

HOW THE GENDER EQUALITY CENTER SUPPORTS THE VICTIMS OF DV/ TRAFFICKING

Coordination for
the provision of assistance
and consultation services

OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF GENDER EQUALITY CENTERS

They are the public facilities founded and funded by the local governments. There are 326 centers in Japan (2009)

To contribute to realize the gender-equal society, through conducting gender-related educational programs for the public, and providing various services for the empowerment of women

- ◉ Gender-related events and training programs
- ◉ Programs to support local group's activities and networking to promote gender equality
- ◉ Information centers/libraries
- ◉ Research and study programs
- ◉ Counseling rooms for women

KURUME MUNICIPAL GENDER EQUALITY CENTER



The building on the outside



Entrance lobby

SAGA PREFECTURAL GENDER EQUALITY CENTER



The building on the outside



Seminar room



Computer room

Child-care room



Counseling room

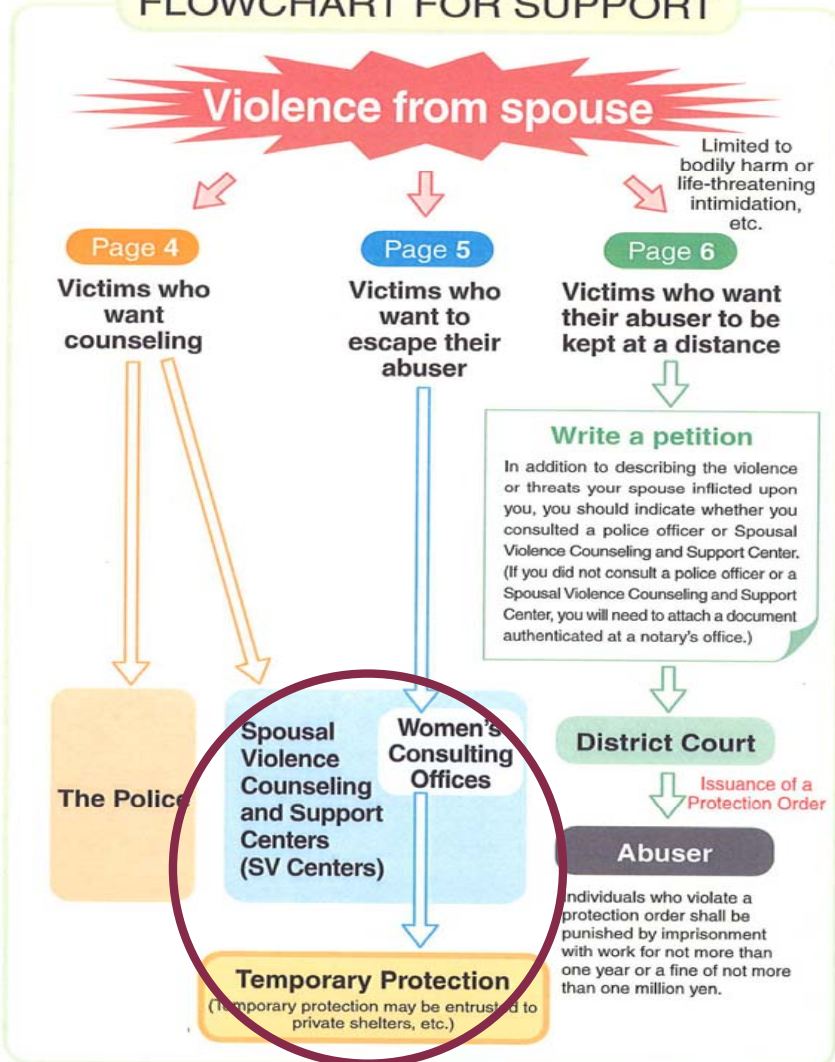


SUPPORT OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE VICTIMS

The Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims

2001

FLOWCHART FOR SUPPORT



SV centers (180 locations in 2008)

Women's consulting offices

- The Ministry of Health, labour and Welfare
- The Anti-Prostitution Law 1956
- Have temporary protection facilities
- Specialized staff placed

Gender equality centers

- Gender Equality Bureau of the Cabinet Office
- The Basic Law for a Gender-equal Society 1999
- Have only counseling rooms
- Can utilize gender-sensitive approach and other center functions

Number of counseling cases related to spousal violence

(1) Spousal Violence Counseling and Support Centers (SV centers)

1) Number of counseling cases by year

FY2002	35,943 cases
FY2003	43,225 cases
FY2004	49,329 cases
FY2005	52,145 cases
FY2006	58,528 cases
FY2007	62,078 cases

2) Number of counseling cases by gender (FY2002 – FY2007)

Women	299,384 cases (99.4%)
Men	1,864 cases (0.6%)

* According to a Cabinet Office survey.

An overwhelming majority of individuals seeking counseling are women

(2) Number of cases handled by the police

2002	14,140 cases
2003	12,568 cases
2004	14,410 cases
2005	16,888 cases
2006	18,236 cases
2007	20,992 cases

* 1 According to a National Police Agency survey.

2 The number of cases handled refers to the number of cases in which the police were consulted about spousal violence or received requests for assistance or protection, received notifications for injury/written complaints, arrested abusers, etc.

GENDER EQUALITY CENTERS AUTHORIZED AS SV CENTERS

Negative aspects

- ◉ No temporary protection facilities
- ◉ No specialized staff (doctors, lawyers, psychologists, social workers)
- ◉ No direct connections with local governments' offices (hard to collaborate with)
- ◉ No security system

Positive aspects

- ◉ Easy access
- ◉ Have Counseling rooms for women (can listen to the women in safe and relaxed situations)
- ◉ Can take advantage of other center functions
- ◉ Adopt gender-sensitive approach and aim for the empowerment of women
- ◉ Pick up the issues emerging from the cases and socialize them by disseminating information to the public and providing the educational programs

GENDER EQUALITY CENTERS AND WOMEN VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

- ◎ They rarely come into contact with the centers
 - they are still invisible in our society
 - when the police find them, they are sent to the temporary protection facilities
 - they would rather go to NGO support groups
- ◎ They sometimes emerge as DV victims at the centers
 - those who came to Japan as entertainer, then got married to (or cohabit with) a Japanese man
 - those who came as a bride through mediators of both countries
- ◎ SV centers are expected to be more aware of the issue of trafficking and provide specific measures
 - provide multi-language service (multi-language information cards, hotlines, trained interpreters)

Victims of DV and trafficking have so much common in terms of the provision of consultations and assistance

IN CASE OF KURUME CITY HOW TO ESTABLISH THE SUPPORT SYSTEM



Kurume center

- The center was founded in 2001
- Start with 3 counselors
- Start the network conference for all the related municipal divisions, organizations and NGO groups
- Start the working group to formulate the support system for the victims in the city
- Collaborate with NGO groups and establish an NGO shelter for DV victims and their children
- The working group submitted a report to the Mayor
- W.G. conducted the hearings of each division and made the best possible manuals to support the victims
- Start a recycle shop for fund-raising of the shelter

WORKING GROUP + NETWORK MEETINGS NGO SHELTER

Center's role is to coordinate
these groups and individuals

Some of the results

- ◉ Exchange of the Network sheets of all the related divisions and organizations
for a better and easier collaboration
- ◉ One-stop service system in the city hall (by utilizing standardized format of recording the cases)
for the safety and the alleviation of stress of the victims
- ◉ Support manuals for each related division
to ensure the provision of the best possible assistance at each division
- ◉ Recycle shop within the center
for fund-raising of the shelter and the provision of a place for the empowerment of the victims
- ◉ Elimination of domestic violence declaration of Kurume city
for a better and safer community

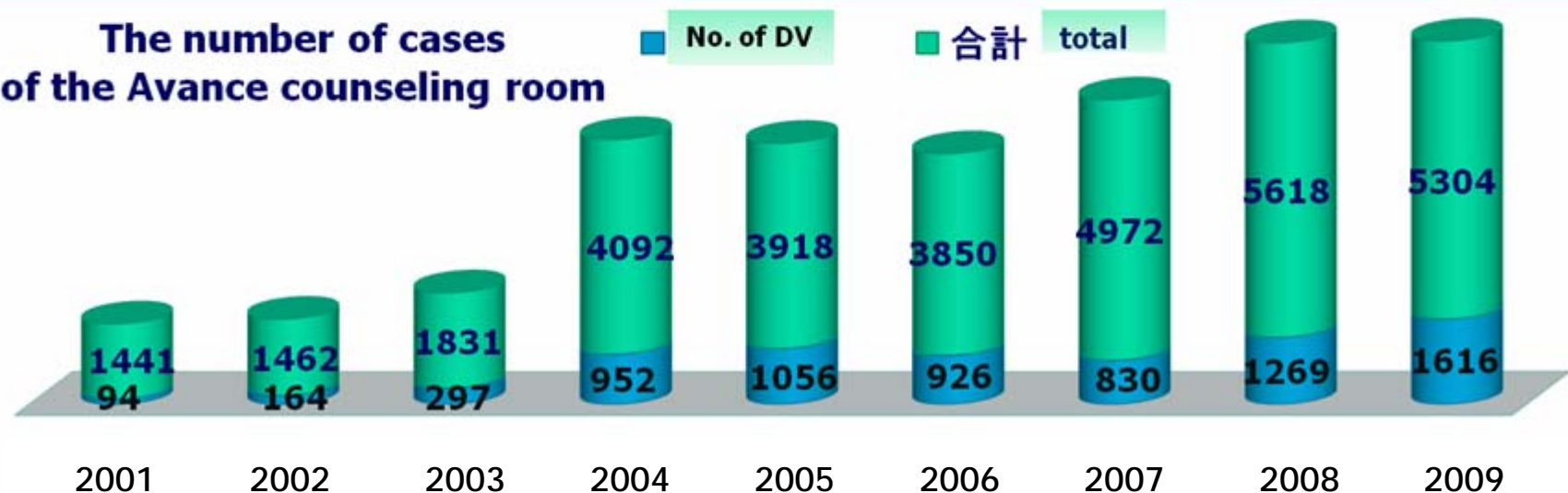
IN CASE OF SAGA PREFECTURE HOW WE SUPPORT VICTIMS

- Start with 2 counselors in 1995
- Authorized as a SV center in 2002
- 3 counselors in 2003
- Establish the DV center to coordinate all the measures to cope with domestic violence, with longer counseling hours and 5 counselors in 2004
- 6 counselors in 2005
- Start networking and social-working in 2006



avance

The number of cases
of the Avance counseling room



TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE COUNSELORS

- ◉ Promote the overall environment for a better collaboration of all the related organizations

--regular, formal conferences and opportunities of trainings of all the related organizations and agencies

- ◉ Secure the environment easy for each counselor to collaborate with other organizations

--provision of more opportunities for various trainings and supervisions of counselors

--regular visits of the counselors to each related organizations

--small-sized meetings with a particular organization

so that each counselor can coordinate all the available social resources well and cooperate with the most appropriate person of the most appropriate organization in the most appropriate way

Macro approach

Micro approach

ANOTHER MERIT OF COLLABORATIONS TO SECURE SAFETY OF THE VICTIMS

- ◉ Privacy protection is very important

our pamphlet says, “your privacy is protected, please feel safe to come to our counseling room”

- ◉ The issue of information exchange emerge with more organizations involved in one case

we provide information to other organizations only when it is beneficial for victims and when the victims agree with the exchange

- ◉ There are some organizations which are not so careful about the privacy protection

The center’s role is to make them understand the importance of privacy protection by coordination of the cases, regular meetings and training programs

Exceptions—life-threatening case, child abuse, batterer’s pursuit

BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO RESPECT THE VICTIMS AND THEIR DECISIONS

For that purpose, we provide various programs for their empowerment one example is bodywork



- To connect the body and the mind *by experiencing the relaxation of the body and opening the mind*
- To feel safe and confident *by experiencing the new body movements and becoming free from the accumulated memories of fear and pain*
- To recover the control of their own body and the power they have

ボディワークとは、身体に働きかけてある結果をわらうテクニックをいいます。自分のからだへの認識を高めたり、全身のバランスをとったり、あるいは効果的な身体の使い方を学んだりすることにより、心身のバランスを取り戻します。講座では、2人ペアになって身体をゆすったり、一緒に深呼吸をしたりするワークも有り、身体を完全にリラックスさせる経験ができます。ゆっくりと身体と向き合いにこころもほぐしていくことで、さらに心と体を、自分の力を引き出すきっかけを作ります。

対象：女性	一時保育付 (1歳~就学児 昼間料 100円)	※お問い合わせ先 公益財団法人女性センター(アールエフ) 「心とからだをつなぐボディワーク」
定員：20名	要予約	電話 (0954) 277-5591
定額料：無料		Fax (0952) 25-5591
締切：11月17日(金)		E-mail info@amomaijyo.jp
申込み：電話または下記申込書を郵送・faxでお申込下さい。申込み多数の場合は抽選後、決定者へ連絡します。		〒940-0815 秋賀市天神3丁目2-11

「心とからだをつなぐボディワーク」参加申込書

※faxの場合は、切取らずに送附して下さい。

フリガナ	一時保育	電話番号 () -
氏名		
住所		

※お申込みの際に収集した個人情報、講座の運営のためにのみ使用し、それ以外の目的に使用することはありません。



Let's all try some breathing and posture exercises

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION
AND COOPERATION!



Kyoko Katsuki