

I have a dream

Anjum Malik

I have a dream that for every child born anywhere, everywhere in the world, it is taken for granted, without a question or a thought, they have free education, from the moment they need it.

A given right of free education to every baby born in the world is a dream I carry, waiting for it to become true.

From nursery to first school, to the bigger school, college, university, wherever.

Imagine a world where little babies would be learning from the time they are ready.

Everywhere in the world, in countries, cities, villages, towns, in each street, lane, alleyway, every little gully. Wherever a child is born, there is education waiting to unfold, as natural as growing, breathing, moving, for the little person.

A world where every child gets to go to a nursery and learn to play, sing songs, and make sense of the alphabet of their language and other languages.

They have paintbrushes, crayons, pencil, pens, papers and screens to make their marks.

To create their masterpieces to be displayed in a book neatly dated and documented by loving parents for the future. Notebooks, pieces of paper, a device, a computer, anything, a memento. Masterpieces for their parents to hang up on their walls or stick onto the fridge door.

They continue with their higher education – however long – academic, hands-on, working and learning, in whatever capacity they want to do it,

they will learn all that they want.

Imagine.

This is our world, the norm, the everyday, expected, accepted, what we all do.

It is possible, so easy to make this dream come true. It would not take much to create places of learning. A room, an open yard, a field, a space for the children to gather with their teachers.

For people in power and able to make things happen, to set aside all it would take to make this happen as a priority.

Imagine having that chance, the given right to learn, to develop and have the opportunity to come up with answers for each person born in our beautiful world. What would it mean for all of us to have so many young minds coming up?

Anjum Malik

Anjum Malik is a multilingual poet, scriptwriter, performer, filmmaker and a senior lecturer in creative writing at Manchester Metropolitan University. She writes drama regularly for BBC and independent companies. She is also a creative writing tutor for leading literary organisations in UK and overseas. Anjum is inspired by food, real stories and fiction for her writing. She also specialises in working with hard to reach, not normally seen groups and communities through her company 'Black Stories Matter CIC'. Over 80 of her scripts have been produced, transmitted or performed; her poetry is in numerous anthologies as well as her collection, *Before The Rains*. Anjum is a passionate promoter of her inherited lively poetry tradition of Mushairas together with the poetry she grew up with of *ghazals* and *shers*. She has been promoting the model of Mushairas (poetic symposiums) for over 20 years in the UK, with the Manchester Multi-Language Mushaira

being the latest she has helped to set up. Her previous jobs include police officer, interpreter, salesperson, business owner and classical Indian Kathak dancer. She was born in Saudi Arabia of Pakistani heritage and has lived in Pakistan as well several cities in the UK. Agent: Georgina Ruffhead www.davidhigham.co.uk/filmclients/anjum-malik/

A recording of this talk can be found on the WritersMosaic website at **writersmosaic.org.uk**

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