

Adv. André Gaum  
South African Human Rights Commission  
Per e-mail: [agaum@sahrc.org.za](mailto:agaum@sahrc.org.za)

17 November 2022

Dear Commissioner Gaum

## COMPLAINT REGARDING 'DOG' REFERENCE TO WHITE STUDENTS

I trust that this letter finds you well.

1. I am writing on behalf of the civil rights organisation Cape Forum, formally launched in May this year to, inter alia, empower all communities in the Western Cape, as well as to enhance social cohesion and promote mutual respect between our diverse cultural communities.
2. We have noticed a reference today by Prof. Jonathan Jansen, educationalist at Stellenbosch University, writing in his column for the online publication *TimesLive*, to "white male students" at the SU as "dogs".
3. Herewith a link to the column: <https://www.timeslive.co.za/sunday-times-daily/opinion-and-analysis/2022-11-16-jonathan-jansen--why-stellies-racists-behave-like-animals-last-kicks-of-a-dying-horse/>
4. In his column Professor Jansen responds to the recently released report by the Khampepe Commission into allegations of racism at SU, emanating from, particularly, the well-publicised Theuns du Toit incident. Du Toit, now expelled from the university, is a "white male" student who was found guilty of urinating on top of the desk and laptop of a "black student" in the Huis Marais student residence.
5. Professor Jansen offers the following view on the cause of the alleged racist incidents at SU and the so-called Reitz-incident, a few years earlier at the University of the Free State, while he served as the institution's Vice-Chancellor and Rector:

*"The reason you have this latter-day racism at Stellenbosch University is because the university is changing, not because it is untransformed. Ask yourself this, why would the Free State students and the now three incidents at Stellenbosch involve men and urine? Quite simple. **Just like dogs use urine to mark their territory and anxiety, white male students use the***

***same strategy to protest black incursion into their intimate spaces, such as residences.”***

6. History has taught us about the danger of labelling members of a certain community, ethnic or cultural group as some kind of animal or insect, be that South African Penny Sparrow calling black citizens “monkeys” or a Rwandan politician referring to Tutsis as “cockroaches” which contributed to the occurrence of genocide in 1994 in his country.
7. Professor Jansen’s comparison of the ugly actions of “white male students” to that of “dogs” is uncalled for, inflammatory and insulting.
8. We hereby request that the Commission investigates this matter and take the necessary steps if you find, as we suggest, that the language used by Professor Jansen is inhumane, hateful, and hurtful. It makes no constructive contribution to unrooting racist actions from our democratic society, which should in all instances be condemned.

We are looking forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hei".

**HEINDRICH WYNGAARD**  
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