

Fight For Girls Education

By: Chloe Lohr

Malala Yousafazi won the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize when she was just seventeen, and is the world's youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate. Yousafazi is known for human rights advocacy, and she is a female education activist. She mainly spoke out to fight for the education of women and children. Her advocacy and being a female activist have grown more than just being known in her hometown. Her movements have become international because of her story.

Yousafzai is a Pakistani girl who lived in Swat and at a very young age, before she could even talk, she would always pretend she was a teacher. When Yousafazi was ten years old, the Taliban took over and banned girls from going to school. Activities such as watching television and dancing were not allowed. When the Taliban took control, hundreds of schools were being burned down. She kept a diary of all the events that happened around her. She believed that she should go to school and that girls had the right to an education, so she chose to stand up against the Taliban and try to fight for what's right. Yousafazi and her father were critics of what the Taliban was doing.

In 2009 Yousafazi and her father started an anonymous blog and would write about what life was like under control of the Taliban and how badly she wished to go to school. She also wrote about being afraid and said that she was scared to go to school because of the Taliban. Around May 2009, the war between Pakistan and the Taliban was coming fast, so she and her family were forced to leave their home and seek a safe place to live hundreds of miles away. She continued to post online and slowly her voice grew louder, and over time she became known as the girl that was fighting for Pakistan girls' access to quality education. Her fight resulted in a

nomination for the International Children's Peace Prize. Not everyone agreed with her and supported her campaign, and it led to her being shot by the Taliban .

The Taliban threatened her life. One day after school, the Taliban stopped her bus and had her stand up, they shot her in the head and a bullet hit her left temple. She was seriously wounded and airlifted to an intensive care unit in England. She had to receive multiple surgeries to fix her injuries, such as the paralyzed left side of her face. After weeks of treatment, therapy, and recovery, Yousafzai started to attend a school in England. After the shooting, she received global support and visited New York and had many interviews with people and had lots of new opportunities. About a year later she published her first book, called *I Am Malala*.

Malala Yousafazi is truly an inspiration and her story should show everyone that if you believe in something you should fight for what's right.