studied today.” I could not believe what I had just heard, homework is my enemy! At my junior high school, regardless of students’ wishes, teachers give us plenty of homework. Being not so academically bright, I have been rejecting studying, thinking, “Why do we need to study? What for?” I always did my homework quite reluctantly. Therefore, when Ms. B asked me for homework, I felt embarrassed with myself. Ms. B and other students’ earnest passion for studying was almost dazzling for me. Many of them are barely surviving their everyday lives, and, until they found the opportunity for studying at the night school, they never had time to wonder, “For what do we study?” I had an acute realization of how privileged and spoiled I have been.

Based on statistics, the enrollment rate for Japan’s compulsory education is about 99%. However, based on estimates by the Japan Night School Research Group, there are more than a million people who have not completed compulsory education because they never attended school, or stopped attending school in the middle of the academic year. In the backdrop of complicated family relationships, some of them are not recorded on a family register, have suffered abuse from their parents, have withdrawn from the outside world, or have been absent from school. And others have not completed compulsory education due to other social issues. Our right to education is supposed to be guaranteed by the Constitution of Japan and the Basic Act on Education, etc. However, there are people who were not able to receive sufficient education and pushed to live in the worst conditions – just like the students I have met at night school, and we should not forget that. I would like to provide more “opportunities for education” to people who want to study.

The speech by Malala Yousafzai, the person whom I respect, at the United Nations always gives me support, “One child, one teacher, one pen and one book can change the world. Education is the only solution. Education first.”

My contribution is very small, but I will protect opportunities for studying, and, as a volunteer, study together at night school. To study is to live. This summer, people at the Okayama Voluntary Night School taught me the meaning of studying.

5. Human Rights Protection in the International Community

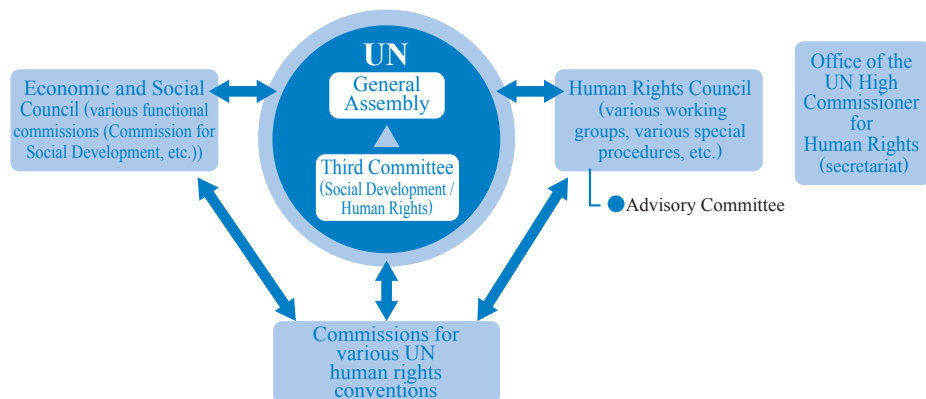
“Promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all” is one of the important objectives of the United Nations, and it has endeavored to guarantee human rights by setting up various frameworks. After the end of the Cold War and amid progressing globalization, the international community now shares the idea that respect of human rights is the base of the world peace and the momentum to tackle human rights issues in close collaboration of the whole international community is growing.



1- United Nations

The United Nations, which was inaugurated in 1945, has grown to be a large international organization in 70 years with the participation of over 190 nations worldwide.

The United Nations has various organizations for the protection and promotion of human rights and these organizations have been playing a significant role in the efforts by the international community to guarantee human rights.





The idea of establishing the United Nations generated amid the disaster of World War II. On October 24, 1945, the United Nations was inaugurated by 51 nations, citing “maintaining international peace and security” and “promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion” (Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations) and others as its objectives. As of March 2019, 193 nations have joined the United Nations. The United Nations have various organizations specialized in specific fields, such as economy, society and culture. Also in the field of human rights, various organizations have been established for ensuring the guarantee of human rights, which is prescribed in human rights-related conventions. In March 2006, the Human Rights Council was set up in place of the Human Rights Commission, which had been a subsidiary organization under the Economic and Social Council, with the aim of dealing with world’s human rights issues more effectively. Upon this occasion, as a framework to universally examine the status of human rights in all UN member countries, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) was institutionalized.

2- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides for the principle of respecting fundamental human rights, is epoch-making in that it declares the goal or standard for guaranteeing human rights internationally for the first time. By the Declaration, the world’s initiatives in promotion and protecting human rights have made significant advances.

Wars involving the whole world occurred twice in the 20th century, and during World War II, in particular, human rights violation and oppression, such as persecution and genocide of people of a specific race, were widespread. In the past, human rights problems were considered as domestic problems of respective countries, but the experience during the last war changed that idea and the current prevailing point of view is that any human rights problem relates to the international community as a whole and guaranteeing human rights is the base of the world peace. Accordingly, on December 10, 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at its 3rd General Assembly, as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations.

The Declaration consists of the preamble and 30 Articles, which broadly provide for civil rights, political rights, economic rights and cultural rights that are vested in all people.

In commemoration of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations designated December 10 as Human Rights Day at its 5th General Assembly on December 4, 1950, and recommended that member states further promote the development of human rights. The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice designated the week ending on December 10 each year as Human Rights Week in 1949, the year following the adoption of the Declaration, and have carried out human rights awareness-raising activities throughout the country to facilitate the dissemination of the idea of respecting human rights (refer to p.42).

Universal Declaration Human Rights Awareness-Raising Calligraphic Work and Painting



This work is created by a calligrapher, Taiho Kogi, and a Brazilian painter, Otavio Ross, who were impressed with the human wisdom shown in the Declaration, as part of their efforts to express such impression in an artistic manner.

Material : Japan's Efforts for Achieving the SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are universal goals adopted unanimously at the 2015 UN Sustainable Development Summit as a successor of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) established in 2001. The SDGs set 17 goals and 169 targets for the purpose of realizing a sustainable, diverse and inclusive society, pledging that no one will be left behind. A broad range of topics including poverty, health, climate change, etc. is covered, and the human rights-related field relates to many of those 17 goals.

The SDGs were established as universal and participatory goals, expecting the whole world, not only developing countries but also advanced countries, to take actions and involving all stakeholders including private companies and local governments, etc., not limited to national governments and specific experts, who are to play significant roles, respectively.

After the adoption of the SDGs, the government of Japan established the SDGs Promotion Headquarters consisting of all Cabinet members with the Prime Minister serving as the chief and has been making all-out efforts for achieving the SDGs. In December 2018, the “SDGs Action Plan 2019” was decided. The Action plan focuses on three pillars: (i) Promotion of “Society 5.0” linked to SDGs in collaboration of the public and private sectors; (ii) SDGs-driven regional innovation; and (iii) Empowerment of the next generations and women as SDGs agents.

The government of Japan is committed to continuing efforts for achieving the SDGs collaboratively with all stakeholders.





3- The Core Human Rights Conventions

In order to give legal force to rights prescribed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the two International Covenants were adopted and various conventions have been adopted thereafter as those for guaranteeing respective human rights. Disseminating the details of the rights guaranteed under these conventions and deepening people's understanding will lead to protecting the rights of individuals.

After the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) were drafted to give legal force to rights prescribed in the Declaration and were adopted unanimously at the General Assembly in 1966.

These two International Covenants serve as the international standard for guaranteeing human rights as the fundamental and most comprehensive conventions. Additionally, other human rights-related conventions include the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED), and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). There are also regional human rights conventions, such as the European Convention on Human Rights, American Convention on Human Rights, and African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

In recent years, initiatives for protecting human rights have been active worldwide, and Japan is also expected to play a significant role in the international community.

The core human rights-related conventions are as follows.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

CESCR mainly provides social rights, such as labor rights, rights for social security, and rights relating to education and cultural activities.

Social rights are granted to individuals under the national government's policies based on the understanding that the nation should fulfill its responsibility to a certain degree for guaranteeing individuals' daily lives in order to enhance the guarantee of human rights substantially.

Japan ratified CESCR in June 1979.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR)

CCPR mainly provides rights relating to the right of freedom, i.e., the right from the perspective of protecting individuals' daily lives from interference and hindrance by public power based on the basic idea that all human beings are born free.

More specifically, freedom of expression, freedom of movement, physical freedom, freedom of religion, freedom of association and assembly, and voting rights are prescribed. Ratified countries are obliged to respect and secure these rights for all individuals without any discrimination.

Japan ratified this CCPR together with CESCR in June 1979.

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Discrimination against certain races and ethnic groups still exists persistently. In order to eliminate such discrimination, it was considered necessary to prepare an international document to oblige respective countries to carry out concrete measures therefor, and this Convention was adopted at the United Nations General Assembly in 1965.

This Convention provides that ratified countries should implement policies to promote understanding among all races in all appropriate means without delay so that each country ensures that all people surely enjoy human rights and fundamental freedom sufficiently and equally.

Japan acceded to this Convention in December 1995.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Based on the idea that all human beings are born free and equal and therefore that men and women should be respected equally, this Convention was adopted at the United Nations General Assembly in 1979 in order to realize such basic concept.

Ratified countries are required to take measures without delay to achieve thorough gender equality to enable women to enjoy the same rights, opportunities and responsibilities as those for men as individuals, without receiving any restrictions only because they are women.

Japan ratified this Convention in June 1985.



Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)

Prohibition of torture had already been provided for by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and CCPR. However, in the 1970s, cruel acts deemed to be torture committed by a military dictatorship in a certain country drew worldwide condemnation, and it became widely recognized that a new international document to substantially prohibit torture would need to be prepared. This Convention was adopted at the United Nations General Assembly in 1984. The Convention defines torture as an act committed by public officials, etc. to intentionally give victims severe pain physically and psychologically for such purposes as collecting information, and provides that each signatory nation should treat torture as criminal offense and offer cooperation on extradition of such criminals.

Japan acceded to this Convention in June 1999.

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

There are many children suffering from poverty, hunger and conflicts, etc. in the world. In light of such reality, this Convention was adopted at the United Nations General Assembly in 1989, aiming to ensure the respect of human rights and freedom of children and promote their protection and support. This Convention aims to promote respect of fundamental human rights of all children under 18 years old.

Japan ratified this Convention in April 1994.

International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)

This Convention, which aims to internationally declare that enforced disappearance including abduction should be punished as crime and to prevent the recurrence of similar crime into the future, was adopted at the United Nations General Assembly in 2006. This Convention prescribed enforced disappearance including abduction as crime and specifies measures to be taken by ratified countries for ensuring the framework for the punishment and prevention of such acts.

Japan ratified this Convention in July 2009.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

In order to improve the situation where persons with disabilities persistently face human rights violation, the need to prepare an international document with legal force had become widely recognized and this Convention was adopted at the United Nations General Assembly in 2006.

This Convention aims to ensure that persons with disabilities can enjoy human rights and fundamental freedom and specifies measures to be taken by ratified countries for realizing rights of those with disabilities, such as the prohibition of any discrimination based on disabilities, promotion of their social participation and involvement, and establishment of the framework for monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

Japan ratified this Convention in January 2014.

Material : The Core Human Rights Conventions Japan Signed

	Convention	Adopted on Enforced on	Signatory nations, regions and organizations
1	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Dec. 16, 1966 Jan. 3, 1976	169
2	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	Dec. 16, 1966 Mar. 23, 1976	172
3	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	Dec.21, 1965 Jan. 4, 1969	181
4	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	Dec. 18, 1979 Sep. 3, 1981	189
5	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	Dec. 10, 1984 Jun. 26, 1987	166
6	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Nov. 20, 1989 Sep. 2, 1990	196
7	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	Dec. 20, 2006 Dec. 23, 2010	60
8	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Dec. 13, 2006 May. 3, 2008	178

(As of June 2019)



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sonoda (as of 1978), signing the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York



1. Major Human Rights Issues

2. Special Feature: Efforts for Preventing Child Abuse

3. The Human Rights Bodies of the Ministry of Justice

4. Activities of the Human Rights Bodies of the Ministry of Justice

5. Human Rights Protection in the International Community

List of Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus

Name	Postal code	Address	TEL
Sapporo Legal Affairs Bureau	060-0808	Sapporo Joint Government Building 1, 2-1-1, Kita-8-jo-nishi, Kita-ku, Sapporo-shi	011-709-2311
Hakodate District Legal Affairs Bureau	040-8533	Hakodate District Joint Government Building, 25-18, Shinkawa-cho, Hakodate-shi	0138-23-9528
Asahikawa District Legal Affairs Bureau	078-8502	Asahikawa Joint Government Building, 3-2-15, 1-jo, Miyamae, Asahikawa-shi	0166-38-1111
Kushiro District Legal Affairs Bureau	085-8522	Kushiro District Joint Government Building, 10-3, Saiwai-cho, Kushiro-shi	0154-31-5014
Sendai Legal Affairs Bureau	980-8601	Sendai Legal Affairs General Government Building 3, 7-25, Kasuga-cho, Aoba-ku, Sendai-shi	022-225-5739
Fukushima District Legal Affairs Bureau	960-0103	1-3, Minaminagawari, Motouchi, Fukushima-shi	024-534-1994
Yamagata District Legal Affairs Bureau	990-0041	Yamagata District Joint Government Building, 1-5-48, Midori-cho, Yamagata-shi	023-625-1321
Morioka District Legal Affairs Bureau	020-0045	Morioka Joint Government Building 2, 1-9-15, Morioka-eki Nishitori, Morioka-shi	019-624-9859
Akita District Legal Affairs Bureau	010-0951	Akita Joint Government Building, 7-1-3, Sanno, Akita-shi	018-862-1443
Aomori District Legal Affairs Bureau	030-8511	Aomori Joint Government Building 2, 1-3-5, Nagashima, Aomori-shi	017-776-9024
Tokyo Legal Affairs Bureau	102-8225	Kudan Joint Government Building 2, 1-1-15, Kudanminami, Chiyoda-ku	03-5213-1234
Yokohama District Legal Affairs Bureau	231-8411	Yokohama Joint Government Building 2, 5-57, Kitanakadori, Naka-ku, Yokohama-shi	045-641-7926
Saitama District Legal Affairs Bureau	338-8513	Saitama Legal Affairs General Government Building 2, 5-12-1, Shimoochiai, Chuo-ku, Saitama-shi	048-859-3507
Chiba District Legal Affairs Bureau	260-8518	Chiba District Joint Government Building, 1-11-3, Chuoko, Chuo-ku, Chiba-shi	043-302-1319
Mito District Legal Affairs Bureau	310-0011	Shunyu Education Hall, 1-1-42, Sannomaru, Mito-shi	029-227-9919
Utsunomiya District Legal Affairs Bureau	320-8515	Utsunomiya District Legal Affairs General Government Building, 2-1-11, Obata, Utsunomiya-shi	028-623-0925
Maebashi District Legal Affairs Bureau	371-8535	Maebashi District Joint Government Building, 2-3-1, Otemachi, Maebashi-shi	027-221-4466
Shizuoka District Legal Affairs Bureau	420-8650	Shizuoka District Joint Government Building, 9-50, Outemachi, Aoi-ku, Shizuoka-shi	054-254-3555
Kofu District Legal Affairs Bureau	400-8520	Kofu Joint Government Building, 1-1-18, Marunouchi, Kofu-shi	055-252-7239
Nagano District Legal Affairs Bureau	380-0846	Nagano Joint Government Building 2, 1108, Naganoasahimachi, Nagano-shi	026-235-6611
Niigata District Legal Affairs Bureau	951-8504	Niigata District Legal Affairs General Government Building, 5191, Nishiohata-cho, Chuo-ku, Niigata-shi	025-222-1563
Nagoya Legal Affairs Bureau	460-8513	Nagoya Joint Government Building 1, 2-2-1, Sannomaru, Naka-ku, Nagoya-shi	052-952-8111
Tsu District Legal Affairs Bureau	514-8503	Tsu Joint Government Building, 26-8, Marunouchi, Tsu-shi	059-228-4193
Gifu District Legal Affairs Bureau	500-8729	Gifu Joint Government Building, 5-13, Kinryu-cho, Gifu-shi	058-245-3181
Fukui District Legal Affairs Bureau	910-8504	Fukui Haruyama Joint Government Building, 1-1-54, Haruyama, Fukui-shi	0776-22-5090
Kanazawa District Legal Affairs Bureau	921-8505	Kanazawa Shinkanda Joint Government Building, 4-3-10, Shinkanda, Kanazawa-shi	076-292-7804
Toyama District Legal Affairs Bureau	930-0856	Toyama Joint Government Building, 11-7, Ushijimashinmachi, Toyama-shi	076-441-6376
Osaka Legal Affairs Bureau	540-8544	Osaka Legal Affairs Joint Government Building 2, 2-1-17, Tani-machi, Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi	06-6942-9496
Kyoto District Legal Affairs Bureau	602-8577	197, Kawaramachi-dori Kojinguchi Higashiiru Kamiikesu-cho, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto-shi	075-231-0131
Kobe District Legal Affairs Bureau	650-0042	Kobe District Joint Government Building 2, 1-1, Hatoba-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe-shi	078-392-1821
Nara District Legal Affairs Bureau	630-8301	Nara District Joint Government Building 2, 552, Takabatake-cho, Nara-shi	0742-23-5457
Otsu District Legal Affairs Bureau	520-8516	Otsu Biwa-ko Joint Government Building, 3-1-1, Kyo-machi, Otsu-shi	077-522-4673

Name	Postal code	Address	TEL
Wakayama District Legal Affairs Bureau	640-8552	Wakayama District Joint Government Building, 3 Nibancho, Wakayama-shi	073-422-5131
Hiroshima Legal Affairs Bureau	730-8536	Hiroshima Joint Government Building 3, 6-30, Kamihacchobori, Naka-ku, Hiroshima-shi	082-228-5790
Yamaguchi District Legal Affairs Bureau	753-8577	Yamaguchi District Joint Government Building 2, 6-16, Nakagawara-cho, Yamaguchi-shi	083-922-2295
Okayama District Legal Affairs Bureau	700-8616	1-3-58, Minamigata, Kita-ku, Okayama-shi	086-224-5656
Tottori District Legal Affairs Bureau	680-0011	Tottori District Joint Government Building 2, 2-302, Higashi-machi, Tottori-shi	0857-22-2289
Matsue District Legal Affairs Bureau	690-0001	192-3, Higashiasahi-machi, Matsue-shi	0852-32-4260
Takamatsu Legal Affairs Bureau	760-0019	Takamatsu Sunport Joint Government Building, South, 3-33, Sun port, Takamatsu-shi	087-821-7850
Tokushima District Legal Affairs Bureau	770-8512	Tokushima District Joint Government Building, 6-6, Jonai, Tokushima-cho, Tokushima-shi	088-622-4171
Kochi District Legal Affairs Bureau	780-8509	Kochi Yosakoi Sakito Joint Government Building, 2-2-10, Sakaeda-cho, Kochi-shi	088-822-3331
Matsuyama District Legal Affairs Bureau	790-8505	Matsuyama District Joint Government Building, 188-6, Miyata-machi, Matsuyama-shi	089-932-0888
Fukuoka Legal Affairs Bureau	810-8513	Fukuoka Legal Affairs General Government Building 1, 3-5-25, Maizuru, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka-shi	092-739-4151
Saga District Legal Affairs Bureau	840-0041	Saga Joint Government Building, 2-10-20, Jonai, Saga-shi	0952-26-2148
Nagasaki District Legal Affairs Bureau	850-8507	Nagasaki Legal Affairs Joint Government Building, 8-16, Manzai-machi, Nagasaki-shi	095-826-8127
Oita District Legal Affairs Bureau	870-8513	Oita Legal Affairs General Government Building, 7-5, Niage-machi, Oita-shi	097-532-3161
Kumamoto District Legal Affairs Bureau	862-0971	Kumamoto Joint Government Building 2, 3-1-53, Oe, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto-shi	096-364-2145
Kagoshima District Legal Affairs Bureau	890-8518	1-2, Kamoikeshinmachi, Kagoshima-shi	099-259-0684
Miyazaki District Legal Affairs Bureau	880-8513	Miyazaki Legal Affairs General Government Building, 1-1, Beppu-cho, Miyazaki-shi	0985-22-5124
Naha District Legal Affairs Bureau	900-8544	Naha District Joint Government Building 1, 1-15-15, Higawa, Naha-shi	098-854-1215

Human Rights Library

Please utilize the Human rights Library if you look for or rent any of the videos cited in this leaflet and other human rights-related materials, or look for a place for holding related observation tours, training sessions or discussions. Materials may be rented by post to those living in distance.

Please make inquiries at the following or refer to the website of the Human Rights Library.

Human Rights Library

* Within the Public Interest Incorporated Foundation Center for Human Rights Education and Training

Postal code: 105-0012

4F, KDX Shiba-Daimon Building, 2-10-12, Shibadaimon, Minato-ku, Tokyo

TEL: 03-5777-1919

FAX: 03-5777-1954

Email: library@jinken.or.jp

Website: <http://www.jinken-library.jp/>

* This booklet outlines the White Paper on Human Rights Education and Awareness-Raising 2019

The Protection of Human Rights

Issued in August 2019

Edited and issued by the Human Rights Bureau, Ministry of Justice

1-1-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

TEL: 03-3580-4111 (main)


Human Rights Counseling Centers for Foreign Nationals

Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus nationwide provide human rights counseling services to foreign nationals who cannot speak Japanese fluently with an interview through a translator.

Service hours	9:00 a.m. - 17:00 p.m. on weekdays (excluding the year-end and New Year holidays)
Languages	English, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Nepali, Spanish, Indonesian, and Thai

Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus also accept consultations on human rights issues by phone and on the internet.

Foreign-language Human Rights Hotline (from anywhere in Japan)

 **0570-090911** (9:00 a.m. - 17:00 p.m. on weekdays)

(in ten languages: English, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Nepali, Spanish, Indonesian, and Thai)

*A call to this number is connected to the competent Legal Affairs Bureau or District Legal Affairs Bureau via a private multilingual call center.

Human Rights Counseling Services on the internet

Online human rights counseling services in English and Chinese are put in place.

Counseling services via the following websites are available from anywhere in Japan.

English: https://www.jinken.go.jp/soudan/PC_AD/0101_en.html

Chinese: https://www.jinken.go.jp/soudan/PC_AD/0101_zh.html

Human rights counseling offices are periodically opened at the following locations other than Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus.

City	Location	Service hours	Langauges	Contact informatio
Fukuoka	KOKUSAI HIROBA ACROS Fukuoka 3rd Floor 1-1-1, Tenjin, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka-shi	13:00 p.m. - 16:00 p.m. on 2nd Saturday every month	English	Human Rights Department, Fukuoka Legal Affairs Bureau 092 (739) 4151
Takamatsu	Kagawa Interneaional Exchange Center (I-pal Kagawa) 1-11-63, Ban-cho, Takamatsu-shi	13:00 p.m. - 15:00 p.m. on 3rd Friday every month (Reservation required)	English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Portuguese	Human Rights Department, Takamatsu Legal Affairs Bureau 087 (821) 7850
Matsuyama	Ehime Prefecural International Center (EPIC) 1-1, Dougoichiman, Matsuyama-shi	13:30 p.m. - 15:30 p.m. on 4th Thursday every month	English	Human Rights Division, Matsuyama District Legal Affairs Bureau 089 (932) 0888



You can consult about human rights issues in your language.

— Information on Human Rights Counseling in Foreign Languages —

The troubles you encounter may be an infringement of your human rights.

A hairdresser refused to cut your hair.



You were not allowed to rent an apartment.



Your child is bullied at school.



Feeling excluded due to cultural differences.



Don't worry alone. Consult with us first.

[Face-to-face counseling]



For those who are not comfortable speaking Japanese, Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus throughout Japan provide human rights counseling services.

[Telephone counseling]



We offer telephone counseling through the Foreign-language Human Rights Hotline (Navi Dial).

[Counseling on the Internet]



We also offer Human Rights counseling services on the Internet in English and Chinese.

We will find the best solution to your problem.

Conciliation

We mediate in discussions.



Instructions and recommendation to violators

We will pressure the violator to improve the situation.



Advice and referrals

We make referrals to specialized agencies that can provide legal advice.



See the back for details

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