

Malala Yousafzai

Malala Yousafzai is one of the youngest human right activists.

Malala was born in Pakistan on July 12, 1997. She grew up in the city of Mingora. Her family practiced the religion of Islam.

In Pakistan, most girls were not allowed to attend school. Malala's father ran a girl's school so she could go. Her parents encouraged her to learn all that she could. In 2007, the Taliban took over. The Taliban enforced a law that stated women had to stay home. The Taliban made girls schools shut down. If they did not shut down, the Taliban would destroy them. BBC reached out to Malala's father to have her write a blog. Malala wrote about life under the Taliban law. The Taliban was not happy with Malala and her statement. Even though the fighting ended, and the schools reopened, Malala still received many death threats.

On October 9, 2012, Malala was on the bus coming home from school when a man got on with a gun. He found and shot Malala in the head. Luckily, she survived although she had to have several surgeries.

On her 16th birthday, she gave a speech to the United Nations. She writes about, speaks about and fights for equal education for all girls. Malala has written and published a book.

Malala continues to fight for equal rights.

1. What made Malala's school close down?
2. What happened to Malala on the school bus?
3. Do you think it was fair for Malala to get shot just because she wanted equal rights for girls?