AfriForum Youth

Thank you for the opportunity. The President of South Africa recently said, “we have more rights because we are the majority. You have less rights because you are a minority.” South Africa have a complicated history, so let me mention a few points of our history, and giving context of how this locks youth in a spiral of violence and discrimination, inhibiting change. The First Nation, the Khoisan, lived in Southern Africa for thousands of years. The Khoisan was then displaced by Black invaders, and the Black tribes then fought a civil war called the Muthakane (?). Around 2 million people died. Afrikaners then settled the barren lands where smaller tribes once lived before the Mfekane. The British invaded and conquered the Black Nations, and Afrikaners after tens of thousands of Afrikaners died in British concentration camps. The British then ruled South Africa, stripping blacks of voting rights and setting the first segregation laws. After this, Afrikaners took power, where existing laws, combined with new laws, were later referred to as apartheid. South Africa has a very violent history where many mistakes have been made. The distortion or selective acknowledgement of South Africans' history of the minority groups that include the First Nation, whites, black minorities, Indians, and Afrikaners are the last barrier to peace in South Africa. History has become a political tool used to control the balance of power. Many minorities have sadly accepted being treated as second-class citizens due to the demonization of their history, language, and culture. This has made the targeting of minorities so much easier using anti-diversity policies and by limiting the use of mother language. In a process that is best described as linguistic cleansing in South African education, access to education are thus limited to minorities in South Africa due to language exclusion. You will not rise to the occasion of change….(cut off by chair)