

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

23 victims recorded for the month of June at the Al-Fidaa Foundation White Door Centre, 239 Durban Road, Korsten. The majority of cases seen involved an element of isolation from the family unit. Below is a brief summary of some cases:

1. 45 year old widow with 5 dependents struggling to make ends meet. The money she receives through child support grants barely covers the children's needs for the month with rental of a ramshackle room another urgent expense. The victim does not receive support from her family.
2. 27 year old mother of 2 and a third on the way approached the centre for help. A victim of domestic violence in both marriages, she is now in dire financial circumstances after being abused and then abandoned by her second husband during her pregnancy. The victim is disillusioned as she had hoped that the second marriage would be better than her first abusive marriage.
3. 51 year old male victim of domestic violence on a follow up visit; the victim will be seeking a divorce as he feels that he has had enough of the verbal abuse and physical abuse he endures at the hands of his step children and his wife as his efforts to try and resolve the situation is to no avail.
4. 49 year old female victim of domestic violence. The victim was physically assaulted by her son, an alleged drug addict. She has been attempting to help him through the alleged addiction but feels his aggression has increased considerably after he completed a detox program and relapsed, abusing drugs heavily. She lives in fear of him and but also exhibits concern for his problem.
5. 58 year old grandmother and caregiver to 2 grandchildren seeking information on guardianship process and what she feels is financial abuse of the child support grant by the mother. The victim suspects her daughter of being an addict. According to the victim, the mother (victim's daughter) does not contribute financially to the children's upkeep, not only abusing the grant funds but also being blatantly absent when paid, ignoring all maternal responsibilities. The victim was referred to the Department of Social Development.
6. 46 year old divorced mother of 3 trying to make ends meet; her abusive ex husband allegedly stole her identity document, hampering her efforts to apply for a child support grant. The victim alleges it was done out of spite as she is currently involved in a new relationship with a partner who supports her and her children. According to the victim, the abuse and her husband's extramarital affairs contributed to the breakdown of the previous marriage.
7. 70 year old concerned grandmother updating the counsellor on her situation. The victim feels her grandchild's behaviour (including difficulties in school) has deteriorated further. She has speculated that there may be a potential link to his behavioural difficulties and an automobile accident the biological mother was involved in whilst pregnant with him. The victim was referred and will follow up at a later date.
8. 38 year old married female approached the centre for counselling. The victim is experiencing difficulties with a verbally abusive adult daughter, an alleged drug addict. The daughter's issues with her stepfather remain unresolved. All this is taking its toll on the victim who has been diagnosed with depression and is currently an outpatient at the local

hospital psychiatric ward. The victim has already had a nervous breakdown several years ago and fears the constant stress may trigger another.

9. 91 year old married male diagnosed with cancer at a local hospital struggling to make ends meet. The victim feels burdened with worries about his health and the financial implications of his illness.
10. 66 year old male pensioner and his wife currently supporting two adult sons, approached the centre for assistance. The victim feels he is under pressure and financial as well as emotional strain as the couple's pension is not sufficient to support the family of four for the month.
11. 33 year old male ex con seeking assistance after his release from prison. The victim needed assistance to see his mother. Contact was made with the mother on his behalf who advised that her son be told to remain in the area as she was currently away visiting family.
12. 57 year old father of 2 struggling to support his wife and children after being retrenched in 2016. Despite his attempts to secure another job, he has failed to do so, causing anxiety and distress as he is unable to put food on the table for his family.
13. 51 year old widowed mother of 1 struggling to make ends meet on a child support grant. The victim is unemployed and relies on a nearby soup kitchen for their daily meals.
14. 45 year old homeless single male seeking assistance. The victim sleeps on the local park grounds and is estranged from his family in another province.
15. 77 year old pensioner seeking assistance and counselling. The couple are estranged from in laws due to financial family feud and receive assistance occasionally from his son.
16. 35 year old married father of 3 seeking assistance. The victim and wife are unemployed. The victim reports feelings of depression and stress as he is unable to support his family and currently reside with his parents but are unable to contribute as the only income is the child support grant for 3 children.
17. 68 year old pensioner seeking assistance. The victim is plagued by chronic illnesses - high blood pressure and arthritis. The victim struggles to make ends meet on her pension and suffers severely in cold weather as the shack floors are wet and exacerbate her joint pain.
18. 21 year old unemployed male orphaned several years ago, seeking assistance. The victim resides on the street and alleges he has no family to turn to.