Women Nobel Peace Prize Laureates: Champions of Peace and Justice

Since 1905, when Bertha von Suttner became the first woman awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her outspoken opposition to war, nineteen women have been recognized for their exceptional efforts in advancing peace, human rights, and social justice. These courageous leaders come from diverse countries and backgrounds yet share a commitment to creating a more just and compassionate world. From Mother Teresa's work with the destitute in India, to Wangari Maathai's environmental activism in Kenya, to Malala Yousafzai's fight for girls' education in Pakistan, these women have faced significant risks to speak out against violence and oppression. Their stories challenge us to reflect on the meaning of peace and the power of determined individuals to make a global impact.

We will take a moment to look at these women and their lives:

Nobel Peace Prize 2023

Narges Mohammadi

"for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all"

Nobel Peace Prize 2021

Maria Ressa

"for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace"

Nobel Peace Prize 2018

Nadia Murad

"for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict"

Nobel Peace Prize 2014

Malala Yousafzai

"for their struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education"

Nobel Peace Prize 2011

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

"for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work"

Leymah Gbowee

"for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work"

Tawakkol Karman

"for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work"

Nobel Peace Prize 2004

Wangari Maathai

"for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace"

Nobel Peace Prize 2003

Shirin Ebadi

"for her efforts for democracy and human rights. She has focused especially on the struggle for the rights of women and children"

Nobel Peace Prize 1997

Jody Williams

"for their work for the banning and clearing of anti-personnel mines"

Nobel Peace Prize 1992

Rigoberta Menchú Tum

"for her struggle for social justice and ethno-cultural reconciliation based on respect for the rights of indigenous peoples"

Nobel Peace Prize 1991

Aung San Suu Kyi

"for her non-violent struggle for democracy and human rights"

Nobel Peace Prize 1982

Alva Myrdal

"for their work for disarmament and nuclear and weapon-free zones"

Nobel Peace Prize 1979

Mother Teresa

"for her work for bringing help to suffering humanity"

Nobel Peace Prize 1976

Betty Williams

"for the courageous efforts in founding a movement to put an end to the violent conflict in Northern Ireland"

Mairead Corrigan

"for the courageous efforts in founding a movement to put an end to the violent conflict in Northern Ireland"

Nobel Peace Prize 1946

Emily Greene Balch

"for her lifelong work for the cause of peace"

Nobel Peace Prize 1931

Jane Addams

"for their assiduous effort to revive the ideal of peace and to rekindle the spirit of peace in their own nation and in the whole of mankind"

Nobel Peace Prize 1905

Bertha von Suttner

"for her audacity to oppose the horrors of war"