

Nov.30,2021

To Prime Minister,KISHIDA Fumio,

Request for consideration for victims of domestic violence, abuse, sexual violence regarding benefits 100,000 yen for children as measures against COVID-19.

All Japan Women's Shelter Network

On November 26, it was reported that the Cabinet approved a supplementary budget for the fiscal year 2021, which includes a benefit 100,000 yen for children under the age of 18. In April 2020, when the special benefits for emergency measures against the COVID-19 were provided, we complained about the fact that the benefits were sent to the head of the household and not to the victims of domestic violence or abuse who had left their homes without moving their resident registration. In response to our request, the government promptly took measures to make the benefits available, and it is well known that a considerable number of victims of domestic violence and abuse were able to receive the benefits. We would like to express our sincere respect for the appropriate response.

However, on the other hand, many inquiries from victims who have not left their homes have been flooding into the national and local government offices as well as our members, and it has become apparent that there are many victims of domestic violence and abuse who have not left their homes.

For example, we heard many voices such as the following:

- The family benefits that were transferred to the head of the household are all spent by the father without permission. I'm having a hard time using the money for expenses that are necessary, such as food and school fees.
- The head of the household is a on the same resident registration, but we have lost contact with him and do not know where he is. However, the head of the household receives the benefits for the whole family, what should we do?
- We have not spoken to each other at all. Even if the benefits are transferred to the head of the household this time, we cannot have a conversation to ask him to hand over the benefits or to use them for us. If I tried to talk, I would be subjected to

physical violence and prolonged abuse.

Regarding this benefit 100,000 yen for children under the age of 18, in most cases, the benefit is supposed to be given to the head of the household who is the guardian of the child, but as a support organization for victims of domestic violence, we strongly request that you take the following measures to ensure that the benefit is spent on the child.

1. For children who have been left home due to DV, child abuse, sexual violence by family and are living in a different place from the head of the household to whom the benefits are paid, (1) those who have applied for the benefits in the previous benefits should be able to receive them this time, and (2) those who have newly applied for the benefits should be able to receive them by the same procedures.
2. The benefits should be transferred to the child's own account or the account of the parent who is currently taking care of the child. Please take the same measures for the distribution of coupons.