

# Fearless Girl: Education, girls, women and a growing movement

*"F-E-A-R has two meanings: 'Forget Everything And Run' or 'Face Everything And Rise.' The choice is yours." – Zig Ziglar*

The "Fearless Girl," a 4-foot-tall bronze statue of a girl standing defiantly with her hands on her hips has found a permanent home around the corner from her previous perch facing Wall Street's "Charging Bull." At the December unveiling, U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., observed: "Now, instead of staring down the bull, she's going to be staring down all of business right here in the center and capital of business for America, here in New York City."

Originally commissioned by State Street Global Advisers as a temporary statement that would stand



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for just seven days facing the bull in Bowling Green Park, the statue sculpted by Kristen Visbal, garnered so much interest that the mayor extended the statue's permit. What began as a statement about voice has become a movement, not only about gender equity in America, but in the world. At the unveiling, Carmelyn Malalis, New York City Commission on Human Rights Commissioner, said:

"'Fearless Girl' means so (much) to many regardless of gender... She represents progress, potential and hope (and) represents all of the women who fought for equity and equality before us."

Equality is still a complicated and far-fetched dream for many women in the world.

Malala Yousafzai, Pakistani educational crusader, came into the spotlight in 2012 when as an 11-year-old, she wrote for the BBC about life under the Taliban and her struggle to fight for girls' education in her community – using a pen name, Gul Makai. In October 2012, targeted by the Taliban, Yousafzai was shot in the head while getting off the bus from school.



*Photo by Quincy Whitney*

'Fearless Girl' by Kristen Visbal stands up to stare down the New York Stock Exchange in New York City.