

Nila Ibrahimimi

Youth and Girls' Rights Activist and Advocate, Co-Founder and President, HerStory, UN Young Leader for the SDGs



BIO

Rising Voices Speaker Nila Ibrahimimi is a youth activist and advocate for the rights of Afghan girls and displaced youth. She is the co-founder of HerStory, a storytelling initiative that amplifies the voices of Afghan girls through narratives of courage, resilience and hope. By documenting the experiences of girls both inside Afghanistan and across the diaspora, Nila uses storytelling as a tool for connection and change. At just 13, she led a viral campaign that successfully overturned a government ban preventing Afghan girls over the age of 12 from singing in public, an act that marked the beginning of her lifelong advocacy for education and gender equality. After the Taliban's return to power in 2021, Nila and her family fled Afghanistan, spending months in hiding before resettling in Canada. Since then, she has continued to champion girls' education and represent displaced communities on global stages.

SAMPLE TOPICS

- When Girls Sing: Education, Resistance, and the Power of One Voice
- From Kabul to the World Stage: What Young People See That Others Miss
- HerStory: Storytelling as a Tool for Human Rights

RECENT SPEAKING ROLES

- TED Vancouver
- Microsoft Vancouver
- Clinton Global Initiative Mainstage
- UN's Girls Education Initiative
- Geneva Summit for Human rights and Democracy
- Harvard Project for Asians and International Relations
- House of Lords (organized by the 30 Birds Foundation)
- Permanent mission of Germany to the UN

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION FOR LEADERSHIP AND ACTIVISM

- International Children's Peace Prize with recognition by Malala Yousafzai on X
- CNN's As Equals
- The MOSAIC Awards
- King Charles III's Coronation Medal
- 2025 UN Young Leader for SDGs

"Her story...is an inspiration to all of us to keep going no matter the challenges we face."

— Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton at the Clinton Global Initiative 2025

IDEAL AUDIENCES

- Girls' Schools and girl-focused organizations
- Colleges & Universities
- Youth Leadership programs
- Global education & Social Impact Events
- International and Human Rights Forums