



MY FAVOURITE LEADER

Muniba Mazari was born on **3rd of March 1987**. She is a Pakistani artist, model, activist, motivational speaker and television host. **She uses a wheelchair due to injuries sustained in a car accident at the age of 21** which makes her Pakistan's first wheelchair bound girl.

Belonging to a conservative Baloch family, Mazari was married at the age of 18. In her inspiring 2014 TED-talk which propelled her into the limelight, Mazari recalled that her marriage was not a happy affair. In 2008, while Mazari and her husband were travelling to Rahim Yar Khan from Quetta, they met with an accident after her spouse fell asleep at the wheel. While her former husband managed to escape from the toppled car, Mazari lay trapped under the wrecked car and as a result sustained a lot of injuries. The radius ulna of her right arm was fractured, her entire ribcage was fractured and due to the ribcage injury, her lungs and liver were "badly injured."

➤ **I couldn't breathe, but the injury that changed my life completely, as a person and my perception towards life- was the spine injury. Three vertebrae were completely crushed and I became paralyzed for the rest of my life.**

At the hospital, she discovered that half of her body was fractured and the other half paralyzed.

➤ **Doctors have put a lot of titanium in my back to fix my back. That's why people call me 'The Iron Lady of Pakistan.'**

Mazari's true aspiration was to become an artist and as she lay on the hospital bed the doctor dashed her dream by informing her that she would not be able to hold a paintbrush again due the multiple injuries she had sustained. Being the harbinger of bad news, the doctor told Mazari that she would not be able to walk nor could she have a child.

What devastated Mazari was the fact that she could not experience motherhood. She explained how the importance of motherhood is inculcated in every Pakistani girl from young age, the notion that if a woman cannot have a child then "[she is incomplete.](#)"

What helped her immensely during her darkest moments were her mother's words, "[this too shall pass. God has a greater plan for you.](#)"

Upon being discharged from hospital after two and a half months, Mazari was instructed to remain in bed, she was bedridden for two and a half years. During that period, she resolved to show people how blessed they truly are. How she began to accept herself as a differently abled person, was when she sat in the wheelchair for the first time after two years.

➤ **That day I decided that I am going to live life for myself. I am not going to be that perfect person for someone, I am just going to take this moment and I will make it perfect for myself.**

She spoke about her fears during that time and her biggest fears were divorce and not experiencing motherhood. The fears that had been ingrained by societal pressures. Mazari resolved to overcome those fears one by one.

In a bid to change the outlook of people towards those who are differently abled, Mazari started to speak more in public, to appear in advertisements for

various companies, to paint more; thus, becoming Pakistan's first wheelchair bound artist.

➤ **When you accept yourself for who you are, the world recognizes you. It all starts from within. I became the national ambassador for UN Women Pakistan and now I speak for the rights of women and children. We talk about inclusion, diversity and gender equality- which is a must.**

Mazari was also featured in BBC's '[Hundred Women for 2015](#)' and Forbes '[30 under 30](#).' Muniba Mazari continues to be a powerful voice for inclusion and diversity in Pakistan.

➤ **That was when I realized that I was thinking too much about his deformities. He is happy with himself; he does not care what others think. Do you know what he says when someone asks him about the injuries on his face? He says, these scars are my medals and I wear them with pride.**

Mazari considers her personal pain to be beautiful as it allows her to connect with other people who are in pain. Her resilience, determination and strong voice continue to inspire many in Pakistan and internationally.

Always attributing her strength to her mother, she shared that the first time she realized that heroes have no gender was when her mother believed in her and assured her that "[this too shall pass](#)."

• ***Qualities of a leader:***

- ***Accountability***
- ***Confidence***
- ***Decision Maker***
- ***Good Communication***
- ***Sets Example***

- ***Motivates Others***
- ***Calls Attention to Success***

❖ You don't need a title to be a leader. And, simply having a title won't make you a leader. Everyone has the opportunity to lead, every day.

- **Learn to be Grateful after Difficulties:**

Muniba Mazari believes in the power of words, saying, “**They can make you and break you.**”

- **Conclusion:**

“ It's the story of a woman who in pursuit of her dreams and aspirations made other people realize that if you think that your life is hard and you're giving up on that, because you think your life is unfair, think again. Because when you think that way, you are being unfair to your own self.”