Personal Statement – Josiah Uma

Applicant for UK Global Talent Visa (Digital Technology)

I am an ICT Training Specialist with His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS), Ministry of Justice, United Kingdom, and a Software Developer combining expertise in software engineering, artificial intelligence, and data-driven innovation to improve public-sector efficiency and service delivery. Over the past five years, I have designed and implemented digital systems that bridge technology, AI, and public service, helping organisations transition toward smarter, automated, and data-informed operations.

One of my most notable achievements was leading the design and development of the **East of England Probation Service Intranet**, a secure and dynamic web platform now used daily by over 2,000 staff members across multiple offices. The platform streamlined internal communications, digitised manual processes, and significantly reduced administrative overhead. This project earned formal recognition from the Regional Probation Director and was commended by HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) during the regional inspection — a landmark achievement in my professional journey.

Before joining the UK Civil Service, I founded **Vigan Limited**, a digital media and print technology company registered in both Nigeria and the United Kingdom. Through Vigan, I led a small but highly efficient team delivering digital branding and automated on-demand printing services for businesses, government agencies, and individuals. The company's innovative workflow automation and high-speed service delivery attracted wide attention and was featured in Techpoint Africa, one of the continent's leading technology publications, for its contribution to digital innovation among SMEs. This entrepreneurial experience strengthened my commercial understanding of product development and scalability, deepening my ability to merge business insight with technical innovation — a skill that continues to inform my current work in digital transformation.

Beyond my formal role, I actively contribute to the digital technology ecosystem through open-source innovation and community engagement. My GitHub portfolio includes projects that showcase my versatility across cloud, web, and AI technologies:

- HealthBuddy – An AI powered health assistant chatbot that provides users with personalized health advice, symptom checking and wellness tips through natural language model processing.

- LearnTree LMS – A full-featured learning management system for creating, managing and delivering online courses with user progress tracking and assessment.

- [Eventib](#) – a SaaS event management platform integrating Stripe for payments and MySQL for authentication and file storage.

- [Fresh CRM](#) – A cloud-based management system that enables small organisations to manage communication, attendance, and finances efficiently.

- [Lyfchat](#) – A community platform built with Next.js and Supabase that connects users based on shared interests and goals rather than appearance.

- [GiveForMe](#) – A charitable donation platform that simplifies the process of giving to multiple causes, integrating e-commerce functionality to giving, letting users purchase items to be donated to charities.

- [Data Engineering Projects](#)– Several python-based ETL projects, data wrangling and analytics scripts with real world examples. Visualizations using panda and power bi.

As an **AI Champion within HMPPS**, I lead regional digital transformation initiatives that promote responsible AI adoption and innovation. I have trained and mentored colleagues on AI tools that enhance productivity, automate workflows, and support ethical technology use. My passion for ethical AI led me to earn the **British Computer Society (BCS) Professional Certificate in Artificial Intelligence**, after which I became a **Member of the BCS**, reinforcing my commitment to continuous learning and advancement in the field of digital technology.

Why the UK and My Future Contribution

I am currently based in Nottingham, East Midlands, United Kingdom, and I intend to continue living and contributing within this region. The East Midlands has a fast-growing digital innovation community, and I see strong opportunities to collaborate with public-sector bodies and local tech startups to drive responsible AI and civic-tech solutions.

The UK remains one of the world's most dynamic technology ecosystems — particularly in AI, civic technology, and cloud innovation — making it the ideal environment to expand my impact. Over the next several years, I plan to:

1. Launch a civic-tech startup focused on intelligent intranet and workflow automation solutions for public and private organisations.

2. Mentor emerging developers and data professionals in the UK through technical workshops, mentoring, and open-source collaborations — particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds.

3. Contribute to the UK's AI and open-source community by developing projects that promote ethical, accessible, and inclusive technology adoption.

My mission is to leverage technology to make digital systems more efficient, inclusive, and impactful. The Global Talent Visa will empower me to collaborate with leading innovators, reignite my entrepreneurial vision from my success with Vigan Limited, and deliver scalable digital products that strengthen the UK's global leadership in ethical AI and digital transformation.

To provide a comprehensive overview of my professional achievements, technical portfolio, and supporting evidence, I have developed an online profile available at https://josiahuma.site. The site showcases my key projects, recognitions, certifications, and résumé, offering the endorsement panel a transparent view of my work and impact. A private Evidence Hub is also available within the site, containing supporting documentation such as letters of recognition, certificates, and professional commendations. This section can be accessed using the password *josiah2025!*.

In summary, my career has been driven by a commitment to using technology as a tool for transformation — not just within organisations, but across communities and public services. The Global Talent Visa represents an opportunity to expand that impact: to collaborate with innovative teams, contribute to the UK's leadership in ethical AI and civic technology, and empower others through knowledge sharing and mentorship. I am confident that my technical expertise, leadership experience, and dedication to innovation will allow me to make a lasting contribution to the UK's digital ecosystem and further strengthen its reputation as a global hub for responsible and inclusive technology.