

JANUARY 2018 UPDATE: CASES AT AL-FIDAA FOUNDATION WHITE DOOR CENTRE

17 victims recorded for the month January at the Al-Fidaa Foundation White Door Centre, 239 Durban Road, Korsten. Referrals included the Department of Social Development. The following are brief summaries of cases seen:

1. 45 year old mother of an alleged addict seeking help at the White Door centre for a referral. According to the victim, she was forced to apply for a protection order against her son after he physically and verbally abused her as well as stealing from her to support his drug habit.
2. 32 year old wife and mother of 2 requiring counselling for her marital situation. The victim alleges that her husband has been unfaithful to her for the past 10 years, fathering several children out of the marriage. This and his recent arrest for possession of illegal goods has made her lose all trust in him. Her immediate concern is how she will manage the rental and upkeep of her children.
3. 40 year old married mother of an adult son with a history of substance abuse. According to the victim, her son assaulted not only her but also her 72 year old mother. He is currently in prison and the victim is trying her utmost to maintain a relationship with her son.
4. 22 year old mother and wife residing in a shack with her children. The victim's husband, allegedly an addict, abandoned the family and does not support them at all, according to the victim. She is now trying to support herself and children. The victim also disclosed that the marriage was always troubled as she lived in fear of her husband, who became violent towards her especially when under the influence of drugs and alcohol.
5. 45 year old married mother of 3 approached the centre for counselling for marital problems. The victim has given up on her marriage, feeling she can no longer endure her husband's verbal, emotional and financial verbal abuse toward herself and her children. The victim feels she has endured years of being stifled and controlled to the extent of even being afraid to make herself a cup of tea at home, for fear of repercussions.
6. 16 year old teenager accompanied by his mother to the White Door Centre. The victim was accused of rape and the sexual abuse of a minor but the case was withdrawn after a lack of evidence. The victim maintains his innocence but the family was forced to leave their neighbourhood after the incident. According to the mother, the victim had become withdrawn, losing interest in school and life in general as he has never come to terms with the alleged accusations and ostracism that followed.
7. 36 year old married mother of 1 approached the centre counsellor for a dispute she is currently having with her teenaged son's former educator. The victim alleges that the teacher advised her to take her son out of high school as the teen was not coping academically and at the same time the educator allegedly offered his assistance to get the boy enrolled in a local training academy. After removing the child from school, no training academy materialized, leaving the boy stranded out of school for a year with the only way to return to his former school the option of paying a registration fee she cannot afford.

8. 31 year old wife and mother of 4 seeking marriage counselling. The victim alleges that she feels trapped and unhappy in her relationship. According to the victim her husband is extremely married possessive and demanding; she feels she needs to pursue her dreams of becoming a teacher but husband has other expectations of her and is unsupportive of her plans and their children.
9. A pensioner couple in distress as their living situation is currently unstable; A relative of their late landlord is planning to sell the property and is demanding the couple find other accommodation as soon as possible causing the couple a great deal of anxiety.
10. 35 year old female came to our office for assistance with a sibling, an alleged substance abuser who has put the family through some trying times. His sincerity at changing his life has motivated family members to try and assist him.
11. 52 year old married female seeking guidance on the process to apply for guardianship for a child she had taken care of since infancy. The victim had recently heard that the biological mother had passed away from tuberculosis and is concerned about the child's whereabouts and wellbeing.
12. 32 year old husband and father of 3 kids approached the centre for assistance with a referral after he was allegedly framed and arrested for possession of illegal drugs. The victim maintains that he was wrongfully arrested and assaulted by the police.
13. 45 year old single male residing with his aged uncle in the family home after the demise of his grandparents. The victim receives a disability grant for his chronic illness but alleges that the aforementioned uncle abuses the victim's SASSA grant funds. The victim admits to feeling angry and helpless, stating that the uncle does not hesitate to physically assault the victim.
14. 65 year old female pensioner residing alone in a backyard shack, seeking counselling. According to the victim, the terrible condition of the shack is a constant worry as it is barely shelters her from the wind and rains, yet she is being charged what she feels is an exorbitant rent. Her efforts to make her landlord understand has not been successful thus far.
15. 42 year old single father residing in a shack with his 3 children. The victim is unemployed and struggles to maintain his family. The mother of the children is allegedly receiving the child support grant and abusing it even though the victim is raising their children.
16. 32 year old husband and father of 2 battling to support his family. Husband and wife are unemployed - the children's child support grant which cannot cover all their expenses, is currently the only income.
17. 39 year old husband and father of 7 seeking assistance at the centre. The victim and wife are unemployed, leaving the family to depend on the child support grant of 3 of the 7 children.