

U0837_2: Nominations Form

Role Category*

Nation and Area Representative

Preferred name*

Axata

Candidate Question 1: What attracted you to stand for this role

I feel compelled to stand for this role, not only as a proud minority ethnic woman, but as a person who believes that difference isn't something to be accepted, but wholly embraced and celebrated.

As a social sciences student, I have an understanding in the workings of societies and the innate human desire to 'fit in', yet this conformity often leads to the sacrifice of our individuality, and the parts of us that make us authentic. Correct representation and advocacy is integral so people can find the right guidance and move away from the struggles that come with trying to mould ourselves to the 'one fits all' template construct.

I am someone who has never been afraid to stand up for what is right, not only for myself but for others who cannot. In my personal life I have consistently sought opportunities to advocate underrepresented voices and advocate for the rights and interests of marginalised communities.

Whilst rigorous in advocacy, I do consider myself a very gentle and understanding person who is always open to engaging in conversations on a wide array of topics. I find genuine joy in fostering connections and creating spaces where individuals feel comfortable expressing themselves authentically.

In essence, my commitment to advocacy is rooted in a profound belief in the power of representation and the importance embracing diversity. I am eager to bring these values to the forefront in service of a more equitable and compassionate society.

Best,

Axata Gurung

Candidate Question 2: What are the top two issues that you would want to address as part of the 2024-26 Student Leadership Team?

Raising Awareness on Systemic Racism

I am driven by a passionate desire to confront systemic racism and discrimination in our society. As a representative, I aspire to be a voice for those who are marginalised and oppressed. It is imperative that we address the deeply ingrained biases and structural inequalities that perpetuate systemic racism. It is important for university students to learn about this so they are equipped with the knowledge to recognise this injustice in the world and hold themselves accountable to being the change.

Cultural Appreciation

This is aimed to be more enjoyable than issue. I would find immense joy to facilitate an environment where individuals feel encouraged to celebrate and share their unique cultures while also embracing new ones. This includes the sharing of traditions, music, cuisine, and all facets of cultural expression. My goal is to create an atmosphere of inclusivity and curiosity, where diversity is celebrated as a source of unity and enrichment for all.

