

August 2016 UPDATE: CASES AT AL-FIDAA FOUNDATION WHITE DOOR CENTRE

37 victims in total for the month until 26 August seen at the Al-Fidaa Foundation White Door Centre, 239 Durban Road. August referrals included FAMSA, LegalAid, and the Department of Social Development. The centre has also received referrals from a local clinic. Disintegration of the family unit featured in many cases this month. Below is a brief summary of cases:

1. A 61 year old grandmother anxious and fearful at the rapidly deteriorating health of her grandchild who was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour. The toddler has spent the better part of the year in and out of hospitals, travelling to the Red Cross in Cape Town as well as Dora Nginza in Port Elizabeth for surgeries and treatment.
2. 49 year old male whose shack was burnt down in an act of revenge after an argument with another resident in the area; the victim's shack was set alight while his children were still inside. The children are now in a local hospital receiving treatment for burns. The victim lost all personal possessions in the fire and is residing with friends while waiting for the children to be discharged from hospital.
3. 55 year old divorcee working in a factory but facing unemployment as she has been out of work for 6 weeks due to inexplicable blackouts. Her employers have given her time off until her health improves but her anxiety is high while waiting her test results from a local hospital.
4. 41 year old disabled male separated from his spouse. The victim claims that his wife is physically abusive towards him and is taking matters further after she accused him of abusing their two children. The victim applied for a protection order against the abusive spouse and will be returning to the White Door Centre for an update/ follow up on the case.
5. 57 year old female recovering from a kidney operation. The victim's husband is supportive but the couple are finding it hard to make ends meet.
6. 61 year old female unemployed and recovering from Tuberculosis. The victim was employed in a factory environment but the ventilation is problematic. The victim's husband is also unemployed.
7. 39 year old single mother of 2 approached the White Door Centre of Hope for counselling as she is severely depressed. Victim was recently diagnosed as HIV positive and is keeping the news from her family as she fears ostracism.
8. 42 year old widow struggling financially after losing her husband a year ago. The burden of 6 children and no fixed income is causing severe strain. The victim is struggling to keep a roof on the heads of her children and is facing eviction from her rented home.
9. A 66 year old pensioner taking care of her disabled grandchild dealing with the added burden of her adult children also being supported by her government grant. Most of the time the household is without any food as both the adult daughters are unemployed.
10. 41 year old single mother and ex convict dealing with feelings of resentment and injustice at being judged by the community she resides in. She feels depressed and is adamant that she paid for a crime that she was solely held responsible for despite other parties being involved. She feels the stigma of a criminal record is the reason she cannot move forward in her life.
11. 49 year old mother of a teen who has recently become a mother herself. The victim feels that her daughter is barely able to take care of herself, let alone a newborn. The victim is disappointed and feels let down.

12. 27 year old single mother of 4 residing in a shack. The only income is the child support grant for 2 children. The victim receives no financial support from her family or the father of the children who is currently serving his sentence in prison.
13. 41 year old female working on building a relationship with her estranged daughter. The victim's daughter has been brought up in a different religion and the mother feels that by reverting to the same, may help speed up her reconciliation efforts with her daughter.
14. 45 year old male who is currently living in a shelter for the homeless approached the centre for assistance and guidance. The victim is a recovering addict and admits that this stigma is affecting his efforts to be independent and find employment.
15. 40 year old single female residing with a partner who, according to her, is only abusive when inebriated. During the occasions her partner is sober, his behaviour towards her is exemplary. The victim refused a referral to the relevant service providers.
16. 70 year old female residing with an adult daughter who does not lend support in any manner. The victim, who is diabetic and suffering from hypertension, is struggling to keep up with her daily expenses.
17. 63 year old male seeking counselling at the White Door Centre. The victim resides with a daughter and her spouse but tensions in the household cause anxiety to the victim and has increased tenfold now that his son-in-law has asked him to find another home.
18. 34 year old separated mother of 3 residing with her family whilst her husband is with his family. She feels that his lifestyle including parties and alcohol is a negative influence on the children but feels she cannot keep the children from spending time with their father.
19. 70 year old pensioner battling to support herself on her pension. The victim is not married and has no offspring to rely on.
20. A 58 years married couple approached the centre for assistance. Both spouses are unemployed and the husband has a number of chronic illnesses that affect his health. The couple is currently residing at a friend's as they cannot afford their own.
21. 23 year old mother of 2 devastated after witnessing her husband's infidelity. The victim feels prepared to put up with his infidelities for the sake of the children.
22. 39 year old mother of 1 married for several years and in a situation that is causing heartache as her child is from a previous relationship and her current husband, who was aware of this before marriage, is now making his dissatisfaction clear to all their family members. He plans to end the marriage on the basis that they do not have any children between them.
23. 42 year old bipolar single mother of 2 seeking employment and shelter. The victim alleges that her children avoid a relationship with her as she is an embarrassment to them.
24. 26 year old recovering addict seeking assistance from the centre. The victim does not attend any group sessions or therapy and according to him, his family is sceptical and refuse to support him as he has stolen items and caused several difficulties to them in the past.
25. 31 year old mother of 1 in dire financial circumstances approached the centre. The victim and her husband relocated to Port Elizabeth for contractual employment which came to an end. The couple are battling now as both are unemployed and residing with family.
26. 27 year old single mother of 2 facing the reality of losing guardianship of her children. The victim's continuous feuding with the father of the children culminated in physical violence. She was advised to follow procedure as advised by her assigned social worker.
27. 31 year old single mother of 4 residing with her father. The father's pension is the only income and the victim has several expenses she is unable to meet.