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| Manifesto: *(demonstrate who you are, why you are looking for a seat on the group and what you can offer)* |
| Student midwives are the next generation of qualified midwives; therefore, they deserve their voices to be heard, empowered and feel valued in the world of midwifery. This is exactly what the student midwifery forum stands for – promoting, supporting and influencing of the next generation. I feel now more than ever before, student midwives need to have their voices heard due to Covid turning the world upside down. I am a first-year student midwife therefore, we are the new generation of ‘online learners’ like never before we are adapting to online lectures, not being able to meet our cohorts and bond in the way you would usually do so using social interactions, and not having access to simulation before practice. However, despite this flexible approach to learning, student midwives are still committed, determined and more resilient due to this climate we find ourselves in. Some students are feeling overwhelmed and isolated due to living away from home and the impending lockdown measures in certain parts of the country. Therefore, it is our job as the RCM SMF to listen to concerns the student body may have, enabling us as a team to navigate and overcome these issues. 2020 has also been a huge year for black equality with the BLM movement and the Five x More campaign raising awareness of maternal disparities for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) women in the UK. I would like to work with the student midwifery forum to ensure students have necessary education and support to break down barriers in healthcare. Time management, communication and passion are all key skills I hold that are transferable to the role of SMF. I would feel proud to take on this role to aid in the development and support network for student midwives, additionally to develop my own knowledge and skills. We are all equal and continuously learning as a profession. Being able to gain the trust of a woman when she is at her most vulnerable and build a rapport with her is what first attracted me to midwifery, now I would like the opportunity to gain the trust of students as a spokesperson for the student midwifery forum for the RCM.  |
| **(No more than 500 words.)** |