Dear Parents,

We are writing this letter to you in a very crucial situation in the Aligarh Muslim University. As parents, of the students studying here, you have a significant role to play and we are hopeful that like always in the past, this time too you will lend your support to save the academic semester of our dear students.

For all of us, the prestigious Aligarh Muslim University embodies the essential missionary zeal of educating the community and serving the nation. The guiding principles of our mission are the dreams of our great founder Sir Syed Ahmed Khan that he envisioned for the community and the nation and the aspirations of innumerable torchbearers of AMU who shine across the globe with their achievements.

Let us put across few significant things to you:

Firstly, we all believe in democratic values and therefore, we immensely value the fact that students should be free to carry out peaceful protests to register their objection to laws which they feel are disagreeable. Being Aligarians, we have always worked with full commitment to sustain the atmosphere of democratic expression of one’s protest and disagreement at AMU. In fact, our University has always had the tradition of encouraging the students to conduct debates and speak fearlessly in refined language and polished behaviour. We have full faith that with the cultured upbringing and values that you have instilled in your children, the AMU tradition of protest through refined language and polished behaviour will remain intact. Therefore, believing this, the present administration has dedicated every single day till now to facilitate students’ growth and holistic learning and it will continue to do so in future, as well.

Secondly, the unfortunate turn of events that marred the peaceful atmosphere of the University on 15th December 2019 has pained us to the core. The decision to call the police was taken as a last resort to safeguard the thousands of boys and girls who reside on the campus. The students were misled on that night with false rumors spread about death of two students of JamiaMilliaIslamia. The consequent situation on that night could have led to irreparable loss and damages to the students and the University, therefore the administration had to take this decision to control the situation. Moreover, we have been informed by the Vice Chancellor that with a clear conscience the police was called to only disperse the crowd and not to enter any hostel. The injuries caused to the students by the police action along with the trauma that the students underwent are distressing to us. The Vice Chancellor along with the University administration has remained worried for the students on every single day, since then.

This decision has not gone down well with many of you despite the fact that it was taken only in the interest of safeguarding your wards. As parents and guardian to our children we, too, face critical junctures, at times, which lead us to take unpopular decisions in our family that appear wrong in the present but do bring positive results in the long run. Therefore, we expect that you will empathise with this sentiment of the Vice Chancellor and understand that being the guardian of your wards on the campus, the administration deemed it fit only in their interest. The University administration like a concerned guardian made it a point that each and every student safely reaches home with least inconvenience. The positive aspects of the decision taken are more than the pain incurred if we look at the things in a larger picture.
Dear parents, we appeal to you to counsel your ward/s in this situation so that they continue their studies with a positive mental state. We all have seen in recent years that due to rumour-mongering and misuse of technology in social media, only innocent and uninformed people are led to believe and violently react to things that are later found incorrect. Therefore, we request you to talk and discuss with your ward/s that they must make informed reactions rather than rushing to react emotionally on the spur of the moment about any news which comes through unauthenticated sources on social media.

The University has constituted a Fact-Finding Committee led by a Retired Chief Justice of three High Courts to look into the circumstances leading to advancement of winter vacation and will present a report. Besides, the 15th December 2019 issue is subjudice in the Allahabad High Court right now. We hope that acts of wrong doing will be exposed and justice will prevail with the decisions of the honorable Court, which has directed NHRC to conduct enquiry into the incidents which happened on 15.12.2019.

AMU is a centre of learning which holds the key to transform the progressive dreams of all stake holders into a reality. Owing to the blessings of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, the positivity that prevails in this Campus has always taken the University out of the difficult times in the past on several occasions. We sincerely hope and pray that this time too we will steer ourselves out of this situation to remain a valid voice for the community across the globe.

Many of our students come from humble economic backgrounds and therefore, they want to become helping hands of their families without delay. AMU nurtures their aspirations and ensures that all our students achieve academic and professional success to make you proud and live independently as responsible citizens of this great country.

Therefore, please join us in safeguarding the future of your ward/s by counselling them to take the remaining examinations with whole hearted commitment. Peaceful protest and constructive debate has its own space in the life at AMU. We have been assured by the Vice Chancellor that as a guardian of all the students, he will reach out to every bonafide student. We earnestly solicit your cooperation in asking your ward to concentrate in their academic endeavours.

Let us all work together to make our children flourish as responsible citizens, well informed individuals and successful Aligarians.

Looking forward to having your cooperation,

(Prof. Shahid Ali Siddiqui)
Chairman, AMU Parents’ Committee