

Local



STOP
CHILD ABUSE

Stigma of sexual abuse barrier for children in need of help

By Faten Omar

Early one morning, a mother and her daughter went to a tailor to get a new dress stitched. The tailor, while taking the measurements of the child, groped the little girl when her mother was not looking, and kept praising her “cuteness” and how beautiful she was. After leaving the shop, the mother remembered she had forgotten something in the shop and sent her daughter to get it. The tailor downed the shutter, pulled the girl under the counter and forced her to touch him inappropriately.

She could not understand something was wrong, but felt something was not right either. She tried to escape and squeezed her little body from under the not-fully-closed shutter. Running to her mother, she innocently asked: “Mom, I touched the tailor. What was this about?” The mother screamed at her, blaming her for what she had done and threatened her not to tell her father.

The girl, now an adult, told Kuwait Times that she was

sexually abused by the tailor when she was six years old. The incident she experienced as a child made her live in fear, and she couldn’t enter into a loving relationship. The woman, who preferred to remain anonymous, also said that she was shocked by the reaction of her mother. “After avoiding many relationships, I’m married now with two beautiful daughters. I warn them about how some people may take advantage of their ignorance and abuse them,” she added.