



# SAGA SNIPPETS

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## SAGA Attends ANC Peace and Stability Stakeholders Workshop

The African National Congress (ANC), National Executive Committee (NEC) Peace and Stability Sub Committee recently invited SAGA to a stake holder's workshop held on 19 June 2017.

The aim of the workshop was to conduct an in-depth discussion on the policy proposals that the Peace and Stability Sub Committee is putting forward towards the ANC 5th National Policy Conference scheduled for 30 June - 5 July 2017.

Trustees John Welch and Stef Grobler attended and reported back as follows:

The chairperson of the workshop gave an overview of the ANC's Peace and Stability discussion document and indicated that they had invited stakeholders to get a better understanding of their perceptions of what the ruling party has done towards achieving its objectives regarding peace and stability.

Because of our experience in most of the fields canvassed in the discussion document, we took the opportunity to share our views and concerns. This appeared to have been highly appreciated.

Most of the participants appeared to favour the document, however, they were concerned about

implementation because of lack of financial resources.

Two general observations were:

- \* compliance with the National Development Plan (addressing education, unemployment, social upliftment, housing, etc); and
- \* compliance with the government's Service Delivery Agreement that was adopted in 2010, and which addresses, to a great degree, the ANC's concerns mentioned in the discussion document.

The following specifics were raised:

1. Foreign intelligence services and the role they perceivably play in destabilizing our country.
2. Lack of transformation within the judiciary.
3. Review of the Criminal Procedure Act.
4. Victim support.
5. Witness protection.
6. Exchange of foreign convicted prisoners who serve sentences in SA and SA citizens who serve sentences in foreign countries.
7. Conditions in prisons and overcrowding therein.
8. SANDF
9. Private security industry.
10. Border Control Management.
11. Dual citizenship

It was acknowledged that despite all efforts involvement of the community to prevent and combat crime does not work properly however efforts would be continued.

An anti-crime summit is anticipated sometime after the Peace and Stability conference at the beginning of July. SAGA was promised an invitation.

John and Stef were satisfied that they made a constructive contribution to the workshop.



## UK: Police Commissioner Suggestions Rebuffed

<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20170616/uk-police-commissioner-suggests-value-of-armed-citizenry-is-quickly-rebuffed>

### UK: Police Commissioner Suggests Value of Armed Citizenry, is Quickly Rebuffed

Friday, June 16, 2017

Every once in a great while, an independent-minded United Kingdom official is overcome with a bout of common sense on firearms. However, such outbursts of reason are typically short-lived, as the gun control apostate becomes the immediate target of the country's anti-gun establishment politicians and media. Such was the case in 2014, when former Leader of the United Kingdom Independence Party and Member of the European Parliament Nigel Farage had the temerity to point out that the UK's handgun ban is "ludicrous" and call for its repeal.

Following the recent terror attacks in Manchester and London, Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner Alison Hernandez was taken by a similar case of logic. During a June 12 appearance on BBC Radio Cornwall, Hernandez suggested that armed citizens could provide an important response to a terrorist violence.

According to an account and audio of Hernandez's BBC appearance made available by the Guardian, a caller – who is a firearms dealer – to the radio show asked the police commissioner, "If there should ever be a terrorist attack, what happens if I and other people try to defend themselves



using those guns? What would be the repercussions?" After lauding the caller's question, Hernandez responded that such an armed response "might be some of our solution to our issues."

The audibly dumbfounded BBC host, called the caller's proposal "vigilantism," going on to question the caller's ability to properly handle and use firearms. Even after the host's initial derisive comments, Hernandez defended her position stating, "I'm just saying, let's officially have a look at that and see what would be the implications of it.... We work with businesses to keep our communities safe. I'd really be interested in exploring that with the chief constable."

Unfortunately, Hernandez's rational position was lost on Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer and Deputy Chief Constable Paul Netherton. The same day as Hernandez's interview, Netherton issued a response to the police commissioner's comments that appears to foreclose even a discussion about the use of private firearms to stop a terrorist threat.

In the release, Netherton noted that during an attack, "highly trained police firearms officers and Special Forces will be deployed to protect our communities," and that "Under no

circumstances would we want members of the public to arm themselves with firearms, not least because officers responding would not know who the offenders were, and quite obviously they would not have the time to ask."

Netherton also reiterated official UK response policy, stating, "Our message to the public is a simple one: to run, to hide and to tell." This charge is a noticeably neutered version of the United States Department of Homeland Security's "Run, Hide, Fight."

Just as disturbing as the UK's disrespect of the fundamental right to self-defense is the ongoing effort by the UK's political and media establishment to preclude any debate on the topic. Nigel Farage's comments on the handgun ban were met with "fury," with one opposing lawmaker dismissing Farage's Ukip party as "extremely dangerous." The BBC host dismissed Hernandez's comments and the caller's question out of hand. Likewise, Netherton released a statement refuting Hernandez's position without exploration or discussion. Far from radical, Hernandez's thoughts on fighting terrorism are shared by former Interpol Secretary General Ronald K. Noble.

Such foreclosure of discourse is unbecoming a so-called liberal democracy. Today's UK would do well to rediscover the great English classical liberal philosopher John Stuart Mill, as his work on the merits of free thought and vigorous discourse appears to be foreign to most of its subjects.

## Rotary Turns 180 Degrees on Restrictive Firearm Policies

In March (April Snippets), we reported on a series of restrictive policies governing firearms that had been approved by the governing body of the well-known networking and service club, Rotary International. This week came a welcome turn of events, as the club's board of directors announced that the rules, which had been set to take effect July 1, have undergone substantial "clarification."

The policies as originally announced in January had banned any Rotary entity – including clubs and districts – from selling, raffling, or transferring firearms. It also banned these entities from participating in activities where any sort of firearm raffle or other transfer occurs, whether or not Rotary is the owner of the items. Rotary entities were additionally prohibited from sponsoring or conducting gun shows or other exhibitions involving guns and even from "accept[ing] sponsorship from any entity whose primary business is the sale or manufacturer of guns, weapons or other armaments."

Rotary's board of directors had cited "financial and reputational risk" as justification for the rules.

A number of Rotary's American members, however, spoke out in opposition to the new rules. Fortunately, their voices were heard, and Rotary announced changes to the rules this week.

Under the revised guidelines, Rotary entities are expressly authorized to "participate in activities involving the sale, give-away or transfer, including raffles, of guns, weapons or other armaments ...." The entity, however, must not "take ownership of the item(s)" and any transfer of ownership of a firearm must be "handled by a licensed third party in compliance with all applicable laws."

Entities engaging in activities that involve firearms, including sport shooting activities, are further required "to consult with legal and/or insurance professionals to ensure that they are adequately protected."

The ban on sponsorship of Rotary activities by firearm-related companies was also lifted.



An email announcing the changes said they were made "in response to comments from our members."

The NRA is very pleased that Rotary has reconsidered its position and will continue to allow its entities to conduct these popular events. It speaks well of the club that it was willing to chart a more moderate path in response to member concerns.

Friday, June 16, 2017

<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20170616/rotary-turns-180-degrees-on-restrictive-firearm-policies>

**Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets**

## 4 Things You Need to Know When Picking a Kid's First Rifle

by Drema Mann

Monday, May 22, 2017

Have your kids ever asked to hunt or shoot with you? If so, you're like a lot of other folks, and might be wondering where to start. To really feel involved, kids need their own gear - everything from hearing and eye protection to their own rifle. Choosing safety gear is straightforward enough, but when it comes to the rifle, you'll want to make the best choice to ensure their success and enjoyment.

### 1. Size it Correctly

The rifle should not be too big or heavy, and the key to that is to make sure to involve your child in the selection process. Many parents purchase a rifle as a first birthday present, and that is a wonderful idea. Years down the road it will be a special heirloom. But remember that predicting the arm length of a seven or eight year old is pretty difficult to do, and when the time comes, that rifle might not fit.

When my daughter, Montana, was about seven, she decided she would like to try her hand at shooting. We quickly found most youth guns were too long, and too heavy for her. Her first shots had to be taken from the bench, which was fine, but soon she wanted to shoot standing up like an adult. It took some searching before we found the right rifle. I suggest you visit a well-stocked gun store with your child to try rifles on for size. Much like their jeans, the gun must fit the child, or you could have a problem on your hands.



### 2. Get a Good Trigger

Trigger pull weight is crucial too. A good starting point is to try a trigger with about half the pull weight of the gun. Take into consideration the size of the child, and remember, what works for one 10-year-old might not work for another. Some youth rifles have heavy, gritty triggers, and will only lead to frustration for you and your child. Avoid them. A crisp trigger with a light-to-moderate pull weight simplifies the complexities of learning to shoot.

### 3. Match Their Personality

Probably the most important part to Montana was that the gun fit her personality. It was by no means one of the most important things to her daddy or me. No flat black or green camo for this girly-girl. She chose, you guessed it, a pink rifle. Maybe she gets that spark of personality from me but, for whatever reason, pink fits her perfectly.

### 4. Invest Some Money

And finally, don't be afraid to invest some money into this new-found interest. The Xbox you bought your child for their birthday cost just as much as a good rifle. The rifle will probably last longer and mean more in the end than any electronic gadget that could be obsolete in a month or two. If the gun doesn't fit and they don't like it, they won't stay interested for long. Involve your child in choosing their rifle. Use it as an excuse to spend some quality time together, and you just might have a hunting and shooting buddy for a long time to come.

For Montana's first rifle we settled on a Pink Platinum, Smith & Wesson M&P 15-22. It weighs only 5.5 pounds and the stock has 1.25 inches of adjustability. She's proud of her pink first rifle and proud to hunt and shoot. She's since graduated to bigger guns, but still treasures her first rifle. On crisp fall mornings, you can now find her in the woods with her daddy or me. I can only hope I'm the one lucky enough to be in the stand with her when she takes her first West Virginia whitetail!

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2017/5/22/4-things-you-need-to-know-when-picking-a-kids-first-rifle/>



## Australia Firearms Turn-in

<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20170623/nationwide-firearms-turn-in-not-enough-for-australia-s-gun-haters>

### Nationwide Firearms Turn-in Not Enough for Australia's Gun Haters

Friday, June 23, 2017

On July 1, Australia begins National Firearms Amnesty 2017, the country's fourth federal firearms buyback (more accurately termed turn-in) or amnesty program since 1987. According to the Australian government, officials hope to capture some of the country's estimated 260,000 unregistered firearms. The Australian government has also cited the threat of terrorism, and in particular the December 2014 siege on the Lindt Café in Sydney, as justification for the new turn-in. The amnesty period runs to September 30.

Unlike the confiscatory scheme that followed Australia's 1996 National Firearms Agreement, which banned most ownership of semi-automatic and pump action rifles and shotguns, the 2017 amnesty is not coupled to any new restrictions on the types of firearms an individual may own. Further, under the current amnesty, firearm owners will not receive any compensation for the firearms they relinquish. To participate in the amnesty, gun owners will have to bring their unregistered firearms to a drop-off point designated by state and territorial authorities.

In an improvement over the 1997 confiscatory turn-in, gun owners in many cases will be able to choose the final disposition of their unregistered firearms. An individual that has an irrational animus towards guns can choose to have their former firearm

destroyed. Those turning in firearms eligible to enter the lawful stream of commerce may also be able to sell the firearm to a licensed dealer.

Firearms license holders who turn over a firearm they are eligible to own will be allowed to register and retain possession of their gun. Of course, given Australian history, some gun owners might prove justifiably reluctant to make the government aware of their unregistered arms, lest they be targeted in some future confiscation effort.

[To learn more about the details of Australia's National Firearms Amnesty, including the specific rules for each state and territory, visit <https://firearmsamnesty.ag.gov.au>.]

In the U.S., researchers and gun rights advocates have long agreed that turn-ins are ineffective policy. This fact is not lost on all Australian politicians. Liberal Democrat Senator from New South Wales David Leyonjelm, recently said of the 2017 amnesty, "It's purely for appearance purposes. It won't do anything to address guns on the street, they'll end up with grandma's rusty old shotgun or rifle. Which was never going to be used in crime in the first place."

However, that the current amnesty provides an avenue for some unwanted and illegally held firearms to re-enter the lawful stream of commerce is a minor beacon of common sense in Australia's otherwise misguided gun policy. The Australian government did not come to this sensible policy on its own. According to a report from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia lobbied the government for this measure.

Of course, this minor concession to reason has been attacked by Australia's anti-gun community.

In a radio interview with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Gun Control Australia Vice-President Roland Browne lamented that some illegally held firearms might find their way into the hands of licensed gun owners. The gun control lobby representative told the interviewer, "This amnesty started off as a public safety measure. In fact, in reality, it is appearing now to be a profit-making venture for firearms dealers." According to Browne, the ability to move illegally held firearms into the hands of law-abiding gun owners undermines "the integrity of the registration system," and he would rather "take these guns out of circulation."

Australia's experience with gun control continues to provide important lessons for American gun owners. In the end, the gun control movement is not about getting guns out of "the wrong hands," or banning certain types of firearms. Despite repeated national turn-ins, gun registration, background checks, gun owner licensing, a ban on semi-automatic and pump-action rifles and shotguns, and the abolition of gun ownership for the purpose of self-defense, groups like Gun Control Australia continue to target Australia's law-abiding gun owners. Gun Control Australia's response to the 2017 National Firearms Amnesty further proves that as long as there remain firearms in the hands of private citizens, gun control advocates will continue to work towards their goal of total civilian disarmament.

## 4 Weird Things People Ask Women Who Carry Guns (and How to Answer)

by Wendy LaFever  
Wednesday, May 24, 2017

If you're a woman who chooses to carry concealed, chances are quite good that sooner or later someone will question you about your decision. Most of the time, anyone with whom you're close enough to have shared that information will be respectful towards you, but let's face it: There's a lot of misinformation out there about guns, gun owners, the laws about armed self-defense and carrying concealed. We responsible gun owners are usually facing an uphill battle trying to gently and respectfully correct those misperceptions.

For some reason, the conversation tends to be even more difficult when the subject is a woman who carries a firearm for self-defense. The reasons why are both beyond the scope of this article and this writer's qualifications—although a tentative guess might be cultural expectations of women as nurturers—but it's a fact that the questions directed at women who carry concealed tend to be a bit more pointed, shall we say, than those directed at men. It can be frustrating. That said, it remains important that we serve as good ambassadors for our beliefs, and that we do our best to be respectful towards people who (however clumsily) are at least trying to understand. One key to success is to keep your initial reaction on the inside...and have some polite replies ready to go. Here's what that might look like.

### Weird Question #1: "Aren't you scared the gun will go off?"

*Snarky reaction that you keep inside your head: "No."*

**Actual reply:** "Firearms don't really work that way. The only way to get my gun to discharge is to grip it securely in both hands, releasing the grip safety, then to deliberately squeeze the trigger. It's not something that can happen on its own, or if the gun gets jostled or dropped."

(Of course, different kinds of guns have different safety mechanisms, from passive to active (or both), so you'll want to tailor your response. Just keep it simple and try to avoid using specific firearms terms that people unfamiliar with guns may not know.)

### Weird Question #2: "Aren't you worried the 'bad guy' will just take the gun away from you and use it against you?"

*Snarky reaction that you keep inside your head: "No."*

**Actual reply:** "The only reason I would ever even let the 'bad guy' know I had a gun is if my life were already in immediate danger. It's an absolute last resort. What's more, I've undergone extensive training to learn how to draw the gun from concealment and fire it quickly and accurately to stop the threat."

(Of course, you have had the training, right?)

### Weird Question #3: "Can't you just carry pepper spray/get a whistle/learn martial arts?"

*Snarky reaction that you keep inside your head: "No."*

**Actual reply:** "Some people do choose 'less lethal' methods of self-defense, and that's entirely up to them. The problem is that they're generally not as effective at stopping a person who is determined to harm or kill. Even martial-arts experts can be overpowered physically by someone who takes them by surprise or is much bigger and stronger. Whistles won't help unless there's someone around to hear it...and they're willing to intervene. Finally, although pepper spray can be quite incapacitating, it doesn't work the same way on everyone. Some aggressors who are intoxicated or just very determined are able to power through it. It's not a risk I choose to take."

(Of course, "less lethal" self-defense tools can certainly be a part of your overall strategy, depending on your circumstances!)

### Weird Question #4: "So...can I see it?"

*Snarky reaction that you keep inside your head: "No."*

**Actual reply:** "No. It's irresponsible and, in some areas, illegal for me to display my concealed-carry firearm in public unless I am actively using it to lawfully defend myself. But if you'd like to go to the range with me and let me teach you the rules of gun safety, not only will I let you see it, I'll let you shoot it."

[https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2017/5/24/4-weird-questions-people-ask-women-who-carry-guns-and-how-to-answer/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=insider&utm\\_campaign=0517](https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2017/5/24/4-weird-questions-people-ask-women-who-carry-guns-and-how-to-answer/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=insider&utm_campaign=0517)