

Scripture

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Epistle to the Romans 15:13

The cherry tree in the front yard of KYOFUKAI J has blossomed once again this year and many passersby have stopped and enjoyed the blossoms in their tracks. The tree was planted in commemoration of the establishment of the Anti-prostitution Act in 1956 following years of our campaigning for the abolition of prostitution. It is filled with the hope that this history will long remain in people' s memory.

Since its founding, KYOFUKAI has formally objected to the demeaning of female sexuality. We have submitted a petition for monogamy to the senate and have also launched a movement to abolish prostitution in strong opposition to the licensed prostitution system. Writer Minori Kitahara writes in her book *Feminism in Japan: Since 1886—A Gender Battle* that feminism is a women' s battle of facing the hurt that is thrown their way simply for being a female and of seeking sexual dignity. She also says this battle began in the year KYOFUKAI was founded.

Nevertheless, a climate of female discrimination still strongly persists today even after 131 years. Across the seas, female celebrities have begun to break their silence and tell their story about the sexual harassment they have suffered, and feelings of empathy with these women who displayed the courage to indict their offenders are spreading under the hashtag "Me Too." Meanwhile in Japan, the action taken by Ms. Shiori Ito , who courageously came forward as a victim of sexual harassment, garnered attention, and there have been women who have followed in her footsteps, but it has not developed into a large movement. Thoughtless criticisms against those who raise their voices are perhaps keeping other victims of sexual harassment from also speaking out. In our neighboring country of South Korea, concern about sexual harassment has spread widely, and protests

against it are bearing fruit. The momentum based on the realization that people can change society by raising their voices, as experienced in the movement to remove the previous president from office, shows no signs of stopping. Discrimination forces upon its victims a sense of oppression with life. Financial disparity causes people to lose their homes and become homeless. The sense of discrimination that holds women in contempt and men in high regard produces a breeding ground for domestic violence. These are major reasons for seeking shelter at HELP Asian Women' s Shelter.

KYOFUKAI has long operated two shelters: HELP, a temporary emergency shelter for women, and KYOFUKAI Step House, which provides medium to long-term shelter. However, the number of women who seek shelter at Step House has continued to decline in recent years, such that we have provisionally decided not to take in new residents from April. An NHK Special reported that more than 33,000 young people in their teens and twenties disappear or go missing every year without any connection to welfare and without seeking any help from a public facility. This is not to say that Step House is no longer needed, but the situation makes us think about how we may respond to diversifying needs.

Before we can re-open Step House, we must give further thought to the ideals of women' s welfare, but we are properly maintaining the facility so that it can be re-opened at any time.

We feel the difficulty of operating a shelter, but the prayers, offerings and donations from everyone who supports us give us tremendous strength. We thank you with all our heart for your warm and generous support and hope you will continue to favor us with your patronage.

Yasuko Kawano (Facility Director and President)



Overview of HELP Beneficiaries in 2017

Non-Japanese women and children victims of violence and Japanese women stepping out into a new life despite their worries

In 2017, HELP provided shelter to 8 women of non-Japanese nationality, 45 women of Japanese nationality, and 13 accompanying children. These 66 residents stayed at HELP for a total of 1,567 nights (74.9% compared to the previous year). Both the number of residents and their length of stay decreased compared to 2016, due in part to our measure to temporarily suspend the acceptance of new residents until April 24, 2017.

We continued to offer music therapy again throughout the year as we did last year at a frequency of about three times a month, and HELP staff accompanied residents who are victims of domestic violence to medical facilities to ensure their safety. Among all residents, 14.7% and the same percentage of residents as last year were accompanied to a medical facility, but the percentage was an extremely high 80% (from 88.5% in the previous year) among non-Japanese residents. The high rate at which non-Japanese residents are accompanied to a medical facility has been continuing for some time now.

<Non-Japanese Women>

Among the 8 women of non-Japanese nationality whom we took in this year, 5 were accompanied by their child(ren). There were 8 children in all, mostly school-aged but also including a preschooler under the age of six.

Most of these women sought shelter at HELP to escape from domestic violence (87.5%), and the rest due to homelessness (12.5%). There were no pregnant women among them, as was also the case last year.

The average length of stay by these non-Japanese residents was 16.38 days, which was about 25 days shorter compared to the average length of stay in 2016. The shorter stays could be attributed to our efforts to help residents with school-aged children leave our facility as early as possible. It was also because we took in many homeless women who wished to return to their home country.

● DV victims: The majority of DV victims who were introduced to HELP in 2017 were women and children who were able to engage in daily conversation in Japanese. Particular care was directed to school-aged children, by promising the full support of an adult supporter so they could commute to school as promptly as possible after coming to HELP, and making time everyday to help them study and to take them outdoors to play in an attempt to give shape to their lives at the shelter. Seeing these children regain their child-like innocence and grow healthily in a safe environment free from their father's abuse was a source of happiness to the residents and staff of the shelter.

HELP staff also cared for elderly women who have no family, by engaging them in slow-paced conversation in their native language and offering an opportunity to reflect on their long years of hardship.

● Pregnant women: We took in no pregnant women, as was also the case in 2016.

● Homeless women: The homeless women we took in in 2017 had been awaiting an early return to their own country. When they first came to HELP, they appeared both physically and emotionally drained and showed strong wariness, presumably from the hardships of their life until then. A woman who had been in Japan for just a short while, in particular, seemed completely at a loss without being able to speak Japanese, but when the prospects of her returning to her country became brighter with the cooperation of the embassy and immigration bureau, her expression brightened day by day and she began to talk more freely. We can still remember the smile on her face when she left HELP with the joy of soon being able to return to her family back home.

● Care for residents and former residents: In 2017, we were unable to hold our usual spring and summer outing events, but we organized events for our residents inside the facility (Halloween costume party, etc.).

As an ongoing effort, we also concentrate on creating places where former HELP residents can gain a sense of belonging and providing the support they need.

<Japanese Women>

This year, we took in 45 women of Japanese nationality, including 4 who were accompanied by their child(ren). At 36.0% each, homelessness and domestic violence (intimate partner violence (IPV)) were the top reasons for their seeking shelter at HELP, followed by pregnancy (14.0%), violence by a family member (8.0%) and other reasons (6.0%). Compared to last year, when close to 60% of Japanese residents sought shelter at HELP due to homelessness, there was a larger percentage of women this year who sought shelter for reasons of DV (IPV), violence by a family member, or pregnancy.

Among the women who came to HELP to escape from DV (IPV), there were those who spent their time under HELP' s many restrictions without losing sight of themselves even as they devoted themselves to their baby and to providing the right care at the right time, such as when to begin weaning, while also struggling with concerns about their future. Similarly, young women who were victims of violence by a family member spent their time at HELP struggling to come to terms with their various complicated circumstances, but they also went out of their way to entertain the other residents with something they took lessons in when they were small or to befriend children in the facility.

Furthermore, among the women who sought shelter due to homelessness, there were those who were naturalized and gained Japanese nationality but whose cultural and linguistic roots lay in a different country. Upon "returning" to Japan, they came to HELP seeking a place to stay until they could find somewhere to settle. Within the international atmosphere at HELP, they were encouraged to communicate in the language they feel comfortable with to gradually become accustomed to living in Japan. Meanwhile, a woman who had worked for years and survived on her own showed the strength to step into a new life after realizing and silently accepting, while staying at HELP, that her relationship with her family will not mend as she wishes.

The average length of stay by these Japanese residents was 26.6 days. This was roughly two days longer than the previous year and marked an increase for the second consecutive year.



Artwork of paper cranes made by HELP residents

<Telephone Consultation>

In 2017, we handled 681 telephone consultations (103.9% compared to the previous year) from people from 28 countries including Japan. This marked a slight increase in the range of nationalities of residents who called in for consultation compared to last year. The consultations covered diverse topics, including a consultation from a man with a disabled wife about the application procedure for obtaining status of residence to live in Japan, and an inquiry about social resources that are available to a foreign national who has been consulting a lawyer and a medical consultation office in a hospital. There were also calls seeking crisis intervention from people having limited access to information due to the language barrier or to being a victim of DV.

Telephone consultations from Japanese people mainly concerned the hardships of living after having suffered DV or sexual abuse. There were also more than a few callers who looked up HELP' s telephone number on the Internet and called in for the first time. The tentative and stumbling way in which they begin talking as though they do not really know where to start, is telling of the anxieties and hesitation many of them continue to feel until they finally avail themselves of our telephone consultation service.

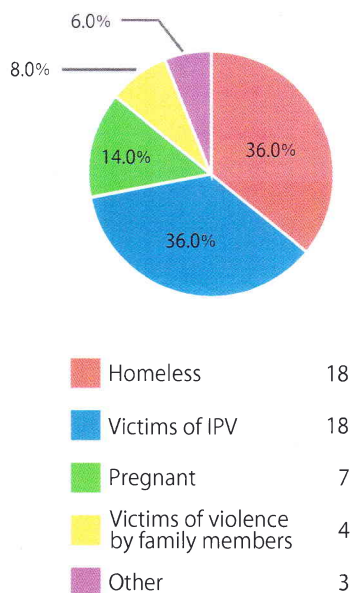


Statistical Tables for 2017

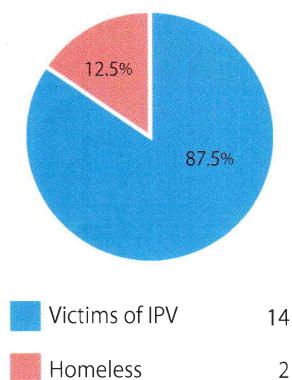
Breakdown of Residents

April 1, 2017 — March 31, 2018

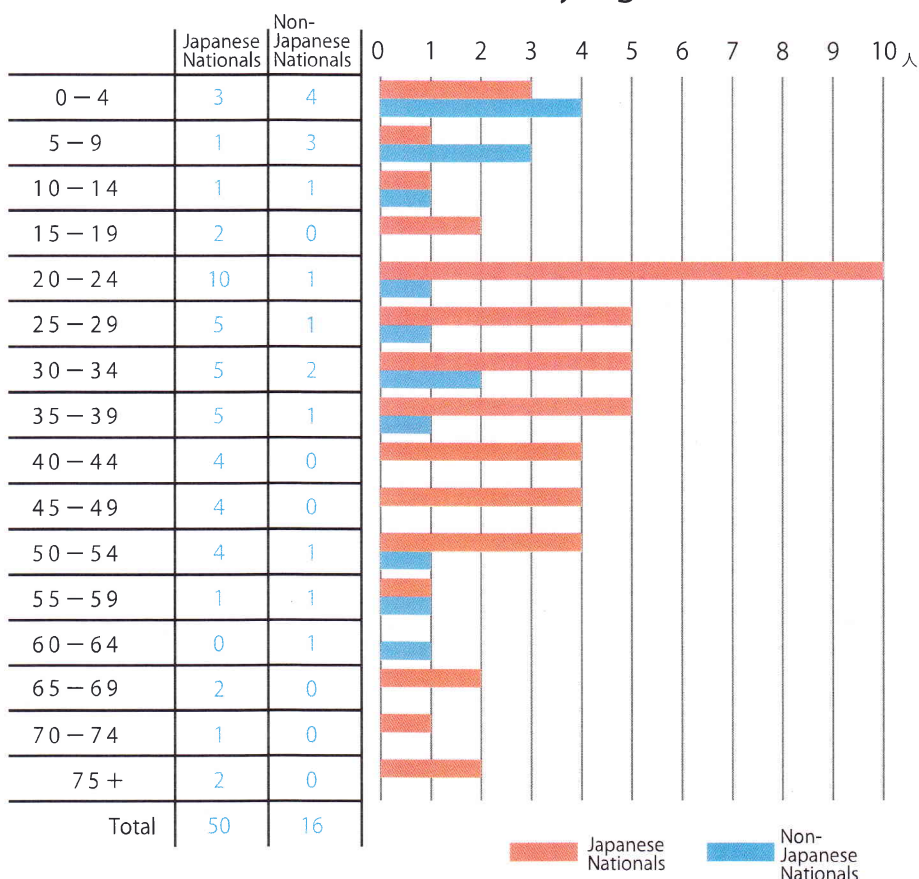
Japanese Nationals



Non-Japanese Nationals



Resident Distribution by Age



No. of HELP Residents by Nationality

(April 1, 2017—March 31, 2018) including those who stayed from the previous to the current year.

No. of HELP Residents by Nationality

Nationality	Women	Accompanying Children
Philippines	5	3
Cambodia	1	3
Bangladesh	2	2
Sub-total	8	8
Japan	45	5
Total	53	13

8 non-Japanese women of which 5 were accompanied by children

45 Japanese women of which 4 were accompanied by children

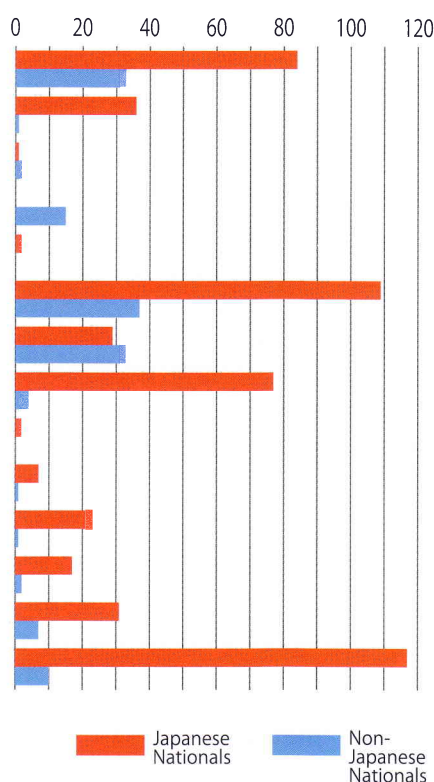
Breakdown of Non-Japanese Residents by Region

Region	No.
Tokyo	5
Saitama	3
Total	8

Number of Telephone Consultations

By Contents

	Japanese Nationals	Non-Japanese Nationals
DV	84	33
Violence by family member	36	1
Human Trafficking	1	2
Resident status/Immigration	0	15
Work	2	0
Temporary protective custody requests	109	37
Provision of information	29	33
Emotional problems	77	4
Marriage	2	0
Divorce	7	1
Married life	23	1
Children	17	2
Homelessness	31	7
Other	117	10
Total	535	146



By Nationality

Nationality	No. of Consultations
Japan	535
Philippines	49
Bangladesh	14
Thailand	10
USA	8
UK	5
Russia	5
Pakistan	5
France	4
Brazil	4
China	4
Vietnam	4
Canada	3
Moldova	3
Cameroon	2
Nigeria	2
Uganda	2
Cambodia	2
South Korea	2
North Korea	2
Columbia	2
India	1
Indonesia	1
Nepal	1
Guinea	1
Kyrgyzstan	1
Syria	1
Mexico	1
Unknown	7
Total	681

Destination of Resident after Departure

Destination	Japanese Nationals	Non-Japanese Nationals
Welfare Homes	34	5
Apartment	4	0
Women's Center	4	2
Home country	0	2
Home	5	3
Home of friend or acquaintance	0	0
Streets	0	0
Hospital	0	0
Live-in employment	0	0
Unknown	0	0
Undecided	2	4
Other	1	0
Total	50	16

Avg. Stay of Non-Japanese Residents

2013	23.39days
2014	38.14days
2015	27.14days
2016	40.14days
2017	16.38days

Length of Stay by Nationality (days)

Japanese National	1305
Non-Japanese National	262
Total	1567



Please support HELP activities!

Volunteers

HELP Activity Meetings : First Friday of every month from 1:30 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering, please register by telephone or via the KYOFUKAI website.
<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.

At HELP, we pass on items of daily necessity to our residents, not only to bring a measure of basic comfort to their daily lives, but to also deliver a moment of healing to women and children who have made it to our shelter after having left behind their familiar surroundings, personal relationships and much of their precious belongings so they may get the rest they need and eventually nurture hope and the will to begin a new life. We will use your generosity to respond to the diverse needs of each of our residents in accordance with their age, nationality, culture, etc., and kindly ask for your cooperation as we continue our efforts.

- 【Food】 Condiments (sugar, salt, soy sauce, vegetable oil), jam, snacks, drinks (coffee, tea, cocoa, green tea, juice, creamer) *Please make sure these items have not passed their expiry dates.
- 【Sundry goods】 Shampoo, laundry detergent, kitchen detergent, tissue paper, skin lotion (medium-sized bottles), milky lotion (medium-sized bottles), cosmetics, toothpaste (medium size)
- 【Clothing】 Pajamas, sweat suits, socks, slippers, jackets—for adults and children.
Hooded sweatshirts, underclothing (short and long sleeved)—for adults
*New items are appreciated.
- 【Other】 Baby strollers (new), sunglasses, shoes, notebooks, cotton blankets, bath towels (new), face towels (new), sewing supplies (embroidery thread, etc.), Quo Cards (prepaid cards)

Send to : KYOFUKAI

2-23-5 Hyakunincho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo (169-0073)

※ We are not able to receive on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays.



Preparation against crime and disaster —Our initiatives in 2017—

In 2017, we took the following initiatives to ensure a safe environment in our facility.

- We increased the number of security cameras in our facility.
- We purchased emergency supplies in case of disaster, including solar panels and emergency portable toilet tents.
- HELP staff participated in the General Training Workshop on Crime and Disaster Prevention.

2018 Request for Donations to Help Women' s Shelter



We hope you are welcoming this season in good health and spirits.

Once again this year, we wish to express our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your generous support which allows us to continue our activities to help women and children in need of help.

Last year, HELP provided shelter to 53 women from Japan, the Philippines, Cambodia and Bangladesh and 13 children of diverse ages, and received telephone consultations from women representing 28 countries.

In today' s society full of various incidents and accidents, there are many women and children who escape from violence and abuse by parents and family members and need a safe home.

There are also many women who seek a place to belong so they could dispel their sense of oppression with life.

To help these people who seek shelter at HELP, all of us staff will make redoubled efforts to provide heartfelt support.

Amid constantly changing circumstances in Japan and overseas, creating an environment as a "home" that provides safety, security and the basic necessities of life has become an even more pressing issue than ever.

Despite our difficult financial situation, we strongly wish to carry out HELP' s mission,

and thus ask for your kind support in the form of maintenance donations.

June 2018

KYOFUKAI — Japan Christian Women' s Organization, est.1886

HELP Asian Women' s Shelter

Mizuho Iida, Women' s Welfare Committee Chairperson

Yasuko Kawano, Facility Director (and President)



Donation to :

You are appreciated if you use the following accounts for donation.

In Japan

Post Office Account: **0 0 1 1 0 - 5 - 1 8 8 7 7 5**

Account Name 「女性の家 HELP [Josei no ie HELP]」

From Overseas

Bank Account: Beneficiary Bank — **MUFG Bank, LTD.**

(SEIFT code: BOTKJPJT)

Branch Name: **OKUBO BRANCH**

(address: 1-1-19, Kitashinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN)

Account Number: **3 6 4 - 0 1 0 3 9 1 5**

Beneficiary Name: **KYOFUKAI**

