



No decisions about us without us !

What is “Spring”?

Spring is an organization that aims to build a society where sexual assault survivors can find hope.

Spring was established on July 7, 2017 in order to help sexual abuse survivors recover from their “frozen” condition and to help bring spring to those who are now living in the winter time.

What is lobbying?

Lobbying is activities that attempt to influence actions, policies, or decisions by delivering peoples' voices into politics. The target is all decision-makers with influence over legislative bills including lawmakers (Diet / Region), related ministries, and bureaucrats. Spring aims to accomplish just laws based on the realities of sexual violence, in other words, to make rules to support the lives of survivors.

Goals

- ① Sexual abuse survivors will be rightfully acknowledged as victims.
- ② Sexual abuse survivors and the people close to them will receive appropriate support.
- ③ Better understanding of sexual violence will be widely shared so that our society will be more harmonious.

Activities

- ① Lobbying to promote review of sex crime law provisions
- ② Social actions to raise people’s voices
- ③ Empowerment activities for sexual abuse survivors
- ④ Research on realities of sexual abuse injuries and suffering

Vision

To create a society in which sexual abuse survivors can live more comfortably

What does sexual violence violate and how does it affect individuals and our society long after the events?

We will inform the public and legislators about the realities of sexual violence for survivors, and urge revisions of sex crime laws based on facts.

Mission

Utilize our experiences as sexual violence survivors as a social resource to revise sex crime laws.

Accomplish a review of sex crime laws in based on the realities of sexual abuse injuries and suffering.

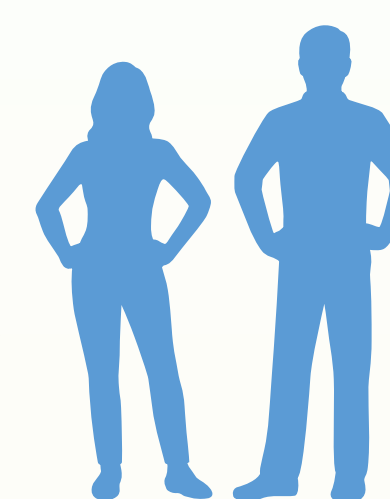
In June 2023, the second major revision of the sex crime law was carried out. The law established the offence of non-consensual sexual intercourse, raised the age of sexual consent to 16 years old, and defined status-based sexual offences, but significant challenges remain regarding the statute of limitations for prosecution.

People supporting our activities:

Organizations connected to the UN and other countries such as W7, Cooperation with NGOs



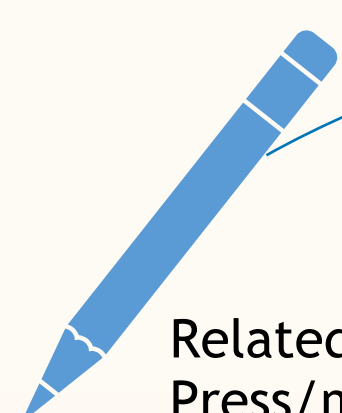
Individuals (survivors/supporters)



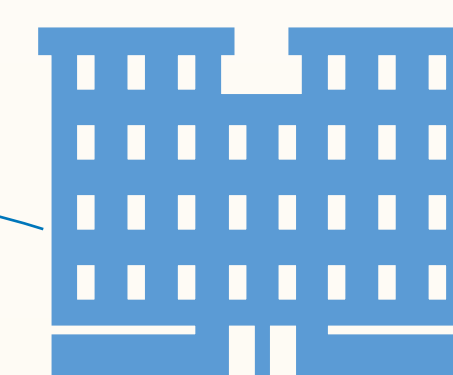
Diet members / local Assembly members



Lawyers/councilors (who stay close to survivors of sexual violence)



Related Ministries / government Press/media (who have a high concern for sexual violence issues)



Related Ministries / government



For the first time in Japan!

An incorporated sexual assault survivors' organization for lobbying

In June 2023, the second major revision of the sex crime laws provisions will be implemented! What we will be working on in the coming years are...

For example, the following:

1 Closely monitor the operation of the new crime laws.

Watch over whether perpetrators will be punished appropriately for non-consensual sexual intercourse, including the five-year age difference requirement for sexual consent and the newly added provision that punishes sexual acts that take advantage of status relationships.

2 Make 'sexual consent' a social standard towards a 'Yes Means Yes' approach.

Make "sexual consent" a social standard and realize "Yes Means Yes" type legal provisions (those who engage in sexual acts without confirming the other person's consent will be punished).

3 Seek further revision of the statute of limitations for prosecution.

The crime law does not allow for prosecution after 15 years for non-consensual sexual intercourse and 12 years for non-consensual obscenity, which is not in line with the actual situation of victims. Calls on the government to conduct fact-finding surveys on those who have difficulty in reporting sexual violence.

4 Expand and raise awareness of trauma treatment systems.

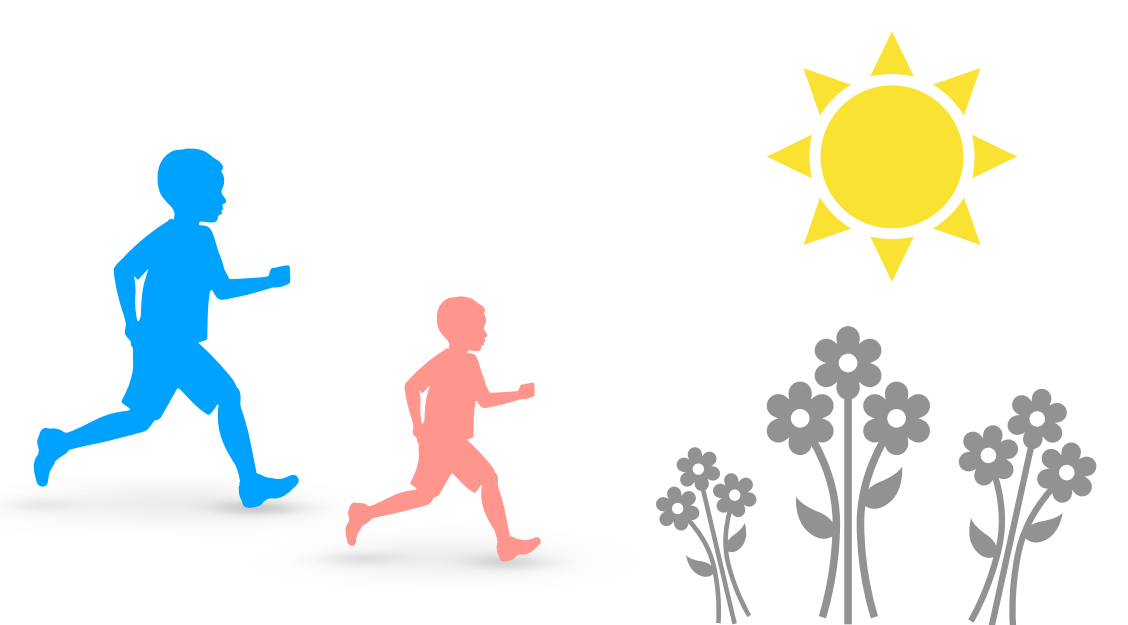
Aim for a society where victims can receive care and recovery support anywhere in the country, rather than leaving the burden of the enormous impact on their lives due to the trauma of sexual assault on the shoulders of individual victims.



We feel that by conveying what we feel and think because we are survivors, and what we see in the world because we have experienced it, many people will understand the issue of sexual violence, feel something, and take actions.

Instead of people who have been sexually assaulted being frightened that they will not be able to live in the community if what happened to them is found out, but they can be told, "I believe your story" and "It's not your fault", and they can be warmly and strongly supported. To create such a society is our hope.

Advocacy work is a marathon relay, passing the campaign baton from one to the next!



Our Founding Philosophy

Any non-consensual sexual contact is sexual abuse.

If a stranger touches you or sexually assaults you, that is sexual abuse.

If your husband, wife, boyfriend, girlfriend, parent, sibling, friend, teacher, coach, boss, or your superior touches you without your consent or forces you to do any sexual act, that is sexual violence.

If you are hurt because of a sexual act, that is sexual violence. You are not to blame.

If your loved one is hurt because of a sexual act, that is sexual violence.

She or he is not to blame.

If you find no one like that around you, then try to imagine a person who is being silenced because they are afraid of being blamed or of being stigmatized as “defiled”.

The perpetrator is to blame.

Yet our society produces those who are unaware of sexual violence and those who want to feel powerful by abusing others.

We have decided to rise up in order to change the current situation.

We stand up against sexual violence.

We are victims, survivors, and supporters who want to protect those who we care for.

Speaking up can be terrifying.

First, you have to come to terms with what happened to you or to your loved ones and to go on with your life.

Then you have to have healed enough in order to speak up.

The healing process may take 10, 20, or even many more years.

We founded this organization because we believe that sexual violence victims and survivors need a safe place in order to speak up.

Speaking up changes our society and our political environment.

When we appealed for the revision of the sex crime law, which had been unchanged for the past 110 years, we realized that the politics is not some remote and unsurmountable wall, but consists of human, and sometimes warm-hearted, elements.

If you, too, want to speak up, please join us, any time.

We are here to welcome you always.

July 7th 2017
Founders of Spring



Donate now ! -Your support is our power-

59.9%

The Ministry of Justice has used a Cabinet Office survey (Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet Office, 2021) as the basis for extending the statute of limitations for prosecution by five years.

However, a closer look at this survey reveals that 59.9% of the victims were not able to consult with the authorities in the first place, and of those who were able to consult with the authorities, 10% said it took more than 10 years before they were able to consult with the authorities.

The Ministry truncates the existence of the 10%.

We will continue to work to create a society where victims can find hope even if they or their loved ones have been victimized by reporting the current situation where it is difficult to report sexual violence.

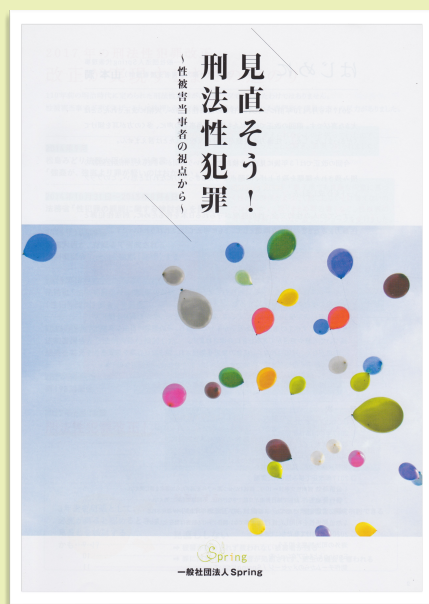
The donations we receive from everyone cover all the costs associated with these activities, including transportation costs, the cost of producing a booklet that collects the voices of those involved, and event venue costs. At this time, we need your help. Thank you for your support.

You can donate by your credit card or pay directly into our bank.

【Your monthly donation supports our activities to deliver the voices of survivors】

**With your monthly donation of
JPY 1,000 for a year**

We can deliver the voices of survivors to more people by printing 500 copies of our pamphlet.



**With your monthly donation of
JPY 3,000 for a year**

We can deliver the voices of survivors to parliamentarians and related ministries by sending five Spring staff members to make three lobbying visits.



**With your monthly donation of
JPY 5,000 for a year**

We can deliver the voices of survivors to the general public and local assembly members by holding one public event as a part of our nation-wide campaign to expand our activities outside Tokyo.



Direct deposit to our bank account

Bank: Japan Post Bank

SWIFT code: JPPSJPJ1

CHIPS UID: 427593

Account number: 002603138876

Account name: Ippan Shadan Hojin Spring

To donate by credit card, go to:



<https://syncable.biz/associate/spring0707/donate/>

* Please give your name, telephone number, and e-mail address when you make a donation to our account so we can send you an acknowledgement. Also, the bank needs your telephone number by law.

**More info re our activities and
support methods on our website.
Please check it out!**



<http://spring-voice.org/english/>

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