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American Society of International Law Honors Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai and Malala Fund with 2024 Champion of International Rule of Law Award

Award Ceremony to feature discussion on gender apartheid in Afghanistan

NEW YORK, NY, October 9, 2024 -- The American Society of International Law ('the Society' or 'ASIL') will present its 2024 Champion of the International Rule of Law Award to Malala Fund and its Co-Founder and Executive Chair, Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai, for their advocacy to secure free, safe, quality education for all girls and specifically for their work to end gender apartheid in Afghanistan.

The award will be presented at the ASIL Gala, held at the New York City Bar Association on October 9, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. The evening will feature a discussion with Malala Yousafzai; Binaifer Nowrojee, President, Open Society Foundations; and Sahar Halaimzai, Director, Afghanistan Initiative, Malala Fund, about the urgency of addressing the human rights crisis facing women and girls in Afghanistan under the Taliban, and the global campaign to codify gender apartheid as a crime against humanity under international law. The event will be hosted by Mélida Hodgson, President of the Society and partner in the International Arbitration Group at Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP; Michael Cooper, Executive Director of the Society; and Christina Hioureas, Partner and Co-Chair of the International Litigation and Arbitration Department and Chair of the United Nations Practice Group at Foley Hoag, who also serves as chair of the ASIL Gala.

Malala Yousafzai began her activism for girls' education at age 11 when she anonymously blogged for the BBC about extreme rights violations under the Taliban's affiliate organization in Pakistan's Swat Valley. Twelve years ago today, at age 15, Yousafzai was shot by the Taliban for speaking out against the regime for their extremist policies banning girls from attending school. In 2014, she co-founded Malala Fund with her father to pursue her fight to see every girl



complete 12 years of free, safe, quality education and have the freedom to lead their own futures. Yousafzai was the youngest-ever recipient of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her efforts.

In the 10 years since its inception, Malala Fund has helped millions of girls around the world learn by funding grassroots activists and organizations, building communities and movements, and pushing governments to take stronger action and implement the right policies. The Fund targets its work – and the groups it supports – by breaking down specific barriers keeping girls out of school, notably by advocating for the rights and resources necessary for girls to complete 12 full years of education.

ASIL is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership organization founded in 1906. ASIL holds Special Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and is a constituent society of the American Council of Learned Societies. The organization advances international law scholarship and education for international law professionals as well as for broader policymaking audiences and the public. Prior recipients of the Award are Dr. Fiona Hill, Amal Clooney, and Brad Smith.

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