

General Assembly resolutions

Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: sexual harassment

1. Measures to address sexual harassment against women and girls, as per resolution 73/148.

- The Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims (“Spousal Violence Prevention Act”) was revised in June 2019 to enhance measures to prevent child abuse and protect victims of spousal violence, as well as to add Child Guidance Centers to the list of concerned organizations that should cooperate to protect victims.

- The Fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality (approved by the Cabinet in December 2015) designates the “elimination of all forms of violence against women” as a priority field and recommends the implementation of concrete policy measures by indicating the Ministries in charge of creating a foundation for preventing and eliminating violence against women.

- Japan conducts the “Campaign for the elimination of violence against women” every year, and in collaboration with local public authorities, women’s groups and other organizations, further strengthens its efforts for the elimination of violence against women, including a program to enhance social awareness.

- For the purpose of preventing young people from becoming perpetrators or victims of violence against women, Japan also developed awareness-raising materials for young people and conducts a training program for young people and instructors.

- From the viewpoint of the elimination of violence against women, awareness-raising and educational campaigns regarding trafficking in persons are conducted in collaboration with relevant Ministries, local public authorities and relevant organizations.

- The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice have established permanent and ad-hoc centers for human rights counseling and have set up a counseling hotline specializing in women’s rights called the Women’s Rights Hotline, thereby providing counseling services on human rights problems including sexual harassment. The human rights bodies try to assign female human rights volunteers or female officers of the Legal Affairs Bureaus to the hotline as counselors whenever possible, to make it easier for women in need of advice to use the services. In addition, if the human rights bodies recognize a case suspected of falling under a human rights violation through the aforementioned counseling services, etc., they conduct the necessary investigation and takes appropriate measures on a case-by-case basis in collaboration with related organizations, such as the police, thereby aiming at a remedy for victims and prevention of human rights violations.

Also, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice have set up "Protect women's rights" as a priority target, and are holding lectures, distributing awareness-raising booklets or otherwise carrying out various awareness-raising activities.

- The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice produced an awareness-raising booklet which explains various human rights issues in the workplace including sexual harassment, and are distributing copies of them at Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus. Additionally, they created an awareness-raising video explaining the content of the booklet in an easy-to-understand manner and made it available on the

Ministry of Justice's YouTube channel. A spot video on sexual harassment are also available on the Ministry of Justice's YouTube channel.

2. Impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak in regards to violence against women and girls and measures undertaken to address those in the short, medium and long-term, particularly in the following areas:

(1) Impact on the nature and prevalence of violence against women and girls, including violence in private and public spaces, and in on-line settings.

- increase the number of domestic violence and abuse at home

(2) Adaptation of service delivery and prevention interventions to lockdowns and restricted movement.

- Basic Policies for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control, decided on March 28 and revised on April 11 by the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters include prevention measures for domestic violence and abuse at home during the confinement period.

(3) Use of technology and innovation in responding to and preventing violence against women and girls in the context of COVID-19.

The Government of Japan expanded time limitations for the pre-existing telephone consultation service to victims of spousal violence under "DV counselling +". This new initiative will enable 24-hour-helpline and consultation via SNS and e-mails and multiple-language consultation.