know that there was someone that they could reach out to for any mental health or physical health concerns. So, in the role, it really is to just continue to extend that through outreach, through one-on-one consultations. So Black students, regardless of the Diaspora, could feel confident and comfortable to reach out for their wellness needs.

Thank you for. Thank you all for sharing. Just, just to Rele, you mentioned that like within the BSN, you know, with all the executives and everyone kind of feels like a family. So, you know, I kind of get their sense of inclusivity within the BSN. So just in general for everyone, what is inclusivity mean to all of you?

I mean, for me, like inclusion should be seen as, you know, a universal human right. It's unfortunate that in today's world, we have to talk about inclusivity like or how you are including each other. But it is very important and it's very pertinent. To me it really means embracing all people irrespective of race, gender, disability, medical or any other need. It's about giving equal access and opportunities and getting rid of discrimination and intolerance. And it really affects all aspects of public life. But I also think that achieving inclusivity requires effort, and you can't really say that inclusive without addressing it directly. And I think this means, you know, putting in structures in place to make sure like to make an extra effort to make sure everyone is included. And for me, that stems from education. So, you know, like we all may think that we know everything we need to know about each other, but

we're all so diverse, especially at a school like McGill. So, it's important that everybody in their roles whether it's faculty or even the student is educated and, you know, knows what they need to know to make sure that each and every one of us feels included in our daily environments.

Yeah, for sure.

Just to bounce off of that. I feel like this is where MASS in particular plays a role in helping to reconcile like differences with people who come from the African continent and don't necessarily feel like they fit into the term of, like a North American Black person. And at the end of the day, like Rele mentioned, we're not like a monolith. We come from various different backgrounds. And yeah, so inclusivity would mean not only accounting for those who identify proudly and daily as Black, but those who are perceived as Black students that don't necessarily identify within the social context of the school, they go to like McGill.

I mean listen, both of what they both said were fantastic. I think that's the whole point of this role. The BIPOC role was to reach out to students who regardless, it's like, ok, you identify as Black, but what is also other particular parts of your identity that are also important to you for us to also consider right? And as you were saying, Blackness is not a monolith, right? It's expansive. It's creative, and it's like Black people are so, in my opinion, at least, we are fantastic creative people, creatures who need to be in all facets of society. And I believe that when we are represented

in that way, it allows students, of course, and people to see themselves to feel confident in themselves and to feel that they are a part of the social fabric. And that is also important.

opening up more, as BSN and we're almost on the edge of every single guideline that's restrictive. So, oh, we can now have ten people. We got ten people in the room, you know, like, we're just pushing and pushing it, and we're getting a great response from the community. Like, we have hosted a few events like Blacketatago, which was like just a Black party for all Black students. Great responses. Soul Food Friday, like everything we can do to open up the community again after the pandemic is really fostering more community. And yeah, it's been really fun. Also, things like collaborative playlists we're doing like on Spotify, so like weekly or biweekly, we have a new playlist with a theme like maybe old school, hip-hop and like everyone can just add to the playlist. So, like, it's the little things like that that I really think help foster community during and also after the pandemic.

I think I'm good I think with this question there was because of the role, there wasn't as much outreach as I would have liked to be, but definitely with eing Black at McGill, I was able to offer some support sessions after the actual workshops if people wanted to still unpack some feelings that came up because as Rele was saying there was such a richness in really understanding and delving a little deeper into what does Blackness mean for me? Um, 1 281892(1 2rW\*nBeWF

of tell them like, hey, like, you can come to McGill, you know, like, this is what you need to do, this is what it's like and actually guide them through it. It's one thing to get into a school like McGill, but it's another to come out with tangible, you know, work, not necessarily work but experience. So along with that, we hold panels like the Black Lawyers panel, which is happening on Thursday. Similarly, it's also created to dispel the myth that you can be a Black lawyer at McGill or anywhere you want to go, but also just providing that guidance so that when you actually do get into law school or med school, wherever you want to go, you actually succeed because the system is not built for us to succeed. And so, events like that, again, volunteer and industry affairs, that's where I that's where we're really, really streamlining our passion as a group this year at BSN.

On we also hold a range of events, I would say in the past two months, we've hosted an event every week, which has been really nice and it just kind of targeted different like aspects of our like membership. So, our Halloween event, for example, was like a storytelling. We had like a little cute like food thing and like, it was really nice. Just have everyone in one room and just kind of share a childhood like experiences. We have our own ance and Discussion that just went by as well. It was a dance workshop. Two of our execs who dance like lowkey, put together choreography and like, taught it to like the people who attended and that was really nice too. And I still remember the dance moves. I think so, like things like that are, like, super helpful. I would say our larger events are the ASC, which is Africa Speaks Conference and the Gala. So Africa Speaks Conference every year sa different theme, different topic that's brought to the table. And we have multiple different panels, and we have speakers and experts within the field come and talk based on the subject. And then the Gala is really just, I would say, like the main event of the year, not to dismiss the other events. But we really all just gather, see some shows, watch performances. It's an opportunity for students to get involved, to see what talents and skills there are within the McGill community and Montreal. It also gives us the opportunity to work with outside organizations, outside schools and just exposes a lot of our talents that you find within our membership at this event.

Mel because you have kind of like a, I would say, more maybe more experience like the entire McGill, you know, landscape. Hopefully maybe I can start with you on this question. How do you think that safer spaces can be ensured for, communities like this at McGill?

Great question. I think that's still an ongoing conversation and will continue to be an ongoing conversation. Definitely, you know, my time working with the Anti-Black Racism Working Group, there was a space in a building that we were looking into for not only to for staff, to of course be present, but also a lounge so therefore students who identified as Black who come and they could find books they can maybe speak with the Black student affairs liaison, other individuals who worked work with the plan or are attached to the plan as well. And that could be a space where they could see other students who are just like them hopefully connect with other students, regardless of the faculties across faculty connections, and just be in a space where again,

Yeah, for sure.

Can I actually add to that further

For me I'd say with BSN being, you know, first and foremost, a service to Black students. And with all of our emphasis, I mentioned being placed on education, et cetera. I think a direct measure of our success as a student, as a service is an increase in the numbers. So, numbers of Black students at McGill, numbers of Black staff, Black faculty, Black opportunities. It's not necessarily the easiest thing to attract, but because of the lack of demographics our school. But I still think that if you're making progress, you'll be able to see it, you know, from the eye test. So that's simply, as simple as that increasing Black enrollment at McGill that shows we're doing a great job of fostering community, creating safe spaces, you know, so that's just a direct number. Like if we're increasing the number of Black students, you definitely doing something right? You know, people feel comfortable coming McGill. They definitely know they have a path. So that's what I'd say is where we want to see our group evolve.

I just wanted to add, I would say, having more of a link to graduate students as well, because I feel like for the most part, a lot of undergrad students who do come to events and who do participate in MASS. And I, I would say as well BSN, it'd be nice to have like a more direct a closer relationship with graduate students. And so, they also feel like they can come to our events and they're not alone if they didn't do the undergrad at McGill.