



Stand Alone is Launching a New Support Initiative For Estranged Students in Higher Education.

We are asking institutions to pledge their commitment in developing policies which help to remove the barriers that students who are estranged from their families may face. We want to ensure that students without the support of family capital have an equal chance of accessing and succeeding in Higher Education.

At Stand Alone, we believe that students who are estranged from their families, and studying without the support of a family network, should not be held back from succeeding in HE. We think it is important that institutions help these brave students to stay resilient throughout their university experience.

In order to do this, we have developed the Stand Alone Pledge. The purpose of this pledge is to help universities commit to providing adequate support for estranged students in the areas of finance, mental health, access and accommodation.

Stand Alone has spent the past three years researching and communicating the unique challenges and disadvantages that estranged students are required to overcome. The pledge will help institutions and their Vice Chancellors / Principals act on this information, and truly change realities for students who lack family capital.

We would like to invite London Higher members to [join us](#) for our official launch event at Woburn House on Thursday 19th October, 3.30pm.

This free event will follow our **best practice conference: [‘Understanding the Challenge – Best Practice in Supporting Estranged Students in HE.’](#)** Alongside hearing from estranged students themselves, the conference will discuss examples of best practice from a number of HEIs, and explore ways of how to develop support that works in the four areas of the pledge.

Here's why institutions are taking the pledge:

"We are proud to be associated with Stand Alone and the work to promote, celebrate and support the ambitions and achievements of students from an estranged background."

Prof Geoff Layer, Vice-Chancellor & Jackie Dunn, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Access and Lifelong Learning) – Wolverhampton University

"I am proud of the achievements of our students who are estranged from their families, and we are committed to their continued success. I am happy to pledge my commitment to working with our students and Stand Alone and to continue to develop this vital work for students who are estranged from their families."

Prof Nigel Weatherill, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive – Liverpool John Moores University

3 London Higher members have already pledged their commitment following the Stand Alone presentation to the London Higher Board on 30 June: Kingston University, Goldsmiths, University of London and The Conservatoire of Dance and Drama.

Will you join them?

For more information please contact Susan Mueller, HE Project Director at Stand Alone on s.mueller@standalone.org.uk

Keep up to date by signing up on the new Pledge website, which will launch fully in late October:

www.thestandalonepledge.org.uk