

Outline of the Act on the Advancement of Measures to Address Loneliness and Isolation

Key Point

Bearing in mind the recent social changes, this Act makes provisions for the fundamental principles, the responsibilities of the national government, the core components of the policies, the establishment of the Headquarters for Advancement of Measures to Address Loneliness and Isolation for, and other matters in relation to the actions including support to individuals suffering mental or physical harm due to experiencing loneliness in their daily lives or lives in society or isolation from society.

→ This Act seeks to achieve a society where: not a single person suffering from loneliness and isolation is left behind; and individuals support and connect with each other.

Outline

1. Fundamental Principles

Establishes the following basic principles regarding measures to address loneliness and isolation (prevent loneliness and isolation, provide swift and appropriate support to persons experiencing loneliness and isolation, and otherwise facilitate their efforts to escape such a state).

- (1) It is important to advance measures to address loneliness and isolation across all societal sectors as any person can potentially be in such a state at any point in life.
- (2) It is essential to provide continuous support tailored to the unique circumstances of persons experiencing loneliness and isolation, including their family members ("concerned parties").
- (3) It is essential to provide necessary support to the concerned parties with the objective of enabling them to escape their loneliness and isolation and lead a smoother daily and social life, by fostering their interactions with society and others in accordance with their preferences.

2. Responsibilities of the National / Local Government and Other Matters

Outlines the responsibilities of the national government and the local governments, the understanding and cooperation of the people and organizations, the coordination and collaboration among relevant persons, and other matters in relation to policies for loneliness and isolation.

3. Basic Policy

- Create a priority plan on measures to address loneliness and isolation.
- Increase the general interests of the people in relation to and carry out awareness-raising which contributes to the autonomous activities of the diverse members of society participate relating to, the policies regarding measures to address loneliness and isolation.
- Encouraging support for counselling (providing the necessary information, advice and other forms of assistance in response to consultations from the concerned parties.).
- Promoting the coordination and collaboration among relevant parties (the national and local governments, those who provide support to the concerned parties, local residents, and other relevant persons).
- Recruitment, training, and enhancement of personnel who provide support to the concerned parties.
- Assist for the local governments as well as those who provide support to the concerned parties.
- Advancement of research and studies into the actual circumstances of persons experiencing loneliness and isolation.

4. Framework for promotion

- Establishes the Headquarters for Advancement of Measures to Address Loneliness and Isolation (creates priority plan, deliberate important matters, hear the opinions of relevant parties) within the Cabinet Office as a special organization.
- Local governments are to strive to establish a local council for loneliness and isolation measures that composed of the relevant organizations, bodies related to concerned parties, persons engaged in support-related professions, and other related persons, exchanges the necessary information, and holds discussions regarding the particulars of support.
- Establishes a duty of confidentiality on those who is or was engaged in the functions of a local council and a punishment for who violates this duty.

Effective Date

April 1, 2024