



## FACT SHEET

## GUN FREE ZONES

# GUN CONTROL

### WHAT IS A GUN FREE ZONE (GFZ)?

- A Gun Free Zone (GFZ) is a space where guns and ammunition are neither welcome nor allowed.
- GFZs are intended to help protect the lives and property of the people who live and work within them.
- A GFZ can be any place or area such as a place of worship, school or community hall.
- A GFZ has a 'no-gun' sign.
- While the point of a GFZ is to limit who can carry a gun where, the process of establishing a GFZ gives people who share a space the power to raise their voice about what safety means and whether a gun makes them feel safe or not. This is because an individual gun owner, who carries a gun to protect himself, makes other people sharing his space feel scared and intimidated instead of safer.

THIS IS A  
GUN FREE  
ZONE



LEAVE YOUR  
FEAR AT  
THE DOOR



SUPPORT GUN FREE ZONES

### THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT TYPES OF GUN FREE ZONES

#### Enforced by declaration

People entering a Gun Free Zone are asked to declare if they have a gun or are searched before they are allowed to enter. If anyone has a gun, they are not allowed to enter the premises with their gun. Sometimes safes are available in which guns can be stored. Some examples include banks, government departments, parliament or a business.

#### Enforced by trust

Gun Free Zone signs tell people that the space is gun free. People entering this type of GFZ are not asked to declare if they are carrying a gun and are not searched for a gun. While guns are not taken away from people, they know that guns are not welcome. It is up to their conscience to enter with a gun or not. Some examples include places of worship, post offices and shopping centres.

- GFZs may be known by different names in different places (e.g. firearm free or weapon free zones) and be differently enforced. For example:
  - a GFZ can limit those who enter according to whether they are carrying a gun.
  - a GFZ can be limited to a public area or a private area and can even include both in a given location.
  - a GFZ can be only certain areas of a place or community and enforcement can be mandatory or voluntary.
- Some countries have established temporary GFZs, such as limiting people carrying guns during the months leading up to elections in order to reduce deadly election-related violence. In South Africa, all football stadiums were declared GFZs during the 2010 FIFA World Cup.
- While GFZs may have different restrictions or types of enforcement the concept is the same:
  - They are geographically limited spaces where the carrying or possession of guns is prohibited for civilians, and in some cases law enforcement officials.
  - Their aim is to create safe spaces for people to live, learn, work, play, shop and worship.

**What the law says about Gun Free Zones**

- Every day people make use of their right to restrict those entering a space they own or manage; they do it with smoking, liquor and food. The same can be done with guns.

- The law of right of admission allows you to exclude anyone carrying a gun into a GFZ that you own or manage.
- It is a civil offence to violate the Gun Free Zone status of a premises – anybody found contravening a Gun Free Zone can be prosecuted under laws that prohibit trespassing.

**Why make your space a Gun Free Zone?**

- Gun Free Zones reduce the risk of gun death and injury. Guns are small, light and easy to use; simply pulling a trigger can kill or badly injure someone. When there are no guns in a space, it becomes safer and more secure for everyone in it.

**Q** “I want to make my space a Gun Free Zone, but must I provide a safe for gun owners?”

**A** No, there is no legal obligation to provide a safe for gun owners to store their guns.

**Who can set up a gun free zone?**

- National, provincial and local governments
- Businesses
- NGOs
- Communities at the grassroots level
- Schools
- Places of worship

**5 STEPS TO DECLARING A GUN FREE ZONE**

**Establish the Vision**

Consult with important stakeholders (e.g. people that use the space) to establish a Gun Free Zone vision. A vision puts into words what you want to achieve by making your space gun free.

A vision helps:

- Create a common idea that everyone supports.
- Involve key stakeholders.
- Secure buy-in from everyone to achieve this vision.
- Allows for difficult conversations about individual and community safety (especially whether individual gun ownership threatens community feelings of safety).

**Develop the Policy**

**How will people know that the space is gun free?**

You could put up signs and include this information in all correspondence.

**How will you know if someone has a gun?**

You could ask people to declare if they have a gun, or install metal detectors.

**What will happen if someone tries to enter a Gun Free Zone with a gun?**

As the owner or manager of a Gun Free Zone you can choose to:

- Provide safes in which a gun owner can store his gun, as long as nobody else can access it.
- Tell a gun owner that he can only enter the premises if he does not have his gun with him.
- Allow a gun owner into the Gun Free Zone on the understanding that he is going against the policy; and to leave his gun at home next time.

Once the policy for a Gun Free Zone has been adopted, which means it is accepted, the following needs to be done:

- Bring in key stakeholders. Stakeholders are everyone who will be affected by the decision. This includes all users of the space as well as stakeholders in the wider community like local police and community policing forum representatives. This enables buy-in to the vision, which means a lot of people believe in the idea. This is important for the Gun Free Zone to work.
- Next steps include:
  - Train staff that will be responsible for implementing the policy.
  - Develop, distribute and install signs, registers and monitoring equipment (if used) e.g. metal detectors or safes.
  - Run awareness campaigns about the Gun Free Zone for people who use the space.

**Prepare for implementation**

The Gun Free Zone policy is now put into practice.

**Implement**

**Maintain and Monitor**

Maintaining and monitoring a Gun Free Zone means:

- Ongoing awareness.
- Regular reviews to identify problems so these can be addressed.
- Tracking impact (e.g. are fewer people trying to bring guns into your space? Have incidents of violence declined? Do people in that space feel safer because no guns are allowed?).

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**WHILE GFZS ARE SAFER SPACES, THEIR REAL POWER IS THAT THEY CREATE SPACE FOR PEOPLE TO HAVE DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS ABOUT SAFETY AND GUN OWNERSHIP. THEY ALLOW PEOPLE TO EXPLORE HOW ONE PERSON WITH A GUN IMPACTS OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS OF SAFETY.**



**You can help take action against gun violence by declaring your space a Gun Free Zone. Your home, the place you work or study in, where you worship, play sport or meet friends are all spaces that can become gun free.**



**WHY NOT LIVE FREE BY GOING GUN FREE?**

Contact Gun Free South Africa (GfSA) for resources to help you make your space a Gun Free Zone:

Email [info@gfsa.org.za](mailto:info@gfsa.org.za) • Fax: 086 545 0094  
 Postal address PO Box 3048, Killarney, 2193  
 Website: [www.gfsa.org.za](http://www.gfsa.org.za)  
 Twitter #GunFreeSA

**Visioning exercise:**  
 What is your vision of a gun free South Africa?

Close your eyes and think about it then write, draw or explain your vision to your youth reporter group.

**DO YOU FEEL SAFER BEING IN A PLACE WHERE YOU KNOW THAT NOBODY IS CARRYING A GUN?**

**GUN FREE ZONES: MYTHS AND FACTS**

MYTHS	FACTS
<b>Guns are already well-regulated</b>	Stricter gun laws and proper enforcement reduce gun violence. However, if either of these aren't present, there's an increased risk of gun violence. While South Africa has a world class gun law, the Firearms Control Act (2000), since 2010 this has not been properly enforced by the police. As a result, gun violence has been increasing since 2010.
<b>Criminals don't follow the law, so why have any gun laws?</b>	By that logic, why have any laws at all? Since strict gun controls came into force in 2000, gun deaths halved (from 34 to 16 people a day) and gun crime in South Africa fell by more than 21 percent.
<b>Guns don't kill people. People kill people</b>	It's true, people do kill people, but killing someone with a gun is much easier. Evidence shows that limiting people's access to guns can prevent homicides, suicides and injuries. The data also shows that countries with 'restrictive' gun laws and lower gun ownership levels tend to have lower levels of gun violence.
<b>Shooters target Gun Free Zones</b>	There is no evidence that Gun Free Zones are targeted by shooters, particularly mass shooters. Instead of targeting GFZs, mass shootings are directed at a specific person, group or institution with whom the perpetrator has a grievance.

**FACTS**

Stricter gun laws and proper enforcement reduce gun violence. However, if either of these aren't present, there's an increased risk of gun violence. While South Africa has a world class gun law, the Firearms Control Act (2000), since 2010 this has not been properly enforced by the police. As a result, gun violence has been increasing since 2010.

By that logic, why have any laws at all? Since strict gun controls came into force in 2000, gun deaths halved (from 34 to 16 people a day) and gun crime in South Africa fell by more than 21 percent.

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There is no evidence that Gun Free Zones are targeted by shooters, particularly mass shooters. Instead of targeting GFZs, mass shootings are directed at a specific person, group or institution with whom the perpetrator has a grievance.

SOURCE: 1.Gun Myths  
 2. Gun Crime  
 3. Johns Hopkins Bllomberg School of Public Health: [http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-policy-and-research/\\_pdfs/GunsOnCampus.pdf](http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-policy-and-research/_pdfs/GunsOnCampus.pdf)



### FORMATS



#### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT (PSA)



**Aim**  
To create a public awareness message



**Slogan**

**Voice 1:** My friend! Have you heard about the shooting at the church the other day?

**Voice 2:** Yoh! What? No, I didn't. What happened?

**Voice1:** This man was unhappy with the pastor about something he said. He just pulled out his gun and shot. Luckily, the pastor survived.

**Voice 1:** Wow! That's crazy!

**Voice 2:** Hey man, if the church was a Gun Free Zone we wouldn't have that kind of thing happening.

**Voice 1:** A gun free what?

**Voice 2:** A Gun Free Zone. It means you cannot bring a gun into an area declared a Gun Free Zone.

A Gun Free Zone is a space where guns and ammunition are neither welcome nor allowed. A Gun Free Zone can be any place or area such as a place of worship, school, library or community hall with the 'no-gun' sign. It prohibits the carrying or possession of a gun(s). You can help take action against gun violence by declaring your space a Gun Free Zone. The process of establishing a Gun Free Zone is very powerful as it gives community members the chance to explore what safety in their community looks like and how community members feel when someone chooses to own and carry a gun in a communal space. These difficult conversations about the meaning of safety and gun ownership are very important to building a community working towards improved safety and violence prevention. For more information, visit Gun Free South Africa at [www.gfsa.org.za](http://www.gfsa.org.za)



### PREPARING FOR THE SHOW

#### WAYS TO TALK ABOUT GUN FREE ZONES

- What are the ways Gun Free Zones can decrease gun violence?
- What type of Gun Free Zone will work best in our community and which places should be a Gun Free Zone?
- In what ways can Gun Free Zones promote community safety and community building?

#### How to talk about: 'In what ways can Gun Free Zones promote community safety and community building?'

- Advocate for Gun Free Zones
- Discuss how Gun Free Zones can decrease gun violence and enhance other gun reduction interventions
- Explore how Gun Free Zones bring people together with a common vision for their community

#### CHOOSE AN ANGLE

In what ways can Gun Free Zones promote community safety and community building?

### FORMATS



#### VOX POP



**Aim**  
To get many opinions on one topic.



**Who do you talk to**  
Anyone in the community.



**Question**  
Can you describe a Gun Free Zone?/ How do you feel when you're in a space where someone is carrying a gun?



#### 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 for change around gun violence.



- Questions**
- How can a Gun Free Zone contribute to community safety?
  - What are the ways we can change perceptions about Gun Free Zones as a means to reduce gun violence?
  - What are the steps a community can follow in order to establish a Gun Free Zone(s) in their community?
  - How does a community consider which type of Gun Free Zone would work best in their community?
  - What power does a community have to create a vision of a Gun Free Zone for themselves?

### EXTRA RESOURCES

**Trauma Support South Africa: All hours number**  
+27 061 156 7938  
Whatsapp: 081 5030 330

**Lifeline National Hotline:**  
24 Hour Counselling  
011 422 4242 OR 0861 322 322  
Lifeline JHB: <http://www.lifeline-jhb.org.za/contact-us.ashx>

**Adcock Ingram Depression and Anxiety Helpline**  
0800 70 80 90

**Suicide Crisis Line**  
0800 567 567 or SMS 31393  
**Pharmadynamics Police & Trauma Line**  
0800 20 50 26

**Destiny Helpline for Youth & Students**  
0800 41 42 43

**SADAG Mental Health Line**  
011 234 4837

**Akeso Psychiatric Response Unit 24 Hour**  
0861 435 787

**Find a Support Group in your area**  
0800 21 22 23

## 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 the interview with a youth leader or a representative from an organisation campaigning against gun violence.

- How does a community establish a Gun Free Zone?
- How does a Gun Free Zone contribute to community safety?
- In what ways does a Gun Free Zone reduce gun violence?
- Can Gun Free Zones actually help build a sense of community and togetherness?

**Host 2:** Okay, it sounds like a Gun Free Zone is like a little island of safety. A place where you know there will be no guns.

**Host 1:** Exactly right! Now let's hear from the people in the streets about their descriptions of a Gun Free Zone. [INTRO VOX POP]

[VOX POP]

[OUTRO VOX POP]

**Host 1:** Mmmm! Some interesting descriptions there! Let's hear more on this topic from someone who cares deeply about this issue and is advocating to have communities set up as Gun Free Zones.

[INTRO INTERVIEW]

[INTERVIEW]

[OUTRO INTERVIEW]

[OUTRO:]

**Host 1:** Today, we've learnt so much about Gun Free Zones and even how to establish one.

**Host 2:** That's right! Before we discussed this topic, I never really thought about how a Gun Free Zone can contribute to community safety or that it could bring a community together in such a positive way.

**Host 1:** I think that we have all learned something today that will help us make the best decisions around safety, which includes us establishing Gun Free Zones. 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!

[INTRO:]

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

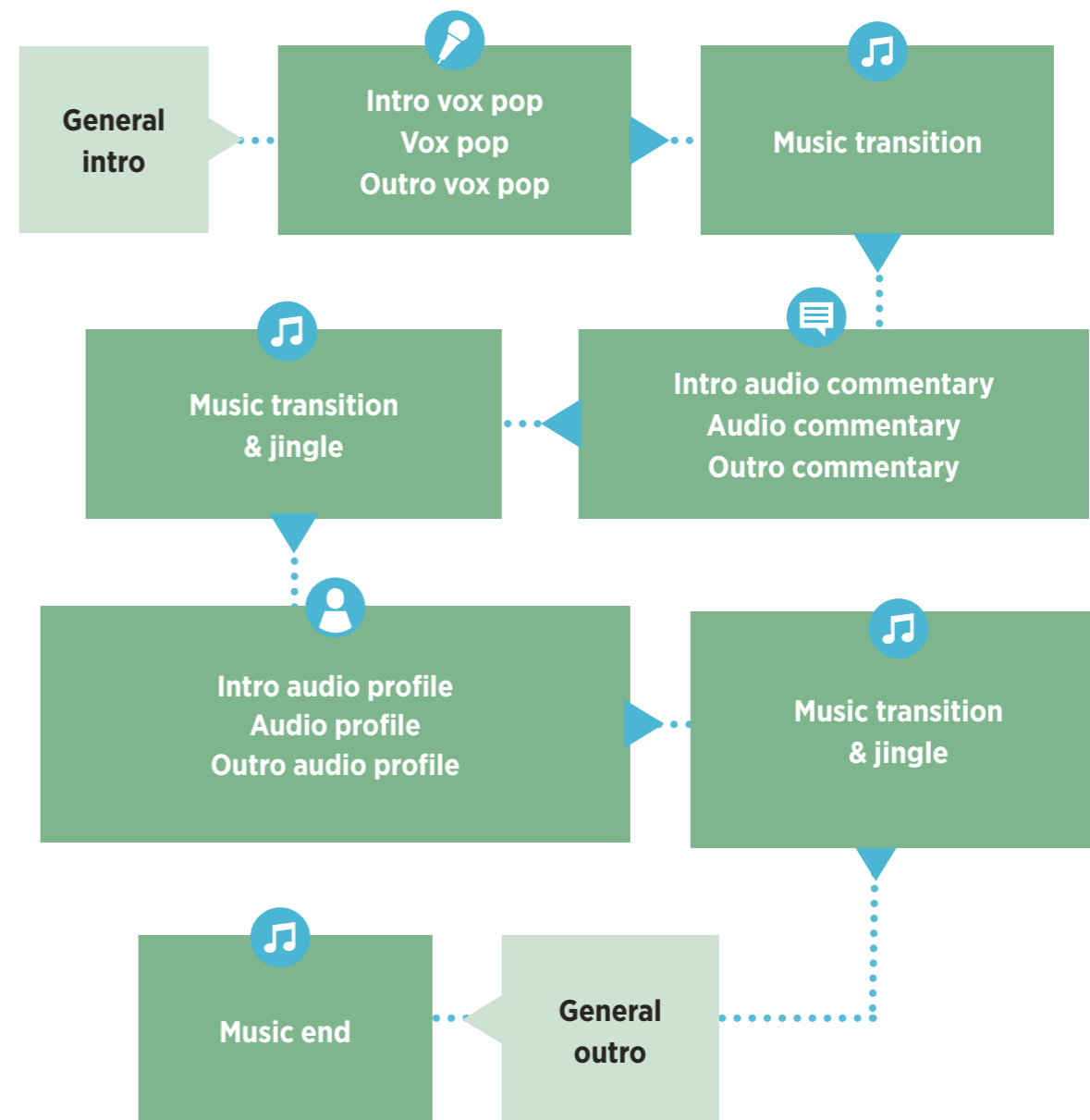
**Host 2:** And my name is [NAME], and today's show is all about Gun Free Zones.

**Host 1:** That's right. Did you know that Gun Free Zones can really help reduce gun violence.

**Host 2:** Really? How?

**Host 1:** Well, let's start with what exactly a Gun Free Zone is. Let me break it down. A Gun Free Zone (GFZ) is a space where guns and ammunition are not allowed. A GFZ can be any place or area such as a place of worship, school, public library, soccer field or community hall with the 'no-gun' sign. It prohibits the carrying or possession of a gun or ammunition in that space. While not allowing guns into Gun Free Zones means there's no risk of gun violence, the most important part of a Gun Free Zone is the process of establishing one; this is because community members are given an opportunity to really talk about what safety means and how they feel when someone with a gun shares their space: do they feel safer or more scared?

## 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. It is also a good idea to have local referral services you can share on air for people suffering trauma and stress from violence and loss. Repeat these a few times during your broadcast.

### 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: “a Gun Free Zone”**

- What type of Gun Free Zone is best for our community?
- In what ways can we advocate for a Gun Free Zone or multiple GFZs in our community?
- Which places or areas in our community should be declared Gun Free Zones and how do we decide together?

**CHOOSE AN ANGLE**

Gun free zones

**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 these details at the outreach with their permission.

Remember to repeat support service information throughout your event and to post this 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**


- Why did you decide to declare your school/shop/library/community hall a Gun Free Zone?
- What process did you follow in establishing a Gun Free Zone?
- In what ways is the school/shop/library/community hall a safer place in your opinion since it was declared a Gun Free Zone?


 **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.



 **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**
- In what ways can a Gun Free Zone contribute to community safety?
  - Can a Gun Free Zone on its own and without proper enforcement help reduce gun violence?
  - How does a community decide which areas they should declare Gun Free Zones?
  - Can establishing a Gun Free Zone help build community relationships and networks?

**Who is on the panel**

Gun Free SA, community policing forum, youth activist, social worker, teacher, ordinary community aunty/uncle/youth with experience of gun violence.

## 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 Gun Free Zones.

**Host 1:** This is a very interesting topic. I've heard about these Gun Free Zones and even seen the no-gun sign. But I am still not so sure how they actually work.

**Host 2:** And that's exactly what we, together with our guests, are going to discuss today. Let's get the ball rolling and hear from our guest speaker about a Gun Free Zone and what it can do for us as a community.

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

**Host 1:** Wow! That was so very interesting and taught me so much about Gun Free Zones. I hope it helped you guys listening too!

[IMPACT JINGLE]

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

[INTRO MUSIC]  
[MUSIC]  
[OUTRO MUSIC]

**Host 2:** Okay, listen up, we have a panel of very interesting people here today who are going to share more about our topic, especially the ways we can actually set up a Gun Free Zone.

[INTRO PANEL DISCUSSION]  
[PANEL DISCUSSION]  
[OUTRO PANEL DISCUSSION]

[IMPACT JINGLE]

**Host 1:** Great stuff! This day has been amazing so far. I love learning new things!. What about you?

**Host 2:** For sure! I learned that Gun Free Zones can really help us make our community safer and can even bring us together.

**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].

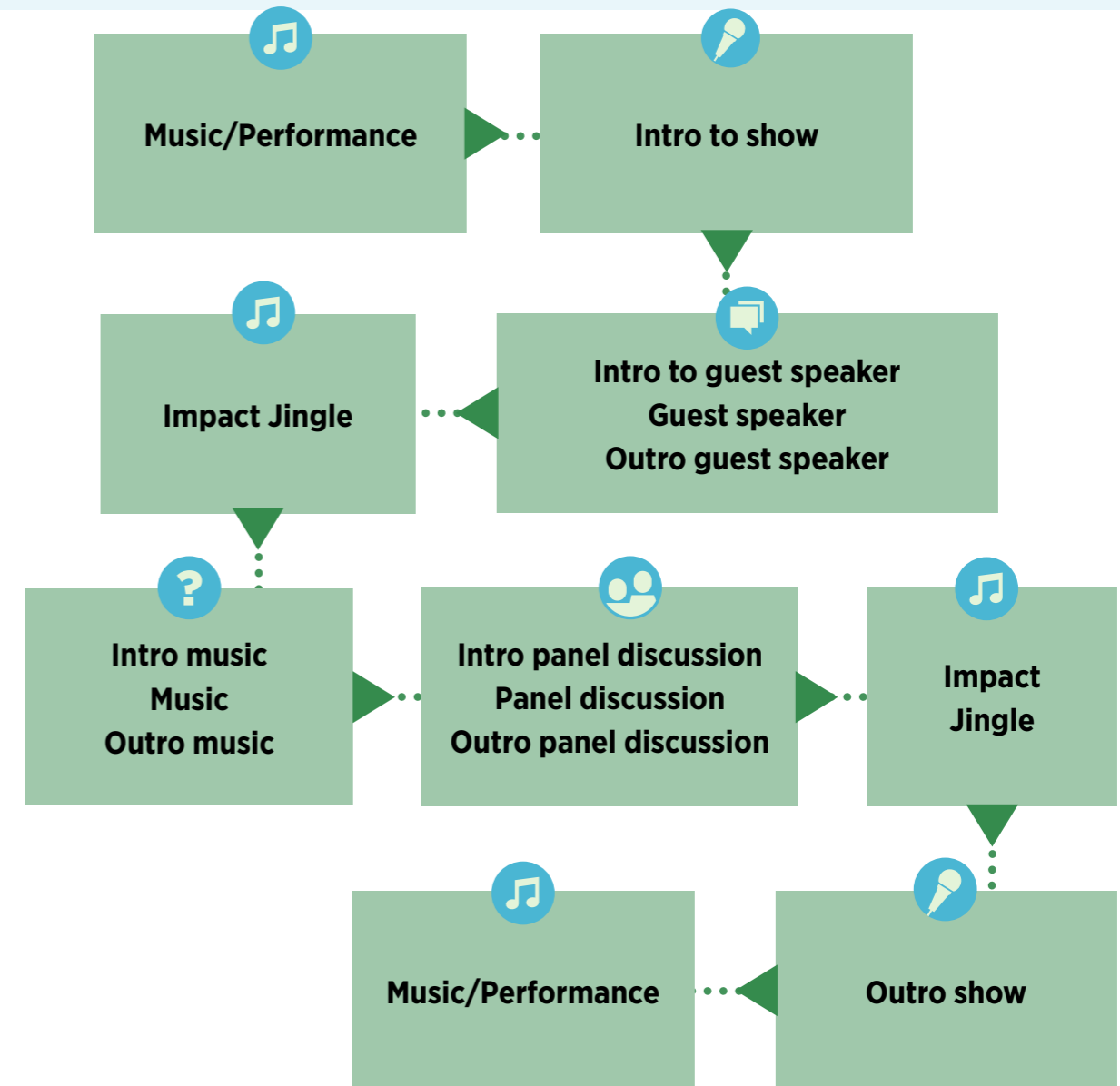
**Host 1:** Thank you once again for joining us and we hope to see you next time! Until then, it's bye from us!

[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!

SOURCE: Gun Free South Africa