

October 2017 UPDATE: CASES AT AL-FIDAA FOUNDATION WHITE DOOR CENTRE

18 victims recorded for the month of October 2017 at the Al-Fidaa Foundation White Door Centre, 239 Durban Road, Korsten. Referrals included Gelvandale Court and Council of Theologians. Brief summaries of cases seen below:

1. 24 year old divorcee and mother of 2 dealing with the pain of separation from her husband in her time of need. The victim was an outcast in her community after her alleged rape and consequent pregnancy by a male outside of the community. She chose to raise the child and eventually settled down but continuous physical and verbal abuse towards the couple resulted in her husband abandoning her and their 3 week old baby as well as her toddler after an incident where victim was allegedly beaten up in her home by her abusers. The victim is not permanently employed and was unable to meet the rental in time and was evicted.
2. 54 year old single mother diagnosed several years ago with Leukaemia which affected her eyesight to the extent that she is unable to obtain employment and reports feeling depressed because there is no income and she is afraid of what the future holds.
3. 29 year old female married with 2 children. Her husband lost his job as a result of his substance abuse. He has resorted to stealing their household items to support his drug habit. She is heartbroken and has nowhere to turn to, not even family as they had disowned her when she married her husband.
4. 44 year old married mother of 3 seeking counselling. The victim's husband is allegedly physically and emotionally abusive towards her. She feels she cannot remain in the marriage any longer and wants a divorce. Client was referred to the Gelvandale Court to obtain a protection order as well as to the Council of Ulama.
5. 40 year old female victim of domestic violence, requiring stitches for a hand injury inflicted by her partner, a drug addict who is prone to extreme violence in attempts to support his habit. The client sought counselling at the White Door Centre after receiving stitches for an injury (he allegedly attacked her with a bottle). The client has opted not to press charges but will seek a protection order. The victim's closest personal relationships have been marked by violence. Having been burnt and beaten to the point of hospitalization until she could not bear it any longer, she escaped and relocated to Port Elizabeth. Only to find herself years later in a similar relationship. The victim is unemployed and currently seeking to be independent emotionally and financially
6. 42 year old mother of 7 children sought counselling at the centre after she was allegedly attacked by a neighbour during an argument. The assault allegedly resulted in a hand injury for which she required emergency surgery after the finger became severely infected. The victim is the sole breadwinner for her children and a fortnight out of work resulted in financial difficulties.
7. 57 year old mother of a 23 year old mentally impaired son whose condition recently deteriorated drastically. He attacked the victim and damaged her property (breaking windows and doors) after which she contacted emergency services to transport him to hospital.
8. 53 year old unemployed male seeking assistance at the White Door Centre; still coming to terms with the loss of his home. The victim and his wife lost their belongings after their shack was destroyed by strong winds, rendering them homeless and without the means to rebuild their shack.
9. 42 year old single father of 4 minors not residing with him currently as he is unemployed and living with a family member suffers from tuberculosis. The victim is struggling to find employment and alternate accommodation.

10. 57 year old widow residing with her son and granddaughter seeking counselling as she is under severe strain due to the tense home environment. According to the victim, the mother of the child abuses alcohol blatantly and is neglectful of her parental duty. She is considering applying for guardianship of the child.
11. 57 year old unemployed single father of 1 unburdening at the White Door Centre. The victim does not have much contact with his child and claims that the mother of his child is “unfit” as she does not hesitate to leave her child with family members on the weekend while she “parties”. The victim is currently trying to seek guardianship of the child and secure employment.
12. 31 year old female married with no children. Her husband is currently at Empelweni Centre for treatment. The couple resided with her father in-law but didn't like the living conditions. The victim's husband was not able to continue work due to the Tuberculosis and received a lump sum payment upon termination of services from the company he was employed by. According to the victim, her father in law took all this money, evicting them; leaving the couple penniless and homeless. She is currently battling to find accommodation.
13. 60 year old pensioner seeking counselling. The victim and wife are unemployed and have 1 child still attending school. The only income is the pension and the victim feels that he is barely able to support the family and the stress he feels exacerbates the several chronic illnesses he suffers from.
14. 66 year old husband and father recently retrenched seeking assistance at the White Door Centre. The victim's wife is also unemployed and they are currently waiting to receive his severance pay but the delay is causing great anxiety as he cannot meet his daily expenses including rental and food to support the family.
15. 31 year old mother of 1 seeking counselling for relationship issues. Her partner is a pensioner and his daughter is disapproving of the relationship. According to the victim, the regular verbal abuse – public and private – at the hands of her partner's daughter.
16. 48 year old married father of five seeking counselling for emotional distress. The victim's wife allegedly walked out on him with their children and now resides with her family. He feels that much of the problems between them are due to family interference. The victim feels further dejected as his wife issued the ultimatum that if he does not find a job she will file for divorce, leaving the victim feeling that he is being emotionally blackmailed.
17. 19 year old male victim of theft and hijacking approached the centre for counselling. The victim alleges he was accosted by 8 unknown assailants while working with his father and brother. The thieves made off with cellphones and the car. The same weekend the victim was allegedly knocked over by a motor vehicle and is currently forced to use crutches. The victim is still in shock and trying to come to terms with events.
18. 39 year old female seeking counselling for what she feels is unfair treatment from her employer. The victim was on sick leave for 2 weeks; she submitted her doctor's letter to her manager only to find out when she got back to work that there is now a new manager and no leave certificate submitted by her former manager. The victim confided to feeling frustrated and angry because she continued at the company thereafter; working for 3 months without any income while the matter was being investigated and she is the only breadwinner in the house. Update: The victim has thus far received a portion of the back pay owing to her and will be receiving the balance shortly.