



FACT SHEET

A GUN IN THE HOME

GUN CONTROL



TO GET YOU THINKING

CHILD SHOT DEAD BY ANOTHER CHILD WHO WAS PLAYING WITH A GUN

“Fourteen-year-old Skhumbuzo Dube was shot dead on 4 June 2017. His 12-year-old neighbour had got hold of his grandfather’s firearm and was playing with it when he shot Skhumbuzo. The grandfather is on trial for gun negligence in the Ekangala Magistrates’ court near Bronkhorstspuit. But for the third time on Wednesday the case was postponed.

Skhumbuzo was one of about 18,000 homicide victims in the country in 2017, and Bronkhorstspuit is a small town 60km from Pretoria. So it’s unusual for a case like this to get public attention, but Gun Free South Africa (GFSA) has taken a special interest in it. Adele Kirsten, the organisation’s director, explains that this case ‘demonstrates the significant weaknesses in the firearms control management system in South Africa, from the point of issuing a gun license to an individual to the point of destruction.’

Skhumbuzo was taken to hospital but he died after losing too much blood. On Wednesday, the case was postponed because of a problem with the docket. Asked by GroundUp to explain what was wrong, Captain Elphias Malinga, the investigating officer on the case, said that the case has been postponed several time and to date has not yet been concluded in the magistrate’s court. Witnesses claim the child who shot Skhumbuzo was also seen playing with the gun the day before he shot Skhumbuzo. The child had accidentally shot the gun that day too, but it had only hit the garden wall.”

Article extract from: ‘Activists furious with delays in child shooting case’

Extra resources on this topic: ‘Dad accidentally kills daughter in robbery’



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

There are two violations of South Africa’s gun law in this story, can you identify which two they are?

What could the Firearms Control Act do to help prevent this kind of incident from occurring?

DID YOU KNOW?

LIVING IN A HOUSE WITH A GUN INCREASES YOUR RISK OF EXPERIENCING GUN VIOLENCE.



A GUN IN THE HOME MEANS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS MORE LIKELY TO RESULT IN A MURDER.



Guns can kill you in three ways:

**MURDER
SUICIDE
AND BY ACCIDENT**



Under the Firearms Control Act, it is a right for any woman who lives in fear of violence in her home to ask the police to remove the gun immediately.

There is no reliable evidence that says having a gun in your house reduces your chances of becoming a victim of crime.

SOURCE: 1. Gun Violence Facts
2. A gun at home is a health risk

DEFINITIONS

WHAT IS GUN CONTROL?

Gun control (or firearms regulation) is the set of laws that regulate the manufacture, sale, transfer, possession, modification or use of firearms by both civilians and the state.

Source: Wikipedia

WHAT IS THE FIREARMS CONTROL ACT (FCA)?

This is the law regulating gun ownership in South Africa.

Before the FCA took effect in 2004, there were an estimated 4.5 million registered firearms in South Africa, of which around 3.5 million (78%) were held by individuals. Around 190,000 licenses were issued annually from 1994 through 1999, and over 13,000 individuals had more than ten firearms to their name.

Source: Firearms Control Act reduces guns

The Firearms Control Act, is the law governing everything about guns in South Africa, including the proper way a legal gun must be kept in the home. The FCA says a legal gun owner must lock his/her gun in a safe or a strong room.

It is against the law if:

- A legal gun is not safely stored at home exactly like the law says.
- A legal gun owner loses his/her gun because it was not kept in a safe.
- A legal gun owner does not report to the police the loss, theft or destruction of his/her gun.

Source: Wikipedia

WHAT IS A FIREARM LICENCE?

This is an up-to-date licence issued by South African Police Service (SAPS). It is only issued after the applicant has passed a series of tests which show that they know and understand the gun law in South Africa and that they are responsible citizens. So the applicant has to prove that they are responsible and fit to own a gun. The government has the authority to decide based on the tests and other evidence if the applicant is a 'fit and

proper' person to own a gun and then has the authority to grant or deny the issuing of a licence.

WHAT IS A LEGAL GUN?

A legal gun in South Africa is a gun that is licensed by the SAPS to an individual gun owner. An ordinary person is allowed to own a maximum of four guns.

WHAT IS AN ILLEGAL GUN?

An illegal gun is any gun that is produced, transferred, held or used in violation of a national or international law. Most guns start off their life as a legal gun. Legal guns become illegal when they are stolen from the legal owner, lost by the owner, and/or are bought on the illegal market.

WHAT IS A GUN FREE ZONE?

A Gun Free Zone is a space where no guns are welcome or allowed. It limits who can carry a gun where. There are different types of Gun Free Zones; some Gun Free Zones are enforced through the use of metal detectors and providing safe storage, while others are enforced through community buy-in and trust.

- In South Africa, private guns are prohibited, by law, in government buildings according to the Firearm Control Act of 2000.
- In South Africa, legal gun owners can carry their gun publicly as long as it is partially or completely covered and in a gun holster.

WHAT IS A GUN AMNESTY?

A gun amnesty means that people who are in possession of an illegal gun can hand the gun in to the police without being prosecuted. It also means that someone who no longer wants their legal gun can hand it into the police. The Minister of Police and Parliament have to give permission for a gun amnesty to be held and they usually decide on the conditions of the amnesty and on the time period. South Africa has held several successful amnesties over the last twenty years.

Source: Gun Free South Africa

MYTHBUSTERS

MYTH

Having a legal gun in the home keeps you safe from thieves or people who want to attack you.

Burglars will think twice before robbing a house with a gun.

A woman is safer when there is a gun in the house.

If you safely store your legal gun at home, then there is no risk.

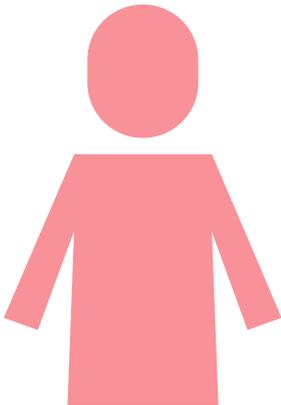
FACT

Many studies have shown that keeping a gun in the house makes living there more dangerous. Having a gun in the house increases your chances of becoming the victim of a gun related murder or suicide in the home.

In fact, burglars often target gun owners' homes.

South African women are at risk of becoming a victim of gun violence in their home at the hands of their intimate partner. A national study found that more women (57%) were murdered by their husbands or boyfriends (this is called intimate femicide) than by strangers.

No matter how guns are stored, what type or how many you own, having a gun in your home significantly increases the risk of death for you, your spouse and children.
 Source: A gun at home is a health risk



“The literature suggests that having a gun in your home to protect your family is like bringing a time bomb into your house. Instead of protecting you, it’s more likely to blow up.”
 - DR. MARK ROSENBERG, EPIDEMIOLOGIST, NEW YORK TIMES 2013

 **While owning a gun is a right in some countries, it is not a right in South Africa, it is a privilege.**


The law refers to a gun as a firearm.



PREPARING FOR THE SHOW

WAYS TO TALK ABOUT A GUN IN THE HOME

- What are the ways we can be safe in our homes instead of having a gun?
- What are the different ways to talk about 'safety' and 'protection' that does not involve a gun?
- What are the life skills we can use to prevent gun violence in homes and in our community?

CHOOSE AN ANGLE

What are the ways we can be safe in our homes instead of having a gun?

Different ways to talk about: "What are the ways we can be safe in our homes instead of having a gun?"

- What are the risks that a gun poses in a home? If there was a gun in your home, what would the specific risks be (especially for women and children living there)?
- Advocate for the removal of guns from homes.
- Gun violence prevention begins with you. Develop life skills, such as walking away from dangerous situations, ways to control anger and frustration, etc.
- Discuss the myths and facts of having a gun in the home, including how keeping a gun in the home increases risk, not safety.

FORMATS



VOX POP



Aim

To get many opinions on one topic.



Who do you talk to

Anyone in the community.



Question

When you think about the words "safety" and "protection", what do you think of?



AUDIO COMMENTARY



Aim

To get people's opinion about a topic that they care deeply about.



Who do you talk to

A community activist, or a youth activist campaigning or advocating for change on a particular issue.



Questions

- What are the ways we can change perceptions about keeping a gun in the home for safety?
- How can we keep homes safe from attack or burglaries?
- What are the ways a gun in the home makes it risky for gun violence to occur?
- What are the ways a gun can be removed from the home?

FORMATS



AUDIO PROFILE



Aim

To get a first person account of someone's experience, passion and journey. Audio profiles often aim to inspire.



Who do you talk to

Talk to a person who is open to sharing why they choose NOT to have a gun in the home.



Questions

- What has motivated you against keeping a gun in your home?
- How can your home be safe against an attack or burglary?
- What are the ways we can prevent gun violence in our homes and in our community?



HOW TO PRESENT YOUR SHOW



Use your produced radio formats, your research and the suggested script and questions to write your own script.

Suggested questions for an interview with a community leader or a representative from an organisation campaigning against gun violence.

- Why is it important to remove guns from the home or not to bring a gun into the home in the first place?
- What are the ways we can prevent gun violence, generally?
- How can one keep their home safe from attack?

[INTRO:]

Host 1: It's just gone [TIME] and you're just in time for the [NAME OF SHOW] on [RADIO STATION]. My name is [NAME].

Host 2: And my name is [NAME], and today's show is all about why keeping a gun in the home is not such a good idea.

Host 1: Did you know that keeping a gun in the home increases your chances of being a victim of gun violence?

Host 2: Really? How?

Host 1: Well, guns can kill you in three ways; murder, suicide and by accident. And sometimes it doesn't matter even if you keep your legal gun in a very safe and secure place; the presence of a gun just means you are putting yourself or others in the home in danger.

Host 2: Wooow! You are giving me something to think about. I wonder what people on the street think about this topic.

[INTRO VOX POP]

[VOX POP]

[OUTRO VOX POP]

Host 1: Let's hear more from someone who cares deeply about this issue and is advocating to have guns removed from homes.

[INTRO INTERVIEW]

[INTERVIEW]

[OUTRO INTERVIEW]

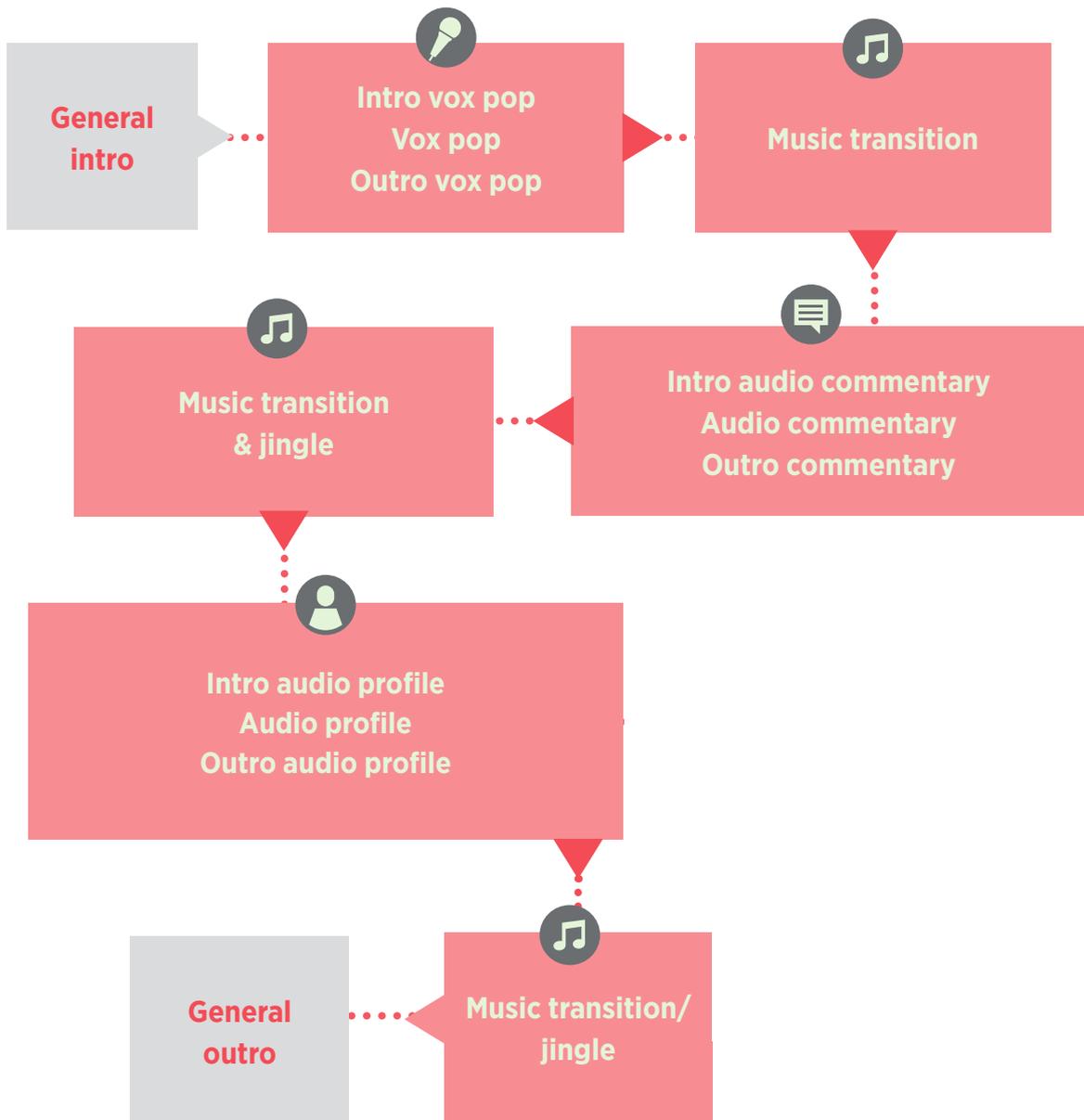
[OUTRO:]

Host 1: Today, we've learnt so much about the risks involved in keeping a gun in the home.

Host 2: That's right! Before we discussed this topic I had never really thought about the risks of having a gun in the home. I didn't know about all the evidence that shows how dangerous that can be.

Host 1: I think that we have all learned something today that will help us make the better decisions around safety. Thank you all for staying tuned! Next week on [DAY] at [TIME] we'll be talking all about [NEXT WEEK'S SHOW TOPIC]. Until then, it's bye from us!

SHOW OUTLINE




ETHICS AND CONSENT

This may be a sensitive topic for some, so make sure you inform your audience to respect those who share personal stories in the space.

OUTREACH OUTLINE FLOW

When you create your outreach outline, be aware of the flow and the energy that certain activities generate. You don't want to start with a bang and end on a whisper.



PREPARING FOR YOUR OUTREACH

WAYS TO TALK ABOUT A GUN IN THE HOME

- What are the ways we can be safe in our homes instead of having a gun?
- What are the different ways to talk about 'safety' and 'protection' that does not involve a gun?
- What are the life skills we can use to prevent gun violence in homes and in our community?

CHOOSE AN ANGLE

What are the ways we can be safe in our homes instead of having a gun?

Different ways to talk about: "a gun in the home"

- What are the risks that a gun poses in a home? If there was a gun in your home, what would the specific risks be (especially for women and children living there)?
- Advocate for the removal of guns from homes.
- Gun violence prevention begins with you. Develop life skills, such as walking away from dangerous situations, ways to control anger and frustration, etc.
- Discuss the myths and facts of having a gun in the home, including how keeping a gun in the home increases risk, not safety.

REMINDER

Gun violence can be a sensitive and triggering topic. The resource sheet can be used to help refer affected people to hotlines, supportive services and more information.

You can also find the contact information of professional support services such as a social worker or counsellor in your community and share the details at the outreach with their permission.

Remember to repeat support service information throughout your event and to post it on social media.

FORMATS



GUEST SPEAKER



Aim

A guest speaker is someone who can share expert knowledge about the impact statement or tell a personal story related to the impact statement.

Some questions for the guest speaker to think about ahead of time



- If a gun is kept in a safe and secure place in the home, how can it still be a danger?
- How can we change perceptions around having a gun for safety?
- If we understand that guns actually cause danger, how else can we keep ourselves safe from violence?



AUDIO COMMENTARY



Aim

To get people's opinion about a topic that they care deeply about.



Who do you talk to

A community activist, or a youth activist campaigning or advocating for change on a particular issue.



Questions

- What are the ways we can change perceptions about keeping a gun in the home for safety?
- How can we keep homes safe from attack or burglaries?
- What are the ways a gun in the home makes it risky for gun violence to occur?
- What are the ways a gun can be removed from the home?



PANEL DISCUSSION



Aim

A panel discussion involves a group of people discussing one topic in front of an audience. There is usually time for questions from the audience afterwards.



Examples of opening questions for the panel

- What are the ways we can talk about safety without guns?
- Can you describe different ways to think about safety?
- In what ways does the presence of a gun in the home make it unsafe for the people who live there?

Who is on the panel

Gun Free SA, community policing forum, youth activist, social worker, teacher, etc.



IMPACT JINGLE



Aim

A jingle is a short song or tune that is easy to sing along to and remember, and it has a clear message.





HOW TO PRESENT YOUR OUTREACH

Use your outreach formats and your research to write your own script. Here is an example of part of a script. Use it as a guide to create your own script for your outreach activity.

[INTRO:]

Host 1: It's just gone [TIME] and my name is [NAME OF HOST 1] and I am a [TITLE OF HOST] from [NAME OF ORGANISATION]. Thank you all for being here at the [NAME OF VENUE] today.

Host 2: And my name is [NAME OF HOST 2], and today's event is all about the danger of keeping a gun in the home.

Host 1: This is a very interesting topic my friend. I've heard about keeping a gun in the home for safety; you know, to protect yourself against an attack or a burglary. But I never thought that the gun can actually be a danger to the people living in the home.

Host 2: And that's exactly what we are going to discuss today. Let's get the ball rolling and hear from our guest speaker about this issue and what we can do about it.

[INTRO GUEST SPEAKER]
[GUEST SPEAKER]
[OUTRO GUEST SPEAKER]

Host 1: That was so very interesting and really gives us hope that we can achieve safety in the home and in our communities.

[IMPACT JINGLE]

Host 1: Let's keep our energy levels up guys... Here is some music to help you get out of your seats.

[INTRO MUSIC]

[MUSIC]

[OUTRO MUSIC]

Host 2: Okay guys, listen up we have a panel of very interesting people here who are going to share more about our topic today.

[INTRO PANEL DISCUSSION]

[PANEL DISCUSSION]

[OUTRO PANEL DISCUSSION]

[IMPACT JINGLE]

Host 1: Wow! I've learned so much today, what about you?

Host 2: For sure! I learned that keeping a gun in the home is actually quite dangerous. The best thing to do is to remove it from the home.

Host 1: Thank you guys for attending today, for listening and just being awesome!

Host 2: Next up it's the final performance of the day. [INTRO PERFORMERS]. Don't forget to catch us next month on [DAY] at [TIME] and [VENUE]. We'll be talking all about [TOPIC FOR NEXT SHOW].

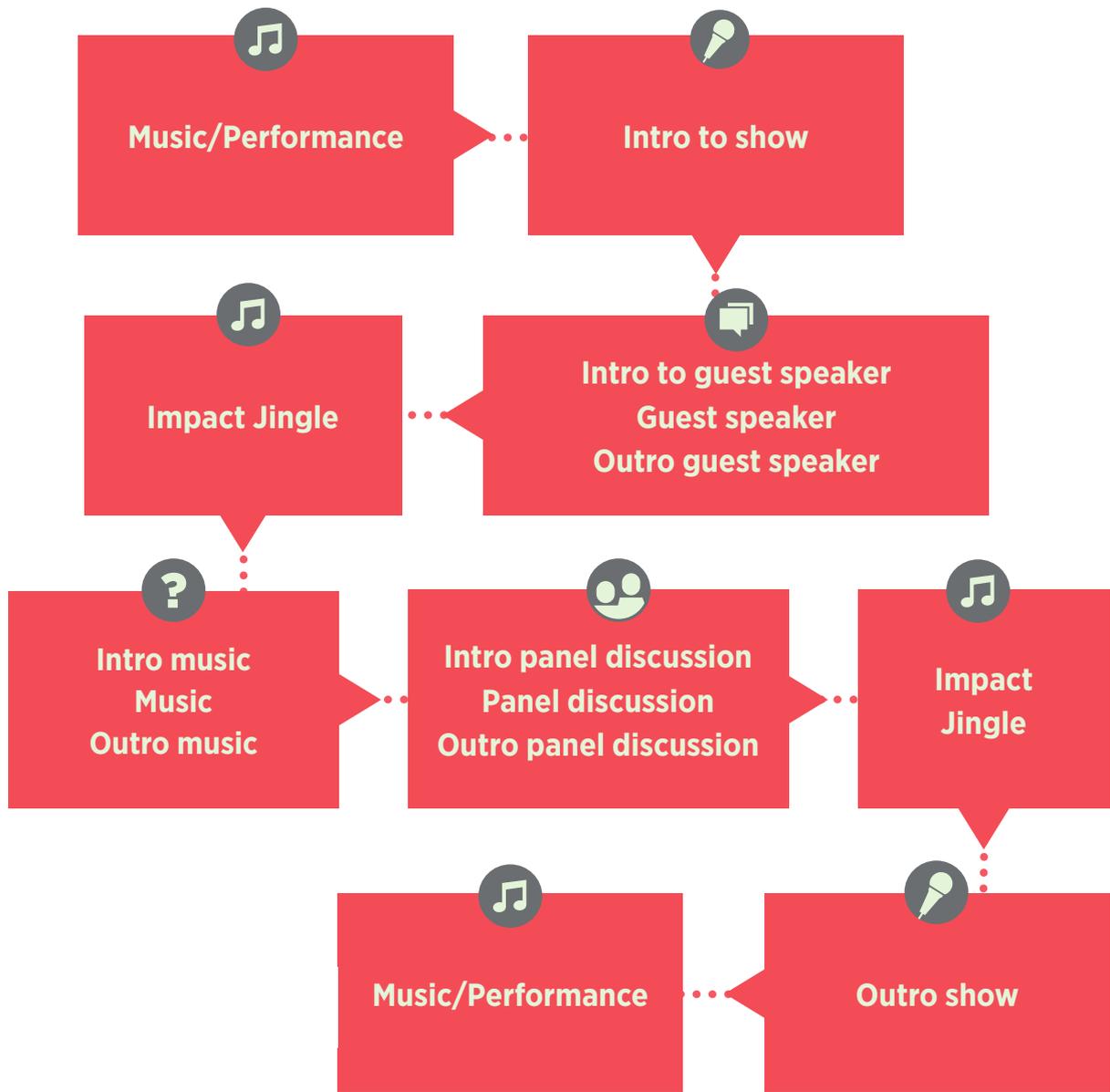
Host 1: Thank you once again for joining us and we hope to see you next time! Until then, it's bye from us!

[MUSIC/PERFORMANCE]

SHOW OUTLINE

An outreach outline is a map to help you stay on track during your event. It is a list of the items and the order in which they will happen in the outreach activity. Allocate a time to each item so that you keep to the time allocation of the outreach activity.

Below is an example of an event that is one hour long.



If any incorrect information comes up in any of your formats, like the quiz, role play or panel discussion, you must correct it. Don't let your audience leave with myths.

Once you've finalised your script, your performance artists, your outreach outline and prepared all your formats, it's time to start your live event!