

Malala Yousafzai



WHO IS MALALA?

In some parts of the world, girls are discriminated: they haven't got the right to go to school, they can't marry whoever they want, they can't work.

Malala is a girl who couldn't accept this. She is a Pakistani **activist for female education**.

EARLY LIFE

Malala was born in **Pakistan** in 1997 and her father was determined to give her every opportunities that boys had.

Her father was a teacher and ran a school for girls in their village. Malala **really loved school**, but everything changed when in 2008 the **Taliban** took control of their town in Swat Valley. The extremists banned many things — like owning a television and playing music — and enforced harsh punishments for those who defied their orders. In addition to this, they said that **girls could no longer go to school**.

At the beginning of 2009, Malala started writing a **blog for BBC** about the situation of the region where she lived and she became **known all over the world** for her battle. The *New York Times* made a documentary about her story and she gave interviews.

Malala's school opened again. But on 9th October 2012, when she was on a bus going back home from school, a **Pakistani Taliban gunman shot her in the head**, because of her activism. She was seriously injured. She woke up

10 days later in a hospital in Birmingham, England and the doctors and nurses told her about the attack and that people around the world were praying for her recovery.

THE NOBEL PRIZE

In 2014, after months of surgeries and rehabilitation, she joined her family in their new home in the U.K..

The attack didn't diminish her determination to fight until every girl could go to school. For this reason, she established —together with her father— the Malala Fund, a charity dedicated to give every girl an opportunity to achieve the future she chooses.

In recognition of her work, Malala received the Nobel Peace Prize in December 2014 and became the **youngest-ever Nobel Prize winner**.

WHERE IS SHE NOW?

In 2020, she graduated from Oxford University and now is more dedicated than ever to her **fight for girls' rights**.