

# One Girl Among Many

Utako Ohuchi

Sakura no Seibo High School

*“One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world. Education is the only solution. Education first.”*

What did you think of this speech? The powerful sentences and voice made people stand and applaud. I also was very impressed by the speech. This is the speech one sixteen-year old girl made at the United Nations conference, demanding that world leaders give education to girls all over the world.

Her name was Malala Yousufzai. She became the center of world attention after being attacked by the Taliban. Her country, Pakistan, is a male dominated society. People suffer from poverty and the influence of religion is strong. So people there say that girls don't need to be educated. Malala was shot and seriously injured, but she survived. This is the first speech she made. She said, “Weakness, fear and hopelessness died. Strength, power and courage were born.” I think she is great. Fear didn't make her change her mind.

I realized that I am very happy living peacefully, and studying without feeling discrimination. Also I am very moved by her positive attitude. She tells us the situation of her country and insists that she and her friends go to school. How lightly I take our lessons every day, and how poorly I communicate with teachers. This is the first time I have thought about women's rights. And I really started to want to know about the world.

By the way, our school Sakura no Seibo, was founded by Marguerite Bourgeoys in 1653 in Canada. She was a woman from France, who crossed the ocean in order to educate the women and children of the colony, both native and French. She protected children and girls even in dangerous situations. I respected her for her energy and devotion to others. Now I can enjoy my school life thanks to her effort.

There are two similarities between Marguerite and Malala. First, they were trying to change their society. Second, they encouraged people and never gave up.

I found out about Malala's speech on You Tube. She said “Thank you to every person who has prayed for my fast recovery and new life. So here I stand, one girl, among many. I speak not for myself, but so those without a voice can be heard. Those who have fought for their rights. Their right to live in peace. Their right to be treated

with dignity. Their right to be educated.” It reminds me of the words, “one for all, all for one.” Both Malala and Marguerite experienced hardships so they had the same idea, I realized.

We are living in the age of globalization. I watch the world news every morning. I thought I knew what is happening in the world, but I haven't thought about it enough. Now I want to help Malala and children who live in the same situation. In order to do that, first I want to start to know the world better. For example, I want to use not only TV, but also the Internet or Twitter, which connects me to the world. I want to know people in the world and what they want to do. And after that I want to look for what I can do for them in the future.