

# Speaking Truth

## *Watershed Moments in Global Leadership*



Malala Yousafzai

Fund for the  
Future of  
Our Children



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Malala Yousafzai is a living role model for young people concerned with the fight for human rights



Malala was born in 1997 in the Swat Valley  
of Pakistan and lived in the city of Mingora  
there until she was 15 years old



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Malala was born into a family that valued education and ran a number of schools in the area





The Swat Valley is beautiful – sometimes called  
the “Switzerland of the East”



But the Swat Valley became a place of violence and turmoil in 2007 when the Taliban took over





The Taliban banned the education of women when they took control of the Swat Valley, and began destroying schools



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During the Taliban occupation, 11 year-old Malala began writing a blog for BBC Urdu about life under Taliban rule

BBC  
اردو



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# Malala used her blog to expose and condemn the Taliban's war on female education

**“Saturday 3 January 2009**

I had a terrible dream yesterday with military helicopters and the Taliban. I have had such dreams since the launch of the military operation in Swat. My mother made me breakfast and I went off to school.

I was afraid going to school because the Taliban had issued an edict banning all girls from attending schools...”

**Thursday 22 Jan 2009**

Some of my friends have left Swat because the situation here is very dangerous. I do not leave home. At night Maulana Shah Dauran [the Taliban cleric who announced the ban on girls attending school] once again warned females not to leave home. He also warned that they would blow up those schools which are used by the security forces as security posts.”



Pakistani security forces battled the Taliban for control of the Swat Valley for many years, and eventually regained control of the area



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Even with the Taliban in retreat and the schools reopened, the risk of violence remained



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Malala became the victim of that violence on October 8, 2012 when she was shot by the Taliban while she was getting on a school bus



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Critically injured, Malala was flown to England for medical treatment and stayed in the hospital there for almost four months



By the time Malala left the hospital in February 2013, she had become world famous



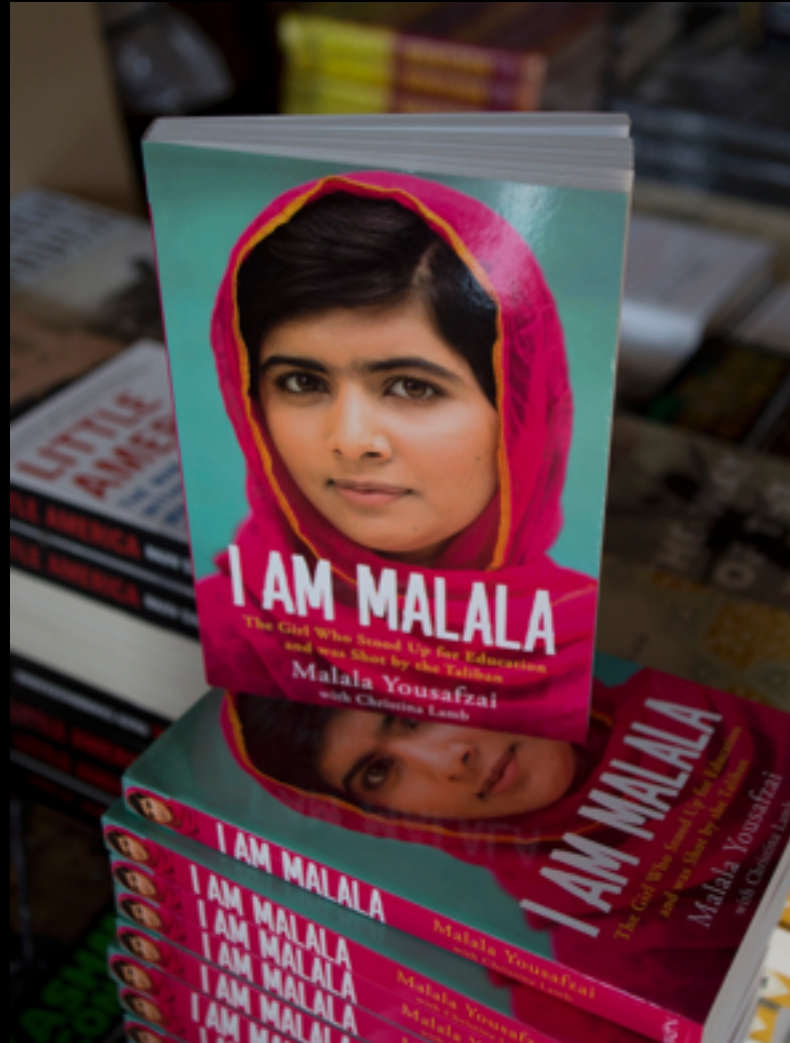
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While Malala recovered from her injuries, she and her family made their home in England, where she and her brothers attend school



Malala has used her newfound fame to become an influential voice for children's education rights



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In 2014, at the age of 17, Malala Yousafzai became the youngest person ever to win the Nobel Peace Prize



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# In her Nobel Prize acceptance speech, Malala continued to speak out in support of the rights of children to have peace and education

“This award is not just for me. It is for those forgotten children who want education. It is for those frightened children who want peace. It is for those voiceless children who want change.

I am here to stand up for their rights, to raise their voice... It is not time to pity them. It is time to take action so it becomes the last time... that we see a child deprived of education.”

— Malala Yousafzai,  
December 10, 2014, Oslo, Norway



Malala has also given many interviews and  
been the subject of a documentary called  
“He Named Me Malala”



Malala Yousafzai on *The Daily Show with John Stewart*.  
October 10, 2013



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Malala and her organization, the Malala Fund, have started several projects to help children in developing and war-torn countries



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The Malala Fund is working to provide education to girls who might otherwise have none



In July 2015, Malala spent her 18th birthday in Lebanon, at the opening of the Malala Yousafzai All-Girls School, which serves Syrian refugees



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Despite her new fame and influence,  
Malala's message has not changed



“I don't want to be thought of as the ‘girl who was shot by the Taliban’ but as the girl who fought for education.

This is the cause to which I want to devote my life.”

– Malala Yousafzai





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