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Dear Stand Alone Colleagues,

I am writing to confirm the University of Kent's commitment to the Stand Alone Pledge and to supporting estranged students in accessing and succeeding in higher education.

Our University is based on equality, diversity, respect and the value we place on each other, and we are committed to supporting students from a wide range of backgrounds to enable them to find and shape their place in the world.

We understand the unique challenges that estranged students face, and offer a dedicated package of support. This includes a one-off cash bursary of £600 towards the cost of starting at university and one-off payment of £100 towards graduation costs for students who attend their graduation ceremony. Estranged students are also guaranteed University accommodation for 365 days of the year for the entire duration of their course.

Our Financial Aid office provides information, advice and support to estranged students on how to apply for funding, associated benefits and independent status. They are also a priority group within the Access to Learning Fund (ALF). Our Student Support and Wellbeing services also provides dedicated pastoral support with a named contact who ensures they are aware of internal and external counselling and wellbeing services and how to access them.

We value this opportunity to make a pledge to estranged students which states our commitments to them and demonstrates our recognition of the challenges that they may face. However, we know that there is more we can do. We are committed to engaging with our estranged students to better understand the challenges they face and how we may continue support them to achieve their goals.

Yours sincerely



Professor Karen Cox