

LIVING TOGETHER – RESPECTING BOUNDARIES

Statement of commitment for all residents

Aim of this commitment:

The protection of the residents and the staff in our student houses is our first priority. It is therefore important to us to create spaces where everyone feels safe and comfortable; where individual personalities, skills, talents and personal faith can develop. In order to achieve this, we must be mindful and respectful of each other's boundaries. Everyone has a responsibility to ensure that discrimination and (sexualised) violence have no place here.

With my signature I commit myself - as well as all the other residents and staff - to mindful and respectful interaction. I want to make sure that the KHG.Live, the Thomas-Morus-Burse and the St. Alban House are places where everyone can feel comfortable.

With my signature I declare,

- that insofar as I am capable, I will ensure that the KHG.live, the Thomas-Morus-Burse and the St. Alban House are places of encouragement, where a culture of support and encouragement prevails.
- I will respect the individual needs and boundaries of those around me. I will also be aware of my own boundaries and will communicate them when necessary. I will not put physical or mental pressure on others. I will be actively committed to ensuring that no one in the environment of the KHG.Live, the Thomas-Morus-Burse and the St. Alban House experiences violence of any form.
- that I will not treat anyone with less respect because of their origin, language, gender or sexual orientation, appearance, financial situation or personal beliefs. I will actively respond to discriminatory behaviour, for example by labelling it. If I become aware of a breach of boundaries, I will undertake to take the necessary and appropriate steps to protect the person concerned, e.g. by seeking advice from a counsellor.
- that I am aware that any form of sexualised violence against others and persons under my charge may affect my tenancy, as well as having legal consequences.
- that I know that there are professionals and volunteers, as well as counselling and support services against sexualised violence both within the archdiocese and outside the Church, which I can turn to at any time.

I also accept the following code of conduct:

Creating proximity and distance

When living together, an appropriate balance between closeness and distance is important. The structure of relationships must be situation-appropriate, especially if emotional dependencies arise or are likely to arise.

Appropriate use of physical contact

I am careful and reserved when it comes to physical contact. Physical contact requires the free and explicit consent of the other person, which sometimes might be given through body language. Unwanted physical contact is not allowed.

Language and choice of words

I know that language can hurt and I use non-violent language. There is no place for discriminatory statements or derogatory terms. A respectful culture of discussion is the foundation of our dialogue. I make sure that everyone is given the space to express a different point of view without being judged in any way. I do not force anyone to speak. I am willing to give and receive constructive feedback.

Respecting privacy

I am aware that everyone's privacy is different and very individual. When using sanitary facilities, I take care to respect the personal and cultural boundaries of others, including staff (e.g. cleaners, caretakers) and other external persons (e.g. visitors, tradespeople). Conversations may include sensitive topics, so everyone can decide for themselves how much they want to say. I encourage others to speak up if their privacy is being violated.

Media and social networks

The use of social networks and digital media requires compliance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act. I will respect the right to privacy and will not publish images of individuals or groups without the explicit consent of those depicted. I will not make audio or video recordings of others without their consent. I will ensure that no one within my area of influence is digitally harmed or bullied. I understand that filming and photographing in sanitary facilities is prohibited.

Faith and Spirituality

KHG.live, Thomas-Morus-Burse and St. Alban House are open to different ways of living and celebrating faith. I do not exclude anyone because of their beliefs or their spirituality, unless it hurts others.

Gifts and favours

Gifts and favours can lead to dependency. I will be mindful of the appropriateness of gifts and seek advice if they make me feel insecure.

Constructive criticism and repercussions

To deal with mistakes constructively, the following rules must be followed: Mistakes and incidents should be addressed as early as possible, and behaviour that breaches boundaries must be consistently stopped. If verbal violence, physical assault, intimidating behaviour, unwanted physical proximity, etc. is observed, the situation must be interrupted, the behaviour addressed, and a change demanded. If there is no willingness to change, for example at an event, the right of exclusion can be exercised and the person(s) can be excluded from the event. In order to ensure objectivity in the case of sanctions for events, these will be discussed in the Leitungsteam/ with the Heimleitung/ the Hauskommission.

Counselling situations

I know that for many counselling situations a protected space with 1:1 situations is essential. It is important to note that the counselling room is open to others to enter and that everyone is free to leave the room at any time. Counselling sessions are generally kept confidential unless otherwise agreed.

By signing this document I confirm that I have received the statement of commitment and have carefully read it. I agree to follow the rules conscientiously. One copy of the statement of commitment will remain in the student house or the KHG.live for as long as I live in the Thomas-Morus-Burse or the St. Alban House. I will receive the second copy for my own usage.

First Name, last name

Date of birth

Place, date

Signature of the declarant

