

Leader Bio: Activist Malala Yousafzai



Malala Yousafzai was born in Pakistan, in a village called Swat Valley. She and her two younger brothers live with their mother and father. Her father built and operated a girls' school in Pakistan. When Malala was 11 years old, Pakistan was heavily taken over by the Taliban. They were invading every city with force, and they enforced their own laws with physical force. One of the laws prevented girls from being educated. They believed girls and women were only good for marriage, giving birth, and taking care of the house, the family, and tending to the men's needs. The Taliban began to fight against the girls' schools and destroying them.

This was not acceptable to Malala. She fought with her father and many others for the rights of girls to have education and to go to school. Unfortunately, it got really bad and she had to flee with her mother and brothers to her aunt's home for a while. Her father stayed and protested with many other Swat Valley natives. After what seemed like forever, she and her family were able to return to their home. She continued to go to school.

When Malala was 15 years old, she was on her way home from school on the bus with her friends and classmates when a few men stopped the bus in the middle of the road. The men were from the Taliban. One of them hopped onto the bus asked where Malala was. When he realized who she was he pointed the gun and fired three bullets. One of the bullets hit her right above her left eye. The other two hit two of her friends. She was air lifted to a hospital in England and the best doctors operated and took care of her.

Miraculously she survived the gunshot wound, which is evident that her purpose was not complete. Malala now travels the world and speaks and rallies for equal rights in education. When she was 17, she won the Noble Peace Prize for her strong efforts rallying for the rights for all to have education.

“It feels like this life is not my life. It’s a second life. People have prayed to God to spare me and I was spared for a reason – to use my life for helping people.” Malala Yousafzai

“One Child, One Teacher, One Book, And One Pen Can Change The World.” Malala Yousafzai

Ellick, A. (2012, October 10). Malala Yousafzai Story: The Pakistani Girl Shot in Taliban Attack | The New York Times. Retrieved October 26, 2015, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9F5yeW6XFZk>

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