SCREENING OF

HE NAMED ME MALALA

The Example of Malala: A Call to Action!

ONE CHILD, ONE TEACHER, ONE BOOK, ONE PEN CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

22ND JULY 2016
09:00 - 13:00
UN OFFICE, NAIROBI
The screening of the “He Named Me Malala” film was made possible through a partnership with The Go Down Arts Centre, who own the copyright to broadcast the film across the country courtesy of the Malala Fund. The Know Your World Initiative brought together its membership from high schools and universities, friends, and volunteers during the screening of the film with intentions of learning. The successful effort was also achieved through support from other partners like The United Nations Information Centre - Nairobi, Dhabo Media, Ibuva Africa, Octopizzo Foundation, Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies - University of Nairobi, and UNESCO.

For the purposes of learning, discussions were held after the screening, which centered on access to quality education; a high priority area for SDG4 and relevant to the audience. A number of perspectives emerged in the discussion by the panelists and the participants:

> Basic education gives you dignity and traction to model life as desired
> Young people need to use their ideas to change particular negative views in their society
> Need for the education system in Africa to be changed and focus the areas of talents of young people
INTRODUCTION

“He Named Me Malala” is a combination of both an informative and contemplative film, revealing its titular heroine to be an ordinary girl fashioned by a passion for learning and justice. It is an intimate portrait of the Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai’s life, story, and personal journey as a leading campaigner for girls’ education around the globe. Prophetically linked to Pashtun folk heroine Malala of Maiwand, who died while urging her comrades to fight the British in Afghanistan, Malala Yousafzai was named by her father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, an advocacy enthusiast. Ziauddin was afflicted when the Taliban shot his daughter in the head in 2012; blaming himself for the tragedy. Malala’s story of the horrific raid that left her in a coma, and her classmates nursing gunshot wounds, is impressively a matter of fact untainted by anger or regret. She is wise past her years and understands her mother’s difficulties in adjusting to life in England. At the same time, she is passionate in her desire to return to her homeland, Swat, where death threats still await her. The documentary serves as a stirring tribute to a spirited young girl whose story promises to pluck at viewers’ heartstrings and inspire devotion.

PROGRAM RATIONALE & LOGIC

The Know Your World Initiative, in its 8-week school programme covers political, social, economic and cultural challenges faced by various countries around the world, by actively engaging the students in different schools in simulation sessions that study and look for solutions to these challenges. In line with this, we convened the participating high schools and universities to experience Malala’s life through the heartening story that cuts across all boundaries, that is, race, nationality, citizenship, gender, class, sexual orientation and age. We realised the need to highlight the plight of children and youth in countries experiencing violent conflicts in accessing education, with an aim to increase the understanding of the cost of conflict on children and the youth. The threat of terrorism and radicalisation are also issues that concern our generation with effects felt across sectors and societies. The concerns of the state of the girl child in the 21st century society have ignited efforts from various stakeholders in order to re-write the narrative and provide better and equal platforms for the next generations. Of equal measure is the demonstrated capacity of teenagers and young people to set global agenda, and the need to find themselves, their passions and create a conducive environment for their ideas to be realised.
WELCOMING REMARKS

Newton Kanhema, United Nations Information Centre, Nairobi

Newton Kanhema began the session with an encouragement note towards the students, inspiring them to seek more knowledge on global affairs. He also expressed pleasure in hosting the event.

OPENING REMARKS

Judy Ogana, The GoDown Arts Center

Ms. Ogana began with asserting that the film has inspired a lot of people. She revealed that The Malala Foundation had contacted the GoDown Arts Center to screen the documentary on their behalf. She further remarked that the Malala documentary was an inspiration to many girls, therefore, people should learn from the story. Finally she reiterated on the fact that nobody is too small to make a difference in their communities and should take actual steps to do so.

REMARKS

Joel Okwemba, The Know Your World Initiative

Mr. Okwemba reiterated the need to learn from Malala and to pursue one’s dreams especially when still young. He stated that the inspiration behind the Know Your World Initiative, targeting high schools, is to equip the young with relevant information to identify their passions with a focus on global affairs earlier in their lives, and to start thinking of making a difference in their respective communities. The second aim of KYWI is to enhance cohesion among all, globally, through learning of each other’s cultures.
Raphael Obonyo is an expert on public policy and youth; author of Conversations about the Youth in Kenya. Obonyo is a Global Young Diplomat, and a member of the Advisory Board of the Global Diplomatic Forum.

He remarked on the need and importance of knowing beyond one’s locality, urging the students to consider and recognise themselves as global citizens. He reiterated that Malala, being iconic for fighting for the rights of the girl child, is a world champion. He remarked that a champion is he/she that is willing to pay a price. “People love the glory but do not have a story. Malala was attacked in a bus but she was willing to pay the price by continuing to champion for the rights of the girl child to access quality education”, he said.

He remarked that Malala didn’t wait for a better time to effect change. She became the change that she wanted to see proving that education makes the whole difference. Mr. Obonyo reiterated also of how education has made a big impact in his life considering his upbringing in the Korogocho slums where poverty was the norm.

He informed the audience that poverty actually gives two options; dies down or inspires. He remarked that in fact the United Nations, through Sustainable Development goal number four (4) recognises quality education for all, highlighting the importance of education in people’s lives. He finally closed his remarks by stating that the essence of education is action, and not academic papers. He challenged the participants to ask themselves of what actions they are going to take in order to make a difference.
THE OPEN TALK

Moderator:
Mueni Lundi
The GoDown Arts Centre

Discussants

Henry Ohanga.
Commonly known by the pseudo “Octopizzo”, is a Kenyan hip hop artist who has won several national and international awards. He has served as a Youth Ambassador for Film Aid International, the British Council and is currently supporting UNHCR Kenya with a dynamic youth project dubbed “Artistes for Refugees”

Dr. Shazia Chaudhry.
A lecturer and also an associate with the Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation, University of Nairobi. She holds a Master in Arts and Ph.D in International Studies from the University of Nairobi and a Bachelors of Science degree from University of the Punjab, Pakistan.

Dr. Saba Bohkari.
An Education specialist based in the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa.

"I WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORLD SO I CAN LEARN WHAT TO DO AND WHAT NOT TO DO"

EDDIE KIMATHI, 17
STAREHE BOYS CENTER

"GIRLS ARE ACTUALLY GOING TO RULE THIS WORLD VERY SOON"

STACEY CAMILA, 17
PARKLANDS ARYA GIRLS SCHOOL

"IF I WERE GIVEN THE CHANCE I WOULD DO THE SAME...OR EVEN BETTER"

HISAN AHMED, 17
PARKLANDS ARYA GIRLS SCHOOL

"ON THE LESSONS HE TAKES FROM KYWI"

"ON WHY THE GIRL CHILD MATTERS"

"ON SEEING GIRLS TAKE UP ACTIVISM"
The moderator introduced the panelists and immediately went on to discuss the lessons learnt by the participants from the various institutions which later formed the topical questions and conversations regarding the documentary and issues being faced by the youth, and how they can be able to overcome them.

**Question and answer session with Shazia Chaudhry, Lecturer, University of Nairobi.**

Q1: What is the relevance of Malala’s story and your personal experiences in Pakistan?

The documentary is inspirational for many of the girls that are living in poverty. You should understand that horrible conditions do not stop the girl child in achieving her dreams. Personally, my father encouraged me to pursue education. Despite having already attained a bachelor of science degree in Pakistan, getting married and having a family of my own, I still went on to pursue my masters and became a lecturer at the Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies at the University of Nairobi, which also catapulted me to do my PhD. I would advise the girl child to seek out for more opportunities and set goals in her life.

**Question and answer session with the audience/participants**

Q2: How is Malala’s story relevant to students in Kenya?

The participants observed that Malala’s story is relevant in the sense that young people need to blossom where they are planted and should choose to do the right thing. They also voiced the need to have a passion for education and respecting parent’s guidance and commands.

Q3: What are some of the challenges faced by Malala?

The participants remarked that Malala faced the personal challenge of ideology. They gave an example of an excerpt in the documentary where Malala’s father attributed that a person did not shoot Malala but she was shot by ideology, referring to the radical beliefs taken up by the Taliban. They reiterated that she also faced the age factor challenge. Being young, there was the possibility that she found it difficult with having her views accepted by persons who were older than her. Fighting culture (the roles of men and women in her community) was also considered a challenge. Despite this, she overcame by speaking what is right even at the expense of endangering her life.
Question and answer session with Dr. Saba Bohkari, UNESCO

Q4: How do we achieve the SDG No. 4 that specifically focuses on Education?

First and foremost, Kenya played a big role in coming up with the SDGs numbering 17 in total. Kenya’s Permanent Representative to the UN, New York, Amb. Macharia Kamau who together with his counterpart from Ireland, Amb. David Donoghue, co-chaired the formulation of these goals. To add to this, UNESCO pursues quality education by encouraging pursuit of at least secondary level education for boys and girls. Indeed, this is also the focus of Goal No. 4 in the SDGs. It is important to state that most member states are committed to ensure quality education for all. However, factors such as extremism and climate change might have impacts on the lives of men and women, economic wise and socially, therefore, youth should be aware of issues around them and engage to solve some of these issues.

Question and answer session with the audience/participants

Q5: What are the challenges of Students in Kenya in accessing quality education?

The participants agreed that lack of resources and infrastructure needed to ensure quality education is a major challenge. Others regarded internal struggles experienced by students, such as peer pressure, as equally challenging. Such challenges often led to students dropping out of school and practicing of vile habits such as taking drugs and alcoholism. It was urged that there was need to have parents who follow up on the education of their children. It was also agreed that the need for students to have mentors who would direct and advice on the way to go is crucial.

Question and answer session with Henry 'Octopizza' Ohanga, Octopizza Foundation.

Q6: Is education addressing the needs of the youth in the country?

Most people think education is the only way to be successful in life. Thus, most parents do not support their children’s talents making their children fully dependant on education. However, the best scenario is that of a parent supporting the education and talent of the child, thereby, creating a balance between the two. For education specifically to address the needs of the youth in the country, the youth have to speak out in regard to their problems. In order to be helped the youth need to look up to their role models and not to wallow in the same problems that they are facing.
CONCLUSION

The screening of the Malala documentary at the United Nations Office in Nairobi was the first of its proportion to be held by the Centre for International and Security Affairs under the Know Your World Initiative. Although the event was first of its kind for the initiative, it was highly successful. Invited guests and schools were on time for the start of the event, and the film was run without any technical hitches. There were no reported cases of misconduct by the United Nations Conference Room Services team. The UN security management gave an excellent report on the conduct of the event.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Know Your World Initiative appreciates the support given to the team that saw to the start and conclusion of the Malala Documentary screening. A Special thanks to the following:

OUR PARTNERS

Strategic Partner
The GoDown Arts Centre

Venue Sponsor
United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)

Major Partners
United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, Regional Office for Eastern Africa (UNESCO)
The Octopizzo Foundation
The Obonyo Foundation

Media Partners
Dhako Media
Ibua Africa

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

Special appreciation to the teachers who accompanied and made it possible for the students to attend, and the schools' administrations for availability of transport and for the efficient coordination.

High Schools
Dagoretti High School
Parklands Aya Girls' High School
Starehe Boys' Centre and School
Our Lady of Fatima Secondary School
Upper Hill School

Universities
Strathmore Law School
Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies - University of Nairobi
Riara University

THE KYWI TEAM

Logistics Coordinators
Linda Kithinji
Areba Omwoyo
Chao Noelle Muta
Christine Muhoro
Barbara Karimi
Alvin Wafula

Program
Monica Nganga
Joel Okwemba

Rapporteurs
Albert Mbaaka
Polycarp Owuor

Editing
Mitchell Mwangamo
Eliud Kibi
Michelle Dibo

Photography
Stephen Mbugo
Nashon Otieno

Media & Communications
Michelle Dibo
Joan Njeri
Laban Mwai

Design
Sammy Mwirigi
HE NAMED ME MALALA