**Item 4 – Freedom Front Plus**

10th session of the Forum on Minority Issues

Chairperson, thanks for this opportunity. All protocols observed. I represent the Afrikaner youth as the youth leader for Freedom Front Plus – South Africa.

I would like to thank each and every person who made statements, remarks and the panellists for their words. As a minority youth in South Africa, it is welcoming to be reminded once again that we are not alone with the issues we face.

Social media is both a blessing and a curse.

In South Africa the written media portrays minorities as the enemy. Minorities become marginalized and stereotyped to mere race and ethnicity. South African youth in general face immense challenges with regards to unemployment, collapsing/poor basic education system, expensive higher education, etc. Then Minority youth, especially the Afrikaner Youth, are further challenged by marginalization through the media. This creates minority youth to feel ashamed of who they are.

With the birth of digital media a new platform to get the correct message across has been created.

A number of organisations have been able to take major strides towards equality due to digital media (social media specifically), be it through forums, posts, campaigns or events. It is a large platform that allows challenges that are being faced by minorities to be voiced.

The other side of the coin, however, is the marginalisation and discrimination of minorities through social media. A current example in the South African concept is of a student leader at the university of the Free State that took to social media with her prejudice towards certain Afrikaner minority students at the university. Not only does this polarize the society, but it insights violence. It is easy to encourage radical actions via social media without having to step up and face the realities of such actions. Such actions discriminate; it increases racism and disrespects basic human rights.

A person is reduced to nothing but race and a quota – affecting the dignity of such a person.

Not only is the youth of minority groups in SA discriminated against by the marginalisation of mother tongue education; or because of the past & a political system they were not part of; or unemployment; or the polarization due to ethnicity, skin colour, religion & language; but also blatant discrimination by faceless bullies on social media.

The future looks bleak for our minority groups if people are not responsible on social media.

How do you use social media? To encourage or to discriminate???