

How can education change one's life

LAILA'

life story

Inspired by a true story



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Supported using public funding by

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ENGLAND**

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My name is Lila. We lived in small village in Afghanistan. We had a normal happy life.

One day ISIS came to my city -. Everything would change for the people of my village from this day on. People would disappear, be thrown off buildings. One day my father was shot by religious extremists, and I couldn't even see my father's corpse for the last time.



We were scared and shattered by this event and We fled to protect our lives. We left our belongings and came to Europe with some of my relatives and neighbors as refugees.



After a long scary journey, we got the opportunity to live as refugees in the city of Wolverhampton in the United Kingdom. My mother and I lived together with my two uncles as a family. After a few months, we got a three-bedroom house from the local council



We experienced many difficulties with learning English. and getting our essentials such as food and clothing. The government benefit was not enough for us to survive as a family. We go to know the Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary from a social service worker and they helped us with our needs. They always looked after us, so we never felt that were alone in this country.



I joined college to study English and managed to improve my language skills. It helped me to share my experience with other people and both I and my mom worked as volunteers with social services to help others.



As soon as I reach eighteen my two uncles tried to force my mom to arrange my marriage to an unknown man, as he promised to pay a huge sum to my uncles. My mom refused but my two uncles insisted and threatened us that they would ?? if I did not marry him.



We were scared and felt so helpless! WE did not know what to do. Finally we sought help from the social workers in the City of Sanctuary Wolverhampton.

They came to our place with a legal advisor and met with my uncles. They explained to them that they cannot force me to get married and it is a criminal offense in this country. They showed them this can result in a sentence of up to 7 years in prison. After that, my uncles were scared and stopped contacting us.



A few months after that trauma, I got a part time job at a coffee shop through a friend. Also, my mom started to make sweets and sell them to close by shops. The money I earned from the coffee shop and what my mom earned by selling sweets was quite enough for us to manage our expenses.



While I was doing my job I completed GCEs for English and Maths.
After four years hard work, I managed to complete my Social Science degree.
Now I am working as a social worker for the City of Wolverhampton Council and my mom is working in a Sweet shop.





I met my fiance while I was studying at university and we became engaged last month. I am so excited about the next chapter of my life.

Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
You have the right to go to school and everyone should go to school.
Primary schooling should be free. You should be able to learn a profession or continue your studies as far as you wish. At school, you should be able to develop all your talents and you should be taught to get on with others, whatever their race, their religion or the country they come from

