

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

29 victims in total for the month of September 2016 seen at the Al-Fidaa Foundation White Door Centre, 239 Durban Road. September referrals included the Department of Social Development and an area social worker. All follow-up counselling sessions are not mentioned in the brief summary of cases below:

1. A 49 year old grandmother seeking advice and needing to unburden her fears. The victim's 6 year old disabled grandchild was recently hospitalized after falling into boiling water; sustaining intense burn wounds. According to the victim the child died after the wounds became severely infected. The victim fears that the mother of the child will be arrested.
2. A 44 year old widow whose adult children reside with her. The victim and other children suffer physical, emotional and verbal abuse at the hands of the eldest, a 27 year old male. The victim has applied for a protection order against the abuser but lives in constant fear for her safety.
3. A 37 year old wife and mother sought counselling at the centre. The loss of a business deal altered their circumstances drastically leaving them penniless. An 18 year old son who has recently been released from rehab is an added stressor. The relationship between parent and child deteriorated to such an extent she resorted to evicting him from the home.
4. A 70 year old pensioner taking care of 4 grandchildren. The mother of the children started a new life and marriage in a new city and has left the victim to raise her children. The 70 year old grandmother is in dire straits as her pension does not cover the transport to and from school for a single child, let alone 4 children.
5. A 43 year old grandmother enquiring about procedures necessary to gain guardianship of her grandchild. She is concerned that her grandchild is freely exposed to drug abuse in the home and she feels that neither of the child's parents are fit to raise the child.
6. A 41 year male victim of domestic violence. Victim claims that spouse tried to stab him during a recent argument. After trying to defend himself, the spouse called the police. The victim was arrested and jailed for a week before being released on bail. Victim sees no possibility in reconciliation and will be seeking a divorce.
7. A 33 year old mother of 6 approached the centre for assistance. 5 of her 6 children were placed in care of social workers in her home town. She relocated to Port Elizabeth to start anew but was unable to secure a home or employment. She resided with a friend whom she claims coerced her into a life of prostitution. Victim has since moved away from this situation and found alternate accommodation, but only found out later that her previous host may have stolen her identity document and government grant (SASSA) card.
8. A 26 year old wife and mother residing with her grandparents. The victim is married to a foreign national who resides with friends. Whilst her spouse does support the children, he refuses to live with her and the children. According to her, he feels that the religious differences are insurmountable and is unwilling to accommodate this in their home. Victim is currently in a precarious position as her grandparents have asked her to find alternate accommodation if she is not contributing (financially) to the household.
9. A 37 year old male suffering emotional and physical distress due to injuries sustained in a shootout. The victim was shot 9 times and has undergone trauma counselling but discontinued after 2 sessions. Victim claims to be suffering psychological trauma, amnesia

and insomnia due to the incident and is unable to provide for family members as this incident has affected his livelihood.

10. A 45 year old male undergoing chemotherapy and physiotherapy. Victim receives a grant but is anxious as the grant is insufficient to cover the household expenses. Both spouses are unemployed.
11. A 52 year old unemployed mother of adult children. Victim is disappointed at the attitude of her children who display a decided lack of interest in seeking employment. She feels that the burden is on her to support the household, which includes grandchildren.
12. A 43 year old divorced mother of 3. Her 15 year old son's behaviour is problematic and currently refuses to attend school or seek help for his drug habit. His behaviour towards the victim and grandparents is aggressive and causes a great deal of anxiety to the family. The victim will be referred to the area social worker representing the Department of Social Development in this case.
13. A 38 year old victim presented at the White Door Centre for follow up counselling. Victim has recently made peace with giving her baby up for adoption and is optimistic about her future. She feels that she has overcome past hurdles and has the strength to live her life again.
14. A 28 year old married mother of a 9 year old child suspected of having a learning disorder. She was referred by the school to a psychologist at a government hospital for a detailed assessment. Victim claims to have been on a waiting list since the previous year. She has been referred to the occupational therapist of a nearby government hospital.
15. A 33 year old unemployed single mother residing with a sibling. The victim feels overwhelmed by her situation in general as she has necessary expenses like her child's school fees, transportation and household groceries which she is unable to meet.
16. A 32 year old single mother of 4. The victim is struggling financially and emotionally as she receives no support from the father of the children, relying solely on a government grant.
17. A 49 year old unemployed mother of 2 residing with family members including an unemployed sibling. The victim is waiting on the outcome of a government grant application.
18. A 52 year old unemployed male seeking counselling. Victim's wife is HIV positive. The couple still grieve for the loss of their 2 daughters who passed away several years past and late last year respectively. The couple is looking into adoption.
19. A 73 year old pensioner residing with a family member in her own home. The family member aged 50 years old is the victim's caretaker and receives no income, leaving the pensioner's income as the only income. Frequent hospitalizations due to recent bouts of illness and has added to the victims expenses, leaving little to no money to cover the household expenses.
20. A 72 year old widow and mother of 2 residing with a twenty something son who is currently unemployed and does odd jobs like gardening. The eldest is working in another city and has been supporting the victim with her utility bills. He plans to return to Port Elizabeth in future and reside with victim. Victim is currently struggling with financial issues and feeling that the current month's expenses have exceeded her finances.
21. A 40 year old mother of 3, currently employed. The victim feels that her current situation is too much for her to bear as the current wage does not adequately cover the family's expenses. Victim feels drained and tired of the status quo.