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Milton Keynes, England.

MAXINE THOMAS-ASANTE

FRSA, MSC, LLB

STATEMENT OF VALUES

Our world has the potential to be better. I am passionate in striving to improve it. I aspire to contribute innovative solutions to the structural inequities we are witnessing today. Achieving this inclusively requires framing debates in accessible ways. In light of this, I am a strong believer in the capability of the arts to bring people together across languages, cultures, locations and identity groups.

EDUCATION

MSc International Social and Public Policy - Distinction

London School of Economics and Political Sciences (2020-2021)

This course developed my scientific research skills, and understanding of policy as theory and implementation. My elective modules developed my knowledge on: British race relations; social movements; violent protest; and education systems. My masters thesis asked: *"To What Extent Can the Equality Act 2010 Be Considered a 'Radical' Act, Contributing to Black Liberation and Recognition in Britain?"*

Bachelor of Laws - First Class Honours

SOAS, University of London (2016- 2019)

My Law degree was intentionally multi-disciplinary and international. A core module included Legal Systems of Africa and Asia, a comparative study of history and practices of different legal systems. I also took open modules in English, Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies departments. Through these modules I was able to develop social science skills alongside my qualifying Law degree.

A Levels

Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School (2014- 2016)

A*(English Literature), A (History), B (Government and Politics), AS Level (Dance)

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Two Titmuss Prizes: Best Performance and Outstanding Dissertation were awarded as a result of my masters submissions (2021).
- Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts (2021).
- Diana Award recipient for my contribution to my local community through dance (2013).
- Contributing to Harriet Swain's Guardian article (2019)
- Finalist in the IDO Hip Hop World Championships. (2013)

SKILLS

Skilled Public Speaker

I have demonstrated my skilled oral communication by delivering speaking engagements to high profile audiences. Notable audiences include:

- European Network on Anti-Racism
- Universities UK
- Westminster Briefing

Excellent Written Communication

I have drafted a number of research documents in both a professional and academic context. My research has been well received by investors, clients and has won academic prizes.

Successful Fundraiser

I crowdfunded and applied to grants, raising over £20,000 to cover my masters programme and living costs.

Commitment to the Arts

I have competed internationally in Hip Hop dance competitions with dance company ZKMO and performed across London with Trill UK.

SKILLS

Commitment to Community.

I designed and implemented a youth summer programme to encourage self-confidence and self-esteem in teenagers from my Church in Milton Keynes.

Successful Event Planner

I designed, pitched and hosted the LSE Africa Summit 2021 as part of the Speakers and Content Team. The team were responsible for: the ideation of the event; coordinating speakers including senior diplomats; and introducing speakers to large audiences. Attendees numbered over 1000 people.

Entrepreneurial Endeavour

Launching IntRespect required a level of self-confidence, assuredness and passion. I am able to bring this same commitment, drive and ambition to all teams I am a part of.

Strong Teamwork

My research for LSE, academic work and professional work at the Students' Union have been driven by a strong capacity for team work. Outcomes are best when all members of a team feel inspired and empowered. I endeavour to cultivating this sentiment in any team I am part of.

WORK HISTORY

Co-Director at IntRespect Ltd

09/2021 -Present

IntRespect is an anti-racism consultancy, using decolonial principles to empower all those within an institution to thrive. I registered, branded, and deliver programmes under IntRespect. This entails workshop series supporting different stakeholders to take an active role in promoting anti-racism across an institution, listening exercises and designing bespoke recommendations to firms, schools, sports clubs.

Research Assistant - Ford Foundation

10/2021 - Present

I am currently working as a research assistant exploring the Global Impacts of Anti-Blackness, for the reputable Ford Foundation. This has been desk based literature reviews looking at experiences of anti-Blackness in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Research Assistant - London School of Economics

04/2021 - 10/2021

LSE's Social Policy Department undertook a mixed method research project to evaluate their curriculum. As a student research assistant, I analysed reading lists, course outlines and lectures to present pragmatic recommendations for the department to embody decoloniality.

Sabbatical Officer - SOAS' Student Union

07/2019-07/20

In this job I was the chair of the board of trustees for the Union, a charity with over **6000** members. I designed and implemented policy to improve democratic practices and student experience. I advocated on behalf of a large constituency, crafted communications, designed websites, hired staff. Being elected to this role, I was required to develop a compelling a manifesto and mobilise support over a diverse student body.

Bridging the Gap: A Student Collective

08/2018 – 07/2019

Working in partnership with SOAS' Widening Participation department, I designed and delivered a programme to address the racial attainment gap at SOAS Law School. This broadened my understandings of large and intricate institutions. I successfully presented policy solutions to sensitive issues of racial awarding gaps and non-continuation – topical symptoms of structural inequality in the British education system.