

Malala Yousefzi

Malala Yousefzi is a 22 year old woman from Pakistan.

She became famous when she was just 15 years old after she was attacked by Taliban soldiers. They were angry that she believed girls in her country should be allowed to go to school.

Education

Malala Yousefzi was born on 12th July 1997 in Mingora, Pakistan.

Malala's family are Muslims. The holy book for Muslims - The Qur'an - says that knowledge is important. Because of this, Malala's father believed that education was important for **all** people.

The Taliban

The Taliban is an extreme Islamic group. They are also known as **terrorists**. They say they are followers of Islam, but many people do not agree with this as their beliefs are much more extreme than most Muslims.

The Taliban believed that **girls should not** attend school. They were also against dancing, make-up, kite-flying, television and films.

If people were caught doing these things, the Taliban would punish them.

Malala's Blog

In 2009, Malala began to write a blog for BBC Urdu.

In her blog, Malala talked about how much she wanted to go to school and how scared she was of the Taliban.

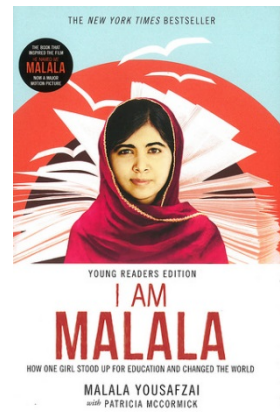
Malala believed it was the right of all girls to be allowed to go to school. She believed in **fairness and equality** - that girls and boys of all religions should both be allowed to go to school.

Although she used a pretend name (a pseudonym) to hide her identity, the Taliban found out who Malala was and attacked her and two classmates as they were on their way to school.

Coming to the United Kingdom

Malala was badly hurt in the attack and was brought to the UK. She recovered in a hospital in Birmingham.

In 2013 Malala wrote a book to tell people all about her experiences.



What happened next?

Lots of people all over the world were shocked and upset about what had happened to Malala.

A new law called the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Bill was passed in Pakistan. This means that now, **every child** in Pakistan is given the chance to go to school.

Nobel Peace Prize

In 2014 Malala was the joint winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. This is an important award given to people who have who believe in **peace and equality** and have worked hard to stop **discrimination and unfairness**.

At the age of 17, Malala is the youngest recipient of the prize.

Malala donated the prize money of more than \$500,000 to build a secondary school for girls in Pakistan.

