

Education for Every Child



Malala Yousafzai

Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai has addressed the United Nations as part of her campaign to ensure free compulsory education for every child.

She marked her 16th birthday by delivering the speech on Friday 12 July 2013 at the UN headquarters in New York.

Taliban gunmen shot Malala on her school bus last October following her campaign for girls' rights. After the shooting, Malala was flown from Pakistan to the UK for treatment, and now lives in Birmingham, England. "I am here to speak up for the right of education of every child", she said. "The terrorists thought that they would change my aims and stop my ambitions," she said, "but nothing changed in my life, except this: weakness, fear and hopelessness died. Strength, power and courage was born".

She continued: "I want education for the sons and daughters of the Taliban and all the terrorists and extremists".

Malala said she was fighting for the rights of women because "they are the ones who suffer the most".

"The extremists were, and they are, afraid of books and pens", added Malala, who was wearing a pink shawl that belonged to assassinated Pakistan leader Benazir Bhutto. "They are afraid of women".

She called on politicians to take urgent action to ensure every child has the right to go to school. "Let us pick up our books and pens", Malala summed up. "They are our most powerful weapons."

"One child, one teacher, one pen and one book can change the world. Education is the only solution. Education first".

(Adapted from www.bbc.co.uk)

Malala Yousafzai in the Oval House with Barack Obama in 2013.



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