

Honours

## Malalai Joya

(1979-)

### *“You’re Being An Angel”*

**Malalai Joya was silenced in her natiaveland, Afghanistan,** for calling her fellow members of parliament “warlords”, “war criminals”, “drug dealers”, and “barnyard animals”. Even though an elected member of Afghanistan’s National Assembly in 2003, Joya was thrown out. Notwithstanding death threats and her house being bombed—making her homeless—she fights on for others. “Never again will I whisper,” she says, “in the shadows of intimidation. I am but a symbol of my people’s struggle and a servant to their cause. And if I were to be killed for what I believe in, then let my blood be the beacon for emancipation and my words a revolutionary paradigm for generations to come.”

As a female willing to stand up to the Taliban, she opened an orphanage and health clinic. She is director of the non-governmental group, “Organisation of Promoting Afghan Women’s Capabilities”.

Her support comes not only from Afghan women and foreigners, but also from Afghan men who want to break with their traditions of child brides, no education for girls past the age of eight, women barred from working, from being treated by male doctors, from enjoying the most basic freedom of movement, and from appearing in public without the burqa. Malalai Joya is a voice for all Afghan people who want peace.



*“There are two ways of being in power.  
One comes from love for our neighbour,” wrote Emanuel Swedenborg,  
“and the other from love for ourselves.*

*People who are empowered by love for their neighbour intend the good of everyone and love nothing more than being useful—that is, serving others (serving others means willing well and helping others, whether that is one’s church, country, community, or fellow citizen). This is their love and the delight of their hearts. As such people are raised to high positions, they are delighted; but the delight is not because of the honour, but because of the constructive things they can now do more abundantly and at a higher level.*

*This is what empowerment is like in the heavens.”*

Malalai Joya, by your bravery in standing up to the ex-Mujahideen fighters who are dominating your country’s government, you are being an angel for your countrymen that want freedom.

You are doing as the angels in heaven do—serve for the good of all. Your personal sacrifices are beyond what most would do for others.

Thank you!

*Candace Frazee*

Candace Frazee - Madam Chair of *SILA*  
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