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. 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 2018” published in June 2018, 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.

2018 marks the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, which provides for the principle of respect for fundamental human rights. Furthermore, with the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics Games two years 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.

Human Rights Bureau
Ministry of Justice
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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 husband or partner, and sexual harassment in the workplace, as well as disadvantageous treatment due to pregnancy and childbirth, or so-called maternity harassment, are some of the most serious problems concerning women's rights.

(Note*) See pages 35 to 38 for details of human rights violation cases.
Women’s human rights issues such as those aforementioned have also been emphasized by the international community. In 1999, the General Assembly of the United Nations designated November 25th as the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women. The need for further measures to deal with violence against women was highlighted in the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-First Century.

In Japan, the Basic Act for Gender-Equal Society entered into force in June 1999 and the Basic Plan for Gender Equality was formulated in December 2000 (a fourth plan was formulated in December 2015). In order to deepen public understanding of the purpose and basic ideas of the Act, the week between June 23 and 29 was designated as the Gender Equality Week, during which various events are held to promote the realization of a gender-equal society. As measures to address violence against women, the Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims entered into force in October 2001 (the protection orders system has been reinforced by an amendment of the Act in January 2008 and in January 2014). Since then, the Action to Eliminate Violence against Women has been held every year for two weeks from November 12 to 25. Furthermore, the Act of Promotion of Women’s Participation and Advancement in the Workplace, which was enacted for the purpose of developing an environment where women can fully demonstrate their capacity and engage in work, entered into force in full in April 2016. Additionally, 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 was amended (entered into force in January 2017), and employers have been obliged to take measures for preventing harassment in relation to pregnancy, childbirth, and childcare leave, etc.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multiple answers (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discriminatory treatment in the workplace (difficulty in assuming managerial positions, maternity harassment or other disadvantageous treatment on the grounds of pregnancy and childbirth, etc.) [50.5%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual harassment [42.9%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic violence (violence by a spouse or partner) [35.6%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discrimination based on fixed ideas on gender roles (women should do housework, etc.) [33.3%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prostitution [19.2%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coercive casting for adult videos [15.5%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of terms specific to women, such as “Mrs.,” “widows” [10.0%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing particular, Don’t know [16.9%]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice established the “Women’s Rights Hotline,” 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, sexual harassment in the workplace, stalking behavior, and problems of so-called “JK business” (JK stands for joshi-kosei, or high school girl) and coercive casting for adult videos. The bodies also carry out awareness-raising activities and human rights remedy activities supporting the human rights of women.

**Timeline of the Measures for the Creation of a Gender-Equal Society**

- **Jul. 1994:** Establishment of the Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality
- **Jul. 1994:** Establishment of the Council for Gender Equality and the Office for Gender Equality
- **Jul. 1996:** Report of the Council for Gender Equality; Vision of Gender Equality
- **Dec. 1996:** Formulation of a plan for Gender Equality 2000
- **Mar. 1997:** Enactment of the Act on Establishment of the Council for Gender Equality
- **Nov. 1998:** Report of the Council for Gender Equality Basic Act for a Gender-Equal Society
- **May 1999:** Report of the Council for Gender Equality Toward a Society Without Violence against Women
- **Jun. 1999:** Enactment of the Basic Act for a Gender-Equal Society
- **Jul. 2000:** Report of the Council for Gender Equality Basic Measures Pertaining to Violence against Women
- **Dec. 2000:** Formulation of the Basic Plan for Gender Equality
- **Jan. 2001:** Establishment of the Council for Gender Equality and the Gender Equality Bureau
- **Dec. 2004:** Formulation of the Basic Policy Concerning Measures for the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims
- **Dec. 2005:** Formulation of the Second Basic Plan for Gender Equality
- **Dec. 2010:** Formulation of the Third Basic Plan for Gender Equality
- **Dec. 2015:** Formulation of the Fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality
2. Children

“Suicides triggered by bullying” or “Corporal punishment”, “Infants harmed or killed by negligent parents”, “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.


In addition, for the purpose of promoting comprehensive and effective measures to prevent bullying, which has been recognized to be social problems, the Act for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Bullying was enforced in September 2013.

---

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multiple answers (%)</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>30</th>
<th>40</th>
<th>50</th>
<th>60</th>
<th>70</th>
<th>80</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Being bullied [66.9%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being abused [62.6%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others turning a blind eye to bullying, corporal punishment or abuse [52.6%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject to corporal punishment [31.1%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults ignoring children’s opinions concerning the selection of schools and occupation, etc. [28.3%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject to child prostitution and child porn [28.2%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing particular, Don’t know [5.9%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bullying

The bullying of children taking place today is becoming more diverse, and the reality of the situation is that bullying is becoming less and less visible due to the use of information and telecommunications devices.

Since small acts of bullying have the potential to lead to dangerous conduct, bullying should be viewed as a serious problem also from the perspective of human rights.

In the background of children who commit bullying or who turn a blind eye to bullying, there are intricately interlinked factors such as problems with school, family, or in their social environment. It can be considered, however, that the root of the problem is a lack of consciousness of respect for human rights 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.

Awareness-raising booklet: Bullying: Prevent, Do not Overlook

Awareness-raising video: “Think Carefully”
Focusing on an incident of online bullying, which was triggered by thoughtless comments posted by upper-grade elementary school children on an unofficial school website, the video aims to tell children the fact that they are all irreplaceable.

Number of human rights violation cases concerning bullying

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment by teachers is clearly prohibited in Article 11 of the School Education Act, but there are still a number of human rights violation cases concerning corporal punishment. Corporal punishment exerts serious influence on children’s minds and bodies, foments the idea of seeking easy solutions to problems by force, and may create an atmosphere of tolerating bullying and violence.
Child Abuse, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography

Recently, the number of tragic incidents of parents or other adults abusing children, which in some cases leads to death, has increased. In addition, child sexual abuse and commercialized sexual exploitation, such as child prostitution and the child pornography flooding the Internet, have become a serious concern all around the world.

In order to solve these problems, strenuous efforts have been made such as the enforcement of the Act on Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children in November 1999 (the Act title was amended to the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children based on the Amendment Act enforced in July 2014 and punitive provisions were expanded and strengthened), and the enforcement of the Child Abuse Prevention Act in November 2000 (the Act has been amended several times).
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 deal with these problems, 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, a special toll-free telephone service for human rights counseling for children at the Legal Affairs Bureaus and the District Legal Affairs Bureaus (50 locations nationwide), striving to create an environment to make children feel more able to take counsel from Human Rights Volunteers and the officials of the Bureaus. Furthermore, the bodies carry out awareness-raising activities, such as distributing awareness-raising booklets and holding Human Rights Lectures (refer to p.44) to explain their remedy activities and have children think about bullying.

Human rights counseling is also available via the Internet (refer to p.40). 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.
Results of the Children’s Rights SOS Mini-Letters Project

Collection period:
April 1, 2017–March 31, 2018

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 16,000
- Number of counseling cases by students’ grade

Number of cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>First</th>
<th>Second</th>
<th>Third</th>
<th>Fourth</th>
<th>Fifth</th>
<th>Sixth</th>
<th>First</th>
<th>Second</th>
<th>Third</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Elementary school)</td>
<td>1,583</td>
<td>2,036</td>
<td>2,497</td>
<td>2,590</td>
<td>2,157</td>
<td>1,656</td>
<td>1,037</td>
<td>1,061</td>
<td>979</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>First</th>
<th>Second</th>
<th>Third</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Junior high school)</td>
<td>2,104</td>
<td>1,061</td>
<td>979</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Contents
  [Breakdown] *Multiple answers
  Bullying: 5,859 (36.6%)
  Abuse: 522 (3.3%)
  Corporal punishment: 82 (0.5%)
  Others: 9,542 (59.6%)

Children’s Rights Hotline
0120-007-110

Nationwide, toll free

[Service hours] 8:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m. on weekdays

Children’s Rights SOS Email

Accessible by PCs, mobile phones and smartphones:
http://www.jinken.go.jp/
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 job discrimination, 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.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice have set up ad-hoc human rights counseling centers at social welfare facilities such as 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.

Awareness-raising booklet “Toward the Age of Coexistence”
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?

Multiple answers (%)

- Often victimized by fraudulent businesses and special fraud [55.0%]
- Badly treated or abused at hospitals and nursing care facilities [38.7%]
- Difficulty of being financially independent [37.8%]
- Have little opportunity to show their vocational abilities [32.7%]
- Receive harassment or abuse while being cared for at home [29.5%]
- Ignored as a nuisance and isolated [29.2%]
- Applications for renting apartment rooms are rejected. [19.2%]
- Opinions and actions of elderly people are not respected. [18.0%]
- Subject to discrimination through words and deeds [13.3%]
- Nothing particular, Don’t know [8.0%]

Number of human rights violation cases involving elderly people

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Assault and maltreatment of elderly people
- Values for (ii) are not included in those for (i).

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 job discrimination, 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.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice have set up ad-hoc human rights counseling centers at social welfare facilities such as 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 Government and the local governments.

In Japan, based on the New Long-Term Plan for Persons with Disabilities: Aiming at a Society Where Everyone Can Participate formulated in March 1993 and the Government Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities: Seven-Year Normalization Strategy formulated in December 1995, measures for persons with disabilities have been promoted, and one of their basic principles is normalization, which is the idea that persons with disabilities should also be able to live ordinary lives in the local community in the same way as persons without disabilities.

In reality, however, there have been cases where people in wheelchairs were denied access to public transportation or were not allowed to rent an apartment, and understanding and consideration towards persons with disabilities are not yet sufficient. As a result, persons with disabilities have been prevented from being independent and fully participating in society, and in this respect, a “cohesive society” has yet to be achieved.

Under these circumstances, the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities was amended in 2004 to stipulate the concept of prohibiting any discrimination on the grounds of disability and to expand the Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 9) to the Week of Persons with Disabilities (the week from December 3 to 9). During this week, various focused events are held in order to disseminate the idea of a “cohesive society” where persons with and without disabilities are able to respect each other’s personality and individuality. In 2011, the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities was amended on the basis of the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (refer to p.55). Furthermore, in October 2012, the Act on Prevention of Abuse of Persons with Disabilities and Support for Caregivers was enforced with the aim of preventing abuse of persons with disabilities, and in January 2014, the Government ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (refer to p.55) that specifies measures and other matters for realizing rights of those with disabilities. In April 2016, the Act on the Elimination of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities was enforced.

Awareness-raising booklet: “Let’s Learn Together! Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities - Ahead of the Paralympic Games”
Under the Act, the Government established the basic policy showing its comprehensive and integrated implementation for eliminating discrimination against persons with disabilities. National administrative organs compiled the points for officials’ efforts in line with the basic policy and prepared the guidelines concerning efforts to be made by business entities. Additionally, the Basic Plan for Persons with Disabilities (the fourth plan) was decided by the Cabinet in March 2018.

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 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 care takers 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What human rights problems do you think are occurring at present regarding persons with disabilities?</th>
<th>Multiple answers (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Receive disadvantageous treatment upon being hired or at workplaces [49.9%]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject to discrimination through words and deeds [48.7%]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being stared at or avoided [47.6%]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receive harassment or abuse at schools or workplaces [45.6%]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet with opposition on marriage [26.7%]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications for renting apartment rooms are rejected. [20.5%]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of accommodation facilities and public transportation or entry to shops is rejected. [16.4%]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have barriers for participating in sports and cultural activities and local activities [15.7%]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Often victimized by fraudulent businesses [14.1%]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing particular, Don’t know [12.0%]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Number of human rights violation cases involving persons with disabilities](image)

![Opinion poll on human rights protection (2017 October survey), Cabinet Office](image)
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)**

Owing to discrimination which was formed based on the structure of social statuses in the course of the historical development of Japanese society, some Japanese people had been forced to endure a lower status economically, socially and culturally over years, and they are still subject to various kinds of discrimination in their daily lives even today. This is the *Dowa* issue, which is a unique Japanese human rights problem.

In order to solve this issue, the 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, discrimination in marriage and harassment, such as discriminatory remarks and graffiti, have not ended. In recent years, there are cases of posting negative comments on the internet and designating certain areas as *Dowa* districts with the intent of provoking unfair discrimination. Under such circumstances, the Act on the Promotion of Elimination of *Buraku* Discrimination was enforced in December 2016. Conduct as such based on discrimination and prejudice is highly likely to hurt other people’s personality and dignity and should never be permitted. The Government is assertively promoting measures to solve the *Dowa* issue (*Buraku* discrimination) and the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice also conduct human rights awareness-raising activities, human rights counseling, and investigation and remedy activities aimed at resolving this issue.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion poll on human rights protection (2017 October survey), Cabinet Office</th>
<th>What human rights problems do you think are occurring at present regarding the <em>Dowa</em> issue?</th>
<th>Multiple answers (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meet with opposition on marriage [40.1%]</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject to discrimination through words and deeds [27.9%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receive a background check [27.6%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discriminatory information is posted on the Internet. [18.7%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discriminatory acts (acts of demanding unjust claims against companies and administrative organs by applying undue pressures using <em>Dowa</em> issue as an excuse) [16.0%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discriminatory graffiti [8.8%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing particular, Don’t know [24.9%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[http://www.moj.go.jp/content/000122217.pdf](http://www.moj.go.jp/content/000122217.pdf)
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.

Guidelines for the Responses to Fake Dowa Acts can be downloaded from the following site.
http://www.moj.go.jp/content/000122217.pdf

Survey on the Current Situation concerning Fake Dowa Acts in 2013
(http://www.moj.go.jp/content/000121613.pdf)

The survey has been conducted since 1987 for the purpose of ascertaining the current situation of fake Dowa acts. In January 2014, the tenth survey was conducted.

Major results

- Damage rate (percentage of business entities that have received illegal, unfair claims) and acceptance rate (percentage of business entities answering that they have responded partially or in full to such claims made by persons committing fake Dowa acts)
Damage rate (percentage of business entities that have received illegal, unfair claims)
(1) Overall damage rate: 4.6% (down by 11.5 points from the previous survey)
(2) Damage rate by region: Generally decreasing, but rather high in the Hiroshima and Fukuoka blocks.
(3) By type of business, the damage rate is the highest in the construction industry (9.7%).
(4) By the number of employees, the damage rate is the highest for business entities with 300 to less than 500 employees (5.7%), followed by those with 100 to less than 300 employees (5.5%).

Acceptance rate (percentage of business entities answering that they have responded partially or in full to such claims made by persons committing fake Dowa acts)
(5) Overall acceptance rate: 14.2% (up by 1.9 points from the previous survey)
(6) By the number of employees, the acceptance rate is the highest for business entities with 100 to less than 300 employees (17.2%), followed by those with 50 to less than 100 employees (16.2%).

Illegal, unfair claims
(7) Types: “Forcing the purchase of organ papers, books or other articles” is the most common at 74.0%, and the rate of accepting such claims is 13.0%.
(8) Methods: Methods of “relentlessly making claims by phone” (55.4%) and “threatening by asking whether they know of Dowa issue” (40.7%) are frequently employed.
(9) Grounds for claims: The most frequently cited ground is the “lack of knowledge (awareness, training) on Dowa issue” (39.2%), followed by “Mere groundless accusation or unreasonable demand” (26.0%) and “Unilateral allegation of discrimination” (9.3%).
(10) Instructions given by public agencies: “Suggested to deal with the case innocuously” (25.0%), “No instructions were given by public agencies” (75.0%).
(11) Period: Only one day (44.1%) is the most frequent answer.
(12) Amount of damage: 10,000 yen or more but less than 100,000 yen (9.8%) is the most frequent answer.

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.
6- The Ainu People

Prejudice and discrimination is still taking place with regards to employment and marriage of the Ainu people as public understanding is still lacking. It is necessary to improve the understanding and recognition concerning the Ainu people.

The Ainu people have an original and rich culture such as a unique language, traditional ceremonies and rituals, and oral literature (Yukar), 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 in terms of employment and marriage.

On the basis of the statement of the Chief Cabinet Secretary made 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 aims to further promote the existing Ainu policies and to formulate comprehensive measures. In order to achieve this, the Advisory Council for Future Ainu Policy compiled a report in July 2009. In line with this report, the Council for Ainu Policy Promotion hosted by the Chief Cabinet Secretary has been held since January 2010. By obtaining the approval of the Council, the Basic Policy for development, management and operation of Symbolic Space for Ethnic Harmony was approved by the Cabinet in June 2014.

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 improve understanding and recognition about the Ainu people and to eliminate prejudice and discrimination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey on the public understanding about the Ainu people”</th>
<th>(2016 February survey), Cabinet Secretariat and Cabinet Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discrimination and prejudice against the Ainu people</th>
<th>Reasons for discrimination and prejudice against the Ainu people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opinion poll targeting all people</td>
<td>Opinion poll targeting all people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exists [18%]</td>
<td>Have heard a media report that the Ainu people are being discriminated against [47%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does not exist [51%]</td>
<td>Have a vague impression that discrimination and prejudice exist [46%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know [31%]</td>
<td>Have an impression that economic disparity and educational disparity exist [25%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awareness survey targeting the Ainu people</td>
<td>Awareness survey targeting the Ainu people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exists [72%]</td>
<td>Have a vague impression that discrimination and prejudice exist [55%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does not exist [19%]</td>
<td>Family members, relatives, friends or acquaintances are discriminated against [31%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know [9%]</td>
<td>Have heard of a specific case that someone is subject to discrimination [51%]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 over the years and reached 27.43 million people (including those who re-entered) in 2017, 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 six 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 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, unfair 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 have been continuing awareness-raising activities focusing on human rights of foreign nationals and have also been striving to disseminate the idea of not tolerating “hate speech” in an easy-to-understand manner.
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 (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Differences in culture and habits, etc. are not accepted</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receive disadvantageous treatment upon being hired or at workplaces</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications for renting apartment rooms are rejected.</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject to discrimination through words and deeds</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receive harassment or abuse at schools or workplaces</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being stared at or avoided</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet with opposition on marriage</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry to accommodation facilities and shops or use of facilities is rejected.</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing particular, Don’t know</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service hours</th>
<th>Languages</th>
<th>Contact information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 17:00 p.m. on weekdays (excluding the year-end and New Year holidays)</td>
<td>English, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Portuguese and Vietnamese</td>
<td>Human Rights Department, Fukuoka Legal Affairs Bureau 092 (739) 4151</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

Foreign-language Human Rights Hotline (from anywhere in Japan) 0570-090911 (9:00 a.m. - 17:00 p.m. on weekdays)

(in English, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Portuguese and Vietnamese)

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
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 and Hansen's disease.

Correct knowledge and understanding of infections such as AIDS (HIV) and Hansen’s disease is still lacking. There have been such problems as patients or former patients of these diseases, etc. 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 AIDS (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.

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. In the international community, the resolution on elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, for which Japan has been taking the initiative, was adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council (in 2008, etc.) and by the United Nations General Assembly (in 2010).
The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice have been conducting various human rights awareness-raising activities such as a symposium on Hansen’s disease issues, with the participation of junior high school students as panelists, and advertisements in nationwide newspapers and on the Internet to make people understand correctly about Hansen’s disease and to eliminate prejudice and discrimination. 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.

**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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>0</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>30</th>
<th>40</th>
<th>50</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meet with opposition on marriage [48.9%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject to discrimination through words and deeds [37.7%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receive disadvantageous treatment upon being hired or at workplaces [34.5%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment or hospitalization is rejected [19.2%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry to accommodation facilities and shops or use of facilities is rejected [15.4%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications for renting apartment rooms are rejected [10.1%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV tests are conducted without prior consent [9.4%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing particular, Don’t know [28.8%]</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>0</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>30</th>
<th>40</th>
<th>50</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Difficult to live an independent life outside a sanatorium for Hansen’s disease patients [31.7%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject to discrimination through words and deeds [29.0%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet with opposition on marriage [28.2%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receive disadvantageous treatment upon being hired or at workplaces [27.0%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being stared at or avoided [26.3%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receive harassment or abuse at schools or workplaces [24.4%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry to accommodation facilities and shops or use of facilities is rejected [12.2%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment or hospitalization is rejected [12.0%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications for renting apartment rooms are rejected [11.5%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing particular, Don’t know [34.1%]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Parent-Child Symposium” on Hansen’s Disease (held in Naha)
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 order to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against such people, various measures have been taken, such as through “Movement Towards a Brighter Society” carried out intensively during the whole month of July every year. In December 2016, the Act on Promotion of Prevention of Repeat Offenses was enacted and enforced.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice carry out human rights awareness-raising activities and conduct human rights counseling and remedy activities.

Crime Victims

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 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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The incident is the target of rumors by neighbors.</td>
<td>59.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychologically shocked by the crime</td>
<td>59.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matters concerning their privacy are disclosed and peace in their private lives is disturbed by media coverage.</td>
<td>54.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannot receive expected responses from the police</td>
<td>46.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigations and criminal procedures are psychologically burdensome.</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victims’ opinions are not necessarily reflected in criminal procedures.</td>
<td>34.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economically damaged due to the crime</td>
<td>33.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing particular, Don’t know</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 because such abuse is cloaked in anonymity. It is necessary to use the Internet correctly and to eliminate human rights violations on the Internet.

The utilization rate of the internet (individual users) is increasing year by year in Japan and reached 80.9% in 2017 (White Paper on Information and Communications in Japan 2018). 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 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.

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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Multiple answers (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information defaming others is posted</td>
<td>[62.9%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information concerning privacy is posted</td>
<td>[53.4%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications using LINE, Twitter, etc. provoke crimes</td>
<td>[49.0%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information triggering or facilitating discrimination is posted</td>
<td>[30.6%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are so-called revenge porn cases (acts of disclosing sexual images of ex-partners or others on online bulletin boards without their consent)</td>
<td>[30.5%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Names and photos of minors under investigation, which should be kept undisclosed under laws and regulations, are posted.</td>
<td>[32.0%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are pornography sites</td>
<td>[30.0%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing particular, Don’t know</td>
<td>[18.0%]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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, 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 have 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 also making human rights awareness-raising videos, including one titled “The Internet and Human Rights; Not to be an Assailant Nor a Victim.” These materials are being proactively utilized in human rights awareness-raising activities. 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.
12- Victims Abducted by North Korean Authorities

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.
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. Therefore, the Act on Special Measures for Self-Sufficiency Support for the Homeless was enforced in August 2002 as temporary legislation with a ten-year term limit, and the term was extended for five years in June 2012 and for ten years in June 2017. Based on the Act and in light of the results of the nationwide survey conducted in July 2013, the Basic Policy to Support Self-Sufficiency of the Homeless was formulated.

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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty being financially independent</td>
<td>49.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being stared at or avoided</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject to violence by neighboring residents and passerby, etc.</td>
<td>34.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject to discrimination through words and deeds</td>
<td>33.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject to harassment by neighboring residents and passerby, etc.</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications for renting apartment rooms are rejected</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receive disadvantageous treatment upon being hired or at workplaces</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry to accommodation facilities and shops or use of facilities is rejected</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing particular, Don’t know</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 are in a minority, 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 occurred.

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.

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. This is sometimes called “psychological gender.” For the majority, gender identity (psychological gender) and biological gender (physical gender) are the same. However, persons whose gender identity and biological gender are mismatched suffer a sense of discomfort or even want to make them match through gender reassignment surgery (gender identity disorder). They are sometimes subjected to prejudice in society and inappropriate treatment in the workplace.
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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject to discrimination through words and deeds</td>
<td>49.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receive harassment or abuse at schools or workplaces</td>
<td>45.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receive disadvantageous treatment upon being hired or at workplaces</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being stared at or avoided</td>
<td>31.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications for renting apartment rooms are rejected</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry to accommodation facilities and shops or use of facilities is rejected</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing particular, Don’t know</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 16- Trafficking in Persons

Trafficking in persons is a serious crime and a grave violation of fundamental human rights. There have been cases of trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation.

In Japan, the Inter-ministerial Liaison Committee Regarding Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons was established in the Cabinet in April 2004. In December 2004, the Committee adopted the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons aimed at eliminating and preventing trafficking in persons and in protecting victims. The Penal Code was partially amended in June 2005 and was enforced in July 2005 in order to counter trafficking in persons and other violations of personal liberty. Under the recent circumstances concerning trafficking in persons, the 2009 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons was formulated in December 2009 by the Inter-ministerial Liaison Committee Regarding Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons in order to continue the promotion of measures by the government as a whole to combat trafficking in persons. Additionally, the 2014 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons was newly formulated in December 2014, and the first meeting of the Council for the Promotion of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons was convened in May 2015 and the meetings have been held every year thereafter.

This problem is being addressed with the cooperation of the related ministries and agencies, and the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice carry out human rights awareness-raising activities and conduct human rights counseling and remedy activities.
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.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice have been implementing awareness-raising activities to prevent human rights problems based on rumors, such as through posting emergency messages and awareness-raising videos by a ventriloquist, Ikkokudo, on the Ministry of Justice website, and holding symposiums (in Tokyo in FY2017), and have also been conducting counseling and remedy activities.

**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?

Multiple answers (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friction and abuse due to stress caused by a prolonged life of evacuation</td>
<td>61.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receive harassment or abuse at schools or kindergartens, etc.</td>
<td>58.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject to discrimination through words and deeds</td>
<td>40.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receive harassment or abuse at workplaces</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children are not admitted to schools or kindergartens.</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications for renting apartment rooms are rejected.</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry to accommodation facilities and shops or use of facilities is rejected.</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing particular, Don’t know</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. 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, 2018)

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 in the local community to work 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. 2018 marks the 70th anniversary of the inauguration of the Human Rights Volunteers System.

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

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

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.
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.

Poster “Human Rights Volunteers”

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.
3. 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

There are many types of measures to be taken. Awareness-raising activities to respect human rights are also carried out.

There are cases where the fact cannot be found.
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 2017

- Violation of rights by prison officials: 141
- Violation of rights by special public officials: 195
- Violation of rights by other public officials: 262
- Discriminatory treatment: 785
- Violation of rights by school teachers: 1,284
- Compulsion, coercion: 2,022
- Worker’s rights violation: 2,064
- Privacy violation: 2,705
- Violation of the security of residence and living: 2,909
- Assault, abuse: 3,219
- Bullying at school: 3,169
- Violation of rights in welfare facilities: 128
- Others: 650
- 19,533 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 2017 based on the Regulations.

**Case examples**

1) Bullying at school  Improper handling of bullying at a high school

This is a case in which a high school student consulted the Children’s Rights Hotline, alleging that bullying by his/her classmates had continued as a result of the school’s failure to take proper countermeasures despite his/her complaint.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice encouraged the school to examine the developments concerning the bullying case through a meeting with the student and to take proper measures to terminate such aggressions. As a result, the school developed a system to watch the student carefully. It was later confirmed that the bullying ended and the student was enjoying school life (a case of “assistance”).

2) Assault and maltreatment  Assault and maltreatment of a wife by her husband

This is a case in which a woman consulted the Human Rights Counseling Services on the Internet, alleging that her husband habitually assaulted her by grabbing her hair and punching her in the stomach or kicking her face, etc., and has told others that she is suffering depression or that she was sexually abused by her father.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice took the initiative in developing a system to watch her carefully in collaboration with the police and other relevant organizations. Human Rights Volunteers and officials of the bodies provided her with elaborate support such as introducing a counseling institution and accompanying her to the police for registering her domestic violence case and were able to secure her physical safety (a case of “assistance”).
### 3) Violation of rights of workers

Assault by a superior in the workplace

This is a case in which a person consulted the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, alleging that he/she was subject to power harassment including physical assault by a superior of the corporation that he/she had worked for.

As a result of the investigation by the bodies, it was found that the superior once got angry at the person’s work attitude and hit him/her in the face with a document.

The bodies told the superior that the relevant act constituted unlawful use of physical force and caused physical and mental pain to the person, and instructed not to repeat similar acts in the future.

Additionally, the bodies requested the representative of the corporation to strengthen supervision and guidance for staff members or otherwise take appropriate measures to prevent the recurrence of such acts (a case of “instructions” and “request”).

### 4) Discriminatory treatment

Refusal of an intellectually disabled person at an amusement park

This is a case wherein an intellectually disabled person consulted the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, alleging that he/she was denied access to a ride at an amusement park on the grounds of his/her intellectual disability.

The bodies investigated the facts through a hearing from the amusement park. On this occasion, the bodies explained the purport of the Act on the Elimination of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and encouraged the park to review its rules categorically limiting the use of the attractions by intellectually disabled persons. As a result, the park amended its rules as to make judgments on a case-by-case basis depending on the conditions of individual visitors. The person who consulted the human rights bodies was able to ride the relevant attraction in the end (a case of “conciliation”).

### 5) Internet-related case

Violation of privacy and defamation on the internet

This is a case in which breach of privacy and defamation was reported to the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice. In this case, it was alleged that the name and photos of a certain individual were posted on online blogs, SNSs and online video sites along with false information that the person had some connection with the suspect in a high profile criminal case, and that this had damaged the person’s reputation and credit and also breached this person’s privacy.

As a result of an investigation by the bodies, the information and images, etc. were found in breach of the person’s privacy and also harmed this person’s reputation and credit. Therefore, the bodies requested the administrators of the websites and SNS to delete the information and images, etc. and they were all 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 (see p.48 for details).
2- Human Rights Counseling

Do you know about the human rights counseling services?
In daily life, you may 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 (refer to p.41).

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 (refer to p.41). 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 (refer to p.9).

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 p.19).

The bodies have also established Human Rights Counseling Services on the Internet (refer to p.41).

People seeking consultation / Permanent counseling centers (Legal Affairs Bureaus, District Legal Affairs Bureaus and their branches) / Ad-hoc counseling centers (Municipal offices, social welfare facilities and department stores, etc.)
The Protection of Human Rights

Refer to p.19 for the Foreign-language Human Rights Hotline and Human Rights Counseling Services on the Internet.

Examples of cases of human rights counseling

- Foreign nationals were rejected when they tried to move into an apartment by reason of being a foreign national.
- Abused through corporal punishment or bullying
- Privacy violated on the Internet
- Elderly people or children being abused
- Experiencing sexual harassment
- Reputation or trust damaged because of unpleasant rumors
- Bothered by noise, etc. of neighbors

Human Rights Hotline: 0570-003-110

This number is available for counseling concerning various human rights problems such as discrimination, abuse, power harassment, etc. If you call this number, your call will be directed to the nearest Bureau to you, and an official of the Bureau or a Human Rights Volunteer will answer. Please call us without suffering alone.

Children’s Rights Hotline: 0120-007-110

Many human rights problems concerning children are occurring but go unnoticed by people close to the victim. As children are not mature enough to consult others and hesitate to do so, it is not unusual for problems to surface only after they have resulted in a serious outcome. The bodies have established a telephone counseling service concerning children’s rights using this hotline in the hopes of picking up on the signs given by children as early as possible and finding a solution.

Women’s Rights Hotline: 0570-070-810

In recent years, the human rights problems of women such as violence against women including domestic violence, sexual harassment and stalking behavior have become major social problems. The bodies have established the Women’s Rights Hotline, special telephone services for counseling for women, at Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus throughout the country and provide telephone counseling services to uncover the human rights problems of women as early as possible and to lead to a resolution.

Human Rights Counseling Service on the Internet

Human rights counseling is also available via the Internet. It is very convenient as you can access it from your computer or mobile phone at any time and say whatever may be difficult to say in person.

If you fill out the counseling form and send it, the information will be sent to the Bureau in your area. The officials respond later by email, telephone or arrange an interview. Please contact us without suffering alone.

Accessible by PCs, mobile phones and smartphones:
http://www.jinken.go.jp/

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, round-table talks, discussions and movie viewings; conducting various forms of training such as Human Rights Lectures; utilizing publicity using broadcasts such as TV, radio and cable broadcasts; running articles in newspapers and public relations magazines; and displaying banners 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.

2018 marks the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the goal for FY2018 was set as “70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration 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.” 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 Eliminate Prejudice and Discrimination relating to Dowa Issue such as 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.35 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.

Poster “69th Human Rights Week”
The Networks of Human Rights Awareness-Raising Activities

The Prefectural Network Associations of Human Rights Awareness-Raising Activities was established at a prefec-tural level and the Regional Network Associations of Human Rights Awareness-Raising Activities was established at a municipal level for the purpose of creating an interlinking network among the bodies implementing human rights awareness-raising activities, such as the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, the prefec-tural 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 1981 for the purpose of enabling junior high school students 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 FY 2017, 960,390 students from 7,358 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.46-47 for the essay that received the Prime Minister’s Award)

| Results of National Essay Contests on Human Rights for Junior High School Students |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                             | FY2013          | FY2014          | FY2015          | FY2016          | FY2017          |
| Number of schools participating | 6,930          | 7,083          | 7,295          | 7,338          | 7,358          |
| Number of entrants          | 941,146         | 953,211         | 973,865         | 972,553         | 960,390         |

Awareness-raising video: “Important Matters that We Want to Tell: Animation of Prize Essays of the National Essay Contest on Human Rights for Junior High School Students”
Human Rights Lectures

The purpose of the human rights lectures is to nurture compassion in children and to have them learn about the preciousness of life by providing them with an opportunity to think about bullying and other topics. Lectures are held under the initiative of Human Rights Volunteers nationwide, mainly targeting elementary school children, on such occasions as school visits for the Human Rights Flower Campaigns (see p.45) or integrated study classes. Since FY2012, 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. This program also expects secondary effects of raising awareness of participating athletes, coaches and parents. Additionally, experience-based human rights lectures, such as using wheelchairs or enjoying blind soccer games, are being held to have participants become aware of the importance of realizing a society in which people with or without disabilities can live together.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results of the Human Rights Lectures</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Number of times</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Number of participants</strong></td>
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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 (a cohesive 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.
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.

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<thead>
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<th>Results of the Human Rights Flower Campaigns</th>
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<td>Number of schools participating</td>
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<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of participants</td>
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</tbody>
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Material

Awareness-Raising Video “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 an impact on its corporate value. 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 leaflet detailing the content of the video (http://www.jinken-library.jp/search/news/134130.html), and have used them in various training sessions for human rights awareness-raising targeting companies.

The video and leaflet 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.
I am fighting against an intractable disease called congenital epidermolysis bullosa, which makes the skin and mucous membranes so weak that they can be damaged by even the slightest irritation. My whole body is always covered in sores, which constantly hurt and itch. It takes at least three hours every day to apply an ointment to the sores all over my body and change my dressings. After I bathe or when the sores are aggravated, the same process sometimes takes more than five hours. My mother and grandmother have been practicing this treatment ever since I was born, never missing a single day. Because of this, both my family and I constantly suffer from a lack of sleep.

Even in such a situation, I have never wished to be absent from school. This is because I feel happy to be at school. All that the teachers tell us in our classes and all that I newly learn deeply interests me. All my classmates are kindhearted, and make me feel happy to study or talk with them. No matter how sleepy I am, I always feel refreshed when I am in school. This is because I believe that I can connect with my classmates by attending school and studying. Therefore, I fervently hope to enter high school instead of giving up my student life when I graduate from junior high school.

However, what I found was a harsh reality. I have so far visited a number of high schools, where teachers treated me in a cordial manner. I was surprised at the large school buildings or grounds compared to those at junior high school. Seeing well-equipped special classrooms, I felt the strong desire to study in such a wonderful environment. However, many high schools do not even have elevators which are indispensable for me who live with an electric wheelchair, so I have a limited choice of high schools I can enter. Furthermore, few schools have positive attitudes toward accepting students with disabilities. Some schools refused to enroll me, imposing on me the condition of entry that I must be able to do everything for myself. Although I go to a university hospital for rehabilitation and receive guidance from a therapist there so that I become able to do many more things for myself by devising effective methods, there are some things that I just cannot do. Teachers, special assistants and classmates help me in doing such things at junior high school. My heart is again filled with gratitude...
toward those people for enabling me to live a satisfying school life. However, when I went to look around high schools, people at most of the schools told me that they could not support me in the same way as at junior high school because high school education is not compulsory. I have serious concerns about whether I would be able to lead an independent life at high school without any support. With entry to high school just around the corner, I have been made acutely aware that there is a huge gap between my “ordinary” life and the “ordinary” lives of people without disabilities, and faced a harsh reality I have never experienced before.

Nevertheless, I hope to enter high school and continue my studies. I never want to live my life confined to my house because of my disability. I have so far studied at a local kindergarten, elementary school and junior high school, have interacted with many people, and have been supported by many people. To reply all their kindness, I have made determined efforts. I would not like to stop making such efforts at this point.

“I want to have lots of friendships. I want to accumulate various experiences. I want to find out what I’m capable of. I want to search for what I really want to do.”

I have high expectations for my life at high school and the aspiration to tackle new challenges there. I hope to work based on such experiences at high school, and to carve out a future as a person who continues to participate in society.

My rehabilitation therapist told me that a law called the “Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities” had been enacted, and this act provides that efforts shall be made to give requisite and rational consideration to persons with disabilities. However, can it be said that the provision has been put into practice? I have been refused admission without taking an entrance examination. I have been told that no support will be offered to me. My mother has said that, if I cannot expect anyone’s support, she will accompany me to high school every day. But I do not want to impose a greater burden on my mother, who can have little time for herself even now. I hope that our society will become one where even people with disabilities can be sure of receiving a higher education as long as they aspire to study.

Many people have denied my hope in various situations, saying that they cannot accept me because there are no precedents like me. This is probably because there are only a tiny number of junior high school students fighting against intractable diseases in the same way I am. But I cannot give up this hope of mine just because there are no precedents. If there are no precedents, I myself will create a precedent. I want to be a high school student in an electric wheelchair, along with friends.
The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice commence remedy procedures based on a request for remedy from a person who has suffered violation of human rights and, based on the results of the investigation, strive to resolve human rights problems. This mechanism, however, has yet to be well known to each and every person, thus there appear to be quite a number of people who have suffered a human rights violation, but do not know who or where to turn to.

The Human Rights Bureau therefore created a brochure aimed at “publicizing the remedy system in order to hear the voices of the voiceless,” and has notified the general public of the mechanism through the Legal Affairs Bureaus, District Legal Affairs Bureaus and Human Rights Volunteers. This brochure explains the counseling services and remedy system of the Legal Affairs Bureaus in a user-friendly manner briefly describing the flow of the procedures for counseling and the remedy system, as well as introducing example cases. (The PDF data file is available on the website of the Ministry of Justice: http://www.moj.go.jp/JINKEN/jinken03_00194.html)

■Leaflet (A4 size; tri-fold)
This leaflet was created to inform that counseling services concerning human rights problems are provided at the offices of legal affairs bureaus by officials and Human Rights Volunteers. This has been widely distributed at seminars on human rights and at other events.

■Booklet (A4 size; half-fold)
This booklet was made to explain the details of the counseling and remedy systems for human rights and the flow of the procedures in a user-friendly manner. This is used in giving explanations to people who come for a consultation at the offices of legal affairs bureaus.
“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 2018, 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.

2018 marks the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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.

Article 1 states that “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”

Article 2 states that “Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or
other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinc-
tion shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the
country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-
governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.”

Articles 3 to 21 provide for civil rights and political rights, and Article 22 onward provide for
economic rights, social rights, and cultural rights, etc.

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 Decem-
ber 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.

Awareness-raising video:
In Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the
United Nations: Pray for Happiness
for All People - Considering Human Rights
from the International Perspective
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 CESC 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.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Convention</th>
<th>Adopted on Enforced on</th>
<th>Signatory nations, regions and organizations</th>
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<tr>
<td>1  International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</td>
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<td>Jan. 3, 1976</td>
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<td>2  International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</td>
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<td>3  International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination</td>
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<td>179</td>
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<td>4  Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</td>
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<td>5  Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment</td>
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<td>6  Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
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(As of June 2018)
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<td>Sapporo Legal Affairs Bureau</td>
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<td>Hakodate District Legal Affairs Bureau</td>
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* This booklet outlines the White Paper on Human Rights Education and Awareness-Raising 2018

**The Protection of Human Rights**

Issued in November 2018
Edited and issued by the Human Rights Bureau, Ministry of Justice
1-1-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
TEL: 03-3580-4111 (main)
Having been bullied or received corporal punishment
- Having been assaulted or abused
- Having been discriminated
- Having suffered defamation or violation of privacy
- Having received sexual harassment
- Having suffered violation of privacy on the Internet

If you feel your human rights have been violated, feel free to consult Legal Affairs Bureaus, District Legal Affairs Bureaus, or their branches.

Human rights promotion characters: Jin-KEN-Mamoru-Kun and Jin-KEN-Ayumi-Chan

Human rights promotion characters “Jin-KEN-Mamoru-Kun and Jin-KEN-Ayumi-Chan” were created by a cartoonist, Takashi Yanase. Aiming for the realization of a society where human rights are properly respected, Jin-KEN-Mamoru-Kun and Jin-KEN-Ayumi-Chan started to join human rights awareness-raising activities carried out nationwide in August 2001 and March 2002, respectively.

Human Rights Hotline:
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Children’s Rights Hotline:
0120-007-110

Women’s Rights Hotline:
0570-070-810

Foreign-language Human Rights Hotline (from anywhere in Japan)
0570-090-911

Human Rights Counseling Services on the internet (Accessible by PCs, mobile phones and smartphones)
http://www.jinken.go.jp/

Human Rights Bureau’s website: http://www.moj.go.jp/JINKEN/

Network Associations of Activities for Human Rights Awareness-Raising website: http://www.moj.go.jp/jinkennet/

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