

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

23 victims (dating 1 November up until 24 November 2016) in total seen by counsellors at the Al-Fidaa Foundation White Door Centre, 239 Durban Road. Referrals included the Department of Social Development, a court prosecutor and religious theologian. One case seen towards the latter of October is included in this brief summary of cases below:

1. 41 year old mother and wife seeking counselling. Victim has suffered atrocious physical, mental and emotional abuse at the hands of her husband. Victim has had miscarriages as a result of the physical abuse. The victim's husband refuses to work or support the children with the reasoning that they are not his, only hers (from a previous marriage) despite full awareness of her situation and children prior to the marriage. Victim sought a protection order then approached the centre, the bruises from the recent beating still visible.
2. 70 year old male pensioner traumatized after being robbed and threatened at gunpoint as well as a knife by three men posing as service technicians.
3. A 42 year old male approached the centre seeking assistance regarding an incident of sexual assault and the manner in which the two 19 year old female victims of the assault at a local beachfront had been treated at a local police station when trying to report the incident. The attack at the beachfront as well as the lack of concern by police to handle the report by the victims was of immense concern to the family friend reporting as well as the parents of the girls. This case was referred to a prosecutor at the Port Elizabeth Sexual Offences court.
4. 55 year old unemployed male divorcee seeking assistance at the centre. Victim is disabled following an infection incurred from a welding injury. The cut became septic and victim was referred to a local hospital at the time for an operation and subsequent skin graft procedures. Now approximately two years down the line, despite the physiotherapy, victim is still unable to gain employment due to the lack of mobility in the hand and is attempting to reapply for a government disability grant.
5. 29 year old unemployed female seeking counselling. Victim used to reside with her former partner who was physically abusive on a daily basis and she eventually applied for a protection order against him. After his forcible removal by the police, she has never seen him again but has recently found out that she is expecting their child. Her concern is that that her only income is the child support grant she receives for two children.
6. 40 year old female, caregiver to her HIV positive sister. Victim is burdened with stress as she is dealing with illness of her sister as well as the news that her niece is HIV positive. Victim feels the niece's behaviour is self destructive due to her risk-taking behaviour including prostitution. Her heartache at her niece's behaviour is a constant reminder of her own late children whose deaths were drug related. The constant worry about her niece's whereabouts as well as the declining health of her sister is a constant stressor to the victim who is doing her best to stay afloat financially and emotionally.

7. 55 year old mother grieving the loss of her daughter to tuberculosis and the loss of her grandchild in the same week who died after being knocked down by a motor vehicle. The victim is unemployed and is receiving some support from family members.
8. 41 year old husband and father of 6 seeking assistance for a matter of unlawful arrest. Victim was imprisoned for a period of time without explanation or reason for the arrest or imprisonment. The incident has impacted on the victim's livelihood and family.
9. 46 year old mother of 2 approached the centre for assistance. The victim had been renting 1 of 3 shacks neighbouring each other in one yard recently gutted by a fire; allegedly the result of a careless landlord. The victim managed to save her children and a handbag but lost all other personal belongings. She was referred to the centre by a teacher at one of the schools in the area.
10. A 25 year old mother and wife fearing for her family's safety after an argument over money owed resulted in her husband being beaten up by the lender and his friends. The lender is a former friend of the victim's husband. Victim has considered obtaining a protection order for her family but was discouraged by her mother who feels that they need to sort out the issue with the former friend.
11. 38 year old husband and father of 3 seeking counselling. Victim has a difficult time communicating with his wife who is a drug addict and is having a relationship with another male who is a constant visitor to their home. Victim is concerned about his wife's behaviour as she is constantly unkempt, unconcerned about his unhappiness about her relationship with another male as well as her use of the household money to support her drug habit. The victim was referred to a religious theologian for counselling. He refused a referral to FAD or SANCA as he feels that she will not make the effort.
12. 24 year old HIV positive wife and mother seeking assistance at the centre. Victim has been physically abused on a regular basis by her husband and is currently residing with a friend. She decided to leave her abusive husband as she feels his treatment of her after her release from prison was a revelation to her. During the course of their marriage, she was coerced into theft, prostitution and drugs. White Door Centre counsellors attempted to reconcile the victim with her mother and aunt who are willing to take her in.
13. 39 year old single mother with a 21 year old son who is an addict. She has made attempts to seek help from SANCA but he was not committed to the program and several other attempts to rehab centres failed. He is currently residing with his grandmother but the situation is temporary as he vandalised her home and ransacked it.
14. 19 year old unemployed male addict residing with a family member. Victim formerly resided with his mother, stepfather and siblings. The victim alleges that he was physically abused by his stepfather in his early teens but had no support from his mother as she was immersed in a lifestyle of parties. Victim turned to experimenting with drugs and has been in a downward

spiral since. He is currently trying to turn his life around and is willing to seek help. He was referred to FAD.

15. 56 year old unemployed mother of 2 adult children residing on her own. The victim is not in contact with her children and after a recent robbery by gangsters who broke into her home, stealing household items and food as well, the victim is going to attempt to reconcile with her estranged children.
16. 42 year old female victim approached the centre seeking relationship advice. The victim is employed and currently residing with her partner. Her concern is that he frequently disappears after receiving his wages and will not return home for periods as long as two weeks at a stretch. She alleges that this behaviour is related to his drug addiction. His refusal to acknowledge this and also the strain this places on her financially has been the subject of many disagreements between them.
17. 51 year old widow seeking counselling. The victim's husband died due to a heart attack in the workplace. She herself has been retrenched recently and her attempts to seek assistance from other family members has been unsuccessful.
18. A male victim approached the centre for advice as he has tried to apply for a government disability grant. The victim is unable to work as he inherited a physically debilitating red blood cell disorder. He is unable to work to support himself and is under pressure to do so but is unable to secure employment at all.
19. A 41 year old ex convict fearing for his life and relocating following death threats by gangsters in the area who suspect him of being a police informer. He has a previous history of altercations with gangsters in his former residential area; a northern area suburb notorious for crimes related to drugs and gangsterism. He was imprisoned for several years after stabbing a gangster and upon his release, in an act of revenge, he was beaten with an axe and buried beneath rocks and shrubbery. As a result of the injuries incurred, he suffers from epileptic seizures and migraines. His attempts to secure a government disability grant has been unsuccessful thus far.
20. A 9 year old minor referred to a White Door centre counsellor as he has been a troublesome learner and several teachers have complained about his behaviour.
21. A concerned father of a 14 year old daughter allegedly raped by a 21 year old male known to the family. The father of the rape victim conveyed that he has followed the reporting procedures for the rape and the victim is receiving counselling. He is extremely upset at what he feels is the disinterest by police to imprison the perpetrator. The victim has been referred to the Department of Social Development.
22. 49 year old male victim feels isolated and is unable to get a start on his life. Religious difference within one household resulted in a breakdown in family relations and the victim has felt displaced in his life as well as family ever since.