

*Malala is living proof that one person can indeed bring positive change in the world.*

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, it became more difficult, and far more dangerous, for girls to attend school. Indeed, militant extremists destroyed dozens of girls' schools in their attempt to make women ignorant and obedient. However, one girl spoke out against the barbarism. Malala Yousafzai refused to be bullied and insisted on her right to an education.

She first became a respected public figure in 2009 when she wrote a diary (in Urdu) for the BBC about life under oppression. Then, on October 9, 2012, when she was still only a child of fifteen, Malala was shot in the head by a brutal terrorist on the bus home from school. It seemed unlikely that she would survive. However, thanks to expert medical treatment, first in Pakistan and then in the UK, Malala made an almost miraculous recovery. The cowardly and despicable assassination attempt has taken her on an incredible journey from the Swat valley in Pakistan to the United Nations building in New York. Now, at the age of sixteen, she has become a worldwide symbol of peaceful protest against tyranny and ignorance, and the youngest person ever to be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, which she unfortunately was not awarded.

Her biography, *I AM MALALA*, was published in 2013 and tells the true story of an intelligent and courageous young girl who refused to give in, and of her brave and supportive parents who have demonstrated the deep love and respect they have for their daughter in a society that puts more value on sons.

