

9. Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women

Violence against women, including spousal violence, sexual crimes, prostitution, trafficking in persons, sexual harassment and stalking behavior, constitutes a serious violation of the human rights of women. This is an issue to be resolved in the process of formation of a gender-equal society. The international community also attaches great importance to this issue, as is seen in the 1999 inauguration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women by the United Nations, which will be held each year on November 25.

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

In accordance with the Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims (hereinafter the Act) and the Basic Policy Concerning Measures for the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims (hereinafter the Basic Policy), which has been developed in accordance with the Act, and the Second Basic Plan for a Gender-equal Society approved by the Cabinet in December 2005, measures are being undertaken to prevent spousal violence, provide protection to victims of violence and self-reliance support for them.

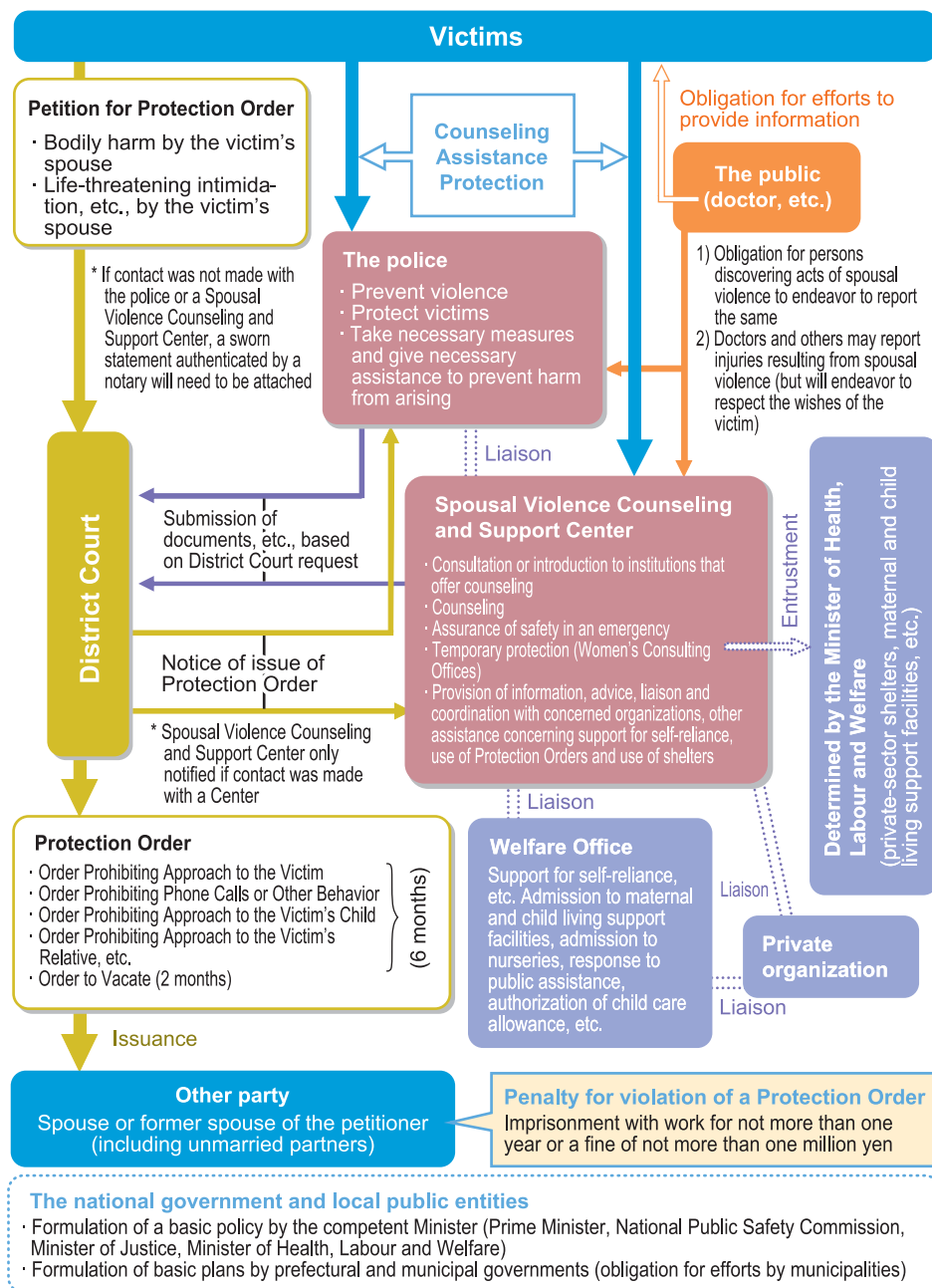
In July 2007 the amendments to the Act were enacted and the revised Act came into force in January 2008.

In accordance with the principle of the Act, the Basic Policies were also revised in conjunction with the enforcement of the revised Act.

The focus of amendments of 2007 to the Act is as follows:



Symbol for the Elimination of Violence against Women



Focus on revising the law in 2007

- Obligation on the municipalities to make an effort to adopt the basic plan and establish Spousal Violence Counseling and Support Centers
- Expansion of the Protection Order System
 - Protection Orders for victims who has been received life-threatening intimidation
 - Establishment of orders prohibiting phone calls or other behavior
 - Orders prohibiting a spouse from approaching the relatives of the victim
- Notification in connection with the issuing of Protection Orders by courts to the Spousal Violence Counseling and Support Centers

Campaign for elimination of violence against women

- **Campaign for Eliminating Violence against Women**
(from November 12 through November 25 every year)

The Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality Conducts a campaign for Eliminating of Violence against Women and, in collaboration with local public authorities, women's groups and other organizations, further strengthen efforts for elimination of violence against women, including a program to enhance social awareness.

- **Production of education materials for awareness raising**

In order to prevent violence, and from the viewpoint of avoiding becoming an assailant/or a victim of violence against women, educational materials targeting especially at young people will be produced and distributed.



Information for Victims of Spousal Violence

- **Website (<http://www.gender.go.jp/e-vaw/index.html>)**

Information about laws and organizations to assist victims of spousal violence is provided on the website of the Gender Equality Bureau of the Cabinet Office, which is regularly updated.

The website lists an outline of legal information, including the basic policy based on the Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims as well as the basic plan being implemented by local public authorities, together with a summary of notices from the relevant ministries to local public authorities on the enforcement of relevant laws and assistance for victims.

Examples of measures by local public authorities and initiatives by corporations to assist victims are also introduced.

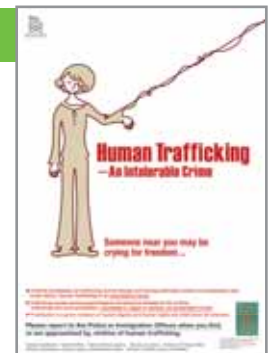
- **“DV Consultation Navi”**
(“Telephone Guidance Service on Organizations Offering Counsultation to Spousa Violence Victims”)

The nationally common telephone number uses an interactive voice response system to direct victims of spousal violence with contact details of closest consultation centers and their opening times.



Measures against trafficking in persons

Trafficking in persons is a grave violation of human rights, where victims are forced to engage in prostitution and harsh labour. To prevent and eradicate trafficking in persons and to support victims, and in the light of the current situation wherein awareness that trafficking in persons is a grave violation of human rights is not necessarily high enough, the Cabinet Office produced posters and leaflets on measures against trafficking in persons, and distributed them to local public authorities and police/airport/port authorities for display, so that every citizen may become interested in and more aware of the existence of the problem of trafficking in persons.



Training programs

- **Training**

“Training programs to Support Victims of Spousal Violence” for the staff of Spousal Violence Counseling and Support Centers all over Japan are being organized. The “program to dispatch advisors to support victims of spousal violence” is also being implemented, to expand counseling services for victims.

Also, a “National Meeting for the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Support for Victims (DV National Meeting)” was convened, with stakeholders in both public and private sectors supporting the victims, to share information and further strengthen public-private sector cooperation.

- **Research and study**

Various research works and studies are being undertaken to implement correct measures to respond to violence against women.

As a “model project to support victims of spousal violence to become independent,” a pilot program to support victims and their children living in local communities will be drawn up and tested, thereby encouraging widespread implementation of the program.