

Professor Sally Mapstone FRSE
Principal and Vice-Chancellor

StA/SLM/erk/standalonepledge280519

28 May 2019

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

Dear Ms Mueller,

The University of St Andrews commits to the Stand Alone Pledge

I write as Principal and Vice-Chancellor, on behalf of the University of St Andrews, to commit the University to the Stand Alone Pledge to support students who are estranged from their family networks.

St Andrews recognises that people from estranged backgrounds are poorly represented in higher education today. In line with our University Strategy 2018-2023 as well as long-held values, we are committed to enabling the entry of estranged students into university, their success whilst there, and their transition to work after graduation.

We recognise the additional support this group may need during this formative phase of their lives, and commit to meeting them with warmth as well as clearly structured support. Students from diverse backgrounds and with different life experiences make an enormous contribution to St Andrews, in both social and intellectual terms, and we are actively creating more opportunities for diversity to express itself in all we do.

The University will support the Stand Alone Pledge in four key areas:

Accommodation: We will offer university accommodation to students from estranged backgrounds during all years of their study here. We will continue to ensure that no deposit or guarantor is required for University accommodation, and that rooms are available for 365 days of the year. Should a student wish to find private accommodation, we will offer assistance with finding this, including assistance with deposits.

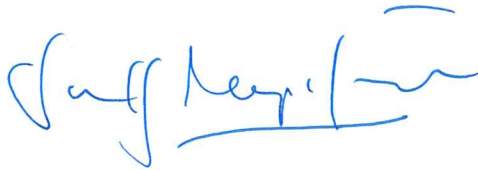
Financial Assistance: We offer a range of financial aid for undergraduates, and the personal circumstances of the individual are taken into account when scholarships are awarded. There are also several types of financial support including the Discretionary Fund which are prioritised for those without family financial assistance. Our Money Advisers will advise and assist in applications to Student Finance and to the SAAS to make a case for independent status.

Mental Health and Wellbeing: We recognise that estranged students may have particular support needs, and any student who identifies as estranged will be offered an initial meeting with a Wellbeing Adviser to ensure that they have access to appropriate support.

Outreach: We have established a named contact point for each estranged student at the University, and will establish processes to inform applicants, offer-holders and current students of the University's commitment to supporting estranged students, and the routes through which they can seek support.

The University of St Andrews is proud to be associated with the work of Stand Alone, and we look forward to helping more students from estranged backgrounds thrive whilst at St Andrews so that they can live their best lives.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sally Mapstone', with a horizontal line underneath.

Professor Sally Mapstone FRSE
Principal and Vice-Chancellor