

We Need to Talk

JONATHAN JANSEN

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Professor **Jonathan Jansen** is fast becoming a household name in South Africa, for his critical and, at times, inconvenient voice. In this collection of articles previously published in **The Times** Jansen highlights the issues that confront our country – the issues we need to talk about. With humour, humility, occasional anger and a good dose of common sense Jansen discusses education, race and identity, the state of our nation, leadership and even sport. When asked what the secret of his controversial columns is, he answers, 'A good column upsets half of your readers; the secret is that it should be a different half each time.'

Jansen takes his inspiration from a diverse group of people – statesmen, teachers, students, children and everyday South Africans he meets – and introduces us to them through these stories to bring us a vision of the South Africa we can build, if only we pull together and work to heal the wounds of the past.

A book to make you stop and think... and then talk about his ideas around the dinner table, in the staffroom, in the classroom or on the bus.

Professor **Jonathan Jansen** is the rector of the University of the Free State, where he has earned a formidable reputation for transformation and for a deep commitment to reconciliation in communities living with the heritage of apartheid. He is an educationalist, a former Dean of Education at the University of Pretoria, who holds an impressive collection of degrees and awards, including the position as President of the South African Institute of Race Relations. He was born in the Western Cape, and has lived in various parts of South Africa and in the United States. He is married with two children.

*'Ways of speaking can help heal or they can provoke;
they can inflame passions or settle nerves.'*

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| Publication | May 2011 |
| ISBN | 9781920434168 |
| Price | R160.00 |
| Category | Non-fiction (Current Affairs) |
| Format | Paperback |



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