

**TWEET IT:** 17-year-old Malala Yousafzai receives 2014 [#NCCLibertyMedal](https://hootsuite.com/dashboard) Award in Philadelphia tonight. Youngest recipient in award history. @[MalalaFund](http://twitter.com/malalafund" \o "MalalaFund)

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**MALALA YOUSAFZAI RECEIVES**

**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER’S 2014 LIBERTY MEDAL**

***Youngest recipient in award history***

Philadelphia, PA (October 21, 2014) – **Malala Yousafzai** received the **National Constitution Center’s 2014 Liberty Medal** tonight during a ceremony that served as a powerful tribute to freedom, education, and the blessings of liberty for young women worldwide. During the event, 17-year-old Yousafzai was recognized for her continued demonstration of courage and resilience in the face of adversity and for serving as a powerful voice for those who have been denied their basic human rights and liberties. The public ceremony took place at 7 p.m. at the National Constitution Center on Independence Mall in Historic Philadelphia.

“It's an honor to be awarded the Liberty Medal,” said Malala Yousafzai. “I accept this award on behalf of all the children around the world who are struggling to get an education.”

During the ceremony, **Minnijean Brown Trickey** of the Little Rock Nine spoke about bravery in spite of opposition. In addition, a selection of Yousafzai’s blog entries were read by group of remarkable young women from the Philadelphia region:

* **Nikki Adeli**, 17, an advocate for quality public education
* **Mo’ne Ikea Davis**, 13, female Little League Baseball pitcher
* **Niayla Dia-Murray**, 17, National History Day finalist
* **Colleen McBride**, 17, leader of a social media campaign to bring Malala to her school
* **Melissa Shang**, 12, disability advocate

ABC News’ Chief Global Affairs Correspondent **Martha Raddatz** hosted the event, which also included presentations by:

* **First Lady of Pennsylvania Susan Corbett**
* Philadelphia **Mayor Michael A. Nutter** and his **daughter Olivia**
* President of the University of Pennsylvania **Dr. Amy Gutmann**,
* National Constitution Center President and CEO **Jeffrey Rosen**

The ceremony also featured a stirring rendition of Sara Bareilles’ “Brave,” performed by the **Pennsylvania Girlchoir**.

The event was streamed live on [6abc.com](file:///C:\Users\aberke\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\KKAZSE1O\6abc.com) and will air on WPVI-TV/6abc on Sunday, November 9, 2014 at 5 p.m.

Ms. Yousafzai came to international attention at the age of eleven by writing for the BBC about life under the Taliban in her native Pakistan. Using the pen name Gul Makai, she often spoke about her family’s fight for girls’ education in her community. For her outspokenness, Yousafzai received the Pakistan’s National Youth Peace Prize in 2011 and was nominated for the International Children's Peace Prize in the same year. In October 2012, Yousafzai was the target of an assassination plot by the Taliban and shot in the head as she was returning from school on a bus. She miraculously survived, and undeterred by the continued threats to her life and the lives of her family members, continued to campaign for education. Following her attack, Gordon Brown, the United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education, launched the Malala Petition to demand the United Nations to recommit to Millennium Development Goal 2, which involves universal primary education for children around the world by the end of 2015. The petition, which received more than three million signatures, also helped Pakistan ratify the country’s first Right to Education bill.

“Malala’s courageous fight for equality and liberty from tyranny is evidence that a passionate, committed leader, regardless of age, has the power to ignite a movement for reform,” said National Constitution Center Chairman Governor Jeb Bush. “Her story is truly inspirational as we continue to fight for all children to have access to a quality education here in America. Let us all, young and old, strive to be like Malala—to challenge the status quo and to serve as catalysts for meaningful change.”

“As American citizens we often take for granted our First Amendment rights, including free speech, freedom of religion, and the right to peacefully assemble and protest, without fear of retaliation,” said National Constitution Center President and CEO Jeffrey Rosen. “Every day, around the world, individuals like Ms. Yousafzai are being threatened for asserting the same fundamental rights of speech and religious conscience that are inherent in all people. Yet she is undeterred in her quest. She is an inspiring voice for liberty across the globe.”

Ms. Yousafzai is the youngest person ever to win a Nobel Peace Prize. She was one of four runners-up for *Time* magazine’s Person of the Year in 2013. Addressing the United Nations on her 16th birthday, Yousafzai told the audience that “one child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world.” She was awarded the 2013 United Nations Human Rights Prize, which is given every five years and has previously been bestowed on such notable recipients as Nelson Mandela, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

She continues to champion universal access to education through the Malala Fund (malalafund.org), a nonprofit organization that empowers girls through education to achieve their potential and change their communities. Her memoir, *I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban*, is a *New York Times* bestseller. A young readers’ version, *I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World,* will be released in August 2014.

About the Liberty Medal

The Liberty Medal was established in 1988 to commemorate the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. Given annually, the medal honors men and women of courage and conviction who strive to secure the blessings of liberty to people around the globe. Six recipients of the Medal subsequently have won the Nobel Peace Prize. For more information, visit [constitutioncenter.org/libertymedal](file:///C:\Users\aberke\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\KKAZSE1O\constitutioncenter.org\libertymedal).

About the National Constitution Center

The [National Constitution Center](https://mail2.constitutioncenter.org/owa/redir.aspx?C=wGXivMhj3ESS4QW-FD_ZI_kGoK1BudEIovd_akkvzw-vd6OUgaGDiWhAFukci17fCbH_x83Psyg.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fconstitutioncenter.org%2f) in Philadelphia is the Museum of We the People, America’s Town Hall, and a Headquarters for Civic Education. As the **Museum of We the People**, the National Constitution Center brings the United States Constitution to life for visitors of all ages and inspires active citizenship by celebrating the American constitutional tradition. The museum features interactive exhibits, engaging theatrical performances, and original documents of freedom. As the only institution established by Congress to “disseminate information about the United States Constitution on a non-partisan basis,” the National Constitution Center serves as a **Headquarters for Civic Education**—offering cutting-edge learning resources including the premier online Interactive Constitution. As **America’s Town Hall**, the National Constitution Center hosts timely constitutional conversations uniting distinguished leaders, scholars, authors, and journalists from across the political spectrum. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit [constitutioncenter.org](https://mail2.constitutioncenter.org/owa/redir.aspx?C=wGXivMhj3ESS4QW-FD_ZI_kGoK1BudEIovd_akkvzw-vd6OUgaGDiWhAFukci17fCbH_x83Psyg.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.constitutioncenter.org%2f).

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*EDITOR’S NOTE: A complete list of Liberty Medal winners follows.*

**Past Recipients of the Liberty Medal**

**2013** Hillary Clinton, former U.S. Secretary of State

**2012** Muhammad Ali

**2011** Dr. Robert M. Gates, former U.S. Secretary of Defense

**2010** Tony Blair, former British Prime Minister

**2009** Steven Spielberg

**2008** Mikhail Gorbachev, former Soviet leader

**2007** Bono and DATA

**2006** George H.W. Bush and William J. Clinton, former U.S. Presidents

**2005** Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine

**2004** Hamid Karzai, President of Afghanistan

**2003** Sandra Day O’Connor, Associate Justice, U.S. Supreme Court

**2002** Colin Powell, U.S. Secretary of State

**2001** Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary-General\*

**2000** Dr. James Watson and Dr. Francis Crick, co-discoverers of the structure of DNA

**1999** Kim Dae Jung, President of South Korea\*

**1998** Senator George J. Mitchell, Irish peace negotiator 1997 CNN International

**1996** King Hussein I of Jordan and Shimon Peres, former Prime Minister of Israel

**1995** Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees

**1994** Václav Havel, President of the Czech Republic

**1993** F.W. de Klerk, President of South Africa\* and Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress\*

**1992** Thurgood Marshall, former Associate Justice, U.S. Supreme Court

**1991** Oscar Arias, President of Costa Rica and Médecins sans Frontières

(Doctors Without Borders)\*

**1990** Jimmy Carter, former U.S. President\*

**1989** Lech Walesa, founder of Solidarity, Poland

\* Liberty Medal recipients who subsequently won the Nobel Peace Prize