



Fatima Bhutto

Renowned author, columnist and humanitarian

Fatima Bhutto has spoken widely about leadership especially regarding women, the role of violence in politics, press freedom among many other topics. Without a doubt, she is a highly accomplished, entertaining and passionate speaker.

Fatima's biography

Fatima Bhutto's background

Fatima was born under curfew in Kabul, Afghanistan in 1982. Her father, Murtaza, was in exile from his home country of Pakistan whose military junta had executed his father, Pakistan's first democratically elected head of state Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, three years before. Before Zulfikar was hanged, he ordered his two sons to leave Pakistan, he feared that he would be killed and that they would be next.

Though Fatima spent her childhood in Damascus, Syria before returning to Pakistan, [politics](#) and the violence that accompanied it was never far behind. In 1985 her uncle Shahnawaz Bhutto was murdered and her father, a member of parliament in Pakistan, was killed outside their home in 1996. In 2007, her aunt Benazir also lost her life violently.

Fatima studied Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures at Columbia University, before completing a Masters in South Asian Government and Politics at the School of Oriental and African Studies. She published her first book, a volume of poetry 'Whispers of the Desert' (Oxford University Press) when she was 15 years old. Fatima began her writing career with a weekly column for Jang, Pakistan's largest Urdu newspaper, and The News, its English sister paper, which included written diaries from Tehran, Iran, Cuba and Lebanon during the 2006 summer war.

Her work has since appeared in The Financial Times, Granta, Vogue UK and Vogue India, The NewStatesman, Porter, The Nation and The Guardian, among other publications. Fatima's published works include a collection of first-hand accounts from survivors of the 2005 Pakistan earthquake, Songs of Blood and Sword (Jonathan Cape) a non-fiction account of Pakistani politics and her family, and a

novel, *The Shadow of the Crescent Moon* (Penguin), which was long listed for the Bailey's Prize in 2014 and won the Prix de la Romanciere in 2014.

In 2012, she was selected to be a Young Global Leader for the World Economic Forum, one of 192 YGLs from 59 countries, all of whom were chosen for their outstanding [leadership](#), professional accomplishments and commitment to society.

In 2018, Fatima's latest book *The Runaways* was published in Pakistan, India, UK and Australia by Penguin Random House. It is an explosive novel that poses difficult questions about modern identity in a world on fire.

Fatima is a highly eloquent speaker, with a diverse range of subjects including; leadership, women and politics, the challenges of democracy, women's leadership, [women's empowerment](#) and the Middle East and South Asia. Previous speaking engagements include Airbnb, Merrill Lynch, Swedbank, Flight Centre, Escada, Louis Vuitton, Roger Vivier, One Young World, Marka and India Today.

Fatima's talks

- **Women's rights and humanitarian needs**
- **World politics**
- **Middle East politics**
- **Anecdotal on her own fascinating life and experiences**

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