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| Manifesto: *(demonstrate who you are, why you are looking for a seat on the group and what you can offer)* |
| Hello everyone!  My name is Pia, a 2nd year RGU student midwife. I’m Italian, 29, and I’ve come all the way to Scotland to follow my dream. A few challenges attempted to discourage me during my journey, despite having found my call years ago. In Italy, midwifery isn’t considered as essential or valuable and midwives don’t practise autonomously. My family also thought I was “too old” to change my career. Well, usually in life nothing worthwhile is also easy to achieve and I’ve learnt that passion helps you cope with the unimaginable. Something inside myself keeps me going, a powerful determination that leads me firmly.  Midwifery is now a huge part of my identity and I want to give it all I can, starting from cherishing who we are, incredible and courageous Student Midwives. It’d be my privilege to be at your service and offer you my dedication, enthusiasm and honesty, as well as my respect for each one of us as individual. As the woman-centred care we strive to provide, I think students’ experience should be humanised and individualised, with different learning needs and views being accommodated, so that everybody can have the chance to become the midwife they choose to be, without being limited by any circumstances. We also must remember we’re the midwives of tomorrow, thus our value and contribution are immense. We’re “the ears and the eyes” of what needs changed, the genuine ones, the fresh perspectives with no prejudices or former influence. Therefore, I strongly believe we should lead those changes, for the sake of women and families, for the sake of our own future.  Last year I joined the student RGU Reference Group for the development of the new Midwifery curriculum, due to be implemented nationwide in 2021, where we exchange opinions and ideas about new learning opportunities and individual needs. However, we’re currently experiencing some adjustments in clinical practice too. The issues raised by my cohort as affecting our area in Scotland concern practice supervisors/assessors not being up-to-date with the role requirements, adding to our responsibilities; placement areas usually assigning rotas with very short notice, making childcare management challenging; some work environments not welcoming us with respect, compassion and inclusivity; finally, the large disbelief and lack of knowledge around Continuity of Carer often precluding us from experiencing, understanding and developing a genuine woman-centred care philosophy.  In order to feel closer to each other and share views, worries and more, we could create an online community for student midwives from all over Scotland, with the support of our Midwifery Societies. With Covid-19 also impacting on our training, creating uncertainty and new challenges, we must stick together and be allies. Which is why I’d love to listen and learn from you, effectively advocate for our needs, give you feedback and find solutions together. I’d be incredibly honoured to be the trusted person who amplifies our voices, as you’d be offering me the unique chance to try and look after all of us.  Much love,  Pia  **(No more than 500 words.)** |