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| Manifesto: *(demonstrate who you are, why you are looking for a seat on the group and what you can offer)* |
| I’m Alice Allen, second-year student midwife at Edinburgh Napier University, studying for a Masters in Midwifery.  Being an advocate is a key part of being a midwife, and as student midwives we’re encouraged to become advocates for many people and topics including women, families and best practice. But it’s so easy to forget to advocate for ourselves.  We have all come to midwifery via different paths, and while our lives at home may be hugely varied, our experiences as student midwives bond us and bring us together. I believe it is our differences and unique experiences that make us stronger, and that they should be shared, celebrated and empower us and those around us.  I would like a seat on the RCM Student Midwife Forum to help connect us as students; to bring our differences and unique experiences to the fore, and share them. I want to help us build connections, get support, and raise our voices on issues that are important to us.  Since my first year as a student midwife I have been actively involved with our Midwifery Society as both a first- and now second-year student representative. I am working hard connecting our Society with others across Scotland and building relationships which will provide the opportunity to represent and share the views of students with RCM Scotland and our local NHS Trusts. By building our networks and asking for a seat at the table, I hope to establish new relationships where I can share the views of students with those that help us effect change and make a difference.  Being a student midwife during Covid times is far from straightforward for any of us. I believe that now, more than ever, we need to build connections with each other; to remember to hold space for each other, and to celebrate our progress and achievements in the face of adversity. My pre-midwifery life gave me over ten years’ experience in the communications and employee engagement world and equipped me with the knowledge, understanding and skills to help us do this and make sure our voices are heard, listened to and acted upon.  All of us come to midwifery with fire in our bellies and a passion to learn, and the student midwives of Scotland have a lot to bring to the table! I’m asking for your vote to take on a role in RCM’s forum, to help keep that fire burning for us all, and relight it for those that are feeling a little burnt out. |
| **(No more than 500 words.)** |