

EVERYDAY IS A *New* DAY

By Nur Syafeeqah

When I joined the staff team at **Ahuva Good Shepherd - Small Group Care (SGC)** I was cautioned by well-meaning people of the challenges posed by the children who have experienced and endured abusive relationships. I was undeterred, because I believe that it is a job that is very much needed to be done in order to provide unwavering support to the children and help them persevere.

Trained in Trauma-Informed Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support (TIPBIS), I still find it hard to find a balance between practising empathy and helping the children to recognise and alter their aversive behaviours at the same time. Stepping back helps me focus on my role to equip the children with effective and positive skills to manage their aversive behaviours as a result of the trauma they experienced.

I would readily admit that it is a very tough job, however there are moments I would always treasure, like when a child described me as “firm but gentle”. Aw... Seeing how each child responds to her individual intervention plan, taking small steps to change what is possible for her, motivates me to get out of bed to welcome another day.

The children have influenced me to live one day at a time, to discover more about myself as I journey with these young girls who have been significantly traumatised. Their resilience is amazing; their attitude towards life impressed us so much that we believe every day is a new day.

Ahuva Good Shepherd - Small Group Care

Since June 2017, Ahuva Good Shepherd - Small Group Care (SGC) has been providing care and a safe place for girls aged between 7 and 12 years, assessed by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) to have moderate to high needs, stemming from abuse. The usual length of stay is up to 18 months.



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