

BOLA JOHN

MD, FRSA | FOUNDER • SPEAKER • STRATEGIST • CREATIVE

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PROFILE

Medical doctor, social impact founder, speaker, strategist, entrepreneur and creative working across health equity, women's empowerment, migration and belonging, responsible technology and visual storytelling. Founder of New Roots, Strong Wings CIC, a lived-experience-led organisation that has engaged more than 600 immigrant, Black and ethnically diverse women in the UK, South Africa and online. Brings clinical insight, executive business education, community leadership and creative practice to one central purpose: helping people feel seen, heard and able to shape the systems and communities affecting their lives.

600+ women engaged	10,000+ children reached	20+ community programmes	1st Women in Tech Hackathon
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SELECTED LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder & Director | New Roots, Strong Wings CIC | UK-wide

Feb 2025 - Present

- Founded and lead a women-centred social impact organisation supporting immigrant, Black and ethnically diverse women through programmes focused on wellbeing, belonging, motherhood, leadership, creative healing and domestic abuse awareness.
- Engaged more than 600 women in the UK, South Africa and online; coordinate approximately 10 volunteers and build cross-sector relationships with councils, universities, health, cultural and community organisations.
- Created and facilitate Art That Heals, a restorative creative programme using painting, poetry and guided reflection to reduce isolation, strengthen connection and support women rebuilding after adversity.
- Lead strategy, governance, safeguarding, partnerships, fundraising, communications and impact development, including an emerging South Africa chapter and the You Don't Own Me campaign on coercive control and gender-based violence.

Projects Officer - Online Learning | University of Warwick | Coventry

Jan 2026 - Mar 2026

- Supported discovery and transformation work through process mapping, policy review, stakeholder engagement, governance documentation and action-focused project outputs.
- Translated complex information into clear processes and practical recommendations, contributing to digital access, quality assurance and improved user journeys.

Programme Lead & Lecturer - T Level Health | South Bank Colleges / LSBU Group | London

Sep 2024 - Jan 2025

- Led health education for diverse 16-19-year-old learners, translating complex clinical concepts into accessible teaching and supporting inclusive, psychologically safer learning environments.
- Coordinated curriculum delivery, learner support, practical skills, placements and stakeholder communication, with a strong focus on safeguarding, health inequalities and professional confidence.

Medical Doctor | Government & University Teaching Hospitals | Nigeria

2017 - 2022

- Delivered patient-centred care across emergency and general medicine, working with multidisciplinary teams and communicating sensitively across differences in language, culture and health literacy.
- Developed the clinical and human understanding that now shapes work in health equity, maternal health, attentive listening and community-informed systems.

LEADERSHIP & INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

UN Women UK - Volunteer, UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68, CSW69 & CSW70) | [2024 - 2026](#)

ONE Campaign - ONE UK Youth Ambassador | [2026](#)

NIUK Women - Community Director | [2023 - Present](#)

Royal Society of Arts - Fellow (FRSA) | [2026 - Present](#)

SELECTED INITIATIVES & RECOGNITION

- First Place, ZOE Women in Tech Hackathon (2026): product and strategy lead, brand strategist, pitch-deck designer and co-pitcher for a maternal-health equity concept focused on helping Black and Asian women be heard promptly.
- Art That Heals (2026): monthly creative wellbeing and dialogue programme bringing women from different cultures and life experiences together through art, poetry and reflection.
- You Don't Own Me (2026): UK-South Africa public education campaign addressing coercive control, intimate partner violence and femicide.
- South Africa Chapter Development (2026): created leadership, safeguarding, onboarding and chapter frameworks to support locally led work on safe spaces and women's empowerment.

EARLIER SOCIAL IMPACT LEADERSHIP

That Child Initiative, Nigeria - Co-founder & Chief Executive Officer | [2019 - 2022](#)

- Led more than 20 health, education and welfare programmes reaching over 10,000 children, coordinating volunteers, partners, budgets and delivery across resource-constrained communities.

CREATIVE & ENTREPRENEURIAL PRACTICE

- Roots & Locs by Bola: founder and hair professional providing natural-hair and loc services rooted in identity, confidence and care; built a service-based business serving more than 200 clients.
- Artist & Photographer: independent practice across painting, portraiture, community life and visual storytelling, with creativity integrated into restorative community work through Art That Heals.

SPEAKING & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Speaker, panellist and facilitator for community, university, professional and advocacy audiences, translating complex health, social and technology issues into clear, human-centred conversations.
- Women's leadership through adversity and rebuilding after trauma
- Migration, identity, belonging and inclusive communities
- Maternal-health equity and the experiences of Black and Asian women
- Responsible AI, culture and the listening gap
- Domestic abuse, coercive control and survivor-centred advocacy
- Creativity, healing, motherhood and women's wellbeing
- Single motherhood and inclusion within faith communities

EDUCATION

King's College London - MSc Neuroscience | [In progress](#)

Quantic School of Business & Technology - Executive MBA - Technology, Innovation & Leadership | [2025](#)

CISPWN - Master of Social Work | [2021](#)

Rostov State Medical University - Doctor of Medicine (MD) | [2016](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- AI & Machine Learning in Healthcare - Stanford Medicine
- AgilePM Foundation - APMG International
- Change Management Foundation - APMG International
- IIBA Strategy Analysis | Scrum Master Basic & Advanced
- People Management & Strategic Leadership training

CORE CAPABILITIES

Community programme design | Strategy and governance | Partnership building | Stakeholder engagement | Intercultural dialogue and facilitation | Public speaking | Storytelling and advocacy | Health equity | Responsible AI | Safeguarding-aware and trauma-aware practice | Impact reporting | Creative direction | Project delivery | Microsoft 365 | Google Workspace | Canva | Notion | Asana

LANGUAGES

English (fluent) | Russian (advanced) | Spanish (intermediate)

“My work is concerned with the space between speaking and being heard.”