

Madam Chair, fellow human beings, sisters and brothers from across the globe. It is indeed a privilege to be able to address you on behalf of the Afriforum, just for background information, Afriforum is a civil rights and minority rights NGO in South Africa.

I must say it is indeed heart breaking to hear what problems minorities have across the globe and of course these issues need attention. I also want to urge you to add another area of concern with regards to economic participation and that is the rights to take part in economic activities without fear of violence and without fear of being murdered. In South Africa we have seen crises of epidemic proportions over the last 15 years with more than [300] farmers being murdered, these farmers are mostly members of minority community called Afrikaans or so called white Afrikaans speaking people. These people are simply not being murdered by criminals the worrying aspect is these murders are taking place when government is behaving in an inappropriate way. Since the retirement of a huge and reconciliatory figure like Nelson Mandela we've seen the ANC government after his retirement start to use slogans like shoot the Boer and of course refers to White Afrikaans speaking farmers in South Africa. The ANC defence is that it is not being meant literally but while they say this farmers are being literally murdered and that includes women and children.

Only last week a two year girl called Valine Portreuter was shot execution style behind the head, her father and mother were also murdered after that, the next day we saw another murder in Rustenburg the first murder I referred to was in Free State and while these murders are going on we have a government that says it is fine to use slogans like shoot the Boer. And I hope that this conference would say that to take part in economy you have the right to be free from violence and also the right to be free from words such as shoot the Boer and that any slogans that propagates murders against any minority or group must be condemned in the strongest possible terms.