education for every child. I want education for the sons and daughters of the Talibans and all the extremists. I don't even hate the Talib who shot me." She continued saying, "The extremists were and they are afraid of books and pens. The power of education frightens them. They are afraid of women; the power of the voices of women frightens them. Because they were, and they are afraid of change, afraid of equality, which we will bring into our society. The terrorists are misusing the names of Islam and the Pashtun society just for their own personal benefits."

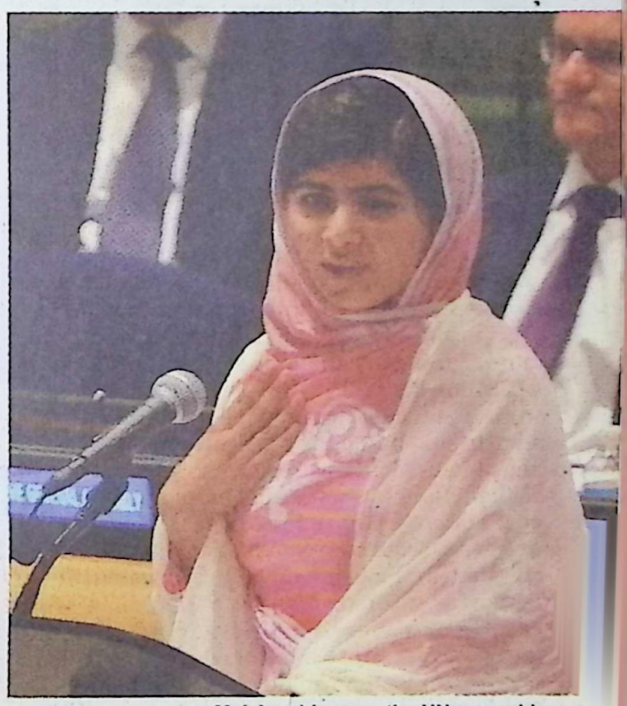
"We realise the importance of light, when we see darkness. We realise the importance of our voice, when we are silenced. In the same way, when we were in Swat, North of Pakistan, we realised the importance of pens and books when we saw the guns. The voice saying, that pen is mightier than the sword, was true." – Malala, 12th July 2013, UN speech.

Former British Prime Minister and current U.N. Special Envoy for Global Education, Gordon Brown launched a United Nations petition in Yousafzai's name, demanding all children worldwide be in school by the end of 2015. Malala the age of 11-12, wrote a blog under pseudonym for the BBC detailing her life under Taliban rule, their attempts to take control of the valley, and her views on promoting education for girls. She won Pakistan's first National Youth Peace Prize and is also the youngest nominee in the history of the Nobel Peace Prize. She continues to inspire many and improvise the past, fighting for the liberation of women through education. Her family support in this is immense. Her achievements remain astounding to the world and her bravery, praiseworthy in a world filled with obstacles. She is compassionate and remains adamant about what she believes in. The depth of her fearlessness is unfathomable, especially after seeing that she did not walk away from the noble cause she is working for when people like Adnan Rasheed, a Pakistani Taliban sent her discouraging letters, menacing her to back off, wrongly accusing her of promoting a 'smearing campaign' and giving invalid reasons to walk away from what she believes is right. Even after being attacked and continuously threatened, she stays resolute and determined. How many of us are ready to take a bullet and swing between life and death hanging by the string of fear and uncertainty just to stick to what we believe in?

Deep inside, we all need to ignite that fire of fearlessness within us, to make this world a peaceful place to live in. In the dark, filthy corners of our societies, dwells an ugly monster called 'misogyny'. Women's welfare, security and empowerment are doors which are unlocked by education; women are the other half of our society and what they think matters. For a happier society we need more educated and confident women and that is a weapon to tackle poverty. The freedom of thinking, with no one to govern how to think, and what to wear and what to do, is priceless. There is no substitute for education, a basic right which we all inherit when we take birth. They struggle to achieve equality and peace, they die, and the struggling of the next generation begins. If it is all about struggling, when shall our society reap the benefits of such struggle?

> "People do not leave their homeland on their own free will – only poverty or a lover usually makes you leave so rapidly."
>
> **— Malala Yousafzai**
>
> *9 February 2009, BBC blog entry.*

> "I think of it often and imagine the scene clearly. Even if they come to kill me, I will tell them what they are trying to do is wrong, that education is our basic right."
>
> **— Malala Yousafzai**



Malala addresses the UN assembly.