

# Malala Yousafzai talks gender inequality

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THE "world's most famous teenager" Malala Yousafzai, delivered what has been described as a rousing speech to a packed BT Convention Centre in Liverpool yesterday (24<sup>th</sup> July) for World Merit Day, the 'What Matters?' Conference and Concert.

With a dedication to raising awareness and campaigning for equal education rights for all, the 17-year-old also took the opportunity to appeal for gender equality.

"Education can be the change. In the past, the Masai tribe would make men warriors if they killed a lion. Thanks to changed minds and cultures, when a boy or girl in the Masai tribe gets a degree or an education, they then become Masai warriors. Change in our culture can happen thanks to education."

Yousafzai, who two years ago survived a bullet to the brain in a Taliban assassination in Pakistan, was joined on stage for an informal Q&A session with Sir Ken Robinson, international advisor of education in the arts.

## **'Weaker'**

The Nobel Peace Prize nominee, who now lives in Birmingham, revealed her father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, the United Nations special advisor on global education, was a huge fan of Sir Ken's work and an avid viewer of his TED talk, the most watched TED in history - 'How schools kill creativity'.

She went on to say: "I have this concept that I think people consider women to be weaker than men when looking at their bodies. We don't have big muscles as men have, nor the stronger bodies. But women are strong in their contributions towards society. I believe in equality and justice so men and women should be treated equally."

TV presenter, motivational speaker and acid attack survivor Katie Piper delivered a speech about courage and resilience. Chair of the Hillsborough Family Support Group Margaret Aspinall received a standing ovation for her words on the plight of those still fighting for truth and justice after the Hillsborough disaster, 25 years ago.



Malala Yousafzai And Felix Finkbeiner

Yousafzai wasn't the only teenager on the bill. Felix Finkbeiner, a 16 year old eco-warrior from Germany, had the crowd on their feet with appreciation for his efforts in the fight against climate change. In the last seven years, his organisation Plant-for-the-Planet has inspired children all over the world to plant over 13 billion trees. His own brand of fair trade confectionary, Change Chocolate, is carbon neutral and has been taken into the International Space Centre by astronauts.

