



SAGA Press Release – 4 April 2025

Opinion Piece: Expropriation without Compensation, Equitable Access to Land & Firearm Rights – a Problem, a Threat and a Crisis

by Shaun Lyle, SAGA Trustee

The Assault on our Rights: A Government Agenda to Disarm and Control

South African firearm owners face an escalating threat to their rights, with a significant and real risk to firearm ownership. The enacted Expropriation Without Compensation Act (EWC) and the proposed Equitable Access to Land Bill (EAL) seriously threaten personal property rights and our options for self-defence. In addition, the rumoured reintroduction of proposed amendments to the Firearms Control Act (FCA) and, as of March 2025, the draft amendments to the Private Security Industry Regulation Act amendments (PSIRA Notice 3088), are all clear signs of direct threats not just to your firearms, but to your right to defend life, family and freedom. If we remain silent and uninvolved, we are not just at risk of losing our firearms but our ability to defend our basic right to life, will be significantly diluted or lost altogether!

EWC: The Trojan Horse for Gun Confiscation

EWC is not just about land (immovable property), it opens the door for the State to seize **any** property (movable) – including firearms – and, to add insult to injury, without compensation. The justification clauses as written into the legislation being “*in the public interest*” and “*past injustices*.” These vague terms can be twisted to fit any political agenda, including disarming private citizens under the guise of crime prevention.

History proves that governments seeking to control their people first disarm them. The media has been actively ramping up anti-gun rhetoric for the longest time; blaming legally owned firearms for crime while ignoring the real problem: criminals with illegal, military-grade weapons.

The 2021 KZN unrest proved a hard truth: when the State fails, armed citizens step up. We protected our communities while police and military stood down or were missing altogether. The government knows and fears this, that’s part of the reason they are pushing regulations and laws that weaken or remove our right to self-defence (right to life).

Proposed FCA Amendments: A Direct Attack on Self-Defence

Proposed amendments to the Firearms Control Act are not just bureaucratic changes – they are a direct attempt to strip citizens of their right to protect themselves.

Under these amendments, the State would impose stricter ownership requirements, mandate intrusive storage regulations, and drastically limit the number of licenced firearms a person can own.

One particularly insidious change is the requirement to prove an “ongoing need” for a firearm – a clear attempt to eliminate self-defence (Section 13) as a valid reason to own a firearm. Law-abiding citizens who have legally purchased firearms for personal protection will find it hard, to impossible, to keep their rights intact.

These rumoured amendments go further, do not forget the hand back amnesties and buyback schemes (Australia): they introduce the potential for widespread socialist type firearm confiscation, targeting firearm enthusiasts who own multiple guns for sport shooting and/or hunting. It is this aspect where we suspect the renewed focus will be.

The Larger Agenda: Socialism, State Control, and the Erosion of Freedoms

Behind the push for EWC and the FCA amendments lies a much darker, more insidious agenda: the ANC's long-held desire for greater state control, empowered by disarmed citizens. The ANC's socialist agenda cannot be fully implemented unless GNU partners remain subservient and silent while the middle class capitulates – especially those who are armed and capable of defending their rights.

In a country where the private security sector outperforms both the police and military, and the middle class remains well-armed, the government sees firearm owners as a threat. When citizens can protect themselves, they cannot be easily controlled. The government's push to weaken self-defence laws, overregulate the private security industry (PSIRA) and seize private property is clearly part of a broader effort to dilute personal freedoms and fortify government control.

The Constitution: Your Shield, But Only if You Use It

South Africa's Constitution, considered one of the most progressive in the world, explicitly protects your right to property – which includes firearms.

Section 25 guarantees protection against arbitrary expropriation, demanding that any property be taken for public interest only, and under strict conditions. The State cannot just seize your firearms without due process and compensation, yet that is exactly what they potentially could try under the guise of “*crime prevention*” using the EWC where **nil/no** consideration is technically not considered ‘*without*’ compensation and could thereby potentially bypass the FCA completely.

Furthermore, the limitations clause in Section 36 ensures that rights can only be limited if the limitation is reasonable and justifiable. Disarming a population – particularly law-abiding citizens – is neither reasonable nor justifiable. It violates our right to personal security and life (self-defence), which are constitutionally protected. The litany of irrational and non-sensical policy developments such as the proposed PSIRA amendments is a case in point. These should raise serious red flags within our ‘*democracy*’!

The Way Forward: Stand United, Stand Strong

The threats to OUR rights are real, and they are escalating. We are at a tipping point. Before it is too late, here is how you can fight back:

1. **Engage Policymakers:** Legal firearm owners must make their voices heard by actively supporting advocacy groups like SAGA, Safe Citizen and others to lobby

lawmakers and push for clear legislative protections that uphold your right to own firearms for self-defence.

2. **Educate Family, Friends & the Public:** The more the public understands the importance of firearm ownership, the harder it becomes for the government to demonize it. Help raise awareness about the reality of legal firearm ownership and how it protects families and communities.
3. **Solidarity:** Strength in numbers; boots on the ground, guns on the range – firearm owners **MUST** unite to protect their rights. SAGA is focused on fostering unity within the firearm community. By organizing campaigns, petitions, and participating in peaceful protests, firearm owners can amplify their message and increase pressure on policymakers.
4. **Court Challenges:** We must be prepared to support the fight against these unconstitutional changes in the courts. Advocacy groups and constitutional law experts have already won important legal battles and we need to continue that momentum.
5. **Push for Real Solutions:** We need to shift the conversation (move the Overton Window - footnote 1) away from disarming the public and focus on the real problem: criminals with illegal firearms. Strengthening law enforcement and targeting illegal weapons must be the priority, rather than punishing law-abiding legal firearm owners.

Conclusion: Fight Now or Surrender Forever

The government agenda is clear: control the narrative (Overton Window ^{footnote 1}), disarm the people and consolidate power.

We **NEED** to act now, or we risk losing our rights forever. As Elon Musk so bluntly put it: *“The reason they want to take away your guns is so you can’t oppose them.”* Patrick Bet-David followed up with the *“two things that tyrants fear most; guns in the hands of private citizens (self-defence), and a megaphone (free speech)”* (CPAC USA 2025).

You have a choice: Support SAGA and help in the fight for your rights today OR remain amongst the silent majority and surrender your rights tomorrow, forever!



saga@saga.org.za - www.saga.org.za

Tel 031-562-9951 WhatsApp 066-003-9226

PO Box 35203, Northway, 4065

Footnote 1

The **Overton Window** is a political science concept that describes the range of ideas or policies that are considered acceptable or mainstream by the public at any given time. It was named after Joseph P. Overton, who developed the theory in the mid-1990s.

Acknowledgements:

- Research via Co-pilot
- Draft amendments to PSIRA Regulations Notice 3088 – 28 March 2025
- Presentations - CPAC USA February 2025