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FXI CONDEMNS UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA SOCIAL MEDIA BAN



The Freedom of Expression Institute strongly condemns the blanket ban from liking , re-tweeting and sharing of hate speech of staff , students and those affiliated with the University of Pretoria. This arbitrary action illustrates the fundamental deficit of understanding on how social media and the internet works. Likes, shares and re-tweets are not necessarily endorsements but potential facilitators of constructive debates about the issues that concerns us most in South Africa. Instead of imposing arbitrary bans, the University should rather focus action on only those who are directly responsible for hateful and dangerous speech on campus. A complete ban on commentary not only violates the right to receive and impart information, it also creates a void that will inevitably be filled by similar hateful and dangerous speech. What we should be doing as members of society is countering hateful and dangerous speech both online and offline. There is need to develop an alternate narrative of the racial divide between blacks and white that promotes the rights of all in society regardless of race, ethnicity, gender or religion.

For more information:

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