

FEBRUARY 2018 UPDATE: CASES AT AI-FIDAA FOUNDATION WHITE DOOR CENTRE

20 victims assisted for the month of February at the Al-Fidaa Foundation White Door Centre, 239 Durban Road, Korsten. Referrals this month included Legal Aid. The following are brief summaries of cases seen:

1. 53 year old divorcee and concerned mother seeking counselling for her teenage son who has become withdrawn since being accused of rape. The teenager was acquitted in court due to lack of evidence and maintains his innocence. The mother feels that the case and the alleged physical and emotional abuse of the boy by his father contribute directly to her son's behaviour.
2. 58 year old mother seeking counselling for emotional stress and anxiety; she is at her wits end with a son who to her disappointment recently married a woman she disapproves of and whom she blames for her son's spiral into drug addiction. While the victim is making an effort to secure a place in a rehabilitation centre for him, his wife is not at all concerned about him, not even enquiring about his health or whereabouts, reinforcing the mother fears about her new daughter in law.
3. 40 year old mother of 3 battling cancer amongst other chronic illnesses. The victim feels abandoned by her husband, who walked out on the family. Battling illnesses and feelings of emotional isolation, she feels she has lost hope. Currently without an income, this mother has been left distraught after being informed that her only option is a double mastectomy. Her worries about the wellbeing of her children have increased tenfold.
4. 47 year old widowed mother of 2 requesting assistance for a niece residing with her. The victim is extremely concerned about her niece who has recently contracted tuberculosis, adding to health complications with HIV. The recovery and rehabilitation of the niece has been an emotional rollercoaster for the victim.
5. 40 year old wife and mother of 4 struggling to get by. The victim's husband is allegedly an unemployed addict who is mentally, physically and financially abusive, taking all of her hard earned salary, leaving her with nothing to feed their children.
6. 45 year old divorced mother of 3 seeking counselling and guidance regarding her options about claiming maintenance. Her ex husband is allegedly not supporting the children financially and neglecting his duty to keep in contact with the children.
7. 52 year old female concerned about the wellbeing of the baby who used to be in her care. The demise of the child's biological mother has left her in the dark about the child's whereabouts. The victim feels that she is unable to let the situation be and it is putting strain on her marriage.
8. 58 year old single mother and caregiver to an adult son with a mental disability presenting to the centre her dilemma: after updating the details to the new SASSA grant system, she was unable to retrieve the grant money, leaving her in financial difficulty as they depended heavily on that grant.
9. 59 year old single male residing in a friend's backyard. The victim is unemployed and is without family support, doing odd jobs to survive but due to his illness cannot do heavy work.

10. 34 year old distraught mother of 6 received bereavement counselling at the White Door Centre. The victim feels she is not coping after the death of her week old baby in hospital due to hydrocephalus (accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid in the brain).
11. 38 year old wife and mother of 3 seeking counselling. The victim reported a recent break-in at her home where all their personal belongings were stolen; the victim commenced with legal action against 4 male suspects who reside in the same area.
12. 54 year old male residing with his sister and receives a disability grant but claims the sister is abusing his SASSA grant and doesn't want to return his ID document giving him some autonomy. According to the victim he now has to walk around begging for food from friends and neighbours.
13. 36 year old single mother of 1 coming to terms with the recent diagnosis of a tumour on her brain. The added complications of tuberculosis and the potential impact of her illnesses on her child is a cause of great concern.
14. 52 year old single, unemployed mother grieving the loss of her daughter to tuberculosis ,leaving the victim the caregiver to a 7 year old grandchild. The victim is currently working with a social worker to assist in her efforts to obtain fostering rights.
15. 21 year old wife and mother of 1 seeking counselling for a family dispute over an inheritance issue with the victim's father in law, resulting in their eviction.
16. A single mother of 3, injured in the workplace, seeking assistance with a referral to a legal institution. The victim is currently at home recovering and angry that the company refuses to pay compensation. She will be seeking legal counsel about her issue.
17. 40 year single, unemployed female seeking counselling. The victim resides with family members and due to the financial concerns in the household there is much pressure on her to provide for the family which she feels is unfair toward her because she is a chronic patient, suffering from anxiety and stress.
18. 29 year old single mother of 4 approached the centre for assistance; the victim sought guidance regarding her legal options to receive maintenance for the children because she is unemployed and the father of her children does not contribute to their upkeep.
19. 35 year old wife and mother of 3 seeking assistance for socioeconomic distress. The only income in the home is the child support grant of 1 child and her spouse's alleged refusal to seek employment puts strain on the marriage leaving her entirely with the responsibility to provide for the family.
20. 38 year old wife and mother of 1 seeking marriage counselling. According to the victim, her husband, a businessman, is not supportive financially thus leaving her with the responsibility of the family's rental and other daily living expenses.