

Scripture

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light

Genesis 1:3

1986-2016 HELP Asian Women's Shelter 30th Anniversary

We're having another hot summer this year. HELP's small garden is adorned with the flowers of the season and from our terrace we can watch white clouds drifting across the sky above. It is now 30 years since the birth of HELP following on from Japan Christian Women's Association's (Kyofukai) long history. I am sincerely grateful to have had the support of so many people over these 30 years including those in the professional field of law, clinical psychology and children's education among other professionals who have stood behind us since before we were fully fledged. We wouldn't have been able to continue the work we do without the contributions made by our volunteers and the donations from the large number of people who kindly took it upon themselves to help with the provision of food, clothing and shelter to our residents. Private shelters are now placed in a tough economic climate and I would like to ask you all not only for your understanding in this matter but for your continued support.

Ms.Yasuko Kawano (President)

2016 celebrates the 30th anniversary of the founding of House in Emergency of Love and Peace. HELP first came into being 30 years ago as a "refuge center" for women amidst social conditions in which women from Asian countries were taken to work in numerous businesses in the sex industry in Japan. HELP was created to mark Kyofukai's 100th anniversary and was also the earlier Kyofukai members' response to the social conditions at the time. The residents of HELP upon first opening its doors included non-Japanese women forced into prostitution, female Japanese victims of violence and homeless women and children. Up to now, HELP has already taken in 5,249 (1,303 children) which includes women across 58 nationalities (as at March 2016).

As expressed in the President's greeting, it is thanks to the many people, related organizations and institutions both in and outside of Japan that we have been able to support each of these women and children through the provision of food, clothing and shelter albeit only on a temporary basis and for that we are truly grateful.

There have been great changes in the social conditions of women and children over the past 30 years as well as in the challenges that they face. The governing body of HELP the Japan Christian Women's Association has itself undergone an organizational change from a foundation to a Public Interest Incorporated Foundation as well as its share of challenges during this process which have had a significant impact on what HELP is today.

That being said, however, despite all these changes, one thing has remained unchanged. That is the question which the staff at HELP always ask themselves and which is at the forefront of their minds; what can we do for the people who come to us in dire mental and physical straits without the support of friends or family and how we can make it "worthwhile for them to come to HELP". The answer to this will be the answer to these women's needs which change daily even during their short-stay at HELP and also indirectly, the answer to the thoughts which the supporters of our activities have shared with us.

In a similar vein, as a facility which takes in women and children, we need to think about how we, as an organization, can create an environment which is conducive to making these things possible.

We apologize for the evident lack of information due to the fact that our facility is a shelter whose address is by nature undisclosed even to its financial supporters.

We hope for your continued support on this year's new path to aid in the recovery of the woman and children we take in and in bringing them some contentment.

Ms.Haruko Sakama (House in Emergency of Love and Peace Chief Support Personnel)

Lengthened stay of non-Japanese pregnant women and young single perinatal women with difficulty finding a place to go

In 2015, HELP had 100 residents including 16 women of non-Japanese nationality, 67 women of Japanese nationality and 17 accompanying children staying for a total of 2,115 nights (99.8% compared with the previous year). We offered music therapy once a week and handicraft classes once a month throughout the year, however, we had to cut back on other programs due to budget restrictions.

While, the percentage of all residents accompanied to medical facilities by HELP staff which we undertake to ensure the safety of our female DV victims, etc. fell to 15.8% (from 20.32% in previous year), the percentage of accompanied non-Japanese residents was comparatively high at 29.6% (from 50% in the previous year).

<Non-Japanese Women>

4 of our 16 non-Japanese female residents were accompanied by children. We had 6 accompanying children staying with us all of whom were pre-schoolers under the age of 6.

The number one reason for women seeking shelter was DV (50.0%), followed by pregnancy (37.5%) and lastly homelessness (12.5%). There was a significant increase in the percentage of pregnant women seeking shelter from 4% in 2013 to 25% in 2014 and by 2015, approximately 2 in 5 of our non-Japanese residents were pregnant women.

The average length of stay of all non-Japanese residents was 27.14 days. In 2014, there was a notable increase in the length of stay due to there being residents who had slipped through the cracks of the system and required longer periods to sort out their issues. That being said, the reason the length of stay in 2015 was slightly longer when compared to 2013 is attributable to the fact that stays of pregnant women tend to be longer.

Also, particular mention should be made of the fact that there has been an increase in the number of our residents who despite being non-Japanese nationals linguistically and culturally speaking were not classified as such due to them having Japanese nationality.

● DV victims … The majority of DV victim requests from neighboring prefectures in 2015 were women and children who for the most part did not understand Japanese and required an interpreter. There was a disparity in the volume and content of information provided to DV victims depending on whether or not an interpreter was able to be procured by the requesting municipality. Women provided with sufficient information were slowly able to gain some reassurance and envisage a new life for themselves, however, in the case of the women for whom an interpreter was unable to be procured despite repeated requests from HELP, we were unable to alleviate their fears which prevented them from receiving support. Single women also experienced language problems which considerably lengthened the time required to move them to another suitable facility.

● Pregnant women … The majority of pregnant women taken in in 2015 were in the last trimester of their pregnancies which accounts for why their stays were extended to just prior to them being moved to an antenatal facility. This placed a heavy burden on our facility, as we do not have any medical staff on site. Although the provision of information on childbirth and post-natal childcare in Japan is expected to be provided as part of the support offered to our residents during their stay at HELP, interpreters in their native language were seldom procured to carry out the task and native language support seems to have been placed in a lower priority for pregnant women than for DV victims.

● Homeless Women ... Women taken in in 2015 stayed for relatively short periods and their status of residence was "short-stay" or "permanent residence", etc.

● Aftercare ... In 2015, with the cooperation of other organizations, we celebrated seasonal events such as cherry blossom viewing, etc. We were also able to give the children an "unforgettable day" by taking them swimming, an activity we reintroduced last summer with the continued cooperation of our high school volunteers. Moreover, we organized places for those leaving HELP to stay and continue to provide support to non-Japanese women on divorce proceedings in their home country.

<Japanese Women>

67 of our residents were women of Japanese nationality, 9 of which were accompanied by children. As in previous years, the majority, 47.8% of our residents sought shelter due to homelessness, followed by DV (victims of intimate-partner violence (IPV)) at 23.9%. These were followed by pregnancy (14.9%), violence by family members (10.4%) and lastly others (3.0%). There has been a slight increase in the percentage of victims of violence by family members and pregnant women among our residents compared with the previous year.

2015 was characterized by a high number of young pregnant and perinatal women including minors and a significant number of "single mothers" were staying with us while trying to make arrangements with numerous organizations in order unite the mothers with their infants in the hospital and infants in the temporary custody of the Children and Family Court Advisory.

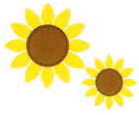
The average length of stay remained high at 21.2 days (a little more than one day shorter than the previous year). Residents not only included DV victims and those in other urgent or high risk situations, HELP, as in the previous year, also took in recuperating middle-aged women suffering from chronic illnesses and young women before and after childbirth as well as other people needing HELP' s accommodation facility.

<Telephone Consultation>

In 2015, we handled 786 telephone consultations (113% compared with the previous year) with women from 36 countries including Japan. With the growing diversification of foreign nationals settling in Japan demonstrated by the increasing number of nationalities who call in for consultations, there will likely be a higher need for these consultations irrespective of nationality.

An increasing number of telephone consultations with non-Japanese nationals concern "dependent", "foreign student" and others with a visa status which does not qualify them to receive public assistance.

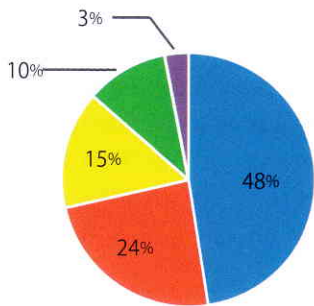
Furthermore, telephone consultations with Japanese nationals include phone calls concerning difficulties in building relationships of trust attributable to experiencing DV or sexual abuse as well as questions, etc. concerning apprehensions before and after the introduction of the My Number system and on how to use the system.



Breakdown of Residents

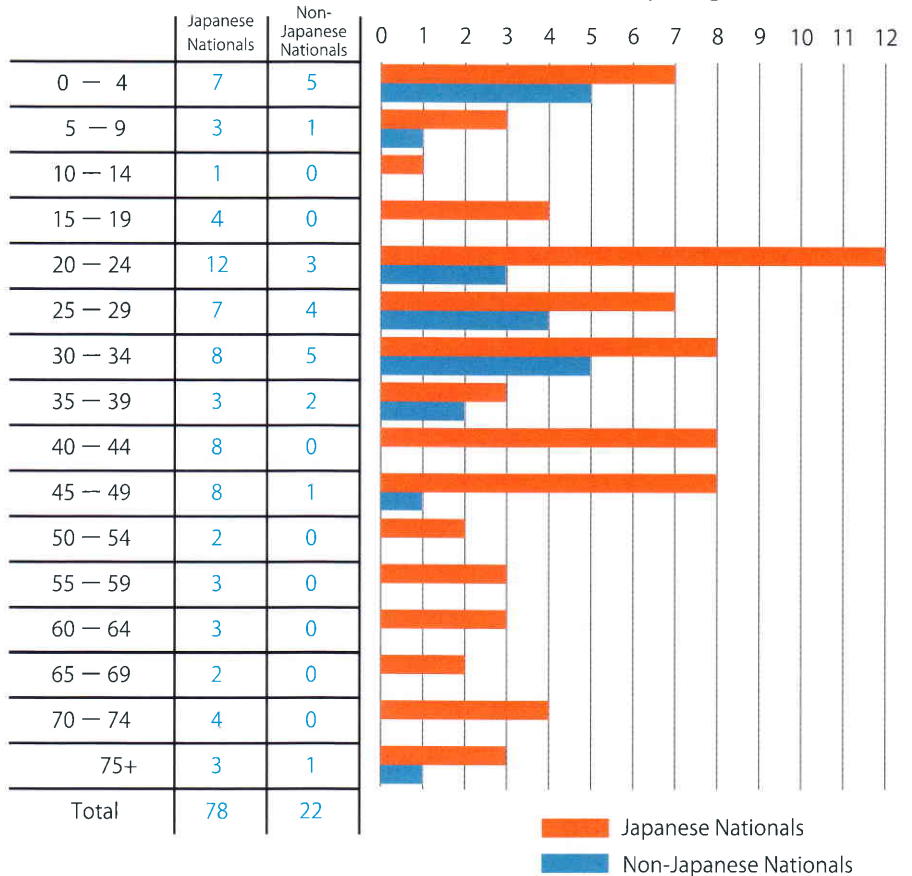
April 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016

Japanese Nationals

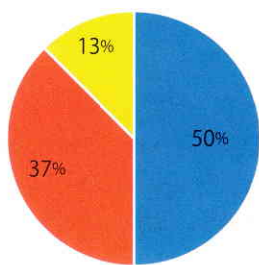


Homeless	32
Victims of IPV	16
Pregnant	10
Victims of violence by family members	7
Other	2

Resident Distribution by Age



Non-Japanese Nationals



Victims of IPV	8
Pregnant	6
Homeless	2

No. of HELP Residents by Nationality

(April 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016) Including those who stayed from the previous year through to the current year.

No. of HELP Residents by Nationality

Nationality	Women	Accompanying Children
Japan	67	11
Philippines	5	1
Thailand	1	1
China	1	2
Republic of Korea	1	0
Myanmar	1	0
Nepal	1	0
Sri Lanka	1	2
Kenya	1	0
Congo	1	0
Uganda	1	0
Cameroon	1	0
United Kingdom	1	0
Total	83	17

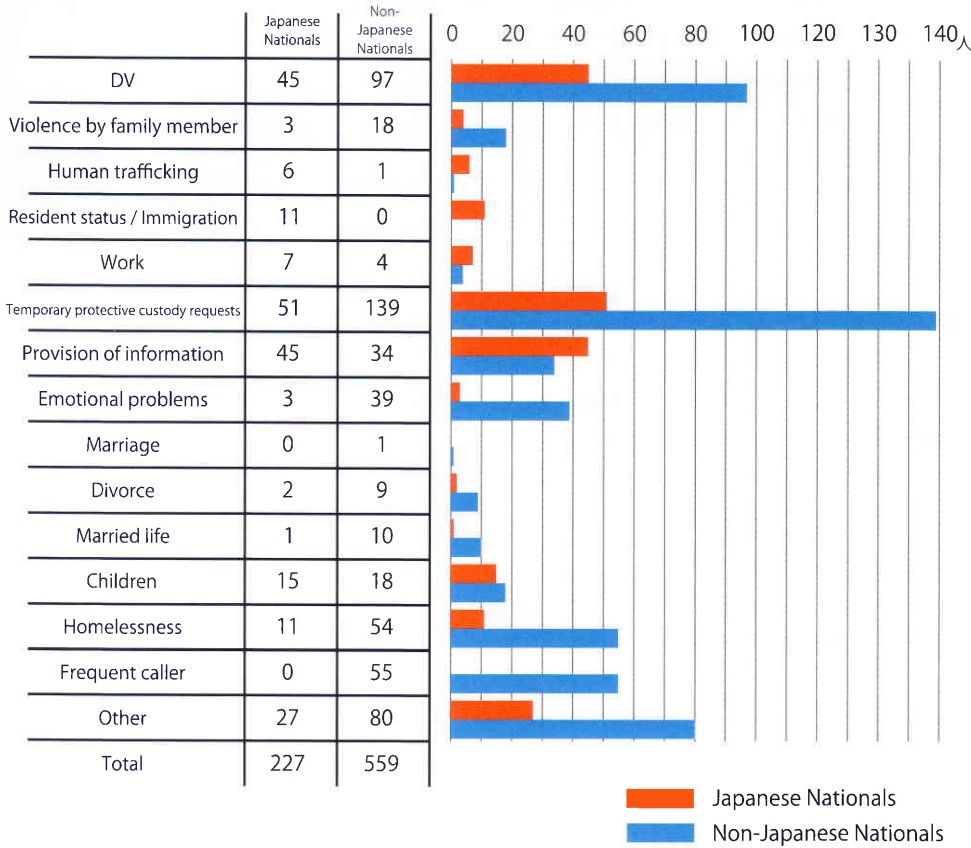
67 Japanese women of which
9 were accompanied by children

16 non-Japanese women of which
4 were accompanied by children

Breakdown of Non-Japanese Residents by Region

Region	No.
Tokyo	12
Saitama	1
Chiba	1
Fukushima	2
Total	16

Number of Telephone Consultations By Content



By Nationality

Nationality	No. of Consultations
Japan	559
Philippines	79
Thailand	43
China	11
USA	9
Myanmar (Burma)	7
Nepal	6
Sri Lanka	5
Uganda	4
Cameroon	4
Kenya	4
Colombia	4
Congo	4
Bangladesh	4
Peru	4
Indonesia	3
France	3
Iran	2
India	2
Ukraine	2
Somalia	2
Pakistan	2
Lebanon	2
United Kingdom	1
Egypt	1
Holland	1
Republic of Korea	1
Guinea	1
Singapore	1
Sudan	1
Nigeria	1
Brazil	1
Mexico	1
Russia	1
Japan (child of non-Japanese mother)	1
Unknown	9
Total	786

Destination of Resident after Departure

Destination	Japanese Nationals	Non-Japanese Nationals
Welfare Homes	33	10
Apartment	3	0
Women's Center	12	2
Home country	0	2
Home	3	1
Home of friend or acquaintance	0	0
Streets	0	0
Hospital	0	0
Live-in employment	0	0
Unknown	7	1
Undecided	4	1
Other	5	0
Total	67	16

Avg. Stay of Non-Japanese Residents

2011	29 days
2012	25 days
2013	23 days
2014	38 days
2015	27 days

Length of Stay by Nationality (days)

Japanese National	1545
Non-Japanese National	570
Total	2115



Please support HELP's activities!



Volunteers

HELP Activity Meeting If you are interested in volunteering, please apply by telephone or via the Kyofukai HP and attend this activity meeting which is held on the first Friday of every month from 1:30 p.m.

<<Details of Main Volunteer Activities>> Help with tidying and cleaning, caring for plants, etc.

Items for Donation

The entire staff at HELP sincerely thank you for your donations.

[Food] Condiments (sugar, salt, soy sauce, salad oil), jam, sweets, rice ("rice coupons" also welcome!), Luxury goods (coffee, black tea, cocoa, green tea, juice, cream)

*Please make sure these have not passed their expiry dates.

[Groceries] Shampoo, laundry powder, kitchen detergent, disposable diapers, tissue paper, lotions (small bottles), creams (small bottles), cosmetics.

[Clothing] Pyjamas, sweat suits, socks, slippers and jackets for adults and children.

Parkers, puerperant panties and front opening pajamas for adults

*We would really appreciate receiving new items.

[Other] Strollers (new), sunglasses, shoes, sports shoes, notebooks, cotton blankets, bath towels (new), face towels (new), sewing supplies (embroidery thread, etc.)

Send to: 2-23-5 Hyakunincho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo (169-0073)
c/o KYOFUKAI HELP Office

Please specify a delivery time between Monday and Friday.

Donations

Post Office Account 00110-5-188775

Account Name 「女性の家HELP」

Or 00140-1-32469

Account Name 「公益財団法人 日本キリスト教婦人矯風会」

