

## **AUGUST 2017 UPDATE: CASES AT AI-FIDAA FOUNDATION WHITE DOOR CENTRE**

24 victims recorded for the month of August at the Al-Fidaa Foundation White Door Centre, 239 Durban Road, Korsten. The following are brief summaries of cases seen:

1. 62 year old pensioner urgently seeking assistance at the White Door Centre in his efforts to return home. He travelled to the Eastern Cape to assist an acquaintance relocate to the province. Upon arrival in Port Elizabeth, the victim was left stranded and attacked by 7 unknown assailants. Aside from injuries sustained in the attack, the loss of his Identity document and SASSA grant card has caused him immense inconvenience.
2. 24 year old separated mother of 2 seeking counselling. This mother of a toddler and newborn suffered ostracism and constant harassment from other community members prior to and after her nuptials to her husband. Her husband, under pressure from the community and then the constant harassment eventually decided to abandon her and his newborn.
3. 59 year old husband and father trying to reform himself after being incarcerated for several years. He feels that his family members do not support his efforts and are placing undue pressure on him to find employment. The victim feels that the constant verbal abuse and pressure is more than he can handle.
4. 12 year old minor approached the centre with her mother. The victim was allegedly raped by an unknown assailant more than 2 months ago whilst visiting her mother. According to the mother, she had no inkling of the incident and began to realize something was wrong when the child's grades showed an obvious downward spiral. Upon further questioning by the mother, the 12 year old revealed the incident. The case was referred to a social worker at the Department of Social Development.
5. 34 year old mother of 3 seeking counselling; the victim's life is currently in turmoil and she is uncertain of her choices. The last few years have been marked by a lack of stability and separation from various family members. The victim feels unable to care for her older children and relied on friends to take care of them. The advent of her unborn child also weighs heavily on her mind.
6. A minor was brought to the centre by a family member. The victim was allegedly molested by her father over a period of time, unbeknownst to the mother. There has been some dispute amongst family members, one of whom alleges that this is case of malice on the mother's part as the parents are divorced. According to the mother of the victim, this was reported to the police whereupon the child was taken to Dora Nginza hospital and the case is allegedly still under investigation. The lack of conclusive information has caused a rift in the family.
7. 48 year old unemployed female seen at the centre for counselling. The victim feels overwhelmed with the chronic health issues she is dealing with as well as the family conflict with other members allegedly placing blame squarely on her shoulders regarding the upkeep of the ailing mother.
8. 30 year old female confided in the counsellor regarding an aged family member. The victim is concerned about her father's behaviour and she was concerned that he was further at risk of harm. The victim was extremely anxious as she had tried speaking to her father but to no avail. Her concern included the fact that she was unable to take care of him in the daytime as she is working. She was hopeful that the counsellor could assist with the family member.
9. 32 year old single unemployed mother of 1 seeking guidance and hoping to unburden her worries. The victim is caregiver to a disabled sibling and is battling to make ends meet as his government disability grant is currently the only income. The victim's child is eligible for the child support grant

- but this was discontinued and the victim is struggling to try to stay afloat. According to the victim, SASSA officials cannot shed any light on the reason for the child support grant being discontinued.
10. 45 year old mother of 3 returning to Port Elizabeth after separating from her husband. The family recently relocated to another province but then according to the victim, things rapidly fell apart due to family conflict and her husband's abusive behaviour towards her. Unable to bear it any longer, she returned to her family in Port Elizabeth. The victim has commenced with divorce proceedings and sought counselling from the White Door Centre as the emotional and financial strain is beginning to take its toll on her. The lack of privacy does not make her situation any easier as the household number 13 family members in a small home.
  11. 42 year old father of 1 visited the White Door Centre to update the counsellor on his case; the victim agreed on the placement of his teenage daughter with foster parents. The victim feels that once his financial situation improves, he will be able to resume his parental role.
  12. 69 year old female pensioner robbed at gunpoint and pistol-whipped in a minibus taxi. The victim was alone and was too traumatized to report the incident to the police.
  13. 65 year old pensioner experiencing socioeconomic distress as she is relying on her pension to support her 22 year old daughter's studies. The past few months the family has been struggling to get by and even resorted to begging friends and family to assist.
  14. 46 year old grandmother approached the centre for counselling. The victim is under severe strain due to concern about her daughter who is currently being investigated by the authorities in a case of child neglect. The victim's 4 year old grandchild, affected with cerebral palsy, died from severe burn injuries that became infected. The victim lives daily with the guilt that she could have done more and been with the child to avoid the accident.
  15. 50 year old widowed grandmother confided in the counsellor at the White Door Centre regarding her health and financial issues. The victim is the primary caregiver to her grandchild after her son was killed in a shooting incident in 2016. The only income the victim receives is a disability grant and this does not stretch enough to cover daily living expenses as well as day care for the child. The victim is trying to initiate proceedings to claim compensation from her son's previous employer in the hope that this will ease their situation.
  16. 36 year old single mother of 3 struggling to be financially independent. The partner she had counted on to build a life with left her suddenly stranded and he is not prepared to offer any financial support to their children, leaving her broken emotionally and financially.
  17. 70 year old widowed pensioner confided in the White Door Centre counsellor about anxieties threatening his day to day life. The victim was traumatised months ago when held up by unknown assailants in his home. The loss of his life partner and then the robbery was too much to deal with and the victim feels increasingly isolated and anxious about his life circumstances in general.
  18. Married couple seeking assistance with their young child - due to undergo an operation soon. The child is afflicted with a rare disorder (Eagle Barret syndrome) where there is a complete/ partial absence of abdominal muscles. The family is struggling emotionally and financially as their life savings and earnings have been depleted by medical costs and this will continue to be a financial worry as the child will have to undergo several more surgical procedures in the future.