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| Manifesto: *(demonstrate who you are, why you are looking for a seat on the group and what you can offer)* |
| My name is Helen Kaye and I am a first year student at the University of the West of Scotland on the MSc Midwifery program.  Early last year I started research about Midwifery and how to become a Midwife; this was when I first came across the RCM. I was engrossed in the website’s wealth of information, particularly around how the RCM supports midwives, students and practitioners, and the abundance of learning opportunities available.  Fast forward to the start of this year, my application submitted, I found myself again looking at the RCM’s materials. It was then that I came across the SMF. I think the Student Midwife Forum is a fantastic platform for students to engage with the wider midwifery community, a community that is so vast yet still maintains its supportive nature.  It would be an absolute honour to be a member of the SMF. I am passionate about the representation of students in the wider midwifery community as I feel it is crucial that the future generations of midwives feel supported and engaged in their community. From my experience so far, in university and on social media, midwifery is a tight-knit community of like-minded people. Midwifery is a unique career, and truly a way of life. I feel it is important that students are supported and empowered within their own voice, in order that they can feel confident in themselves to go on to empower women and give women their voice as they move through their career as midwives.  I mentioned social media earlier and I really feel that, especially in the current climate, the importance and role of social media can’t be underestimated. In these strange times, social media is our crutch to maintaining contact with others and essentially, to ensure those who need to be heard, still have a voice. I currently have an Instagram account dedicated to midwifery – @pathtomidwifery – and through this account I have met and spoken to so many wonderful, strong, inspiring women. I absolutely love the midwifery community aspect on Instagram and I feel I could use this side of things to a great advantage as a member of the SMF.  I would rise to the challenge of this role and take it on to the best of my ability. I truly can’t express enough my belief in the importance of students feeling supported and feeling heard. I hope we can become the next generation of midwives being happy and healthy in the profession, and I believe that will lead to improved outcomes for maternity care as a whole. I am also extremely passionate that every student should be represented equally regardless of their background or current circumstance. To me, this role would give me a voice in the wider community, and in turn I would hope to give other student midwives their voice and the confidence they need moving forward. I am truly passionate about this role and it would be a privilege to be given the opportunity. |
| **(No more than 500 words.)** |