

31<sup>st</sup> August 2018

Susan Mueller  
Stand Alone  
34b York Way  
London  
N1 9AB

Dear Susan

**Glasgow Caledonian University's (GCU) commitment to the Stand Alone pledge**

As the University for the Common Good, we have a longstanding reputation for supporting students who face additional challenges and barriers. We strive to ensure students from under-represented and at risk groups are given the support they require to access university and attain at the highest level. For example, from 2017-18 our Student Carers' Policy and Corporate Parenting Strategy have raised the profile of these under-represented groups internally and externally; demonstrating a whole institution approach to support.

We understand that estranged students may face particular challenges and barriers. For example, lack of a familial support network and financial barriers can make estranged students more vulnerable to issues such as academic failure, homelessness and poverty. By taking the Stand Alone Pledge, we will strive to further enhance our targeted transition support and outcomes for estranged students by providing a comprehensive wrap-around support from school and college into, through and beyond the GCU experience, working collaboratively across the university and Students' Association.

At Glasgow Caledonian University we are currently developing a new web page to highlight useful information for estranged students including:

- A Named Contact to provide information, advice and guidance throughout the student experience
- Our partnership with the Unite Foundation that provides accommodation scholarships
- Information on our Student Support Services including Student Funding and Wellbeing
- Signposting to external organisations

Through proudly committing GCU to the Stand Alone pledge, we look forward to working with Stand Alone to further understand the needs of this group and enhance our support provision to suit, helping to ensure this group of students is supported to reach their potential.

Yours sincerely



Professor Pamela Gillies  
Principal and Vice-Chancellor