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| Manifesto: *(demonstrate who you are, why you are looking for a seat on the group and what you can offer)* |
| From the age of nine I was inspired by Midwives. Following the birth of my younger brother, it became apparent that I too wanted to be the woman who supported other women through their birthing experience. I remember browsing through encyclopaedias at a young age and being fascinated by the growth of the neonates in uterine. By age 12, during the pregnancy of my younger sister, I enthusiastically relayed all my findings and knowledge to my mother and her pregnant friends. As I grew older I decided to explore a different career path in Computer Science; one that I was told would bring me of money and happiness. Yet, being the social womanist that I am, that profession didn’t last long. In the end, I made the decision to re-visit a passion which I have never been able to forget - Midwifery.  If provided with this amazing opportunity to be a part of the RCM student forum, there are key areas of focus which I would like to bring forward and work together in formulating effective plan of action.  Given the current global pandemic, members of my cohort and as other midwifery students across the UK have reached out to me both in person and over social media to express fears and concerns over Covid-19, placement experiences and general mental health. These are key issues I hope to put forward towards the RCM team as I believe that by working together, we can create practical, realistic and well-communicated steps in addressing these.  As we continually experience shifts in our more diverse society, advancements of technology and the rise of social media, I find that many women/students are using these platforms as a source of education. As this shift happens, it’s important that we also adapt to better understand how to leverage these tools and use them to our advantage in effective communications and establishing new ways of learning, whilst taking a more inclusive approach.  Alongside maintaining a first-class average, I am well-read on topics relating to childbirth and reproductive health as gaining deeper understanding of contextual issues which surrounds midwifery is extremely important to me; I remain amazed at how the depth of my perspective on women’s issues have expanded. For example, reading ‘CUT’ by Hibo Wadere enabled me to understand the long and short-term implications that FGM can have on victims. Whilst ’Where’s the Mother’ by Treavor McDonald provided me a unique understanding on motherhood from an LGBT perspective. My passion for midwifery led to the creation of my podcast ‘The Birth Booth’. I saw the demand for open and honest conversations about pregnancy, childbirth and reproductive health aimed at empowering women. I have been fortunate to connect with individuals in healthcare professions and multidisciplinary teams. I have also launched a blog called ‘Forty births’ where I document my student experience. This was picked up by The Practising Midwife Journal and I was given the opportunity to write an online article on how COVID-19 has impacted my student experience. |
| **(No more than 500 words.)** |