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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, I’m Sally. I’m 35 and I’m an NHS-funded 1st Year Student Midwife in Cardiff. I studied a master’s degree in public health and epidemiology two years ago and during that time I began to nurture an interest in the role of medical anthropology in modern healthcare, the social determinants of health, and the life course approach. Since then I have been committed to becoming a frontline healthcare worker and I’m finally fulfilling a dream of becoming a midwife! I am really passionate about social justice, equitable access to healthcare and the importance of the care of the midwife. I am also very politically interested in the national and global health agenda, women’s rights and equality, and the huge role that women’s health plays in overall public health. I have worked in education in a residential setting and in research, and I am still involved in maternal health research alongside my studies. It was daunting to start working with a research team, but my master’s supervisors became really important mentors to me. They helped me to navigate the academic landscape and reinforced the importance of maintaining and respecting the boundary between your working hours and the rest of your life. These attributes can be hard to find in the field of academia, and I really admire them for standing by their values and giving others the space to do so too. I’m a first-generation university graduate, and I really believe in the importance of paying it forward. I strive to make the same positive impact in the lives of others that my mentors have made for me. As Denzel Washington said ‘Claim it, work hard to get it, when you get it, reach back, pull someone else up. Each one teach one. Don’t just aspire to make a living. Aspire to make a difference.’ I am looking for a seat in the RCM student midwife forum because I want to bring my experiences and my skills as an advocate to the national student midwife agenda. I have experience of setting up committees and helping them run, I’ve led a few multicultural teams in the UK and abroad, and I appreciate the power of teamwork and diverse representation. Although we’re currently mostly distance learning, I am really enjoying getting to know my cohort, Cardiff University, and the world of midwifery, and learning Welsh! I lived in Wales as a small child and my father is from Sarn, so it feels a bit like I am coming home to study! I look forward to the next 5 years in the land of my father, and hopefully representing you with the RCM.  |
| **(No more than 500 words.)** |