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.

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.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>GUNS AND GENDER</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Most men own guns as a global trend.</td>
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<tr>
<td>On average 16 PEOPLE are killed by guns every day in South Africa.</td>
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<tr>
<td>More men than women own guns as a global trend.</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>GUN-RELATED DEATHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11% WOMAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>89% MEN</td>
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<tr>
<td>67% of women killed by guns are killed by a single shot, usually to the head or face.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>Study on Guns and Gender-based Violence</td>
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<td>Gun Free South Africa</td>
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<td>88% of GUN-RELATED SUICIDES are men and 12% are women.</td>
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<td>Gun Free South Africa</td>
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<td>A woman is killed by an intimate partner every 8 hours in South Africa: 17% OF THESE DEATHS ARE FROM GUNSHOT.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women are more at risk for being shot and killed at the hands of an intimate partner than men.</td>
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<td>Gun Free South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men are more at risk of being shot and killed by male acquaintances than women.</td>
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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
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.

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.
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 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
- 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** 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
IF YOU HAVE BEEN A VICTIM OF GUN VIOLENCE AND NEED EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

SADAG
Lifeline
The centre for the study of violence and reconciliation (CSVR)
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

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.

MORE LIKELY
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

Between one and four people survive a gun violence incident for each of the 18 fatalities a day.
Gun Free South Africa

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

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.

PREPARING FOR THE SHOW

CHOOSE AN ANGLE

Men and women are affected differently by 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**

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**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?

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**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!
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]

[INTRO:]

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!
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.
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

PREPARING FOR YOUR OUTREACH

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.

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.
INTRODUCTION 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?

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.

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

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.
[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.

[Intro 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]
[Intro 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]
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!