

Stand Alone  
34b York Way  
London  
N1 9AB

23 February 2022

Dear Stand Alone,

### **Stand Alone Pledge for Estranged Students at the University of Warwick**

This letter outlines the University of Warwick's strong commitment to the Stand Alone Pledge, and the vital importance of supporting estranged students studying without the support of a family network. Education can be transformative, and at the University of Warwick we believe that all students should have the opportunity to realise their potential, regardless of their background. We actively engage with schools, partner organisations and community groups to support people from a range of backgrounds to access, and succeed in, higher education.

We recognise the particular challenges faced by some of the most vulnerable groups, especially those aspiring and studying without the support of a family network. We have in place an extensive package of support for care leavers and we will align this to offer similar support for estranged students. The University of Warwick therefore pledges to develop a comprehensive package of support across the following areas: Outreach; Transition; Finance; Accommodation; Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Effective partnership-working with charities, schools and colleges enables us to target initiatives to enhance HE awareness, aspirations and attainment of those young people facing educational disruption and we will prioritise places for estranged students on all our Widening Participation programmes. Enhanced recognition for estranged students in the admissions process through contextual offers will support transition to the University, with a named contact from application to graduation to provide individualised support.

Estranged students will be guaranteed 52-week accommodation on-campus for the duration of their degree and the introduction of an Estranged Student Bursary (£1,000 per year), in addition to other University financial support, will reduce the financial impact of studying without family support. Estranged students will be eligible for our on-course programmes offering peer support, guidance, and development opportunities throughout university studies as well as financial support for progression to postgraduate study.

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We welcome the opportunity to formally support not only those students arriving at Warwick from an estranged background, but also to implement a robust package of support for those students who may become estranged during their studies. Ongoing research and evaluation will refine and assess the impact and fit of measures. By removing any systematic and structural barriers to those facing the greatest challenges to access and participation at Warwick, and in higher education in general, we can foster an inclusive environment where regardless of background, students have the opportunity to excel across all stages of the student lifecycle.

Our Pledge will go further than direct support for students as we feel we have a strong leadership role in championing the voices of estranged students and will continue to raise the profile of this vital work, internally and externally, on a local and national level.

We fully support the goals of Stand Alone and look forward to seeing the positive impact this work will have on young people in the years ahead.

Yours Sincerely,



**Professor Stuart Croft**  
**Vice-Chancellor and President**