

## **APRIL 2018 UPDATE: CASES AT AL-FIDAA FOUNDATION WHITE DOOR CENTRE**

16 victims recorded for the month of April 2018 at the Al-Fidaa Foundation White Door Centre, 239 Durban Road, Korsten. Referrals included the Department of Social Development, Council of Theologians and Legal Aid. The following are brief summaries of cases seen:

1. 30 year old unemployed wife and mother seeking counselling for marital problems; the victim feels that her husband deliberately initiates arguments with her and the family and that he does not support them financially. According to her, he has made it clear that it is not his responsibility to support her sisters and parents but in his refusal to help, she and her children are also suffering and denied financial support.
2. 59 year old unemployed grandmother battling financially to support herself and her grandchild. The only income is the child support grant of the grandchild. The victim feels hurt and disappointed that her daughter sees how they are struggling but refuses to make an effort to care about the wellbeing of the child.
3. 65 year old unemployed divorcé approached the centre for counselling. The victim resides with his ex-wife while battling a rare and debilitating blood condition. He claims that his ex-wife and son verbally abuse him and even when he wants to pray, they go out of their way to disrupt him. The victim feels resigned at his situation in his life and disappointed that his son, an alleged alcoholic, abuse his helplessness but he has no other place to go.
4. 49 year old unemployed single mother of two adult sons, allegedly both unemployed addicts. The victim endures verbal threats and physical abuse at the hands of her sons who demand money from her to support their habit. The victim does odd jobs to be able to put food on the table but feels unable to endure the abuse for much longer.
5. 46 year old unemployed widow seeking counselling. The victim lost her husband a decade ago when he committed suicide shortly after discovering her infidelity and a child resulting from her extra marital affair. The victim maintains that her in-laws and daughter continue to blame her for her late husband's suicide. According to the victim, disagreements escalate rapidly with her adult daughter physically abusing her during these arguments.
6. 71 year old widowed grandmother seeking counselling for problems she is experiencing with a grandchild. According to the grandmother, the child is extremely rebellious, identified as a problem child by several schools and expelled. He is currently not attending school and she feels that his sessions with a psychologist at a local hospital have not improved his behaviour. The grandmother is at her wits end about what to do about his alleged rudeness and constant physical fighting with other children.
7. 29 year old unemployed husband and father arrested after his wife filed a domestic violence lawsuit; he was imprisoned for several months and upon his release found that she had resumed a relationship with her ex husband and according to the victim, is not prepared to uphold responsibility for their mutual child. The victim does odd jobs to support himself and the child who resides with him but alleges that his wife abuses the child support grant. He feels he does not have

much hope of obtaining full guardianship as he is not a permanent resident of South Africa as well as the prior conviction against him. The victim was referred to the Department of Social Development.

8. 24 year old unemployed female battling her addiction for several years. The victim has recently cleaned up and resides with her mother who is allegedly verbally abusive. The victim feels that she is not receiving the emotional support she needs and admits to feeling alone and depressed.
9. 63 year old wife seeking marital counselling and a referral. The victim was distraught at the shock discovery of her husband's infidelity and decided she had had enough after her husband recently fathered a child to a woman out of their marriage. She feels she cannot cope anymore and was referred to The Council of Theologians.
10. 45 year old unemployed divorcee seeking assistance for socioeconomic distress. The victim resides with a friend, doing casual jobs to contribute to the rental and her chronic medication. According to the victim she is battling financially and has adult children who do not support her emotionally or financially.
11. 42 year old wife and mother sought counselling for family problems. The victim's relationship with her adult daughter is rapidly deteriorating; the situation got out of hand with the victim's daughter attempting suicide. She is currently recuperating in hospital and the victim is seeking methods to resolve her family crisis.
12. 28 year old single mother of 1 approached the centre for counselling. The victim was allegedly raped by a male known to her and who with intent, infected her with HIV. The victim had followed procedure of reporting the rape and in the ensuing court case, the perpetrator was convicted of murder. The victim is still dealing with the rape, her HIV status and the emotional drain including heavy pressure by his family to withdraw the case.
13. 48 year old single mother of 1 seeking assistance. This victim of socioeconomic distress is unemployed, living in a shack with the child support grant the only income. She is unable to meet her living expenses and utilities, dealing with financial worry and recovery from Tuberculosis.
14. 43 year old single, unemployed male, diagnosed with bipolar disorder and seeking guidance on a legal matter. The victim was paralysed in an automobile accident and was residing in the family home with an uncle. According to the victim, his uncle promised the victim's mother prior to her death that he would take care of his nephew. This is no longer the case as the victim is now facing eviction and his uncle claiming the house. The victim was referred to Legal Aid.
15. 54 year old single female battling red tape in her efforts to secure a housing subsidy. She resides with her adult son and is attempting to track down a copy of her birth certificate at previous schools attended.
16. 29 year old single unemployed male victim of a job scam was offered a teaching post in Port Elizabeth but according to the victim, the acquaintance that brought him to Port Elizabeth from Gauteng only to disappear a few hours after their arrival in Port Elizabeth. The victim is stranded - nowhere to stay and no means to return to Gauteng to his family.