

Nada's story as a human rights activist started in 2013, when she was 11 years old. She refused to be a victim of child marriage and told her story to the world. Although she faced many struggles and disappointments, she has never surrendered. Nada's determination to keep fighting for Children's Rights won the admiration of many and garnered International support for her cause.

نادى الأهدال
NADA AL-AHDAL

قصة كفاح كبيرة لفتاة صغيرة
GREAT STORY OF STRUGGLING LITTLE GIRL



VIOLATIONS AGAINST NADA

2013

August

HELD IN PRISON FOR 10 DAYS

After she appeared at the Comprehensive National Dialogue Conference to speak out against child marriage, Nada was detained. At the debate, she was seen pleading for her right not to marry and citing the self-immolation of her teenaged aunt, and her older sister's suicide attempt when faced with early marriage. Perceiving her action as a threat, state officials pressured the Ministry of Internal Affairs to arrest 11-year-old Nada. She was taken to prison where she was held for 10 days.



2013

September

DETAINED FOR 7 HOURS AND FORCED TO SIGN AGREEMENT

Just weeks after she was released from prison, Nada continued her mission to fight Child Marriage by appearing on a Lebanese television program. Upon her return to Yemen, Nada was stopped at the airport and detained by the Internal Affairs Office for 7 hours. Her passport was confiscated and she was forced to sign an agreement preventing her from further media appearances until the completion of the Comprehensive National Dialogue Conference on Child Marriage.

VIOLATIONS AGAINST NADA

2015

April

PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST

With her passport withheld, Nada tried to travel for the launch of her book and to receive international awards for her work on preserving the Rights of the Child. She was prevented from traveling and placed under house arrest.



2015

December

KIDNAPPED BY AL-QAEDA (ISIS)

Attempting to leave Yemen in order to complete her education and continue her Human Rights work, Nada was kidnapped by the Al-Qaeda Organization. She was taken to a secret location where she was subjected to blind-folded interrogation for the first three days and released after two weeks.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Despite her young age, Nada has made great achievements through her strong will, commitment, and belief in defending the rights of young girls. Making her voice heard, Nada changed her complicated society and helped girls in Yemen. She continues to work on communicating her vision of human rights for young girls around the world and hopes to achieve global awareness of the harms of Child Marriage.

PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL DIALOGUE CONFERENCE

During the 2013 National Dialogue Conference in Yemen, Nada played a vital role in outlawing underage marriage. Nada's campaign helped to include the bill in the NDC's outcome; a well earned the victory after years of failed attempts.



NADA'S STORY IS TURNED INTO A BOOK

Michel Lafon Publishing released a book describing Nada's story. The book was translated into Dutch and French and also appeared in electronic format helping to spread awareness of Child Marriage.

TEDx Muscat and TEDx Jubilee

Nada attracted the attention of famous platforms such as the TEDx Amman platform and the TEDx Muscat platform in which she told her story as she became the main inspiration to others with her success.



NADA FOUNDATION FOR THE PROTECTION

The Foundation was established in order to protect and advance the human rights of children in Yemen. A number of projects have been launched, most notably an awareness program (Children of War are Peacemakers), a program designed to directly protect the rights of children (Safe Havens), and an educational program (Our Dreams Thrive) with full funding from the Foundation.



Nada's human rights organization won an international award with the British Council for 2019 among the best organizations in the Middle East concerned with girls' rights and humanitarian projects.

IN 2018 AND 2019 NADA WAS NOMINATED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S PEACE PRIZE

MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Nada became the Head of the Rights and Freedoms at the Department of the National Tuhama Council.

In addition to that, she is a member of the Executive Board of the National Tuhama Council which is a council that represents the Tehama region in Yemen politically and militarily.

PRESENTED ON MBC1

Also, Nada participated in "The Nawaem Girls Program" which was the famous program (Kalam Nawaem) on the Middle East Network, MBC1, which is the most famous and influential network in the Middle East.



AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

The foundation has established many highly impactful humanitarian programs to promote education and protect girls from underage marriage and domestic violence. This effort was achieved through the use of media and community outreach and awareness programs. Since 2017 the Foundation has managed to nullify hundreds of illegal underage marriages and rescue children from domestic violence. The Foundation has also disbursed more than 60 scholarships to aid girls in their development and ensure a good future through employment. The Nada Foundation also runs a shelter for girls who flee marriage or domestic abuse. It is hoping to spread its influence across International borders, helping girls have a childhood and thrive throughout the world. The Foundation runs an awareness program to address the public's misperceived benefits of the tradition of early marriage. Concerns for traditional values and questions regarding the Rights of the Child, to which Yemen is bound under International Law, are addressed, and the damage done to society and individuals by this practice are effectively enumerated and explained. The Nada Foundation revolutionized the way in which this material is shared in Yemen through reformatting the conversation typically reserved for those in power, into a public debate. This was achieved through the production of videos that can be easily shared on social media. The secrecy and complacency around the tradition of child marriage have been reduced as the videos gained support

and popularity and were broadcast on television, at conferences, and at humanitarian events around the world.

CHILD MARRIAGE ISSUE

The Nada Foundation was started to deal with the issue of Child Marriage; to educate the public on its harms to the individual, to society and to the economy of Yemen. To this end, the Foundation put together an extensive file on the effects of this violation of children's human rights and produced a comprehensive report on the issue. The report was then divided into sections and made into short videos. The videos made on this topic enumerate and explain the connection between Child Marriage and domestic violence, and the devastating effects on the child being married. It also addresses the broader scope of the effects of underage marriage on society, including lower economic output, and the spread of disease and epidemics.



CHILD RECRUITMENT ISSUE

The issue of Child Recruitment is one that affects many children in war-torn Yemen and other regions experiencing conflict and instability. The Nada Foundation compiled a file on the effects of child recruitment on the individual and society and put forth a report on the prevalence and effects of child



re- recruitment. The information gathered is useful to law-makers, journalists and organizations working to understand and improve crime rates, instability, and destruction

of the social fabric. The report identifies this issue as a violation of the human rights of the child and urges governments and rebel groups to abstain from this tactic of building armies. Also mentioned in the report is the necessity for parents to protect childhood by keeping their children out of conflict.

THE ISSUE OF EDUCATION

The file compiled on the state of education in Yemen supports the findings that the system is near a total collapse. Schools are commonly used for the recruitment of child soldiers, the report found. As a result of the report on education the



Nada Foundation urges parents to use alternative methods of completing the education of their children. Means suggested are the use of education applications and distance learning via online schools. The government is also urged to seek a way to return legitimate education to its citizens and protect the country from ignorance, backwardness, and the spread of illiteracy among the next generation.

ADVOCACY FOR THE UNDERAGE

CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO CHANGE

Although Nada is working hard on continuing her own education and traveling to promote awareness of, and support for, humanitarian issues in Yemen. In keeping with her mission she continues to post videos online broadening the influence of her vision for safe childhood in Yemen and around the world.

Advocacy for Children Advocacy for Underage Girls

Currently there are no local laws protecting underage girls from domestic violence and other human rights abuses in Yemen. The Nada Foundation advocates for girls by creating social dialogue and changing public opinion about these unjust practices. In bringing these topics into public discourse, the foundation sheds light on perpetrators of abuse, creating hope for girls, and repercussions for those who violate their rights.



Girl Shaima

When Nada heard of a 10-year-old girl, Rasha, who was brutally killed by her brother and hastily buried to conceal the crime, Nada advocated on her behalf. Nada made the case a topic of public discussion in the media resulting in the arrest and trial of Rasha's brother. It was revealed that Rasha had stolen \$30 from her brother to buy her mother a gift,

and a result was beaten to death.

In another successful example of advocacy, Nada publicized the severe physical abuse and torture by fire of a girl named Shaima. The father of the child was brought to court but was soon released and Shaima returned to his custody. Nada faced a challenge that is the absence of laws protecting minors but did not surrender, instead proclaiming a hunger strike in a live broadcast on social media. With the pressure of the public's gaze, the prosecutors placed Shaima's father under arrest and placed Shaima with her grandmother. The Foundation proceeded by granting a comprehensive scholarship to Shaima and ensuring her education.



She had a distinguished media presence on Arab satellite channels, radio, and newspapers since the beginning of her human rights activities to win over girls' issues, especially about the marriage of minors, and contributed to raising awareness among Arab society to end the marriage of minors.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

BRAVERY AWARD 2013

Nada won the Bravery Award from the British Magazine, Starkids, for the bravest kid in 2013. She was named one of the bravest children in the world for raising her voice against Child Marriage despite the risks and threats that entailed.



FROM THE NEWSPAPER

WITH AND FOR GIRLS AWARD 2019

Earning her International recognition, Nada received a number of honors, including three prestigious awards from Switzerland's humanitarian sector. Due to the controversial nature of her resistance, Nada was prevented by the rebel forces in Yemen's conflict from traveling and attending the ceremony.



HONORED BY THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION

Nada received an honor from the International Union for the Communities of Yemen in Riyadh, in recognition of her efforts to promote child welfare around the world in the face of great challenges.



vice president

INVITATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

On account of her work advancing smart and inexpensive strategies and methods for serving children, Nada has received many invitations to participate in International conferences.



GLOBAL EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

The child participated in many international conferences and had a prominent jurist impact. she has received many invitations to attend events in many world countries, but she was not able to attend them during her existence in Yemen for reasons related to the civil war between the rebels and the government, but after her exit from Yemen to another country in the beginning of 2016, she was able to attend international events of human rights and humanitarian action

THE CONFERENCE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN – TURKEY

She has received an invitation from the organizers of the conference: Violence against Women in Turkey 8/12 /2017 AD for addressing the opening word in the conference allocated for 200 women of less than 16 years, to talk about her experience in underage girl marriage and the death of her aunt under torture until she was obliged to commit suicide by burning herself with gasoline to escape the violence, then her sister who tried to commit suicide by burning to escape the domestic violence and the underage girl marriage.



KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN WORK CONFERENCE

She attended the Conference for the international charitable and humanitarian work held by the Ministry of Awqaf in the Government of Kuwait for the year 16-18 / 12/2017 AD to convey the importance of humanitarian work and make childhood in the priorities of the tasks of relief and humanitarian organizations, and for the allocation of a



greater humanitarian work part in helping to educate girls and improve their conditions to alleviate their suffering.

RIYADH INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN FORUM

She attended the International Humanitarian Forum in Riyadh, which was held under the patronage of King Salman Center for Relief from 26-27 / 2/2018 AD, which bodied the humanitarian role with the effective institutions, and the importance of making provision of assistance to children on the top of its priorities. She met also many of the chairpersons of the international and relief organizations to convey to them the suffering of Yemeni children, especially underage girls, and the importance of their role in putting childhood in their future tasks activities' tasks.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PRIME MINISTER CALLS NADA AN "ICON OF YEMEN"



Upon meeting with the Prime Minister Dr. Ahmed Obeid bin Daghr, Nada was able to convey the suffering of Yemeni children and offer up suggestions for ways to help. She was able to impress the Prime Minister with the urgent need to legally ban child marriage, domestic violence and forms of wartime exploitation, earning her the honor of being called the Ambassador of Arab Children, and an Icon of Yemen.



Foreign Minister Dr. Abdul Malik Mikhlafi

SUPPORT FROM YEMEN'S POLITICAL FIGURES

Persistence pays off as Nada's work is embraced by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Abdul Malik Mikhlafi. Through Dr. Mikhlafi's logistical support Nada has been able to travel to International conferences to convey her message to the world.



NADA FOUNDATION GETS SUPPORT IN KUWAIT

Nada gained the support of Dr. Abdullah Al-matooq, the personal advisor of his Highness the Crown Prince of Kuwait and the Minister of Awqaf. In the meeting Dr. Al-matooq expressed admiration and encouragement for Nada's work in amplifying the voice of children around the world, promising to assist the Nada Foundation in humanitarian efforts.

SHARING HER MESSAGE WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF BANGLADESH



Nada met with Dr. Dipu Moni, in Kuwait, and shared her vision for a better future for children. The Bangladeshi Foreign Minister expressed encouragement for Nada's advocacy work.

WORKING WITH THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS



Through the support of Dr. Mohamed Askar, Nada joined the government delegation to Europe in 2018. Nada participated in events concerning childhood in global forums, communicating to international organizations the needs and issues faced by children in Yemen.

MEETING WITH HUMANITARIAN AMBASSADORS OF THE GULF



Heralded as the Ambassador of the Arab Childhood, Nada gained an audience with a group of princes and government officials responsible for human rights in the Gulf States.

THE MEDIA

FILM PERFORMANCE

To raise awareness for the harms of child marriage, Nada took part in a film about a child bride, called, "I am Nujood, aged 10 and divorced." The film won an award for the best feature film in Dubai's 12th annual International Film Festival, and was nominated for an Oscar.



FROM FILM

VIDEO GOES VIRAL

Within three days of posting, Nada's first video on YouTube reached more than six million views. It was widely circulated and ultimately translated into thirty languages. The first hand account of underage forced marriage raised awareness and outrage and was broadcast on television channels around the world.



FIRST VIDEO

SHORT FILMS

Many short films were made about Nada's experiences and shared on social media and official news outlets. The films help in publicising the issues of child marriage and the sale of underage brides by their families.



FIRST SHORT FILM

MBC1 DOCUMENTARY

Nada's story came out at a time when Yemen was seeking to reform its constitution. Bringing to attention the issue of child marriage, the case threatened the position of religious conservatives opposed to change, who sought to discredit the veracity of Nada's claims. In support of Nada MBC1, the leading media outlet in the Middle East created a documentary detailing the case.



TELEVISION INTERVIEWS

To raise awareness and create public dialogue, Nada participated in numerous interviews on MBC1 and Al Arabia. Her story brought to light the realities of child marriage thus opening the tradition proponents claim adheres to Sharia law, to scrutiny.



NEWSPAPERS IN YEMEN AND ABROAD

Despite her challenges and abuses, Nada persists in advocating for voiceless youth, earning her the respect and regard of the global public as a Children's Rights hero.



