



Meet Muzoon Almellehan, a 16-year old Syrian girl who worked for years in Jordanian refugee camps to ensure that the girls of the camps were getting the education they deserve. She and her family fled their home country of Syria in 2013 as a result of Syria's ongoing civil war. Life in the camps was understandably difficult, and as a result, many young Syrian women marry before they turn 18 as a means of ensuring security. Nearly a third of Syrian girls in the Jordanian refugee camps become brides before they turn 18. Muzoon is passionate about getting these girls to stay in school and to see education as an alternative to early marriage.

What global issue was Muzoon concerned about?

Early marriage has soared amongst Syrian refugees in Jordan in the past three years – in 2014 25% of their marriages involved children ages 15-17, according to UNICEF. As Syria's long, brutal civil war grinds on with no end in sight, desperate displaced Syrians are increasingly seeing early marriage as a way to secure the social and financial future of their daughters.

Why did it matter to her?

"Many families think that if they get their daughters married at an early age, they'll be protected. They don't know that something might go wrong...and if the marriage fails, the daughter will be vulnerable."

"Education is very important because it's the shield we can use to protect ourselves in life. It's our method to solve our problems," she says. "If we don't have education, we can't defend ourselves."

What did she do about it?

For two years, Muzoon went door-to-door in Azraq camps where she lived, waging a one-girl campaign to convince parents to keep their daughters in school instead of pressuring them into wedlock.

Muzoon has been called the "Malala of Syria" for her crusade to keep girls in school, a reference to the teenage Pakistani education activist who survived a Taliban attack on her school bus in 2012.

What's next for Muzoon?

"I want to be a journalist," says Muzoon. "It's a very beautiful job, in my opinion."



Muzoon Speaks about Education

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBzYG3Jr80k>



Now it's your turn!

What will you do to make a difference for the Global Goals?

