

# UNIVERSAL VALUE OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS SUPPORTING OFFENDER REINTEGRATION and THE HOGOSHI SYSTEM IN JAPAN



Discussion at the World Congress for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration  
7 March 2021 @ Kyoto International Conference Centre

**IMAFUKU Shoji, Japan Hogoshi Federation, Japan**

## Outline

- **Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration around the World**
- **Outline of the Hogoshi System in Japan**
- **Core Values of Community Volunteers**
- **The Development of Community Volunteers in Offender Reintegration**

## Kyoto Declaration on Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration (“Kyoto *Hogoshi* Declaration”)

Community Volunteers can...

- ◆ *...stand side by side with offenders from the good neighbour’s point of view, attentively listen to their concerns, develop mutual trust, and give guidance to them at times warmly, at times strictly. Their support enables offenders to re-establish their identities, re-enter the community and live their lives independently without reoffending, as one of the core values.*

# Community Volunteers in Offender Reintegration around the World

## ☐ **Community Probation Volunteer (Kenya) 2005**

- Engaged in supervision and guidance for probationers and parolees in some regions in Kenya (295 persons, as of 2017)

## ☐ **Volunteer Probation Assistant (the Philippines) 1978**

- Engaged in individual supervision and guidance for probationers and parolees, therapeutic communities and restorative justice (9,389 persons, as of June 2022)

## ☐ **Volunteer Probation Officer (Thailand) 1985**

- Provides guidance and assistance to probationers and parolees, and assists probation officers in pre-sentencing investigation and coordination of the social circumstances for parolees (20,033 persons, as of September 2021)

## ☐ **Other community volunteer systems in Korea, Singapore, etc.**

## ☐ **CoSA (Circles of Support and Accountability) in Canada 1994, UK 2008, Latvia, Netherlands, Ireland, other jurisdictions in Europe**

## Hogoshi System in Japan



### ➤ Characteristics

- Citizen volunteers who support the rehabilitation of offenders in the community
- Commissioned by the Minister of Justice based on the Volunteer Probation Officers Act
- No salary provided (except for reimbursement of travel expenditures, etc.)
- Rooted in Japan for more than 130 years. Now fully established as a part of the statutory offender rehabilitation system in Japan

## Hogoshi System in Japan

### ■ Core roles

- Accept probationers/parolees as neighbours
- Provide probationers/parolees with empathetic care, consultation and advice by standing by their side as a community volunteer, not law enforcement officers
- Build inclusive community by bridging gaps between offenders and the community, raising awareness of community support for offender reintegration and addressing social isolation in the community
- Volunteerism: Voluntary participation, pursuing happiness of others and the community, without expectation of payment



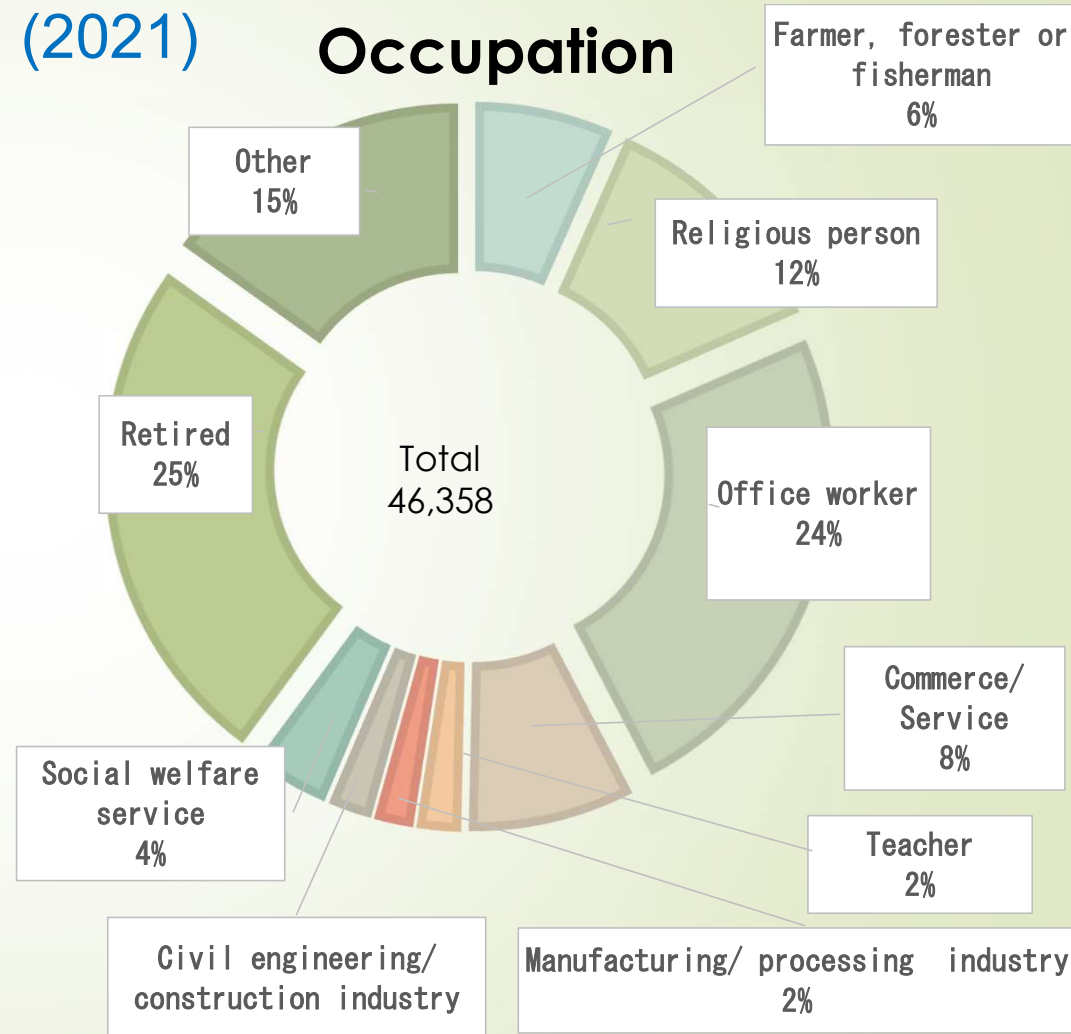
## Statistics of Hogoshi (2021)

Number of Persons: 46,358

Female Ratio: 26.6%

Average Age: 65

### Occupation



## Core Values (1)

*Hogoshi* undertake different approaches from the government probation officers, and the collaboration between these two approaches is significant.

### ❖ *Hogoshi* (community volunteers)

- Heal the “wounds” that lead to reoffending by establishing rapport and giving warm consideration for offenders’ circumstances
- Exist as a trustworthy person and a neighbour in the same community

### ❖ Government Probation Officers

- Serve in the role of law enforcement officers
- Reduce the risk of recidivism through scientific techniques (e.g. specialised programmes, case management, etc.)

➔ **Public-Private (Multi-Stakeholder) Partnership**



## Core Values (2)

Offenders will eventually return to their communities.

### ❖ Inclusive communities

- People should not be excluded from society just because they committed a crime.
- No one can live alone. People live by mutually supporting each other.



### ❖ Concerned members of the community

- Rebuilding the relationship between the offender and the community
- Building a network of support for offenders with other stakeholders and various social resources

Community volunteers play a very important role in building a safe/secure community which is resilient against crime and where people can relate to and help one another with the various challenges of living in loneliness and social isolation.



# The Comprehensive Research Project on the Hogoshi System 2022-2024

Four Areas of Research such as...

1. The effectiveness of the Hogoshi system and its contributions towards a safe and secure community
2. The quality of offender support by Hogoshi
3. Recruitment and training for Hogoshi for the sustainable development of the system
4. International comparative research on community volunteers

# “The International Day for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration, Hogoshi day”

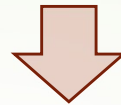
## Establishing a day to recognize community volunteers will produce several benefits

- Encourage volunteer work,
- Develop a safer and inclusive society,
- Enhance the sustainability of volunteer work.



# Roadmap for the Establishment of Hogoshi Day

2021.3 Kyoto Hogoshi Declaration adopted



2023 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration



Various events to promote Hogoshi Day around the world



**UN Member States**

**Establish the International Day for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration, “Hogoshi Day”.**



Please contact below;

➤ **JAPAN HOGOSHI FEDERATION** (for Hogoshi system)

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➤ **World Congress for Community Volunteers  
Supporting Offender Reintegration 2021**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=umDNZPWLRxU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ck1Uo81iqUc>

Thank you very much  
for your attention

