GFSA Newsletter

May 2024

Our first newsletter of 2024

We are a quarter of the way through the year, and GFSA has been working hard on some interesting new projects. Here, we profile two of our big focus points of the year so far - but the work still continues elsewhere, like the Prinsloo Guns Class Action – we remember the victims here.

Unknown mother mourning her son. If you know who she is please let us know. She represents all the unknown victims of Prinsloo Guns.

Bullet Proof Park

Bullet Proof Park is the only play area fully encased in bulletproof glass offering all the fun of a regular play park with slides and monkey bars, but with the added benefit of protecting kids inside from any stray bullets.

Removing the trigger

GFSA, in partnership with MOSAIC and the National Shelter Movement of South Africa, with support from the Heinrich Boell foundation, is working to strengthen the rights and safety of victims from gun-related domestic violence with the Remove the Trigger campaign.

Gun Free South Africa

Keeping South Africa safe by reducing gun violence

Bullet Proof Park

Every day 34 people are shot and killed in South Africa. Sadly, the victims of this gun violence are often children – simply playing in the wrong place at the wrong time. Research shows that children are disproportionately affected by stray bullets fired into the air or at missed targets. Over a 20-year period, nearly half of the children under 12 admitted for gun wounds to a Cape Town Children's hospital were victims of crossfire.

AN OUTRAGEOUS PROBLEM NEEDS AN OUTRAGEOUS SOLUTION

When gun violence is out of control, how can we protect kids while they play?

GFSA is conducting a feasibility study, talking to community leaders, community safety experts and assessing the cost of building the park. We can't keep losing kids to senseless violence, and while GFSA is still committed to getting guns off of our streets, we have to do more.

Yes, things really are that bad.

"If this is where we are, we need to look inward. When I first heard the idea I was a bit shocked. I can't believe **this** is where we are as a society, this is what we have to do to **keep kids safe.**"
YOUNGSTA CPT

Removing the trigger

Mariam Mangera, NSM; Claudia Lopes, HBS; Adèle Kirsten, GFSA; Kerryn Rehse, MOSAIC

GFSA, in partnership with MOSAIC and the National Shelter Movement of South Africa and supported by Heinrich Boell Foundation, is working to strengthen the rights and safety of victims from gun-related domestic violence.

The Remove the Trigger from domestic violence campaign aims to:

- **Investigate gun use in domestic violence.** While we hear of cases in which a gun is used to injure or even murder, we want to better understand the nature and extent of gun use in domestic violence, including when guns are used to threaten and coerce.

- **Raise awareness of the right to have a gun removed in domestic violence**. Most women have been threatened with a gun before being shot.

> **The 4 main types of threatening gun-related behaviour by men are**
> 1) Threatening to shoot their partner; 2) Cleaning, holding or loading a gun during an argument; 3) Threatening to shoot a person or pet the partner cares about; and 4) Shooting a gun during an argument. Click HERE for more information on how to apply to have a gun removed.

- **Hold the state accountable for the removal of guns in domestic violence and call for legislative and policy amendments where needed** to ensure the maximum protection for victims of domestic violence.

    The Remove the Trigger campaign was established after Sasha-Lee Shah was shot dead in 2022. The inquest into Sasha-Lee's murder confirms that her ex-boyfriend used his licensed firearm to murder her, and that the police failed to remove his gun despite a court instruction ordering its removal and a restraining order against him. Download Jessica Shah's statement.