



33FIFTY

33Fifty: The Commonwealth Youth Leadership Programme

**PRESS RELEASE: 14 October 2013**

**New Delhi girl takes the lead in Queen's Baton Relay as she becomes the first Baton Book signatory**

On Saturday, 14 year old Abhishree Joshi, a member of the Commonwealth Students' Welfare Group of India (CSWGI) became the first person to sign the 33Fifty Baton Book that is accompanying the Queen's Baton Relay across the 70 countries and territories taking part in the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Attending a reception at the British High Commission in New Delhi, Ms Joshi signed the book with the message: *"I wish joy and happiness throughout the Commonwealth countries and sport is the best way!"*

The Baton Book, produced by De La Rue, is part of the 33Fifty initiative from the Royal Commonwealth Society and Common Purpose. The Baton Book is an opportunity for one young person from each country or territory the baton visits to send a message to Glasgow 2014, in particular to the participants of the 33Fifty programme that will take place prior to the Games.

33Fifty is a leadership programme for Commonwealth citizens aged between 18 and 25. 33% of the world's population lives in the Commonwealth and 50% of those are under 25. It aims to develop leaders who bring people together, reconcile difference and lead change.

Applications for the programme will open on Wednesday 16 October and 100 participants will be chosen from across 70 countries and territories. See [www.33fifty.org](http://www.33fifty.org).

Ms Joshi, a student at Sanskriti School, New Delhi, was chosen to sign the book because of her work with the CSWGI, in particular for her involvement in the movement in Rajasthan for young girls' education, an initiative led by the CSWGI Chairman, Ms Chhaya Kain.

**Director of the Royal Commonwealth Society, Michael Lake, said:** *"The Baton Book, kindly supplied by De La Rue PLC, is a wonderful opportunity for young people across the Commonwealth to have their voices heard and to tell 33Fifty participants what matters to them. We are delighted that Ms Joshi has become the first young signatory."*

**CEO of Common Purpose Charitable Trust, Julia Middleton, said:** *"If fifty percent of the Commonwealth's population is under 25, that's over 1 billion people. I sometimes wonder what proportion of the Commonwealth's leaders are over 55. I hope that this book - as it travels across the Commonwealth with the Queen's Baton - will give that younger fifty percent more of a voice for people like me to hear."*

**Group Director of Communications at De La Rue, Robert Hutchison, said:** *"At the completion of its journey, this unique, handmade document will carry the inspirational words and messages of the Commonwealth's young people to the leaders of the future. De La Rue is proud to be part 33Fifty's Baton Book initiative and looks forward to seeing the book's pages filled by the young signatories as it travels the world."*



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## Notes to Editors

**The Royal Commonwealth Society** is the oldest and largest civil society organisation devoted to the Commonwealth. Founded in 1868, it conducts a range of events, research and activities aimed at promoting international understanding. The RCS has a global membership and a presence in over 40 Commonwealth countries through a network of branches and Commonwealth societies. The RCS is a registered charity in England and Wales. (226748). [www.thercs.org](http://www.thercs.org) [@TheRCSLondon](https://twitter.com/TheRCSLondon)

**Common Purpose:** Common Purpose is an independent, international leadership development organisation. We give people from the private, public and not-for-profit sectors the inspiration, skills and connections to become better leaders at work and in society. We develop their ability to work together, innovate and to thrive in different cultures - this helps people, organisations, cities and regions to succeed.

Founded in 1989 as a not-for-profit social enterprise, Common Purpose is both local and global. We run local courses for leaders in 35 cities (and growing) across the world and global programmes for leaders from over 100 countries across six continents. 4,000 leaders each year become Common Purpose alumni. Website: [www.commonpurpose.org](http://www.commonpurpose.org) Twitter: [@CommonPurpose](https://twitter.com/CommonPurpose)

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