

# Protecting the Rights of Crime Victims

*Recognition and Changes*

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# About ME



## *Hua-Lung Chuang* *Attorney*

### **Current Position**

- Deputy Director,  
Legal Research and Legal Affairs Department,  
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### **Experience**

- Administrative lawyer, Legal Research and Legal Affairs  
Department, Legal Aid Foundation Head Office
- Intern lawyer, Legal Aid Foundation Taipei Office

### **Education**

- LL.B., National Taiwan University







# Recognizing the Protection of Crime Victim's Rights

**2017**

## **National Conference on Judicial Reform**

In 2017, Taiwan convened the National Conference on Judicial Reform. This was prompted by the recognition that Taiwan's judicial system had long emphasized the roles of judges, prosecutors, and defense lawyers, while overlooking other parties in the judicial process. Therefore, issues related to victims, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and migrant workers and immigrants were designated as the topics for the first group discussion.

**2020**

## **Participation in Proceedings by the Victim**

In 2020, the Code of Criminal Procedure was amended and the chapter on the participation of crime victims in legal proceedings was promulgated. It explicitly stipulated that crime victims have the right to apply to the court for participation, allowing their voices to be heard more effectively in court.

**2023**

## **Further Enhancements to Relevant Laws and Regulations**

Crime Victim Rights Protection Act, Human Trafficking Prevention Act, Act of Gender Equality in Employment, Gender Equity Education Act and Sexual Harassment Prevention Act were amended in 2023, strengthening the protection of crime victim's rights.





# Changes of the Legal Aid Foundation

## Real-time Legal Advice

On February 1, 2023, the LAF launched a legal advice hotline for victims. Crime victims can directly call the dedicated line to receive legal advice from lawyers online. On August 1 of the same year, a pilot video-conferencing legal advice hotline for gender equality was initiated.

## Expanding the Eligibility of Legal Aid Services

In line with the amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure, which introduced the system of victim participation in litigation, the LAF stipulated that in cases where the victim is permitted to participate in the litigation, they may be granted the aid of legal representation during the trial. The legal aid lawyer must inquire about the victim's willingness to apply for litigation participation and exercise their rights.

## Single Contact and Service Referral Mechanism

Starting in 2021, the LAF and the Association for Victims Support collaborated to promote a single point of contact and service referral mechanism, establishing a single contact point within both organizations to facilitate case referrals.



# Key Observations on the Implementation of the Crime Victim Rights Protection Act

- *Single Contact and Case Referral Mechanism*
- *Regular allowances to maintain the livelihood*
- *Review of the compensation applications*
- *Protective orders for crime victims*



*Taiwan has implemented various measures to protect the rights of crime victims. These measures are governed by several laws, including the Crime Victim Rights Protection Act, the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, the Sexual Assault Crime Prevention Act, and the Human Trafficking Prevention Act. These laws may overlap regarding service eligibility, items, and scope. To address this, relevant agencies should establish a collaborative platform to facilitate the timely referral of cases. This will be an important focus for the observation and evaluation of implementing the new laws.*

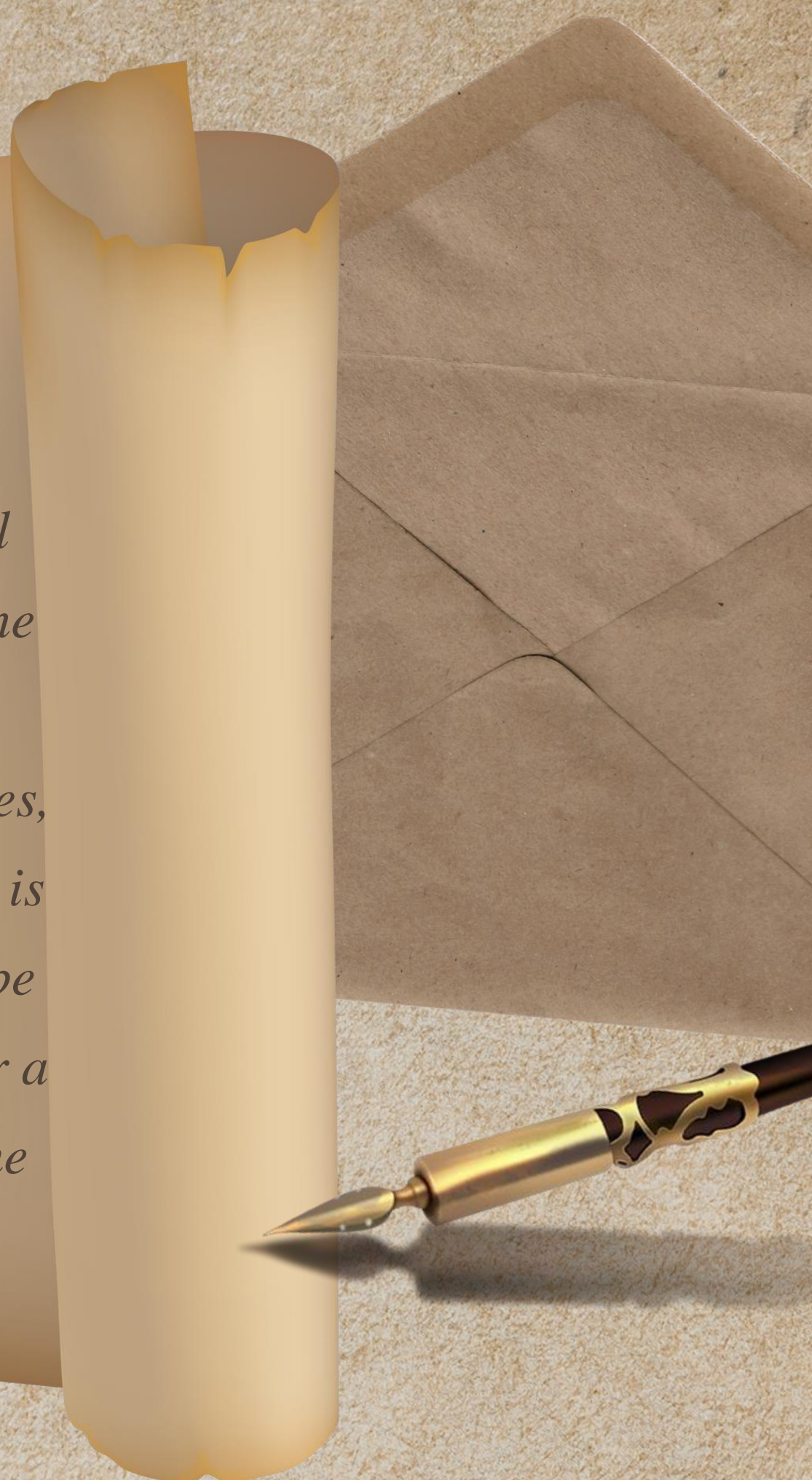
## **Single Contact and Case Referral Mechanism**






# **Regular Allowances to Maintain the Livelihood**

*The Association for Victims Support provides financial assistance to crime victims according to Article 16 of the Crime Victim Rights Protection Act. The financial assistance may cover living expenses, education expenses, and childcare fees. However, in practice, the assistance is often given as a one-time payment. Whether there will be a shift towards providing periodic, regular payments for a specified period to help maintain the livelihood of crime victims is still a subject to be observed in the future.*





# Compensation Review

A hand is holding a white card with black text. The background is a textured, light brown surface. There are two brown envelopes with floral designs and some dried leaves scattered around.

*Compensation is still reviewed  
and disbursed by the review  
committees organized by local  
district prosecutor's offices  
and its branches.*





# Protective Orders for Crime Victims

*Protective orders for crime victims, as per Article 35, can only be requested by the court ex officio or by a prosecutor. Victims are not able to independently request protective orders.*

*When the prosecutor interrogates or the prosecutorial investigator, judicial police officer, or judicial police interview the crime victims or their family members, they shall inform the above crime victims or their family members of the provisions of Articles 35 and 36, and record their opinions.*





**Thank you  
for your attention!**

*Hua-Lung Chuang  
Attorney*