

Malala Yousafzai's speech

On the ninth of October, 2012, the Taliban shot me. They shot my friends, too. They thought that the bullet would silence us. But they failed. Out of that silence came thousands of voices. Strength, power, and courage were born.

I am here to speak up for the right of education of every child. We realize the importance of light when we see darkness. We realize the importance of our voice when we are silenced. We realized the importance of pens and books when we saw the guns.

The wise saying, "The pen is mightier than the sword" was true. The extremists are afraid of books and pens. The power of education frightens them. They are afraid of change, afraid of the equality that we will bring into our society.

We call upon all governments to ensure free compulsory education all over the world for every child. We call upon all the governments to fight against terrorism and violence, to protect children from brutality and harm. We call upon the developed nations to support the expansion of educational opportunities for girls in the developing world. We call upon all the communities to be tolerant, to reject prejudice.

Dear brothers and sisters, we want schools and education for every child's bright future. Let us pick up our books and our pens. They are our most important weapons.

One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world. Education is the only solution. Thank you.