



## FACT SHEET

# GENDER, GUNS AND VIOLENCE



## DEFINITIONS

### WHAT IS GENDER?

- Gender refers to the socially created roles, personality traits, attitudes, behaviours and values that are acceptable for men and women. Gender is learnt, and changes over time.

#### **(Talking Taboos: Gender Health & Justice Research Unit)**

- Sex and gender are not the same thing
- Sex refers to the physical or biological characteristics used to classify men, women and intersex people.
- Gender defines what women and men, and girls and boys are expected to be and do. Learn more here:

#### **What is gender?**

- Gender is not fixed. It is not absolute.
- **Gender norms** are the “rules” about how each gender should behave. Gender norms contribute to gender inequality (**NSVRC**)

### WHAT IS MASCULINE AND FEMININE?

- When we discuss gender, we use the terms “**masculine**” and “**feminine**” to identify a set of characteristics, values and meanings that we attach to being male and to being female. **(The Critical Media Project)**. Words that are masculine stereotypes for men include; physical strength, power, decisiveness, action, bravery, aggression, tough, rational
- Words that are feminine stereotypes for women include: passive, submissive, fearful, weak, emotional, soft, irrational

### WHAT IS VIOLENCE?

Violence is the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, which either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation.

#### **(World Health Organisation)**

### WHAT IS A FIREARM?

A firearm is a device manufactured or designed to propel a bullet or projectile through a barrel or cylinder by means of a burning propellant.

### WHAT IS A HAND-GUN?

A handgun is a pistol or revolver and can be used with just one hand. It is durable and easy to hide.

\*note: a gun and a firearm is the same thing but in law a gun is referred to as a firearm.

### WHAT IS A LEGAL GUN?

A legal gun in South Africa is a gun that is licensed to an individual gun owner. This person needs to be a South African citizen or permanent resident, be 21 years or older and not have a criminal record. The gun owner would have had to pass mental health checks, background checks that include inquiry into substance addiction. The gun owner must also pass basic training in how to handle a gun from an accredited facility and needs to know his responsibilities and duties under the law. An ordinary person is allowed to own a maximum of four guns.

### WHAT IS AN ILLEGAL FIREARM?

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 guns. Legal guns become illegal when they are stolen from the legal owner, lost by the owner, and bought illegally on the black market.

### WHAT IS GUN VIOLENCE?

**Gun violence** or gun related violence is violence committed with the use of a gun, which includes murder, attempted murder, using a gun in order to threaten or intimidate, suicide and attempted suicide.

### WHAT IS FEMICIDE?

Femicide is defined as the killing of a female person by an intimate partner (**saferspaces.org**).

### WHAT IS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)?

Gender-based violence involves men and women, in which women are usually the victims. GBV is often a result of unequal power relationships between men and women. It includes, but is not limited to, physical, sexual and psychological harm. The most common form of gender-based violence is abuse of women by intimate male partners.

## GUNS AND GENDER

Most acts of violence across the world, including firearm-related violence, are overwhelmingly perpetrated by men and boys and most victims of firearms-related violence are also men and boys. Globally, men account for 80 per cent of murder victims and perpetrators. (UNODC. 2011) Most firearms are owned by men - whether in the home for self-protection, as a hobby such as hunting, as part of their job such as a police officer or security guard, and in gangs.



More men than women own guns as a global trend



On average **16 PEOPLE** are killed by guns every day in South Africa.  
Gun Free South Africa

### GUN-RELATED DEATHS



Gun Free South Africa

67% of women killed by guns are killed by a single shot, usually to the head or face.

Study on Guns and Gender-based Violence

A legal gun is used in 75% of cases in which a woman is shot and killed, and in 60% of cases this shooting occurs in her home.

Gun Free South Africa

**88%** of **GUN-RELATED SUICIDES** are men and 12% are women.

Gun Free South Africa



A woman is killed by an intimate partner every 8 hours in South Africa: **17% OF THESE DEATHS ARE FROM GUNSHOT.**

Gun Free South Africa

Women are more at risk for being shot and killed at the hands of an intimate partner than men.

Men are more at risk of being shot and killed by male acquaintances than women.

Any woman who lives in fear of a gun in her home can ask the **MAGISTRATES COURT OR THE POLICE** to remove the gun immediately.



[Click here](#) for more information

## GUNS AND GENDER

### ACTIVITIES THAT PUTS A GUN IN SOMEBODY'S HAND:

- Hunting
- Military service
- Security guard
- Police officer
- Protection of family
- Toy guns and other toy weapons
- Traditional weapons
- Gangs

Which of these activities are associated with men?



## GUN VIOLENCE HAS A PATTERN, IT IS NOT RANDOM

The probability of gun violence increases with the number of risk factors present in someone's life.

### WHAT ARE RISK FACTORS?

- Risk factors increase the likelihood that a young person will use violence or experience violence.
- Risk factors are not the direct causes of youth violence but they contribute to youth violence.
- Risk factors occur at the individual, family, peer, social and community level.
- Risk factors are not the fault or doing of an individual. Risk factors are caused by how a society is structured (race, economics, gender). Risk factors can also be linked to family circumstance
- Risk factors include; exposure to violence and conflict in the family, high emotional distress, being a victim of violence, school failure, involvement in gangs and few economic opportunities.

### WHAT ARE RISK FACTORS FOR VIOLENCE?

The more risk factors present in someone's life, the more likely they are to engage in acts of violence, either as a perpetrator or victim of gun violence. Being male is a risk factor that increases the chances of being involved in gun violence.

The graphic below illustrates how risk factors work together to form the usual patterns of gun violence. People who have many of these risk factors present in their lives are more vulnerable to gun violence.

#### INDIVIDUAL

Being black  
Young  
Male  
Abused as a child

#### COMMUNITY

Exposed to violence  
Lack of support systems  
Lack of role models  
Lack of resources

#### SOCIETAL

Under-resourced educational systems  
Unemployment  
Weak criminal justice system  
Racial injustice

## WHAT ARE PROTECTIVE FACTORS?

Protective factors are the opposite of risk factors. Protective factors buffer young people from the risks of becoming violent. These factors exist at various levels and include: a positive social orientation, frequent shared activities with parents and involvement in prosocial activities.

## THE REALITIES OF GUN VIOLENCE DID YOU KNOW

**Guns kill more people more effectively than any other weapon**

**Gun violence is one of the leading causes of death in South Africa**

**Young men are more at risk of gun violence**

**The primary perpetrators and victims are young black men**

**Guns play a big role in violence against women in South Africa**

**A gun in the home increases the risk for women being shot and killed**

**Most gun violence against women is committed by their intimate partners**

**Guns are used to kill, rape threaten and intimidate women**

**More civilians (ordinary people) in South Africa own guns than the entire police force and army**

**An estimated 3.4 million legal guns are in the hands of ordinary people, this includes private security.**

**An estimated 700 000 guns are in the hands of state security**

**Losing or being robbed of your gun, feeds the illegal market and increases gun violence.**

**Up to 20 guns are lost or stolen everyday  
In 2014, civilians lost 18 guns a day and the police lost 2 guns a day.**

## GUN VIOLENCE AND MEN



The murder rate  
in South Africa

**34 / 100 000  
POPULATION**

The highest murder rates are found  
in young men between the ages of  
15 and 29 years with a rate of

**184 / 100 000  
POPULATION**

FIND OUT  
MORE  
**HERE**



## GUN VIOLENCE IS VIOLENCE COMMITTED WITH A FIREARM AND INCLUDES:

Murder, attempted murder, suicide, attempted suicide, threats using a firearm, armed robbery, drive-by shootings.

## Gun violence is preventable in your community. To stop it you need to know:

- **Where it happens**  
(In the home? On the street? At schools?)
- **Who has the guns**  
(Men? Boys? Security? Police?)
- **Who is doing the shooting**  
(A stranger? Gangs? Partners? Police?)
- **Who are victims?**
- **Who has power in your community**  
(Gangs? Priests? Traditional leaders?)
- **Safe and dangerous spaces in your community**
- **The law - Schools Act, Domestic Violence Act**

## MYTH BUSTERS

**MYTH** Women and children are more likely to be shot and killed by guns than men.

**FACT** The majority of victims shot and killed are men.

**MYTH** Keeping a gun in the home for self-defense protects me, my family and possessions.

**FACT** The presence of a gun in the home puts everyone at risk of injury and death. The presence of guns actually increases the risk of individuals and families being targeted for theft, assault and murder, as well as suicide, femicide (when women are murdered by their intimate partners) and accidental injury or death.

**MYTH** Women are at risk of being shot by strangers or home invaders.

**FACT** Women are more likely to be shot and

killed in the home by an intimate partner including husbands, boyfriends and romantic partners, than by a stranger.

**MYTH** We need to control crime, not guns.

**FACT** Guns are a primary tool of violent crime in South Africa. Strong gun laws reduce gun violence.

**MYTH** Owning a gun is a right

**FACT** Gun ownership is a privilege under the law. That means if you want to own a gun you have to show that you are responsible and understand when and how you can use your gun. It also means that the government has the final say about whether or not you are fit to own a gun.

**Gun Free South Africa**



**YOU ARE 4X  
MORE LIKELY**  
to have your gun used against  
you than to be able to use it  
successfully in self-defence.



**More lives are lost worldwide  
from non-conflict firearm events,  
(shootings) than during ongoing wars.**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

## RESOURCES IN SOUTH AFRICA



Resources that protect against gun violence: community policing forums, gun free zones, street lights, secured surroundings (e.g. locking doors, window's closed), create a neighbourhood watch, know your neighbours, have a good relationship with the police, community self defence classes.

## IF YOU HAVE BEEN A VICTIM OF GUN VIOLENCE AND NEED EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

SADAG

Lifeline

The centre for the study of violence and reconciliation (CSVSR)

WITS trauma unit

SAPS Victim Empowerment Programme

Youth Crime Prevention Desk

## INTERNET RESOURCES

Sonke Gender Justice

Safer Spaces

Gun Free South Africa

Gun Free advert

Put the Gun Down Music Video

I Wanna Grow Up - Don't Shoot Music Video

**Between one and four  
people survive a gun  
violence incident for each  
of the 18 fatalities a day.**

Gun Free South Africa

# RADIO PRODUCTION GUIDE

## GENDER, GUNS AND VIOLENCE



### PREPARING FOR THE SHOW

### WAYS TO TALK ABOUT GENDER, GUNS AND VIOLENCE

- Men and women are affected differently by gun violence.
- Who are the perpetrators and who are the victims of gun violence?
- What are the risk factors for gun violence?
- What are the protective factors against gun violence?
- Gender norms and stereotypes perpetuate gun violence.

### CHOOSE AN ANGLE

Men and women are affected differently by gun violence.

### Different Ways to Talk About It

- The link between guns and masculinity.
- Having a gun in the home and domestic violence.
- Risk factors and guns.
- Protective factors and guns.
- Predicting and stopping gun violence.

## FORMATS



### VOX POP



#### Aim

To get many opinions on one topic.



#### Who do you talk to

Anyone in the community.



#### Question

Why do more men than women own guns and get killed by them?



### AUDIO COMMENTARY



#### Aim

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



#### Who do you talk to

A teacher who regularly sees youth using violence to address issues and to control others. How does this teacher understand the link between gender and violence?

A social worker or psychologist about the risk factors that make gun violence more likely to happen in somebody's life.

A parent from the community who has children and can share their concerns for their family being affected by gun violence.

## 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

A reformed gang member about his/her experience of violence, and how he/she used violence against others.



#### Question

- Did you experience or observe violence as a child?
- What was the main attraction to joining a gang?
- Did you ever handle or use a gun/any other weapon?
- Can you describe what it was like handling a gun?
- Did you use violence against anybody? Explain.
- How did this make you feel?
- What made you leave the gang?
- Do you think gender norms (the rules about what boys and girls are and do) play a big part in gangs and violence?
- How can we reduce gun violence?



### AUDIO PROFILE



#### Who do you talk to

A survivor of gun violence. Or youth with experiences of gun violence in their community.



#### Question

- Tell us about the violence that happened to you or that you witnessed.
- How did it make you feel?
- What happened to the person/people who committed the violence?
- What is your life like now?
- How would you describe your process of healing?
- What role do you think gender plays in violence?
- What is your message to other survivors?
- What is your message to people who commit acts of violence, especially gun violence?
- How do you think we can reduce gun violence?



### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT (PSA)



#### Aim

To create a public awareness message



**Voice 1:** Did you hear Baloyi got shot last night? He's in hospital, it's pretty serious.

**Voice 2:** Oh no man! But he's not even into gangs or crime! What happened?

**Voice 3:** Some tsotsis took his phone dude. Wrong place, wrong time.

**All Voices:** Most gun violence in South Africa involves men and boys. Young men aged 15 to 29 are most at risk.

#### Character:

Arm yourself with a sharp mind,  
instead of weapons. Secure our future.

Go gun free!



# 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 your interview with someone who knows about gun violence and how it affects men and women. You could talk to a police officer, gender activist, social worker, family counsellor, a teacher or a young person whom you know is affected by gun violence.**

- Who is affected most by gun violence?
- Can you tell us why you say so?
- What risk factors in this community make men more likely to use violence?
- What are the factors in this community that can protect young men from engaging in violence?
- How are women and girls affected by violence and gun violence in this community?
- How do people obtain guns? Are they mostly legal or illegal firearms?
- In what crimes are guns usually used?
- Who (men or women) are they used against?
- What are the ways we can better understand and stop gun violence?

[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 gun violence.

**Host 1** That's right, we'll be talking about gun violence and learning a few things about who it affects the most and how it can be prevented.

**Host 2** We'll be focusing specifically on gender, guns and violence and how it all relates.

**Host 1** But first, let's hear more about this topic from an expert who can set the scene for us.

[PRESENT WHO IS BEING INTERVIEWED]

[PLAY THE INTERVIEW]

[Outro:]

**Host 1** Wow! That's food for thought. There's so much information about guns and violence that I just didn't know.

**Host 2** So true! This is a serious issue people! Gender and gun violence go together whether we want to think about it or not.

[PSA]

**Host 1** Let's hear what folks out there are thinking and feeling about this issue.

[VOX POP]

**Host 1** Interesting to hear the views from the street on this topic!

**Host 2** Yebo! It sounds like we have a lot of work to do to raise awareness about gun violence and how, we all are affected by it.

**Host 1** We've heard the experts and we've heard what people are saying about this issue. Now let's give the microphone to somebody who has literally pulled the trigger.

**Host 2** This should be interesting. I'm all ears!

[AUDIO PROFILE 1]

**Host 1** Wow. Guys, gun violence is no joke! The more I am learning about it the more I think we need to promote other ways of keeping ourselves safe.

**Host 2** For sure! Maybe we can have more gun-free zones in our communities or more street lighting so that we can feel safe from violence.

**Host 1** We have to remember guys that gun violence is not just a once-off. For the victims of gun violence, the impact of violence is forever.

**Host 2** That's right. Let's hear from someone who has experienced gun violence first hand.

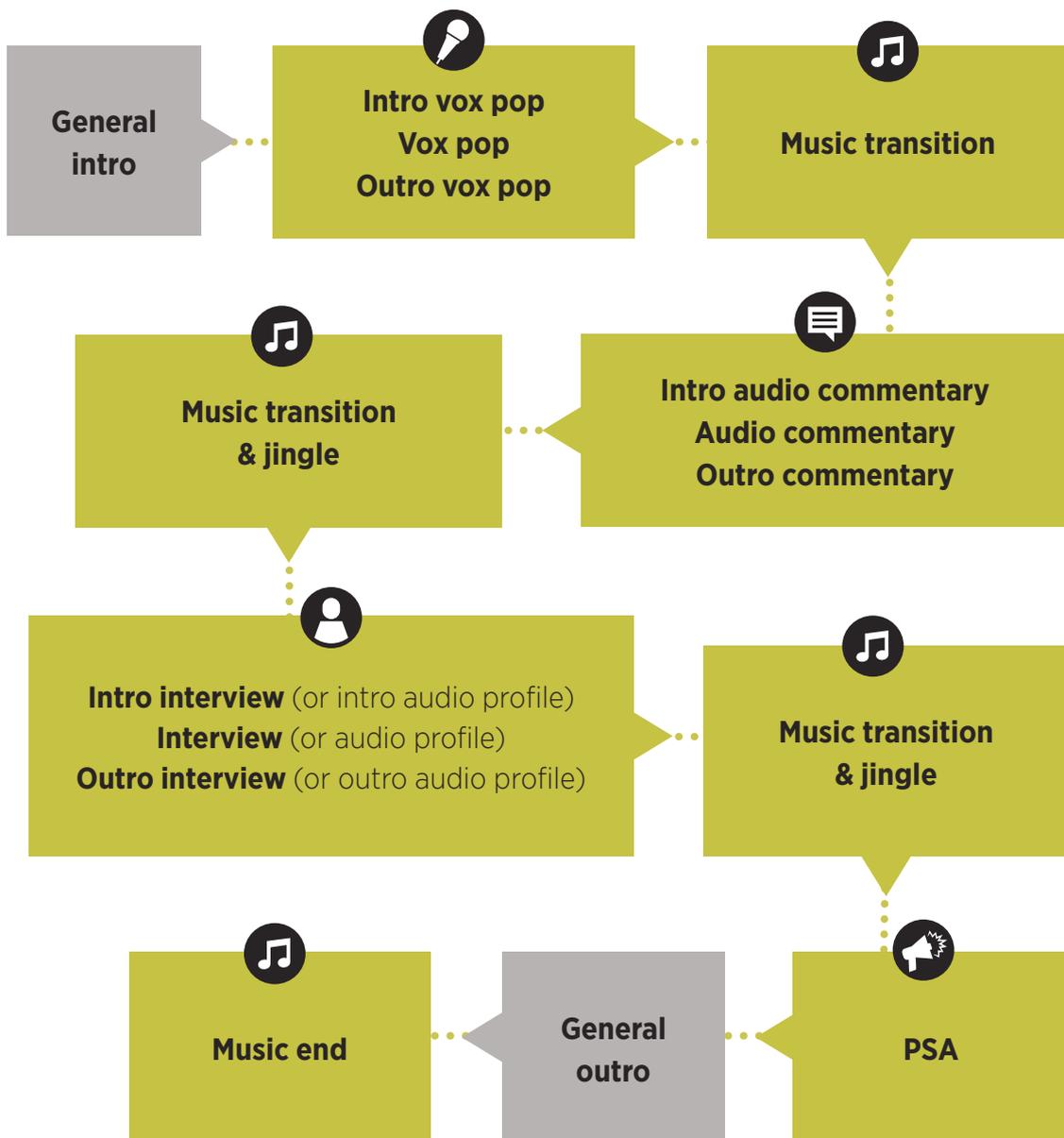
[AUDIO PROFILE 2]

**Host 1** Today we've learnt so much about gun violence and how it relates to gender.

**Host 2** Thank you guys for listening and to those who have contributed to this thought-provoking show!

**Host 1** 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

### DIFFERENT WAYS TO TALK ABOUT GENDER, GUNS AND VIOLENCE

- Men and women are affected differently by gun violence
- Who are the perpetrators and who are the victims of gun violence?
- What are the risk factors for gun violence?
- What are the protective factors against gun violence?
- Gender norms and stereotypes perpetuate gun violence

### CHOOSE AN ANGLE

Men and women are affected differently by gun violence.

#### Men and women are affected differently by gun violence

- The link between guns and masculinity
- Having a gun in the home and domestic violence
- Risk factors and guns
- Protective factors and guns
- Predicting and stopping gun violence
- Predicting and stopping gun violence.

### 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.

## OUTREACH FORMAT



### INTERVIEW



#### Aim

An interview is a one on one conversation where questions are asked by the interviewer and answers are given by the interviewee.



#### Who do you talk to

Talk to a local social worker, a police officer or a security expert.



#### Examples of interview questions

- Who is affected most by gun violence?
- Can you tell us why you say so?
- What risk factors in this community make men more likely to use violence?
- What are the factors in this community that can protect young men from engaging in violence?
- How are women and girls affected by violence and gun violence in this community?
- How do people obtain guns? Are they mostly legal or illegal firearms?
- In what crimes are guns usually used?
- Who (men or women) are they used against?
- What are the ways we can better understand and stop gun violence?



### QUIZ



#### Aim

To test knowledge of the audience through a competition with prizes for the winner(s).



#### Examples of True or False quiz questions:

- Guns can keep you safe from a violent attack - FALSE
- Only illegal guns are dangerous - FALSE
- Young black men are generally the perpetrators as well as the victims of gun violence - TRUE
- Gun violence can be prevented - TRUE



### ROLEPLAY



#### Aim

To provide a scenario that allows the audience to “act out” a point about the impact statement.

Decide how many characters are needed and set the scene for the ‘actors’ to play out the statement. It is really an improvisation, and the audience ‘actors’ make it up as they go along.



#### Examples of scenarios

Unathi is concerned about the recent housebreakings in his area. Some have been really violent. He fears for his family’s safety and wants to get a gun to protect them. He speaks to his good friend and neighbour about it.

Thembi is being abused by her husband. She has tolerated the abuse for many years because she thought it was best to raise her kids in a family that was together. One day she notices a gun in the house which she suspects her husband bought. She speaks to her sister about what she discovered and her fears.

Xola is 14 years old. He has become friendly with the gangsters in his community. When there was no food at home, one of the gangsters gave him some money to buy food for his mother and two younger sisters. One day, the same gangster asks him to keep one of his guns just to ‘try it out’. Xola brags to his friend about it.



### 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 SHOW



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

[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 gun violence.

**Host 1** That's right, we'll be talking about gun violence and learning a few things about who it affects the most and how it can be prevented.

**Host 2** We'll be focusing specifically on gender, guns and violence and how it all relates.

**Host 1** But first, let's hear more about this topic from an expert who can set the scene for us.

[INTRO INTERVIEW]

[INTERVIEW]

[OUTRO INTERVIEW]

**Host 1** Wow! That's food for thought. There's so much information about guns and violence that I just didn't know.

**Host 2** So true! This is a serious issue people! Gender and gun violence go together whether we want to think about it or not.

[IMPACT JINGLE]

**Host 1** Now let's hear from you guys. Put your thinking caps on everybody because it's quiz time!

[INTRO QUIZ]

[QUIZ]

[OUTRO QUIZ]

**Host 1** Great stuff! You guys have been paying attention!

**Host 2** Yep, I'm impressed! But guys, now that we have all learned a little bit more about this topic, it is up to us to raise awareness about gun violence and how it can be prevented.

**Host 1** That's right. There are ways of preventing violence such as more street lighting in our communities and calling for gun free zones.

**Host 2** Also, we have to remember guys that gun violence is not just a once-off thing. For the victims of gun violence, the impact is forever.

**Host 1** For sure! That is something we should never forget. But now let's see what talent is in the room today. All those with acting skills please volunteer for our next segment!

[INTRO ROLEPLAY]

[ROLEPLAY]

[OUTRO ROLEPLAY]

[IMPACT JINGLE]

**Host 1** Today we've learnt so much about gun violence and how it relates to gender. We'd like to know from you if you have any stories to share that relate to gender, guns and violence. Let's open the floor to hear your experiences and suggestions of how to stop gun violence.

[OPEN MIC FOR GUESTS]

**Host 2** Thank you guys for listening and to those who have contributed to this thought-provoking event!

**Host 1** 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].

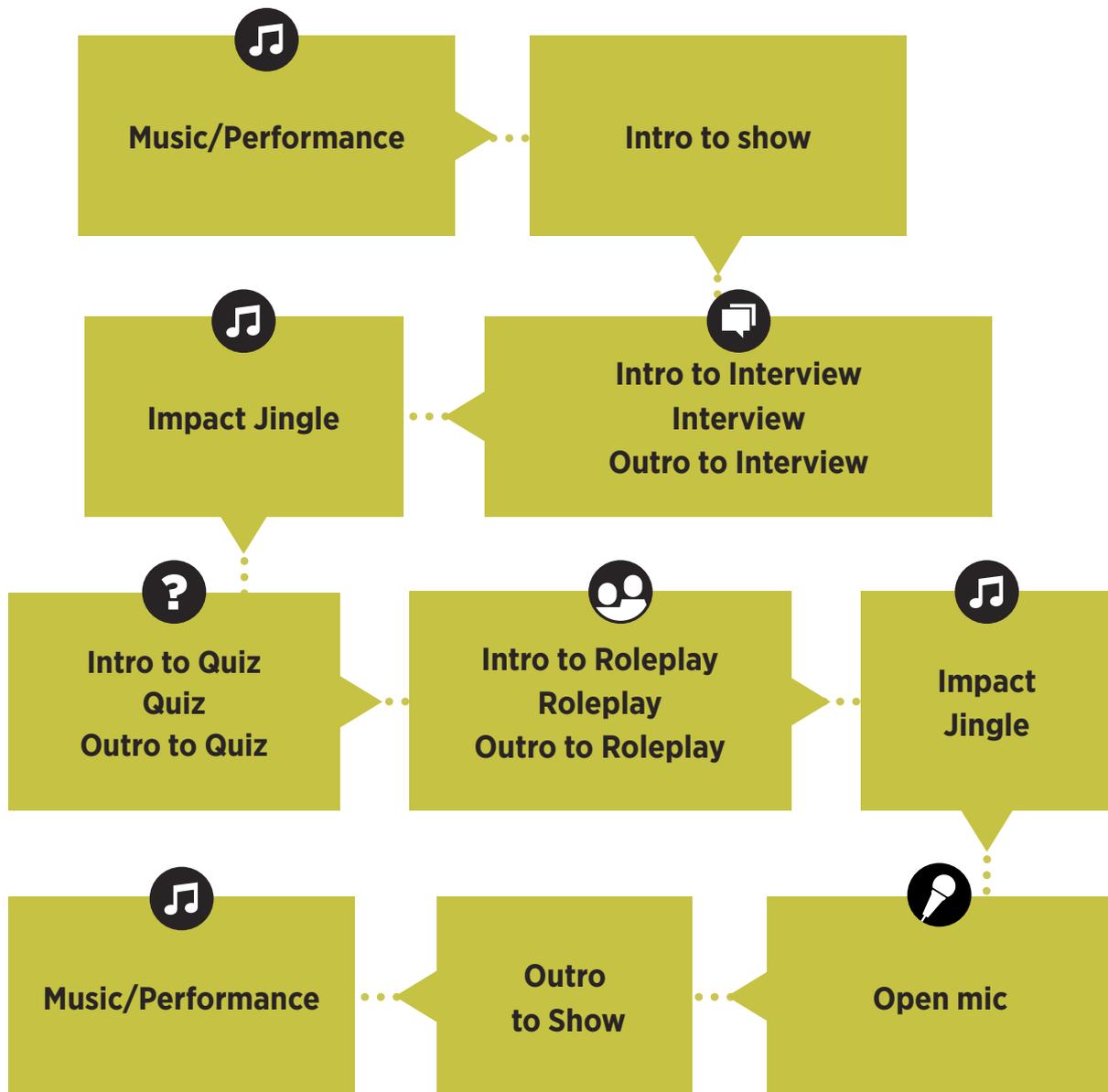
**Host 2** Thank you once again for joining us and we hope to see you next time! Until then, it's bye from us!

[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!