

## **APRIL 2017 UPDATE: CASES AT AI-FIDAA FOUNDATION WHITE DOOR CENTRE**

24 victims recorded for the month of April at the Al-Fidaa Foundation White Door Centre, 239 Durban Road, Korsten. Below is a brief summary of some cases:

1. 53 year old female victim of domestic violence. The victim is currently separated from her husband and was diagnosed with depression at the local hospital. The victim has a 17 year old epileptic daughter and is unable to leave her unattended for long periods. The victim's husband had previously approached her on the day she withdraws the child support grant; taking her identity document and the SASSA card after which she reported him to the authorities.
2. 25 year old epileptic victim of domestic violence diagnosed with manic depression approached the centre for counselling. The victim is dealing with emotional stress and concern at her 8 month old baby currently being treated for tuberculosis. The victim has a long history of rape and abuse at the hands of family members beginning at an early age. Her current relationship is marked by abuse and she intends to apply for a protection order.
3. 48 year old divorcee living in fear of her ex husband. The victim ended the marriage after years of enduring abuse at the hands of her alcoholic ex husband. After physically assaulting her in public, she has decided to obtain a protection order against him and their child.
4. 54 year old victim living with HIV; victim was gangraped several years ago after armed men broke into her then partner's home. Despite repeated questioning by her ex partner, the victim was too ashamed to admit to the rape which affected her relationship at the time. She discovered that she was HIV positive after a bout of illness that landed her in hospital.
5. 56 year old single mother living in anguish and struggling with the dilemma of informing her children and family about her HIV status. The virus was passed on by her late partner and the victim has since been living with the secret; afraid of being ostracised by her family if they find out.
6. 43 year old victim who was robbed at the workplace recently returned for counselling after facing the perpetrators in court. The victim was traumatized and broke down in the courtroom. The case was postponed.
7. 11 year old minor dealing with the loss of a parent; the victim is aware that his father was killed in a shooting incident. His mother still mourning the loss, has not opened up to him about the circumstances surrounding the father's demise and the victim is still confused and missing his father.
8. 70 year old grandmother deeply concerned about the emotional wellbeing of her grandchild especially after receiving complaints from several school teachers about her grandchild's behaviour. The grandmother is the only female mother figure available to her grandchild as the mother of the child is allegedly not interested in being involved in her child's life. The victim feels that her grandchild is dealing with the emotional burden and was referred to a clinical psychologist.
9. 34 year old unemployed female seeking counselling. Victim is disheartened about her current financial situation added to the concern of her aged parents as they reside in an area riddled with gangsters and are unable to relocate to a safer suburb.
10. 51 year old female victim seeking counselling; the victim is the sole caregiver to her 92 year old mother who is severely frail. The victim has tried in vain to persuade her parent to

attend a nearby hospital for a checkup but the pensioner is fearful of hospitals after two family members died in the hospital the previous year. The victim is still grieving for the departed family members and feels that the strain of being a caregiver is becoming too much to handle alone.

11. 37 year old father of four seeking assistance at the centre. The victim has been widowed for 6 years and feels that the loss of his wife triggered the downward spiral in his life, fueling his drug addiction.
12. A married couple seeking guidance on being foster parents. The mother of the child is known to the couple and is an addict. They feel that they may be able to offer the child a safe and stable home. They were referred to the Department of Social Development to offer them some guidance on this.
13. 29 year old single mother of 3 struggling to make ends meet. The victim is unemployed and receives child support grant. The fathers of her children do not provide support in any manner.
14. 37 year old homeless mother of 3 seeking assistance. The victim is an outpatient at the Livingstone psychiatric ward and is living in dismal condition. The victim is grieving the loss of a sibling who was allegedly murdered last year.
15. 52 year old grandmother and victim of abuse approaching the centre for counselling and guidance about a situation with a daughter in law. The victim opened a case of physical and verbal assault against her daughter in law, who has allegedly assaulted the victim on more than one occasion.
16. A minor attending a local primary school experiencing some difficulties in school; Teachers have indicated this is a problem child (coming late to class, constantly fighting with other learners, disinterest in classroom) and the grandmother was referred to a clinical psychologist. The child has indicated missing an absent parent greatly.
17. A single mother of 5 battling to make ends meet; she received a child support grant for her children but 3 of the grants were recently suspended. The victim is struggling to find employment and is weary of residing with other family members especially after threats of eviction by an aunt.
18. 55 year old male struggling to get his life on track. The victim is unemployed and has been since an operation to his hand years ago. The extremity is permanently disabled and he is in constant pain. He is in the process of applying for a disability grant.