

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

26 victims in total thus far dating 3 October until 25 October 2016 seen at the Al-Fidaa Foundation White Door Centre, 239 Durban Road. October referrals included the Gelvandale Law Courts, Police Station and Livingstone Hospital. A brief summary of October cases below:

1. 46 year old male robbed en route home; the robbers making off with victim's shoes and wallet containing his rent money and bank cards. The victim is distraught as he will not be able to meet his expenses for the month.
2. 48 year old mother and wife approached the centre for counselling. Her husband of several years has become increasingly violent towards her and her children. Added to this, she lives in fear of her husband's son who threatens to assault her once he is released from prison. She intends to initiate divorce proceedings and start her life anew as she feels she will not subject her children or herself to the abuse any longer.
3. 48 year old unemployed female seeking counselling. The victim's spouse is not permanently employed, doing casual jobs wherever possible. The problem she is currently experiencing with her spouse drove her to seek counselling from the centre. According to the victim, after visits from her son (from a previous marriage), her husband of two years now becomes violent towards her and abuses alcohol regularly. She is puzzled by his behaviour as this only occurs after her son's visits.
4. A 33 year old unemployed wife and mother of 3 seeking assistance at the centre regarding family issues including her husband's use of drugs and alcohol. He was arrested months ago on a charge of armed robbery. The victim is feeling depressed and anxious. Added to this is the awareness that her children are also experiencing emotional distress at their family situation. The victim was referred to the child psychologist at Livingstone Hospital.
5. A 46 year old mother with a troubled son seeking counselling at the centre. After going through painful divorce from a spouse who had numerous extra-marital affairs, the victim feels unable to handle the current situation of a rebellious son who is a drug addict. The victim feels that the divorce and the relationship he had with his father has adversely affected her relationship with her son as he was aware of the father's behaviour insofar as being a witness and being bribed to keep quiet about the extramarital affairs.
6. 57 year old grandmother concerned about the welfare of her grandchild. The child's mother is HIV positive, drug addict resorting to prostitution and according to the victim, recently arrested for theft. The victim feels that she needs to intervene and take care of her grandchild as the mother of the child has proven unable to do so thus far.
7. 24 year old female victim of domestic violence recently released from 2 month imprisonment for copper theft. After violating earlier terms of release, the victim was imprisoned further. Upon her recent release, she noted her husband's behaviour towards her was indifferent. His violent behaviour towards her causes her distress and her health (HIV positive) has also taken a downward turn.
8. A 40 year old divorced and unemployed mother of 3 approached the centre for help. With a daughter in Grade 12 and 2 unemployed sons over the age of 21, the victim is struggling to make ends meet. She feels angry and disappointed that her ex husband refuses to contribute to their household expenses and as a coping mechanism the victim relies on painkillers to induce sleep.

9. A 54 year old victim approached the centre for assistance as she is emotionally distressed and anxious about a family member. The victim's son is in hospital paralyzed after being robbed and stabbed in the spine months ago. He was the sole provider and was employed part time to provide for the household. The victim's is fearful about her son's condition and what this means for his future as well as the immediate concern for her living expenses.
10. 43 year old mother of three whose husband recently lost his business due to financial issues with other family members. Their 21 year old daughter is employed and residing on her own - earning good money according to the victim but does not support the parents in any way. The victim feels overwhelmed by their household expenses.
11. A 51 year old unemployed widow and mother of four. The victim is struggling financially. All her children are over the age of 18, one disabled. The victim tried to apply for a government disability grant for him to ease her financial burden but was declined.
12. A 22 year old single mother of a toddler seeking a place to live as she was recently evicted from a family member's house where she resided for a time. The reason for eviction was that she is unemployed and the only income is that of a child support grant. The victim's mother was murdered 8 years ago and other family members are unwilling to take her in.
13. A 61 year old pensioner residing with a sibling. After being told to find new accommodation by her sister, the victim enquired at a few pension homes but no positive outcome thus far.
14. A 37 year old single mother of 1 seeking counselling. The victim feels that the recent demise of her child's father has affected the child's behaviour. The four year old is at times unresponsive and her solitary behaviour is a cause for concern. Added to that, the victim is unable to meet her daily expenses and feels that the situation has become unbearable.
15. A 47 year old unemployed and divorced father of 3 struggling financially. The victim is struggling to meet the daily expenses. According to him, he does not receive any financial contribution from their child support grant as the SASSA card in care of his ex-wife.
16. A 53 year old wheelchair bound male residing in a home for the aged. An accident years ago rendered him permanently disabled. The victim is not able to take care of himself. Family visits are scarce and the only relative that visits occasionally is his aged mother.
17. A 43 year old unemployed male receiving a disability grant and residing with ageing parents. There is friction in the household as victim feels that his grant money is being misused. The victim's father spends the grant money on alcohol, leaving the mother to seek help from family members.
18. A 80 year old widow and pensioner with 4 adult children all involved in their own families and do not provide support to her in any form, leaving the victim feeling increasingly isolated and lonely. Her efforts to contact them have been fruitless.
19. A 65 year old pensioner dealing with an adult son who refuses to seek help for his drug addiction. The victim visited family members in another city, leaving her son in her house, only to return and find her home and belongings sold off to support his drug habit. The victim admits to being afraid of him as past confrontations have resulted in her being verbally abused by him in public.
20. 25 year old female approached the centre regarding a situation with her husband's supervisor. The victim's husband is employed at a company and did not receive his wages, which prompted the victim to confront his supervisor. The supervisor did not take too kindly to this and responded and continued with a host of text messages described by the victim as "ugly". Her husband is currently unemployed again as their situation has not been resolved

as yet so she has taken it up further with the manager. If the outcome is not satisfactory, she will be taking the matter to the CCMA.

21. A 65 year old widow taking care of her late sister's 3 children. The victim feels that she needs to consider options like foster care as there is no one else to take care of the children. Currently, the child support grant of 1 child and the victim's pension is the only income.
22. A 52 year old male seeking assistance for 47 families who are recent victims of xenophobia related arson. The displaced families were housed in a community hall.
23. A 27 year old single mother of 2 approached the centre for guidance. The victim recently took in a friend and her child as they had no place to go. The victim returned home one day to find her rental money and the tenant with child gone. After a relative confirmed their arrival in Cape Town, the victim decided it was not worthwhile to press charges, although she feels let down and disappointed at this betrayal of trust when trying to help another.
24. A 44 year old divorcee battling with an addict son who is also abusive towards her. The victim resorted to a protection order but lost her job due to constant absenteeism at work, related to issues with her son. She is now struggling financially and is not hopeful of job prospects.
25. An 18 year old pregnant female residing with an aunt. There is no income in the household of 3 adults at all. Victim is estranged from both parents. The whereabouts of her father is unknown and has no contact with her mother who is residing with her partner elsewhere. The victim has no other support and does not mention support from the father of her unborn child.