



Malala Fund announces Dr. Jyotsna Jha as a Gulmakai Network Champion

New York, USA — April 16, 2018— Malala Fund is proud to welcome Dr. Jyotsna Jha into the 2018 class of Gulmakai Network Champions. The Gulmakai Network is Malala Fund's initiative to support local education activists who work in countries where girls face the greatest barriers to education.

Jyotsna is the director of Center for Budget and Policy Studies. She is developing a mentoring programme that will teach girls critical thinking skills and encourage them to speak out about the issues they witness in their communities. After the programme is piloted in the state of Bihar, Jyotsna will advocate for the model's integration into school curricula nationwide.

"Malala Fund believes that local educators and activists are the key to giving all girls the education they need and deserve," said Farah Mohamed, Malala Fund CEO. "With their ambition, courage and dedication, our Gulmakai Champions are working to build a world where every girl can go to school and choose her own future. We are proud to invest in their leadership and advocacy."

Threats to girls' education — like poverty, war and gender discrimination — differ between countries and communities. Malala Fund believes local education activists are best placed to understand the challenges in their communities and deliver solutions. But these women and men often lack the funding and support necessary to increase their impact.

Malala Fund aims to close this gap by connecting our Gulmakai Network Champions with each other and to the tools, training and partners they need to spark social and systemic change. Our Champions work across Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nigeria, India and countries hosting Syrian refugees, like Turkey and Lebanon.

For more information on the Gulmakai Network, please visit malala.org/gulmakai

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About Malala Fund:

Malala Fund is working for a world where all girls can learn for 12 years and lead without fear. Learn more at malala.org