**Bereavement: What Helps? Webinar – Facilitator Welcome and Text**

Welcome! Today we have about an hour for our ‘Bereavement – What Works’ webinar co-hosted by the Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies at the Open University, and Open Thanatology. We are hosting the event today as part of National Grief Awareness Week and thank you for joining us. As with many topics, there may be aspects that are for you personally upsetting or bring memories to the fore – we therefore appreciate that you may dip in and out of this webinar and we have also disabled the chat between participants so that we can minimise unexpected triggers. We will be recording today’s session for those that would like to watch it another time from the Open Thanatology ORDO repository.

We have four great panellists here with us today and they will have time to answer some of your questions, which you can send via the Q&A function at the bottom of your screen. Before I handover to our first panellist, I’ll take a few moments to tell you about Open Thanatology. Open Thanatology is The Open University’s interdisciplinary research group for the study and education of death, dying, loss and grief across the life course with over 60 members. Formally renamed in 2020, the name was inspired by the ‘Open’ mission of the university and the word ‘thanos’, meaning death - thanatology is the study of things related to death. The group builds on the long-standing death and dying research group at the university and our undergraduate module on death, dying and bereavement, which hundreds of students take each year. We also offer lots of free educational resources via our OpenLearn Hub, collaborate with the BBC on documentaries and short films, and have published a book on Narratives of Covid covering loss, dying and grief which you can get as a free eBook or inexpensive paperback.

For today’s session, the panellists will each have five minutes to speak, with a few brief questions after the first two. After all four panellists have spoken, we’ll open to Q&A from the audience. Please do send in your questions via the function in Zoom at any time during the session – you do not have to wait until the latter half. You will not be able to see what others have asked and you can send questions anonymously if you prefer.

I’d now like to welcome our four speakers. We have:

* Andy Langford - Clinical Director for Cruse Bereavement Care and PhD Candidate,
* Dr Korina Giaxoglou – Senior Lecturer in Applied Linguistics and English Language
* Kerry Jones, Senior Lecturer in End of Life Care and a trained therapist.
* Dr Jane McCarthy – Honorary Associate with The OU, linked with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Open Thanatology

Wrap up text:

We are now coming to the end of our session. Thank you so much for taking your time to join us today and ask such engaged questions. Huge thank you to our four panellists and to the WELS Comms team for supporting this session. If you have further questions for the panellists, you’ll be able to contact them via their staff profiles or you can send me your question (erica.borgstrom@open.ac.uk) and I’ll forward it. Soon after the session, you’ll receive an email from us with a very short evaluation survey and links to resources about the topics covered today. We would really appreciate your feedback to help us develop future events. Thank you again so much – from me Erica Borgstrom, lead of Open Thanatology and those on the panel - and we hope you have a good day yet.