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Cambridge University United Nations Association

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**Riddhima Gandhi (Candidate for Publicity Officer and Editor)**  
**Homerton College, Year 1: Land Economy**

Ever since 8<sup>th</sup> grade when I was first introduced to the functions and purposes of the UN, it has been my life's ambition to be a part of this esteemed organisation. In fact I view my time here in Cambridge as a stepping stone towards achieving this goal. By being on the Executive Committee of CUUNA, I truly believe I will be able to make a difference due to the tremendous faith I have in the UN and what it stands for.

I am very interested in global politics and have taken part in several Model UN Conferences, both at national (Mumbai Model UN) and international levels (National Students Leadership Conference Security Council, Washington D.C.), having won the best speaker award at the NSLC MUN. In fact I was on the founding committee for MUNs at my high school in India. We were the second year of graduates from our new school and our involvement quickly popularised and gave impetus to this activity. Today DAIMUN is so popular that schools around India and Asia vie to take part in it. As a result I have gained both the logistic and administrative experience of setting something up from scratch, much like our current Ex. Co. has had to do. I believe my experience will help me successfully fulfil my role as Publicity Officer and Editor.

From an early age I've been actively involved with several NGOs in India, and have learnt that wanting to make a difference requires tremendous dedication. In 2004/5 I worked with underprivileged children infected with HIV AIDS as part of the 'Committed Communities Development Trust,' volunteered for 3 years at 'Ashadaan' a shelter for abandoned children founded by Mother Theresa and served as child ambassador for 'Save the Children, India' (2006). My interaction with NGOs has been a life-changing experience, greatly increasing my awareness about global poverty, and making me realise that even a small humanitarian contribution brings us a tiny step closer to fulfilling the ambitious MDGs. Please help me to continue to make this difference by giving me the chance to serve on the CUUNA Committee.

Since the time I joined the society, I have taken part in several CUUNA activities, such as the 'Stand Up Against Poverty Campaign,' 'Climate Change Campaign' in Trafalgar square (London), hunger banquet and attending talks held jointly by CUSA and CUUNA. I was also the only representative of CUUNA at the UNA parliament lobby held in London last year. It was at this conference that I was able to get an insight into what UNA-UK is truly about. I made it a point to attend even though I was alone and not familiar with the place, it being only my fifth week in England.

Furthermore, my 2 month internship at 'Mid-day' a leading daily newspaper, along with being a reporter for my high school newspaper, 'The Perspective' has honed my writing and editorial skills which I will be able to put to good use as Publicity Officer and Editor. I appreciate that managing events for such a large society is a challenge; co-ordination and teamwork within the core committee, being a key factor driving every success. It would be an exciting challenge to be a part of this team that comprises of individuals having diverse views and ideals and an honour to be part of CUUNA, which to me is a melting pot which can inspire the future.

**So please vote for me as Publicity Officer & Editor, and I promise never to let you down.**