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## **TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

Please find attached a testimonial for Dr Allister Butler. I met Dr Butler just almost five years ago when he started work as a Senior Lecturer in Social Work at Sheffield Hallam University. Over the past four years his career has accelerated rapidly, rising to Principle Lecturer and head of Social Work at Canterbury Christchurch University College. Dr Butler is gaining increasing international recognition for his ground breaking research and understanding around the issues facing gay and lesbian youth. He has published in international peer reviewed journals and presented at high calibre international conferences in this field and his reputation in this field is growing.

Dr Butler has also developed nationally recognised expertise in the field of young carers. Again, he has published and presented in international fora on this arena, which is an important area that he has the potential to develop further.

I believe that in these areas Dr Butler has contributed by research of international calibre to the advancement of knowledge.

Dr Butler has been at the forefront of the modernisation of social work learning and teaching in the UK, and this contribution has been recognised internationally. At Sheffield Hallam University, Dr Butler was actively involved in curriculum development to meet the requirements of the new social work degree, and with the then, newly introduced interprofessional programme. He has further expanded this work in his post at Canterbury Christchurch. His expertise in teaching and learning has been recognised internationally as demonstrated by the delivery a number of successful international social work teaching programmes, in particular, his success in securing the contract to train Iraqi social workers. He has given presentations at international conferences on this area.

Dr Butler has adapted the learning from his research around young carers and gay and lesbian youth to develop the learning in anti-oppressive practice for social workers. This work has been delivered both locally and internationally.

In the rapidly growing and evolving field of social work education, Dr Butler is an experienced and credible practitioner with international experience and reputation. Dr Butler is a natural educator. In recognition for his excellence in teaching, he has received a number of teaching awards and been invited to teach, and deliver workshops around social work education internationally. Dr Butler has also been a social work practitioner

and educator in many different countries, providing him with a relatively unique perspective on the profession, and society.

Dr Butler's international and national standing has been recognised by his peers in a number of different ways. He has received a number of high profile awards including a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship; numerous awards for academic excellence; and awards for teaching and service to the public. He has a growing portfolio of internationally peer reviewed publications, and has presented at a number of high profile conferences in his areas of research expertise and interest.

Dr Butler is a natural leader and is incredibly energetic and hard working. Indeed, if he has a fault, it is that he works too hard.

I wish him every success with his future career as a training consultancy in South Africa, and am more than happy to provide further information if required.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Susan Nancarrow