FY2021

The Protection of Human Rights

Summary of the White Paper on Human Rights Education and Awareness Raising



Scan the Two-dimensional code for more detailed information.
(MOJ website: https://www.moj.go.jp/ENGLISH/HB/hb.html)

Human Rights Bureau
Ministry of Justice, Japan

Introduction

Under the Constitution of Japan, which guarantees fundamental human rights for all people, the government of Japan has taken various initiatives concerning human rights, which include the development of related systems and accession to international human rights conventions.

However, there are still cases of unjust discrimination and human rights violations based on social status, family origin, race, ethnic group, creed, gender, disabilities, or other grounds.

In order to achieve a peaceful and affluent society in which all people can coexist while respecting each other's human rights, it is vital to develop a spirit of respect for human rights in each and every individual in the country, and it is human rights education and awareness-raising activities that play significant roles in that process.

The Ministry of Justice has been carrying out diverse human rights awareness-raising activities with human rights volunteers in the private sector and in cooperation with other ministries and agencies, local governments and private companies, etc. so that all people can gain a sensible awareness of the significance of respecting human rights and can act properly with due consideration to other people's human rights based on that awareness.

This booklet outlines the mechanism and activities of the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, and explains the human rights issues that are currently attracting people's attention in particular, as part of the human rights awareness-raising activities of the Ministry of Justice broadly targeting the general public.

December, 2021
Human Rights Bureau
Ministry of Justice

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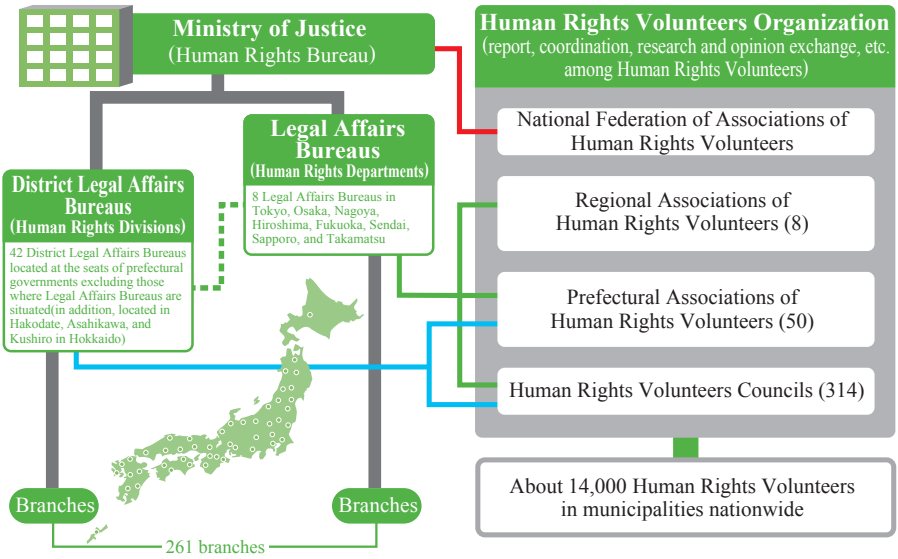
* In this booklet, Two-dimensional codes linking to booklets prepared by the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice or to related websites are included. Link destinations are all in Japanese but the Two-dimensional codes are for broadly introducing the bodies' initiatives.

1. The Human Rights Bodies of the Ministry of Justice

A variety of problems concerning human rights occur around us. This particular Chapter introduces the structure of the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice established to address such problems.



Structure:
The Human Rights Bodies of the Ministry of Justice (as of June 1, 2021)



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 centrally taking charge of human rights promotion and protection. It has local subordinate offices: the Human Rights Departments of the Legal Affairs Bureaus and the Human Rights Divisions of the District Legal Affairs Bureaus. They, in collaboration with their further branches, carry out the function of promotion and protection of human rights.

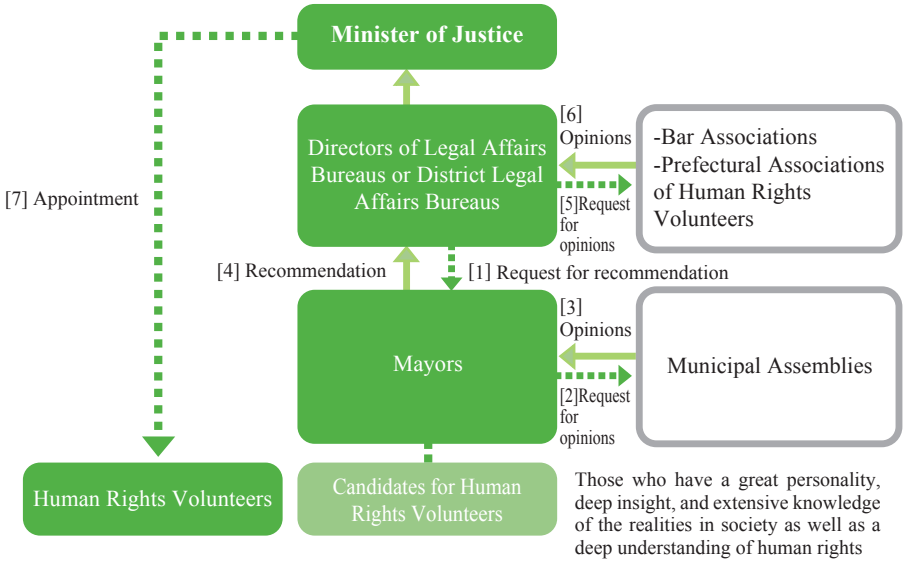
2- Human Rights Volunteers

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 and their organizations carry out human rights protection activities in collaboration with the Legal Affairs Bureaus and the District Legal Affairs Bureaus of the Ministry of Justice. Human Rights Volunteers are private citizens appointed by the Minister of Justice. The Human Rights Volunteers System was established based on the concept that it would be effective for people in various fields to encourage respect for human rights in the local community, to make efforts to avoid violation of the human rights of the residents, and to promote and protect human rights. This system is unparalleled in any other country.

At present, there are approximately 14,000 Volunteers in all of the municipalities of cities, towns, and villages across the country, and they are proceeding with 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



■ Activities of Human Rights Volunteers



Activities in disaster areas
(visiting temporary evacuation homes)



Human Rights Flower Campaign



Lecture at a local company



Human rights awareness-raising activities using
local FM broadcasting

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 set up at public offices, social welfare facilities and department stores.

Once a complaint is raised by a potential victim at a human rights counseling session or through other route to the effect that his/her human right has been violated, Human Rights Volunteers conduct an investigation and strive to amicably settle the case by mediating between the parties in cooperation with officials from the Legal Affairs Bureaus or the District Legal Affairs Bureaus.

Moreover, Human Rights Volunteers carry out human rights awareness-raising activities aimed at gaining local residents' awareness on human rights. For example, they hold "Human Rights Lectures" (refer to p.15) and the "Human Rights Flower Campaign" (refer to p.16) for elementary school students and kindergarten children, with the aim of teaching them the importance of caring for other people. Human Rights Volunteers also give lectures on human rights at local companies.

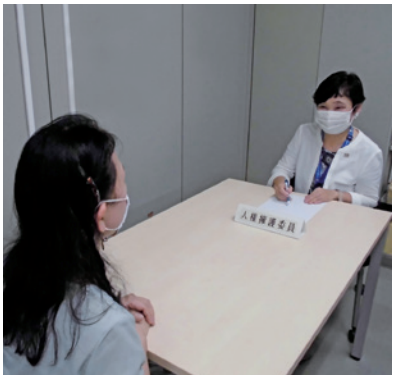
In addition, Human Rights Volunteers provide various other unique activities in each region. For example, they periodically publish and distribute journals of children's rights as well as introduce their activities through local FM broadcasting with the cooperation of radio stations.

"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). Around every anniversary day, ad-hoc counseling centers are set up and various human rights awareness-raising activities are undertaken across the country aiming for deeper understanding of human rights.



Poster "Human Rights Volunteers System"


Human rights counseling through face-to-face

Emblem of Human Rights Volunteers



The design of wood sorrel on the exterior frame and a chrysanthemum inside, shaping the kanji character "人" ('hito' meaning "human") within. 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.

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

This Chapter describes 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 remedy procedures for 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- Investigation and Remedy Procedures for Human Rights Violation Cases

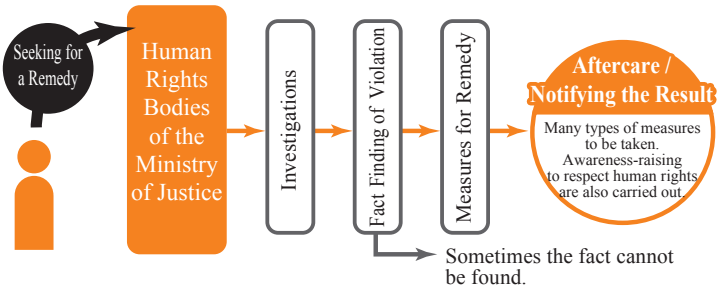
When a victim seeks a remedy for his/her suffering of violation of human rights, the human rights bodies initiate remedy procedures. Based on the investigation result, the bodies will take appropriate measures depending on the case.

Investigation and Remedy Procedures for Human Rights Violation Cases

A suspected case where human rights may be violated is called a "human rights violation case." If a victim of human rights violation seeks a remedy, the bodies promptly initiate remedy procedures. The bodies may also initiate the procedures when they become aware of a suspected case of human rights violation from other sources including newspapers or magazines.

During the remedy procedures, the bodies undertake investigation to confirm whether or not human rights violation has occurred. However, the bodies do not have the power for compulsory investigation like the police or public prosecutors, so their investigation is based on the voluntary cooperation of the people concerned.

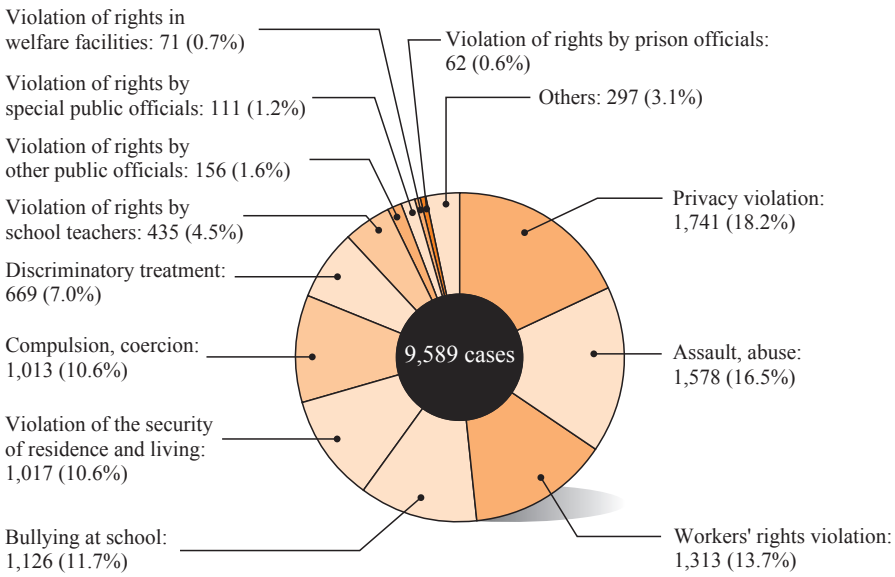
■ Investigation and Remedy Procedures



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

The bodies will also take action to raise awareness of the people concerned about human rights, as the case may be. After closing the case, the results are notified to the victim and, where necessary, aftercare is provided for the victim through cooperation with the relevant administrative organs or by contacting the people concerned.

Breakdown of the Number of Human Rights Violation Cases in 2020



Examples of Remedied Human Rights Violation Cases

The following cases are examples of the cases the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice dealt with in 2020.

《Case examples》

❶ Assault, abuse — Sexual abuse against a younger sister by her brother

This is a case in which a junior high school girl, who came to open up to a Human Rights Volunteer with whom she had repeatedly consulted on her problems at home using a Children's Rights SOS Mini-Letter, told the Human Rights Volunteer that she had been forced to perform sexual acts with her brother. The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice and the Human Rights Volunteer considered it as an urgent case, and immediately consulted on measures with the junior high school and a child guidance center. The child guidance center had an interview with the girl by obtaining her consent, and as a result, the child guidance center temporarily put the girl under temporary protective care (a case of "assistance").

❷ Assault, abuse — Sexual abuse against an adopted girl by her adoptive father

This is a case in which a high school girl called the Children's Rights Hotline and reported that she had been sexually abused by her adoptive father repeatedly since she was in late elementary grades and had received repeated threats that the father would spread videos of their sexual acts.
At first, she was afraid of revenge from the father and was careful about disclosing her address and other information, but the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice continued having communications to build a relationship of trust with her. As a result of collaborative efforts with a child guidance center and the police, the high school girl was temporarily put under temporary protective care at the child guidance center, and the father was arrested (a case of "assistance").

❸ Workers' rights violation — Excessive guidance given by a superior at workplace

This is a case in which a worker consulted with the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, alleging that he/she had been subjected to power harassment by a superior at the workplace, such as being reproached or verbally abused unilaterally.
As a result of an investigation, the bodies found excessive guidance by the superior, and proposed to create an opportunity for a talk between the company and the worker for improving the working environment with the participation of a staff member of the bodies.
On that occasion, the company explained that it will endeavor to improve its training and education to prevent power harassment and consider better staffing, and the worker understood and agreed with the company's decision on measures to prevent power harassment. The working environment has thus been improved (a case of "conciliation").

❹ Bullying at school — Bullying at an elementary school (i)

This is a case in which the mother of an elementary school child consulted with the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, alleging that her child has been verbally abused, kicked or otherwise bullied by his/her classmates but the school had not taken any sufficient measures to prevent the bullying.
In the process of an investigation, the mother complained about the content of the moral class.
Therefore, the bodies proposed to hold a human rights class at the school to raise children's awareness of the importance of compassion for others and the respect for life, and obtained consent to do so from the school. Later, a Human Rights Volunteer visited the school and held a class. The mother showed her appreciation for the involvement of the bodies and for the school's wide-ranging consideration. The school endeavored to improve the environment so that the relevant child can come to school without worries and has created a school-wide system to carefully watch all children. In this manner, the relationship between both the parties was restored (a case of "conciliation").

❺ Bullying at school — Bullying at an elementary school (ii)

This is a case in which the mother of an elementary school child consulted with the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, alleging that her child had been slapped, verbally abused or otherwise bullied by his/her classmates but the school had not taken any sufficient measures to prevent the bullying.
The bodies carefully listened to the mother, who had grown distrustful of the school, and pointed out to the school the need for special consideration in light of the status of each child. The school presented its intention to take measures meticulously and has created a system to carefully watch all children (a case of "assistance").

❻ Compulsion, coercion — Sexual harassment against a worker by a company representative

This is a case in which a worker consulted with the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, alleging that the company representative asked him/her to go on dates outside the workplace or have physical contact.
As a result of an investigation, it was found that the victim suffered emotional distress due to the representative's words and deeds and had a worsened working environment, due to which he/she became unable to come to work. Accordingly, the bodies pointed out that the representative's act of damaging the victim's dignity with words and deeds despite the expected responsibility as the representative to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace constituted a serious human rights infringement, and gave an instruction not to repeat similar words and deeds (a case of "instruction").

❼ Discriminatory treatment Inappropriate treatment of a person with a mental disability

This is a case in which a person with a mental disability consulted with the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, alleging that he/she intended to apply for a credit card but received discriminatory treatment by the relevant credit card company that refused his/her request.
As a result of an investigation, it was found that the credit card company failed to provide a sufficient explanation of the reasons for the refusal and the person misunderstood the reasons and had grown distrustful of the company.
Accordingly, the bodies explained the point that caused the misunderstanding to the person on behalf of the company, and the person could proceed with the procedures for the issuance of a credit card. Both the parties expressed their appreciation (a case of "conciliation").

❽ Discriminatory treatment Refusal of a foreigner's use of services

This is a case in which a person consulted with the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, alleging that he/she had made a reservation for a nail salon via the internet but later received a phone call to cancel the reservation on the grounds that he/she is a foreign national.
The bodies questioned the nail salon and found that the salon used to place an inappropriate statement on its online reservation site that a foreign national can make a reservation only on referral from a repeat client but had already deleted the relevant statement, and would adopt a policy not to refuse foreign clients from now on.
Therefore, the bodies explained that policy of the salon and the person understood it. The person requested the salon to treat all clients equally, and the salon accepted that request (a case of "conciliation").

❾ Discriminatory treatment Discriminatory treatment upon a recruitment interview on the grounds of gender identity

This is a case in which a person consulted with the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, alleging that he/she was not given an opportunity for a recruitment interview on the grounds of gender identity.
The bodies questioned a person in charge of the interview, and the company admitted the inappropriateness of its treatment of the person and decided to have a talk with the person with the participation of a staff member of the bodies.
During the talk, the company apologized to the person and explained its intention to give consideration to the extent possible to the circumstances of individual job seekers, and the person showed his/her understanding (a case of "conciliation").

⑩ Discriminatory treatment	*Buraku* discrimination (discrimination on the grounds of being from a district called a *Dowa* district)

This is a case in which a person consulted with the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, alleging that he/she had been repeatedly subject to discriminatory comments by neighbors as being from a *Dowa* district.
As a result of an investigation, the bodies found the fact that neighbors had repeatedly made comments unduly discriminating the person on the grounds of being from a *Dowa* district. Accordingly, the bodies called on neighbors to reflect on their behavior by telling them that their words and deeds show a lack of understanding and awareness of the *Buraku* discrimination (*Dowa* issue) and are discriminatory, and instructed them to deepen their correct understanding and awareness and refrain from repeatedly making similar comments (a case of "instruction").

⑪ Violation of rights by school teachers	Corporal punishment by a junior high school teacher

This is a case in which the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice commenced an investigation as a junior high school teacher allegedly gave a student a head-butt while holding the student's head with both hands, thereby having slightly injured the student.
As a result of the investigation, the bodies found the fact that the teacher injured the student through corporal punishment and that the teacher had also received a reprimand from the then school principal for another case of corporal punishment.
Therefore, the bodies instructed the teacher that he/she should be aware of the unreasonableness and should never use corporal punishment again, and also requested the principal of the junior high school to further strengthen instructions for its teachers (a case of "instruction" and "request").

⑫ Violation of rights by school teachers	Inappropriate treatment of a childat an elementary school

This is a case in which a mother consulted with the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, alleging that her child had been treated inappropriately by a teacher at an elementary school, such as being suggested to shift to a class for special needs education, being slapped, or being forced to refrain from going to the bathroom.
In the process of an investigation by the bodies, the school presented its intention to improve the environment so that the child will be able to come to school without worries and to build a relationship of trust with the mother, and a talk between the school and the mother was held with the participation of a staff member of the bodies.
As a result of the talk, both the parties agreed with the policy on guidance for the child and were able to build a relationship of trust (a case of "conciliation").

2- Human Rights Counseling

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.

Human rights counseling services via telephone are provided through the "Human Rights Hotline" (**0570-003-110** [from anywhere in Japan]). The bodies have also established the "Women's Rights Hotline" (**0570-070-810** [from anywhere in Japan]) and the "Children's Rights Hotline" (toll-free; **0120-007-110** [from anywhere in Japan]), special telephone counseling services for women and for children, respectively. Furthermore, Human Rights Counseling Services on the Internet are available.

Efforts have been made to develop a system for facilitating children's use of counseling services, such as through the use of letters by distributing the "Children's Rights SOS Mini-Letters" (letters with a stamped envelope for human rights counseling) to elementary and junior high school students throughout the country (refer to p.25).

For foreigners who are unable to speak Japanese fluently, the bodies have established the "Foreign-language Human Rights Hotline" and "Human Rights Counseling Centers for Foreigners"(refer to p.35).





Leaflets for disseminating systems for counseling and remedy procedures for human rights violations

3- Human Rights Awareness-Raising

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 and lectures; conducting various forms of training such as Human Rights Lectures; publishing awareness-raising materials on websites and video distribution sites; displaying banner ads on the internet; utilizing publicity using broadcasts such as TV and radio, etc.; and running articles in newspapers and public relations magazines. 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.

The slogan representing the priority goal for FY2021 was decided as "It's not someone else's problem." In order to achieve an inclusive society where diverse people mutually cooperate with and support each other, it is indispensable to promote people's "Barrier-free mind" to mutually respect the human rights of others.

The bodies set the 17 human rights issues as priority targets so that everyone considers various human rights issues not as matters for someone else but as matters for oneself, correctly understands the importance of respect for human rights, and acts with due consideration to other people's human rights.



Poster "The Priority Goal for Awareness-Raising Activities for 2021"

Priority Targets of Awareness-Raising Activities

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

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 (December 4 to December 10) 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 "73rd 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 prefectural level and the Regional Network Associations of Human Rights Awareness-Raising Activities was established at a municipal level as an interlinking network among the bodies implementing human rights awareness-raising activities, such as the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, the prefectural governments, municipal governments, and public interest corporations.

Members have been cooperating through this network in conducting human rights awareness-raising activities and providing relevant information, etc.

National Essay Contest on Human Rights for Junior High School Students

The National Essay Contest on Human Rights for Junior High School Students has been held since FY1981 for the purpose of enabling junior high school students, who will lead the next generation, to deepen their understanding of the importance and necessity of human rights and to foster awareness of human rights through writing essays on human rights issues. Although the contest was cancelled in FY2020 due to the spread of the novel coronavirus infection, but some of the past essays that received awards are published on the website of the Ministry of Justice (http://www.moj.go.jp/JINKEN/jinken111.html) so as to provide the general public with an opportunity to think about human rights through reading those essays. Awareness-raising videos and English translations of awarded essays are also availabl.



Various contents are being published on the website of the Ministry of Justice

Human Rights Lectures

Human Rights Lectures are one of the human rights awareness-raising activities carried out under the initiative of Human Rights Volunteers nationwide, with the aim of nurturing compassion in children and having them learn about the preciousness of life by providing them with an opportunity to think about bullying and other topics.

Lectures are held, targeting elementary and junior high school students, on such occasions as school visits for the Human Rights Flower Campaigns (refer to p.16) or moral education classes.

In recent years, backed by growing interest in corporate social responsibility (CSR) and the formulation of the Japan's National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights in October 2020, Human Rights Lectures targeting company managers and employees (awareness-raising activities for companies) have also come to be held.

Additionally, Human Rights Lectures with Sports have been held by inviting athletes as lecturers to have children learn the spirit of fair play based on mutual support through enjoying games and hearing those lecturers' experiences. Furthermore, Experience-based Human Rights Lectures, such as using wheelchairs or enjoying sports for persons with disabilities, like Boccia, are held to have participants learn "barrier-free mind" so as to understand the diversity and become aware of the importance of realizing an inclusive society where people live together regardless of differences.

As measures against human rights violations on the internet, which are becoming more and more serious mainly among young people, Human Rights Lectures in collaboration with Smartphone and Mobile Phone Safety Lectures held by mobile phone companies are also being provided actively.

In FY2020, these Human Rights Lectures were provided for a total of 431,779 people.



Various contents targeting companies are being introduced on the website of the Ministry of Justice



Human Rights Lecture

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.

In FY2020, the Campaigns were conducted for 387,099 students at 3,049 schools, etc.



Human Rights Flower Campaigns

Material : Efforts for Achieving the SDGs by the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are universal goals adopted unanimously at the 2015 UN Sustainable Development Summit. The SDGs set 17 goals and 169 targets for the purpose of realizing a sustainable, diverse and inclusive society, pledging that no one will be left behind. The human rights-related field relates to many of those 17 goals.

In order to achieve the SDGs, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice have been developing human rights counseling systems in consideration of the diversification of communication tools, especially with regard to children's human rights issues, including bullying and abuse. In addition to counseling services by phone or Internet, the bodies distribute "Children's Rights SOS Mini-Letters" (refer to p.25) to students of elementary and junior high schools throughout the country to enable children to have counseling sessions easily.

With the aim of further promoting the "Barrier-free mind" concept to have people recognize the importance of understanding and mutually accepting diversity in races and differences between having a disability or not, the bodies have been actively working on human rights awareness-raising activities centered on respect for human rights of foreigners and persons with disabilities, delivering awareness-raising booklets and videos, holding Human Rights Lectures at schools, etc., and broadly carrying out experience-based awareness-raising activities to have participants experience wheelchairs or sports for persons with disabilities, etc. in collaboration with various private organizations.

The bodies are committed to broadly carrying out diverse activities so that a society where no one is left behind will be achieved, as aimed at by the SDGs.

Material : Japan's Efforts Concerning Business and Human Rights

Amid the further globalization of corporate activities, respect for human rights in corporate activities has come to attract people's attention globally.

At the 17th session of the UN Human Rights Council in 2011, the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights for Implementing the UN "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework (the UNGPs) were endorsed by consensus. The UNGPs present principles on national governments' obligations to protect human rights, companies' responsibilities to respect human rights, and access to remedies for human rights infringement in connection with business, and are used by companies as guidelines for respecting human rights in corporate activities.

Companies' business conduct with respect for human rights is also important for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and investors, civil society and consumers have come to expect companies to respect human rights.

With an interest in business and human rights growing domestically and internationally, the government of Japan decided to formulate an action plan concerning business and human rights as a part of its steady implementation of the UNGPs. After ascertaining the current legal systems and measures relating to corporate activities in Japan and exchanging opinions and having discussions with economic and labor circles, the government finalized the Japan's National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights in October 2020.

The Action Plan describes future measures to be taken by the national government with regard to business and human rights, and presents expectations for companies to promote the introduction of human rights due diligence (to identify, prevent, mitigate and account for how they address their impacts on human rights).

Efforts for disseminating the Action Plan and raising awareness on human rights due diligence are to be made cooperatively by the Cabinet Office and all ministries and agencies.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice are also endeavoring to make companies understand that corporate activities based on the Action Plan will contribute to the protection and promotion of human rights in society as a whole, including international society, and will enhance corporate value in the end. At the same time, the bodies are taking various measures, such as holding symposiums concerning business and human rights, preparing and publishing awareness-raising materials to be used by responsible personnel of individual companies for their inhouse training, and dispatching Human Rights Volunteers and officials of the Legal Affairs Bureaus as lecturers for companies' human rights training sessions.

The government of Japan will continue efforts for implementing and disseminating the Action Plan with the aim of promoting responsible corporate activities, contributing to the protection and promotion of human rights in society as a whole, including the international society, enhancing Japanese companies' value and international competitiveness, and working for achieving SDGs.



Japan's National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights



Leaflet "Measures Currently Required for Companies Regarding 'Business and Human Rights'"

3. Major Human Rights Issues

Have you ever felt that your human rights or those of someone near you have been violated? This Chapter focuses on the major human rights issues that need to be addressed.

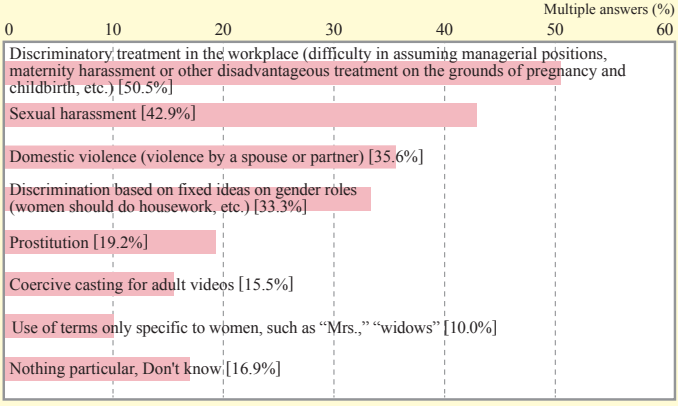
1- Women – Sex Crimes and Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence, Harassment –

The ideal of gender equality is stipulated in the Constitution of Japan and the principle of gender equality has been established through specific legislation concerning creation of equal opportunity for and equal treatment of men and women in employment. 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 sexual crimes and violence, abuse by a spouse or partner (domestic violence), and sexual harassment in the workplace, as well as disadvantageous treatment due to pregnancy and childbirth, or so-called maternity harassment, have been frequently occurring in recent years.

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

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



With regard to women's human rights issues such as those mentioned above, specific legislation enacted in April 2016 requires employers that regularly employ a certain number of workers, in addition to the national government and local governments, to ascertain the status of female employees' participation in the workplaces, analyze problems, establish a plan of action with numerical goals, and publicize the established plan and the information on the status of female

employees' participation. In June 2020, the amended Act expanding the scope of obligations was partially put into effect. In this manner, efforts have been made to develop an environment to enable women to fully exercise their abilities in their vocational lives depending on their wishes. At the same time, specific legislation explicitly provides for the obligation of employers to take measures to prevent power harassment and the prohibition of any disadvantageous treatment on such grounds as workers have sought consultations on various types of harassment. Additionally, provisions on harassment relating to pregnancy and childbirth and child care leave and on sexual harassment were partially amended.



Poster "Women's Rights Hotline Promotion Week"

Regarding violence against women, two weeks from November 12 to November 25 every year are designated as a period for the Campaign to Eliminate Violence against Women, during which efforts to raise awareness of the general public on this issue are made and counseling services and support are offered at Spousal Violence Counseling and Support Centers established nationwide and One-Stop Support Centers for Victims of Sexual Crimes and Violence, etc. Furthermore, based on the Policy for Strengthening Measures against Sexual Crimes and Violence, which was formulated in June 2020, comprehensive measures to eliminate sexual crimes and violence, including the improvement of support for victims and enhancement of education and awareness-raising activities, are being taken.



Awareness-raising video "What is dating DV?"

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice established the "Women's Rights Hotline" (**0570-070-810**), a special telephone service for human rights counseling for women. Officials of the Legal Affairs Bureaus and Human Rights Volunteers provide counseling for various human rights problems affecting women, such as abuse by a spouse or partner (domestic violence), sexual harassment in the workplace, stalking behavior, and problems of so-called forced appearances in pornographic materials and "JK business" (various intimate services [e.g. massage] performed by a female high school student). The bodies also carry out human rights awareness-raising activities and human rights remedy activities supporting the human rights of women.

■ The number of human rights violation cases (violence and abuse against women)(Note) for which remedy procedures were commenced

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Violence and abuse against women	**1,776**	**1,386**	**1,182**	**947**	**629**

(Note) Refer to p.6〜11 for human rights violations cases.

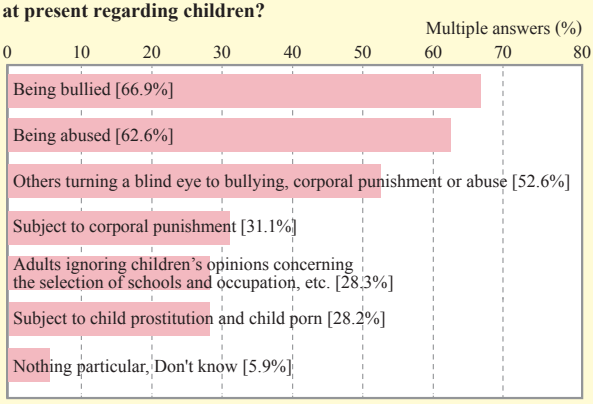
2- Children – Bullying, Corporal Punishment, Child Abuse, Sexual Exploitation –

According to the FY2020 Survey on Undesirable Behavior and School Non-attendance of Students, which the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology conducted, the number of incidents of violence at elementary schools, junior high schools, and high schools was 66,201 cases (down by 16.0% from the previous fiscal year) and the number of recognized bullying cases was 517,163 cases (down by 15.6% (id.)). The number of people arrested or taken into custody by the police for incidents caused by bullying in 2020 was 199 (down by 25.2% from the previous fiscal year).

Among human rights violations for which the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice conduct investigations and resolution, cases involving children have remained at a high level, with 1,126 cases of bullying at school, 83 cases of corporal punishment by school teachers, and 341 cases of violence and abuse against children. Efforts for preventing damage and providing remedy are urgently required in order to protect children from these human rights violations.

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

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



Bullying



Awareness-raising booklet "Bullying - Never Permit or Overlook"

Bullying remains a big social problem. In response to the enactment of the Act for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Bullying in June 2013, the Basic Policies to Prevent Bullying was formulated (and revised in March 2017) and measures to prevent bullying and to early detect and early deal with bullying have been promoted based thereon.

Recent bullying among children is often committed via the social network service or is otherwise becoming less and less visible, and it is often the case that a trivial incident triggers escalation to serious bullying behavior. Therefore, bullying should be viewed as a serious problem also from the perspective of human rights. The causes and backgrounds of children who commit bullying or who turn a blind eye to bullying are diversified, but it can be considered that the root of the problem is a lack of consciousness of respect for human rights, or in other words, a lack of compassion and kindness towards others. To solve this problem, it is important to cultivate a sense of human rights such as accepting differences in others and to respect them as individual character.

■ The number of human rights violation cases (bullying) for which remedy procedures were commenced

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Bullying at school	**3,371**	**3,169**	**2,955**	**2,944**	**1,126**

Corporal punishment

Corporal punishment is clearly prohibited in the proviso to Article 11 of the School Education Act and should never be permitted in any situation, because corporal punishment exerts serious harmful effect on children's minds and bodies, and may foment the idea of seeking settlement by force and create an environment for bullying and violence.

■ The number of human rights violation cases (corporal punishment by school teachers) for which remedy procedures were commenced

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Corporal punishment by school teachers	**448**	**263**	**201**	**141**	**83**

Child abuse

In recent years, the number of consultations concerning child abuse received at child guidance centers nationwide has increased constantly and reached 193,780 cases in FY2019. Serious child abuse cases resulting in children's deaths occur frequently, and the prevention of child abuse is a problem to be tackled by society as a whole.

In April 2020, the Act Partially Amending the Child Welfare Act, etc. for Strengthening Child Abuse Prevention Measures was partially put into effect and countermeasures were strengthened, such as the prohibition of corporal punishment by persons with parental authority, strengthening of systems and promotion of the establishment of child guidance centers, and the enhancement of collaboration among relevant organizations.

■ **The number of human rights violation cases (child abuse) for which remedy procedures were commenced**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Violence and abuse against children	**586**	**486**	**453**	**413**	**341**

Child sexual exploitation

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

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

Efforts of the Ministry of Justice

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



Poster "Children's Rights Hotline Promotion Week"

The bodies established the "Children's Rights Hotline" (**0120-007-110**), a special telephone service for human rights counseling for children, through which officials of the Legal Affairs Bureaus and Human Rights Volunteers provide counseling, and also opened the "Human Rights Counseling Services on the Internet (SOS-e mail)" (https://www.jinken.go.jp/kodomo) on the website of the Ministry of Justice to offer counseling services via the internet as well. Additionally, counseling services are also offered by using the social network service, which is often used by young people. Through these various means, the bodies are enhancing the capacity to detect children's human rights violations at an early stage.

When any suspected case human rights are violated, is found through human rights counseling, etc., the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice investigate the case as a human rights violation case and take appropriate measures depending on the circumstances. Additionally, the bodies carry out human rights awareness-raising activities, such as holding Human Rights Lectures (refer to p.15) in collaboration with schools, etc. to develop children's awareness of human rights and preparing and distributing awareness-raising booklets.



Awareness-raising booklet "Unko Human Rights Drill"



Awareness-raising booklet "All are Friends; Learn and Consider Human Rights through a Comic"

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

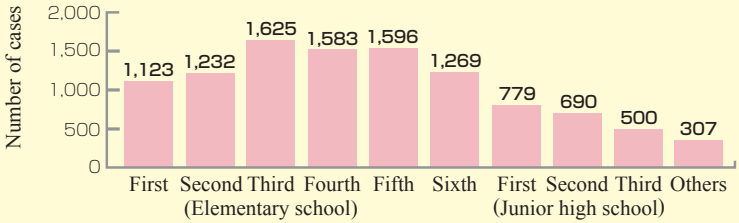
Collection period:
April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021

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 10,704**
- **Number of counseling cases by students' grade**



Children's Rights SOS Mini-Letter



- **Contents**

[Breakdown] *Multiple answers
Bullying: 2,368 (22.1%)
Abuse: 451 (4.2%)
Corporal punishment: 37 (0.3%)
Others: 7,848 (73.3%)

3- Elderly People

Due to the increased extension of the average life expectancy and the declining birth rate, one-quarter of the population in Japan is composed of elderly people aged 65 or over. In such a situation, the human rights problems of elderly people, such as physical or psychological abuse by caretakers, are now becoming social problems.

In December 1995, the Basic Act on Measures for the Aging Society entered into force, aiming to achieve a society in which each citizen can live worthwhile lives with a sense of security throughout their lives. In July 1996, the General Principles Concerning Measures for the Aging Society were compiled based on this Basic Act as policies for basic and comprehensive measures to be taken by the national government to deal with problems associated with the aging society (the current General Principles were decided at a Cabinet meeting in February 2018).

Furthermore, based on the Act on the Prevention of Elder Abuse, Support for Caregivers of Elderly Persons and Other Related Matters, which was enforced in April 2006, measures are being implemented for prevention and early detection and dealing with abuse of elderly people in order to protect their dignity.

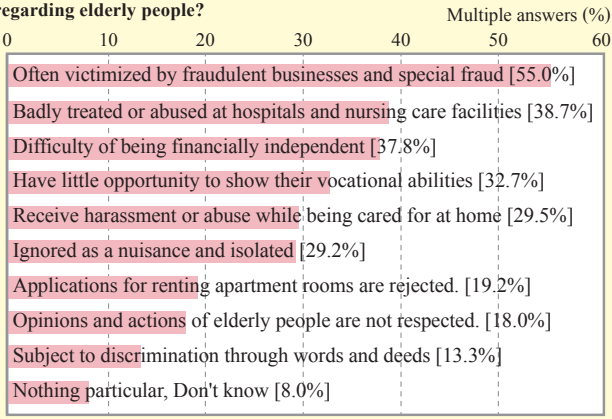
In December 2018, the Act on Comprehensive and Integrated Promotion of Measures for Achieving a Universal Society was enforced with the aim of realizing a society in which each citizen is recognized as a member of society standing on an equal footing, irrespective of having disabilities or not or being young or old, with their dignity being fully respected, and can freely exercise their abilities with a guaranteed opportunity to participate in activities in any field of society, and all citizens thereby coexist while mutually respecting others' personality and characteristics and offering support. Based on this Act, the Universal Society Promotion Conference has been held and efforts are being promoted cooperatively by relevant administrative organs.

Additionally, based on the General Principles Concerning Measures for Dementia Patients, which were compiled in June 2019, measures focused both on coexistence and disease prevention are being taken while prioritizing viewpoints of dementia patients and their families, aiming to achieve a society where people can enjoy daily lives with hope even after developing dementia.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice distribute booklets, deliver videos or are otherwise carrying out human rights awareness-raising activities.
The bodies set up ad-hoc human rights counseling centers at social welfare facilities such as welfare facilities for the elderly so that facility users and their family members, who usually have difficulty in visiting a Legal Affairs Bureau or District Legal Affairs Bureau, can receive counseling services easily in these facilities.
The bodies also strive to make human rights counseling activities widely known to social welfare workers, who work closely with elderly people, and call on them to help with reinforcing cooperation in such forms as providing information when they recognize a human rights violation case.

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

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



■ **The number of human rights violation cases against elderly people for which remedy procedures were commenced**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Violence and abuse against elderly people	**437**	**363**	**319**	**251**	**185**
Human rights violations at welfare facilities for the elderly	**57**	**40**	**42**	**31**	**23**



Awareness-raising booklet "Toward the Age of Coexistence; Aged Society and Human Rights"



Awareness-raising video "Abuse Prevention Series"

4- Persons with Disabilities

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

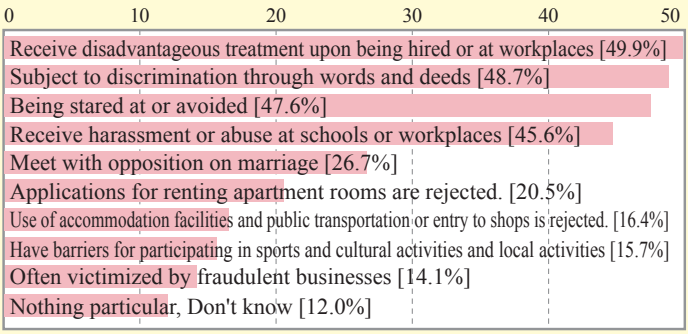
In Japan, measures to assist persons with disabilities for their independence and social participation are being taken in line with the Basic Plan for Persons with Disabilities (the fourth plan), which was established under the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities, with the aim of achieving an "inclusive society" where persons with and without disabilities are able to respect each other's personality and individuality.

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

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

What human rights problems do you think are occurring at present regarding persons with disabilities?

Multiple answers (%)



Additionally, based on the Act on Prevention of Abuse of Persons with Disabilities and Support for Caregivers, which was enforced in October 2012, measures are being implemented for prevention and early detection and dealing with abuse of persons with disabilities in order to protect their dignity.

Furthermore, under the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, which was enforced in April 2016, administrative organs and private companies had made efforts to prohibit unfair discriminatory treatment and give due consideration to persons with disabilities for eliminating discrimination on the basis of disability. In May 2021, an amendment of the Act was enacted to make the giving of due consideration to persons with disabilities mandatory, regarding which there was merely a duty to make an effort to do so before the amendment (the amended Act will be put into effect within three years after the date of promulgation [June 4, 2021]).

In February 2017, the Universal Design 2020 Action Plan, which provides for the promotion of "barrier-free mind" and creation of communities with universal design, was determined. In order to reflect the viewpoint of persons with disabilities on relevant policies, the Universal Design 2020 Evaluation Conference, the majority of the members of which consists of persons with disabilities and support organizations, was established in December 2018, and the policies have been improved based on the Conference's evaluation results. Other efforts are also being made to achieve a universal society under the Act on Comprehensive and Integrated Promotion of Measures for Achieving a Universal Society enforced in the same month.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice conduct various human rights awareness-raising activities, such as providing opportunities to experience wheelchairs or sports for persons with disabilities and holding Human Rights Lectures combining talks and lectures by paralympians.

The bodies have set up ad-hoc human rights counseling centers at support facilities for persons with disabilities so that facility users and their family members, who usually have difficulty in visiting a Legal Affairs Bureau or District Legal Affairs Bureau, can receive counseling services easily in these facilities. The bodies also commit to having human rights counseling activities widely known to social welfare workers, who work closely with persons with disabilities, and request them to cooperate in such forms as providing information when they recognize a human rights violation case.



Awareness-raising booklet "Persons with Disabilities and Human Rights"



Awareness-raising booklet "Let's Learn Together! Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities"



Poster "Anyone may be in Need of Help - Offer a Helping Hand for Smile Leading to a Brighter Future"

The number of human rights violation cases against persons with disabilities for which remedy procedures were commenced

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Discriminatory treatment against persons with disabilities	286	272	235	163	125
Human rights violations at welfare facilities for persons with disabilities	63	49	40	38	28

5- *Buraku* Discrimination (*Dowa* Issue)

Buraku Discrimination (*Dowa* Issue)

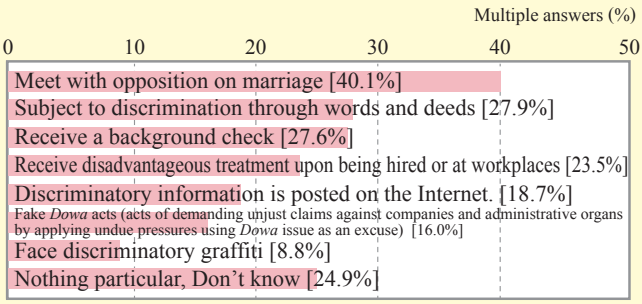
Due to discrimination based on the structure of social statuses which was formed in the course of the historical development of Japanese society, some Japanese people had been forced to endure a deprived status economically, socially and culturally over years, and they are still subject to various kinds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

In order to solve this issue, the national government, together with local governments, had worked for 33 years since 1969 on measures for regional improvements based on Acts on 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, as there remain cases of posting discriminatory comments on the internet, the Act on the Promotion of Elimination of *Buraku* Discrimination was enforced in December 2016. The *Buraku* discrimination (*Dowa* issue) is to be dealt with properly based on the purport of this Act and the incidental resolutions.

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

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



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

Based on Article 6 of the Act on the Promotion of Elimination of *Buraku* Discrimination, the bodies conducted a survey on the status of *Buraku* discrimination and published the results thereof in June 2020 (https://www.moj.go.jp/JINKEN/jinken04_00127.html).

Regarding *Buraku* discrimination, the following facts have been found: discriminatory false accusations targeting specific individuals or unspecified people are posted on the internet; discrimination occurs upon individuals' marriage or socializing; some people still have prejudice and a sense of discrimination although a correct understanding has been spreading; some of the viewers of information related to *Buraku* discrimination on the internet have a certain discriminatory motivation.

The number of human rights violation cases regarding the *Buraku* discrimination (*Dowa* issue) for which remedy procedures were commenced

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Human rights violations regarding the *Buraku* discrimination (*Dowa* issue)	**78**	**86**	**92**	**221**	**244**

Elimination of pseudo-actions purportedly on behalf of *Dowa* problems

One of the major factors hampering the resolution of *Buraku* discrimination (*Dowa* issue) is the widespread occurrence of pseudo-actions purportedly on behalf of *Dowa* problems. These pseudo-actions 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 pseudo-actions, 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 Pseudo-Actions with the participation of all of the ministries and agencies. Efforts to eliminate pseudo-actions have also been made at the regional level through the establishment of the Liaison Conference among Relevant Organizations for Measures against Pseudo-Actions, with Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus across the country acting as secretariats.

The Ministry of Justice prepared a guide compiling concrete responses to be made against pseudo-actions and has made it available on its website (https://www.moj.go.jp/content/001290968.pdf). The Ministry has conducted questionnaire surveys eleven times since 1987 with the aim of ascertaining the actual status of pseudo-actions (the results of the latest survey conducted for FY2018 are available at: https://www.moj.go.jp/content/001290375.pdf).

6- The Ainu People

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

On the basis of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2007, and the report by the Advisory Council for Future Ainu Policy, the national government has been promoting comprehensive and effective Ainu policies. The Act on Promotion of Measures for the Achievement of Society with Respect for the Ethnic Pride of the Ainu People, which was enforced in May 2019, provides for the prohibition of discrimination, etc. on the grounds of being an Ainu person and for support measures to carry out Ainu policies comprehensively on an ongoing basis, with the aim of achieving a society in which the Ainu people can live with their ethnic pride and in which their pride is sufficiently respected. Under this Act, measures including promotion of regional developments, industry and tourism, in addition to conventional measures for promoting culture and welfare, are being implemented comprehensively and effectively.

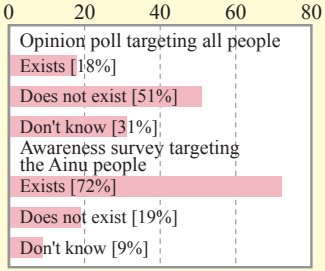
The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice carry out human rights awareness-raising activities, and conduct human rights counseling and investigation and remedy activities in order to improve understanding and recognition about the Ainu people and eliminate prejudice and discrimination against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



Internet banner advertisement

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

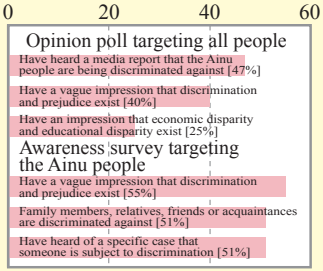
Discrimination and prejudice against the Ainu people



Reasons for discrimination and prejudice against the Ainu people

(Question for respondents who consider that discrimination and prejudice exist)

Multiple answers (%)



Material : Opening of Upopoy (National Ainu Museum and Park)

As a base for reconstruction and creation of Ainu culture, Upopoy (National Ainu Museum and Park) opened in Shiraoi Town in Hokkaido in July 2020.
Upopoy, which consists of the National Ainu Park for ethnic harmony and the National Ainu Museum, offers visitors opportunities to experience the lives and traditional performing arts of the Ainu people from diverse perspectives and to learn about the magnificence of Ainu culture. Visitors can enjoy performances of traditional Ainu dancing and the mukkuri (mouth harp), a traditional musical instrument, hunting bow demonstrations and other diverse programs.
In October 2020, a human rights awareness-raising event was held at Upopoy jointly by the Sapporo Legal Affairs Bureau and the Prefectural Association of Human Rights Volunteers in Sapporo, and various activities were carried out to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against the Ainu people. Please visit Upopoy and directly experience Ainu culture.



Traditional Ainu dancing registered as UNESCO intangible cultural heritage (Source: The Foundation for Ainu Culture)



Human rights awareness-raising event held at Upopoy





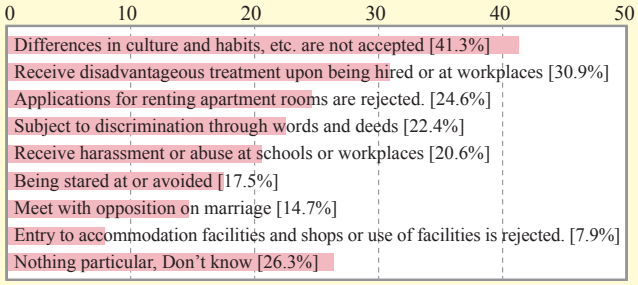
Upopoy (Source: The Foundation for Ainu Culture)

7- Foreigners

The number of foreigners residing in Japan was approx. 2.89 million people as of the end of 2020. The number has remained at a high level in recent years. Due to differences in language, religion, customs and other factors, various human rights problems regarding foreigners have taken place.

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

What human rights problems do you think are occurring at present regarding foreigners residing in Japan?





Poster "Failed to Communicate Mind, Not Words"



Poster "Stop Hate Speech"

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice established the "Foreign-language Human Rights Hotline" and the "Human Rights Counseling Services in Foreign Languages on the Internet", as well as "Human Rights Counseling Centers for Foreigners" to provide human rights counseling services in ten languages to foreign nationals who cannot speak Japanese fluently. Furthermore, the bodies carry out human rights awareness-raising activities, and conduct remedy activities in order to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against foreign nationals.

Recently, discriminatory speech and behavior intended to exclude people of certain ethnic groups or nationalities has become a public concern as so-called "hate speech." In June 2016, the Act on the Promotion of Efforts to Eliminate Unfair Discriminatory Speech and Behavior against Persons Originating from Outside Japan was enforced. Such discriminatory speech and behavior not only causes a feeling of anxiety or repugnance but could also violate human dignity or generate a sense of discrimination. Therefore, in addition to awareness-raising activities focusing on human rights of foreigners, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice are carrying out human rights awareness-raising activities for promoting an understanding that "hate speech" should not be tolerated, and are conducting human rights counseling and investigation and remedy activities for human rights violations including damage due to hate speech.

■ **The number of human rights violation cases (discriminatory treatment against foreigners) for which remedy procedures were commenced**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Discriminatory treatment against foreigners	**57**	**84**	**62**	**72**	**60**

You can get the Human Rights Counseling Leaflet for Foreigners from the Ministry of Justice website at：https://www.moj.go.jp/JINKEN/jinken21.html

Material Human Rights Counseling in Foreign Languages

English, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Nepali, Spanish, Indonesian, and Thai

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

0570-090911

Service hours: 9:00 - 17:00 on weekdays (excluding the year-end and New Year holidays)

*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 in Foreign Languages on the Internet

https://www.moj.go.jp/JINKEN/jinken21.html#01

Human Rights Counseling Centers for Foreigners

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

Service hours: 9:00 - 17:00 on weekdays (excluding the year-end and New Year holidays)

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

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

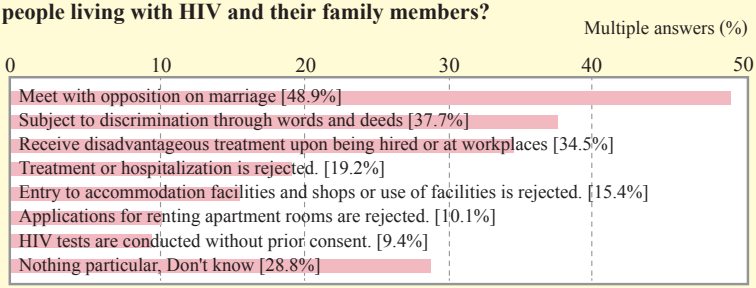
8- Patients of Infections – HIV, Hepatitis, COVID-19 Infection –

HIV, Hepatitis

With regard to HIV, outside of sexual contact, there is almost no possibility of being infected in daily life. Additionally, thanks to the progress made in treatment, even if a person is infected with HIV, early detection and treatment can prevent the onset of AIDS and can significantly reduce the risk of infecting others.

● **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?



Hepatitis is mostly caused by the hepatitis B virus or hepatitis C virus, and these viruses are transmitted mainly via blood and body fluids. Therefore, in order to prevent transmission of the hepatitis virus, it is important not to share tools with blood or body fluids with others and to avoid a wound or mucous membrane from directly touching any blood or body fluid. If such precautions are taken, there is no possibility to be infected with the hepatitis B virus or hepatitis C virus in ordinary everyday life.

However, such accurate information is not broadly understood, and not a few patients and their families suffer from prejudice and discrimination.

The national government is endeavoring to disseminate accurate knowledge on these infectious diseases and raise awareness of the general public in order to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against patients and their families. The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice have also been conducting various human rights awareness-raising activities, and conduct human rights counseling and investigation and remedy activities.

■ **The number of human rights violation cases (discriminatory treatment against infectious disease patients) for which remedy procedures were commenced**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Discriminatory treatment against infectious disease patients (excl. patients of Hansen's Disease)	**7**	**42**	**26**	**15**	**44**

Responses to human rights issues arising in relation to the COVID-19 infection

In association with the COVID-19 infection, various human rights issues, including prejudice and discrimination against patients and health workers, etc., are occurring.

The Expert Meeting on the Novel Coronavirus Disease Control compiled the Analysis of the Response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Recommendations several times from March to May 2020, and pointed out that large scale disease clusters occurred at medical facilities and nursing care facilities, that prejudice and discrimination against workers at medical and social welfare facilities in general are spreading and are exerting influences also in their families, and that workers engaging in duties necessary for maintaining social functions, such as those working in the logistics sector, are also facing prejudice and discrimination.

Such prejudice and discrimination make daily lives of patients and their families unduly difficult and have them feel anxiety and fear excessively, which may cause delays in reporting and detection of new infection cases and further spread the infection.

In September 2020, the Working Group on Prejudice, Discrimination and Privacy was established under the Subcommittee on the Novel Coronavirus Disease Control for the purpose of ascertaining the current status of prejudice and discrimination against patients, people who may have had close contact with patients, and health workers, etc. and discussing means for raising awareness of the general public. The results of interviews with various related organizations conducted by the Working Group also revealed discrimination in various forms at various places, such as discriminatory words and deeds against medical or nursing care facilities, workers working at those facilities and their families, against patients' schools and teachers and other staff of those schools, and against patients' workplaces, etc. and posting of discriminatory comments on the internet and SNSs.

Under such circumstances, the Act Partially Amending the Act on Special Measures for Novel Influenza, etc. was enacted in February 2021, and responsibilities of the national and local governments for the prevention of discriminatory treatment against patients of novel influenza, including the COVID-19 infection, were newly prescribed.

Based on these newly incorporated provisions, the national government will ascertain the actual status of discriminatory treatment, offer support for counseling for patients, compile, organize, analyze, and provide related information, and conduct public relations and other awareness-raising activities so that human rights of the COVID-19 patients are respected properly and no one is treated discriminately.

Additionally, the Basic Action Policy for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control, which is the unified guidelines for taking countermeasures, also states the following as key matters: call for attention not to take discriminatory actions against patients, people who may have had close contact with patients, medical institutions and health workers that treated patients, and any other people involved based on misunderstanding and prejudice; disseminate correct knowledge on the COVID-19 infection; and strengthen the provision of educational and awareness-raising information for preventing prejudice and discrimination by utilizing the national government's dedicated website (corona.go.jp) in a manner to facilitate cross-sectional initiatives by local governments and related organizations. The national government is thus committed to taking various measures and providing support appropriately.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice held a round-table discussion by intellectuals concerning the COVID-19 infection and human rights and introduced the content of the discussion on a dedicated website and in newspapers. The bodies also conducted a human rights awareness-raising campaign under the slogan "Discrimination never eases your anxiety," and have been delivering information on the website and through social network service, distributing leaflets, and otherwise carrying out PR activities using outdoor large displays, signage in trains and at stations, and radio, magazines and other media, thereby repeatedly calling for attention not to take discriminatory actions based on misunderstanding and prejudice and providing information on human rights counseling services. Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus nationwide have also engaged in human rights awareness-raising activities, human rights counseling, and investigation and remedy activities, in collaboration with the Citrus Ribbon Project, a citizen's movement, with the aim of disseminating correct knowledge on the COVID-19 infection and preventing prejudice and discrimination.



Human rights awareness-raising website



Vertical banner
at a Legal Affairs Bureau



Round-table discussion concerning
the COVID-19 infection and human rights

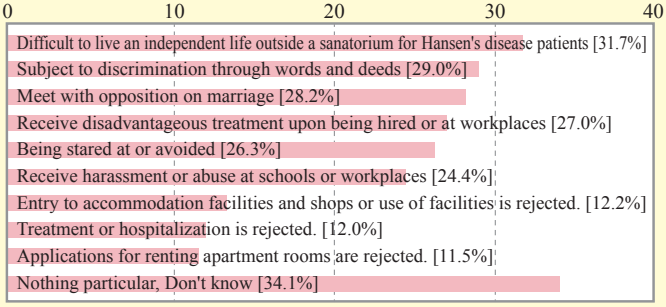
9- Present and Former Hansen's Disease (also known internationally as leprosy) Patients and Their Families

Although the bacteria, Mycobacterium leper, found in Hansen's disease is contagious, it is extremely rare to contract the disease even if the bacteria have 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. However, the policy adopted in the past to isolate Hansen's disease patients at care facilities created awareness that Hansen's disease is a dreadful disease, and this has caused unreasonable discrimination and prejudice against present and former Hansen's disease patients and their families.

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

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

Multiple answers (%)



In the lawsuit to seek compensation for the violation of the Leprosy Prevention Act, questioning the national government's responsibility for the delay in a shift of its policies on Hansen's disease, the Kumamoto District Court rendered a judgment to hold the national government liable in May 2001. Thereafter, the national government has endeavored to disseminate correct knowledge on Hansen's disease, also in light of the purport of the Act on Promotion of Resolution of Issues Related to Hansen's Disease, which was enacted in June 2008.

In June 2019, in the lawsuit filed against the national government by the families of Hansen's disease patients to seek compensation for damage due to prejudice and discrimination, the Kumamoto District Court rendered a judgment to hold the national government liable. In response, the then Prime Minister issued a statement to accept the judgment in July 2019 and expressed deep remorse and an apology as the national government for the suffering and difficulties faced by present and former patients and their families over the years due to extreme prejudice and discrimination in society originated from the national government's wrong policies to isolate patients at care facilities.

The statement also contains the national government's commitment to taking new compensatory measures for patients' families and strengthening human rights education and awareness-raising activities in consideration of their hardships, in close collaboration and cooperation among relevant ministries and agencies.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice are carrying out human rights awareness-raising activities in light of harsh experiences faced by present and former Hansen's disease patients and their families.

Specifically, the bodies have held symposiums on Hansen's disease issues, wherein lectures by patients or their families, etc., were provided and panel discussions were held with the participation of students, and have posted the content of those symposiums in national newspapers for elementary school students and junior high school students, thereby disseminating feelings of former patients and their families. Additionally, the bodies have held panel exhibitions on Hansen's disease, placed internet banner advertisements, and prepared and delivered awareness-raising videos. In this manner, the bodies have been carrying out various human rights awareness-raising activities in collaboration with relevant ministries and agencies for the purpose of disseminating an accurate understanding of Hansen's disease and eliminating prejudice and discrimination against Hansen's disease patients. The bodies also conduct human rights counseling and remedy activities regarding cases of discrimination against Hansen's disease patients, etc.



Awareness-raising video
"Hansen's Disease Issues –
Testimony from the Past,
Advice for the Future"



Awareness-raising video
"Learn about Hansen's Disease –
Feelings of Former Patients
and Their Families"



Internet banner
advertisement

■ **The number of human rights violation cases (discriminatory treatment against Hansen's disease patients) for which remedy procedures were commenced**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Discriminatory treatment against people living with HIV and Hansen's disease patients	**1**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**0**

10- People Released from Prison after Serving Their Sentence

Prejudice and discrimination against people released from prison after serving their sentence 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 sentence.

In December 2017, a Plan on Promotion of Prevention of Repeat Offenses was decided based on the Act on Promotion of Prevention of Repeat Offenses, and measures to prevent repeat offenses are being promoted in a comprehensive and systematic manner in order to prevent the general public from being victimized by crimes and achieve a society in which all can live safely with peace of mind.

The Ministry of Justice considers offering support for the employment as one of the important issues, and seeks cooperative employers who would hire people released from prison after serving their sentence and pays employment incentives to cooperative employers who provide lifestyle guidance and advice to such people necessary for their continued engagement in work, or otherwise proactively makes effort to prevent their repeat offenses. Additionally, in order to promote understanding and cooperation of citizens with regard to improvement and rehabilitation of persons who committed crimes and delinquent juveniles and to create local communities free from crimes and delinquency, the Ministry of Justice has been carrying out the "Brighter Society Campaign – The power of the community that prevents crimes and juvenile delinquency and help offenders' rehabilitation," with the understanding and participation of local residents.

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

■ The number of human rights violation cases (discriminatory treatment against people released from prison after serving their sentence) for which remedy procedures were commenced

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Discriminatory treatment against people released from prison after serving their sentence	**15**	**8**	**10**	**11**	**5**

11- Crime Victims, etc.

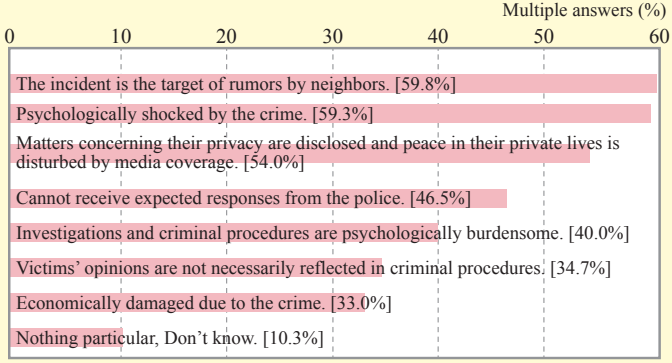
It has been pointed out that the crime victims and their family members have not only been damaged psychologically and economically by the crime itself and its aftereffects, but they may also suffer other injuries such as defamation through rumors and mindless slander or disturbance of peace in their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

On the basis of the Basic Act on Crime Victims, the Basic Plan for Crime Victims was formulated in December 2005 (the Fourth Basic Plan was established in March 2021) 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. Under the Basic Plan, the week from November 25 to December 1 was designated as Crime Victims' Week, during which activities are carried out every year 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?



■ **The number of human rights violation cases against crime victims, etc. for which remedy procedures were commenced**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Human rights violations against crime victims, etc.	**4**	**7**	**8**	**6**	**4**

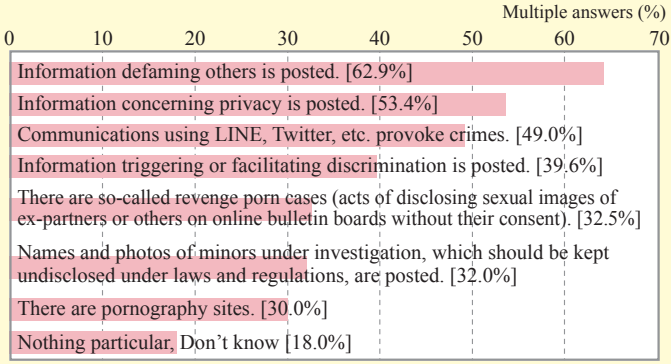
12- Human Rights Violations on the Internet

Following increased use of the internet and owing to its anonymity and capacity to send out information with ease, various human rights problems have arisen, such as violation of individual reputations and privacy and publication of expressions that promote discrimination. These acts hurt the targets and those who have committed such acts may be accused of a crime. Human rights violations on the internet are becoming increasingly serious in recent years, and it is necessary to carry out human rights awareness-raising activities for general internet users in order to promote their correct understanding concerning individual reputations and privacy.

The number of young internet users such as elementary and junior high school students has been increasing every year and, there are cases such as slandering through social network service, illegal download, etc. in which both the assailants and the victims of the human rights violations are children. In light of such circumstances, mobile phone companies have been obliged to take measures to activate filtering for harmful information for young users under 18 years of age since February 2018.

● **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?



Furthermore, in December 2014, in order to prevent the occurrence and expansion of damage due to so-called revenge porn, the national government enforced the Act on Prevention of Damage due to the Provision of Personal Sexual Records that prescribes penal provisions concerning acts of disclosing sexual images shot personally or providing such images for disclosure and also provides for the development of a support system for victims of such acts.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice hold Human Rights Lectures nationwide, in collaboration with Smartphone and Mobile Phone Safety Lectures that are held by mobile phone companies mainly targeting junior high school students, as countermeasures against human rights violations by abuse of the internet, which are becoming increasingly serious among young people. The bodies have also prepared an awareness-raising booklet and video targeting junior high and senior high school students and their guardians. Additionally, jointly with an social network service business association, the bodies launched a website for raising awareness concerning the use of social network service, under the slogan "#No Heart No SNS," and published a flow chart introducing online counseling services concerning human rights violations on the website of the Ministry of Justice. When receiving a consultation, the bodies give advice on how to demand the disclosure of identification information of the sender or deletion of the relevant information, and if that information is found to constitute defamation or privacy infringement as a result of an investigation, the bodies undertake appropriate measures, such as requesting that the relevant provider or other parties to delete that information.



Awareness-raising booklet "Are you All Right? Let's Think About the Internet and Human Rights"



Awareness-raising video "The Internet and Human Rights"



Human Rights Awareness- raising Website "#No Heart No SNS"

■ **The number of human rights violation cases on the internet for which remedy procedures were commenced**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Human rights violations on the internet	**1,909**	**2,217**	**1,910**	**1,985**	**1,693**

13- Victims Abducted by North Korean Authorities

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

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



Poster "North Korean Human Rights Abuse Awareness Week"

During the Week, various activities are conducted, including an international symposium held by the national government and PR activities using various media, such as advertisements in train cars and in newspapers as well as internet advertisements.

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.



International symposium held by the national government

14- Homeless People

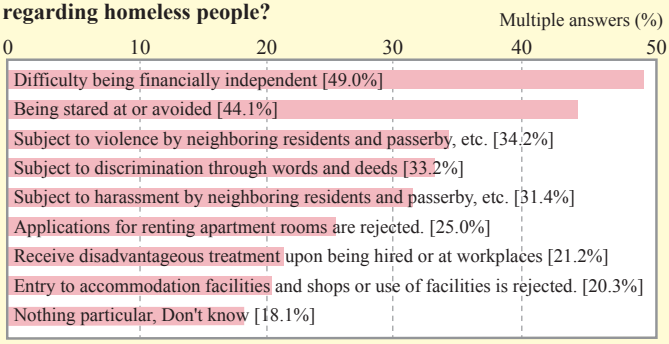
Based on the Act on Special Measures for Self-Sufficiency Support for the Homeless, which was enacted in 2002, measures for supporting the self-sufficiency of homeless people and for preventing people from becoming homeless have been promoted in consideration of their human rights, while seeking understanding and cooperation of local communities.

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

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



■ **The number of human rights violation cases against homeless people for which remedy procedures were commenced**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Human rights violations against homeless people	**3**	**1**	**1**	**3**	**1**

15- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Sexual orientation refers to the object of one's love or sexual interest. Discriminatory treatment against homosexuals or bisexuals on the grounds of their sexual orientation is acknowledged to be unjust these days, but prejudice and discrimination are still occurring.

Gender identity is the concept of how an individual recognizes his/her gender. Persons whose gender identity and biological gender differ are often subject to prying eyes in society and are treated discriminately, such as being passed over for promotion or being bullied at school.

In order to eliminate prejudice and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, the Guidelines for Preventing Power Harassment clearly indicate insulting words and deeds in relation to a person's sexual orientation or gender identity as an example falling under power harassment. Under the Guidelines, efforts are being made to promote a correct understanding of sexual orientation or gender identity in the workplace.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice carry out human rights awareness-raising activities, and conduct counseling and human rights remedy activities to eliminate prejudice and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, such as through preparing and distributing awareness-raising videos under related themes.



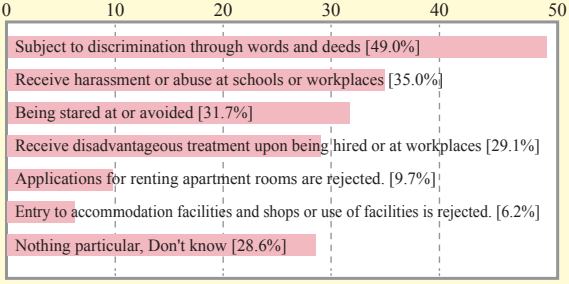
Awareness-raising video "So that You can be Yourself"



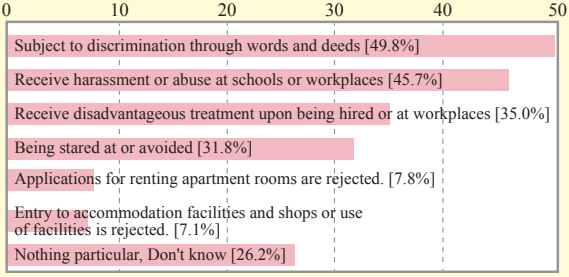
Awareness-raising video "Color of an Apple: Do You Know about LGBT?"

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

What human rights problems do you think are occurring at present regarding sexual orientation? Multiple answers (%)



What human rights problems do you think are occurring at present regarding people with gender identity disorders? Multiple answers (%)



■ **The number of human rights violation cases on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity for which remedy procedures were commenced**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Human rights violations on the grounds of sexual orientation	**9**	**8**	**7**	**9**	**4**
Human rights violations on the grounds of gender identity	**6**	**18**	**12**	**8**	**13**

16- Trafficking in Persons (Coercive Sexual Services and Labor)

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

The national government formulated the 2014 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons at the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime in December 2014 with the aim of responding with appropriate measures to the situation against trafficking in persons and carrying out integral and comprehensive countermeasures as a government-wide initiative.

Additionally, under this Action Plan, the national government has held the Council for the Promotion of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons as necessary to ascertain the current situation of trafficking in persons in Japan, and to promote prevention and elimination of trafficking in persons and proper protection of victims. At the same time, it has been carrying out PR activities concerning these efforts and seeking cooperation of the general public to make a report when finding any suspected victimized person. In this manner, measures have been taken cooperatively by relevant ministries and agencies.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice carry out human rights awareness-raising activities, and conduct human rights counseling and human rights remedy activities, thereby endeavoring to deepen people's interest and understanding regarding the issue of trafficking in persons.



Leaflet "Measures against Trafficking in Persons"



Poster "Measures against Trafficking in Persons"

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

The Great East Japan Earthquake that occurred on March 11, 2011, was an unprecedented disaster, causing catastrophic damage across the entire East Japan. In addition, the accidents at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station caused by the earthquake and tsunami made the situation even worse and many people are still forced to continue a life of evacuation.

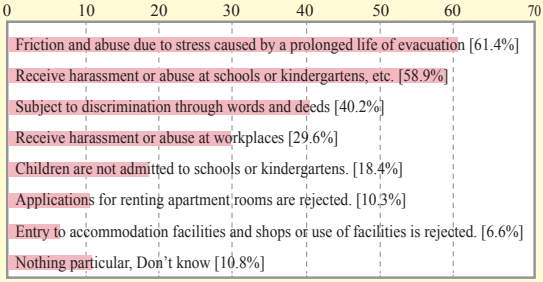
In such a situation, prejudice and discrimination based on rumors concerning the nuclear accident still remain as a matter of concern.

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





Human rights symposium "Earthquakes and Human Rights - Support for Disaster Victims and Operation of Shelters with Due Consideration to Human Rights" (held in Sapporo)

■ The number of human rights violation cases arising after the Great East Japan Earthquake for which remedy procedures were commenced

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Human rights violations arising after the Great East Japan Earthquake	**5**	**5**	**1**	**0**	**0**

Material : The Core Human Rights Conventions Japan Signed

	Convention	Adopted on Enforced on	Signatory nations, regions and organizations
1	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Dec. 16, 1966 Jan. 3, 1976	171
2	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	Dec. 16, 1966 Mar. 23, 1976	173
3	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	Dec.21, 1965 Jan. 4, 1969	182
4	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	Dec. 18, 1979 Sep. 3, 1981	189
5	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	Dec. 10, 1984 Jun. 26, 1987	171
6	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Nov. 20, 1989 Sep. 2, 1990	196
7	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	Dec. 20, 2006 Dec. 23, 2010	63
8	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Dec. 13, 2006 May. 3, 2008	182

(As of October 2020)



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— Information on Human Rights Counseling in Foreign Languages —

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

A hairdresser refused to cut your hair.



You were not allowed to rent an apartment.



Your child is bullied at school.



Feeling excluded due to cultural differences.



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



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



We accept human rights inquiries on the Internet Human Rights Counseling Service.

English, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Nepali, Spanish, Indonesian, and Thai.

We will find the best solution to your problem.

Conciliation

We mediate in discussions.



Instructions and recommendation to violators

We will demand the violator to improve the situation.



Advice and referrals

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



See page 35 for details

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