

ANGELA DAVIS

Angela Davis was born in 1944 in Alabama, USA, in her youth she experienced racial prejudice and discrimination.

Angela links much of her political activism to her time with the Girl Scouts of the USA in the 1950s. As a Girl Scout, she marched and protested racial segregation in Birmingham.

From 1969, Angela began public speaking. She expressed that she was against; the Vietnam War, racism, sexism, and the prison system, and expressed that she supported gay rights and other social justice movements. Angela opposed the 1995 Million Man March, saying that by excluding women from the event, they promoted sexism. She said that the organisers appeared to prefer that women take subordinate roles in society. Together with Kimberlé Crenshaw and others, she formed the African American Agenda 2000, an alliance of Black feminists.



WAGGGS · WORLD THINKING DAY 2021 ·

FADUMO DAYIB

Fadumo Dayib is known for being the first woman to run for president in Somalia.

After migrating with her younger siblings to Finland, to escape civil war in Somalia she worked tirelessly so that she could return to her country and help her people regain freedom and peace. After learning how to read at the age of 14 she has since earned one bachelor's degree, three master's degrees and went on to pursue a PhD.

She worked with the United Nations to set up hospitals throughout Somalia and decided to run for president even though it was extremely dangerous. Even though she did not win, she has not given up on helping people all over Somalia access a safe standard of living and when asked why she says "I see myself as a servant to my people".



WAGGGS · WORLD THINKING DAY 2021 ·

HELEN KELLER

Having lost her sight and hearing at a young age, Keller defied expectations to achieve a bachelor's degree and inspired generations as an activist for disability rights.

She was a woman of immense intelligence, high ambition and great accomplishment who devoted her life to helping others. In 1904 Helen graduated from Radcliffe College, becoming the first deaf blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree.

In 1905 she founded the organisation that would later become 'Helen Keller International', to support veterans blinded in combat. Overtime, the mission expanded to include; combatting the causes and consequences of blindness, poor health, and malnutrition. Helen joined the American Foundation for the Blind in 1924 and served as a spokesperson and ambassador for the Foundation until her death.



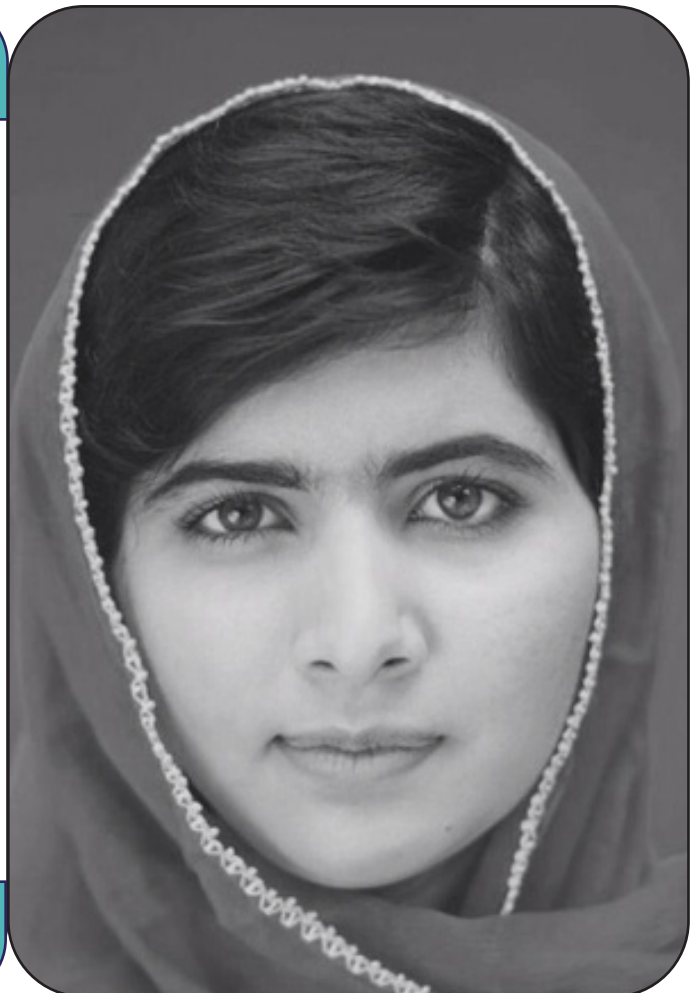
WAGGGS • WORLD THINKING DAY 2021 •

MALALA YOUSAFZAI

Malala Yousafzai was born in Mingora, Pakistan in 1997. Her father was a teacher and ran a girls' school in her village.

When the Taliban took control of the country, the extremists banned everything from television to music and banned girls from attending school. She spoke out publicly on behalf of girls and our right to learn, and this made her a target.

Malala was attacked by the Taliban because of her activism for girls' education. Following her recovery, Yousafzai became a prominent activist for the right to education. She founded the Malala Fund, a non-profit organisation, she went on to be the youngest Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. In 2020, she graduated from the University of Oxford after studying Philosophy, Politics and Economics.



WAGGGS • WORLD THINKING DAY 2021 •

BILLIE JEAN KING

Billie Jean King is a USA tennis legend and the winner of 20 Wimbledon titles.

She famously beat Bobby Riggs in 1973 for a \$100,000 USD prize in "The Battle of the sexes" after he said to her that men were superior athletes, the match was watched by millions. Billie Jean is an advocate for gender equality and founded the Women's Tennis Association and the Women's Sports Foundation. She was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1987 and campaigned for equal prize money in the men's and women's games

Billie Jean became the first woman athlete to earn over \$100,000 USD in prize money, however, inequalities continued. She won the US Open in 1972 but received \$15,000 USD less than the men's champion Ilie Năstase. She stated that she would not play the next year if the prize money was not equal. In 1973, the US Open became the first major tournament to offer equal prize money for men and women.



WAGGGS · WORLD THINKING DAY 2021 ·

MANAL AL SHARIF

Manal al-Sharif is a Saudi Arabian women's rights activist who helped start a women's right to drive campaign in 2011.

In 2011, Manal co-founded and led the #Women2Drive movement, to challenge the ban on women driving in her country. She was arrested and imprisoned for "driving while female," released on the condition that she never drives again on Saudi lands, speaks about it, or gives interviews. Even so, she continued campaigning for #Women2Drive and #IAmMyOwnGuardian to end male guardianship in her country. Following her driving campaign, she remained an active critic of the government, tweeting on issues including imprisoned female foreign workers, the lack of elections for the Shura Council, and the murder of Lama al-Ghamdi.



WAGGGS · WORLD THINKING DAY 2021 ·

KATHERINE JOHNSON

Katherine Johnson was a Girl Scout and an African American mathematician; she is known for calculating the trajectory for many of NASA's missions.

Katherine showed strong mathematical abilities from an early age, but because her hometown did not offer public schooling for African American students past the eighth grade (14 years old), her family arranged for her to attend a high school over 100 miles away. She graduated high school at age 14, and graduated college with the highest distinction at just 18 years old.

She became a part of the early NASA team in 1953. From 1958, she worked as an aerospace technologist, and her achievements included calculating the trajectory of the first American in space, and she also calculated the trajectory for the 1969 Apollo 11 flight to the moon. NASA noted her "historical role as one of the first African-American women to work as a NASA scientist".



WAGGGS · WORLD THINKING DAY 2021 ·

EUROFROSINA CRUZ

Eufrosina Cruz Mendoza is a Mexican politician, Oaxaca's first indigenous female politician, a gender equality activist and indigenous rights campaigner.

After winning the 2007 municipal elections in Santa María Quiegolani, she was told by male, Zapotec lawmakers that, as a woman, she should not have been allowed to run and all her votes were invalid. As a result of their decision, based on ancient and oral Zapotec customs, she contacted human rights organisations and state authorities to appeal their decision and push for a change in the state constitution. The following year, she succeeded and women won the right to vote unaccompanied, run for candidacy and hold public office in Oaxaca.

That same year, just a few months prior to winning the National Youth Award for her political work in 2008, she also founded Fundación Quiego, a non-profit association for the promotion of gender equality in Oaxaca, which aims to promote human rights, freedom and organises projects that improve women's quality of life.



WAGGGS · WORLD THINKING DAY 2021 ·

WANGARI MAATHAI

Wangari Maathai is the founder of the Green Belt Movement and the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. Maathai was born in Nyeri, a rural area of Kenya, in 1940. She was the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctorate degree.

In 1976, while she was serving in the National Council of Women, Professor Maathai introduced the idea of community-based tree planting. She continued to develop this idea into a broad-based grassroots organisation, the Green Belt Movement (GBM), that focuses on poverty reduction and environmental conservation through tree planting.

In recognition of her deep commitment to the environment, the United Nations Secretary-General named Professor Maathai a UN Messenger of Peace in December 2009, with a focus on the environment and climate change. In 2010, in partnership with the University of Nairobi, she founded the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI).



WAGGGS · WORLD THINKING DAY 2021 ·

NADIA MURAD

Nadia Murad was born into a farming family in Kojo, Iraq. She belongs to the Yazidi ethnic and religious minority, an indigenous faith in northern Iraq. When she was 19 years old, the Islamic State group attacked her village and killed 600 Yazidi men, including several of her family members. She was kidnapped alongside other young women and imprisoned for three months, during this time she experienced terrible violence.

She escaped, fled to a refugee camp and later moved to Germany where she began working with a non-profit organisation. On 16 December 2015, Nadia spoke to the United Nations Security Council about human trafficking and conflict. This was the first time the Council was ever briefed on human trafficking, thanks to her testimony global leaders learned more about the terrible violence committed by the Islam State group.

As an activist she advocates against human trafficking, genocide and for assistance to survivors, which she provides through her global initiatives. She went on to become a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate in 2018.



WAGGGS · WORLD THINKING DAY 2021 ·

IRENA SENDLEROWA

Irena Sendler was born in Poland in 1910. During the German occupation of Poland Irena obtained fake identification to enter the ghetto where many Jewish people were forced to live. She pretended to be a nurse so that she could bring in food, clothes, and medicine to the people there.

In the 1940s she and her friends began rescuing Jewish children, they smuggled them to safety in boxes, suitcases, sacks and even coffins. She changed their names and sent them to live with new families. Irena recorded their new names and their real names on little rolls of paper, put the paper into jars and buried the jars in her friends' garden.

She did not give up her friends, the children's locations, or their names when she was captured and tortured. She helped to rescue almost 3000 children and after the war dug up the jars to reunite many of the children with their families.



WAGGGS · WORLD THINKING DAY 2021 ·



WAGGGS · WORLD THINKING DAY 2021 ·

