

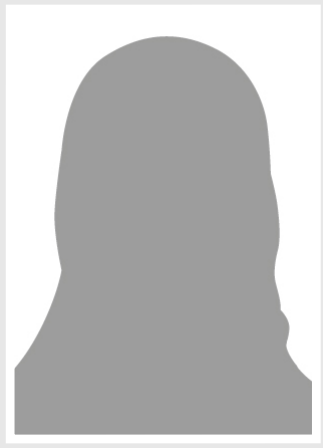
Faiza

Easy to read life story



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST

Faiza's name and image have been changed to protect her identity.



Key terms:

Sudan: A country in east Africa.

Government: A group of people who run a country, making the laws and rules.

Asylum seeker: A person who has had to leave their home country because they are in danger and has asked another country for permission to live there.

Volunteer: A person who does some work for free.

Campaigning: Working to make a difference in the world.

Faiza was born in 1961 in **Sudan**. Her family lived in a community where everyone loved and supported each other. At night there was no electricity, so the whole village would sit together and tell stories. It made Faiza feel very happy.

When she was 20, Faiza moved to the big capital city, Khartoum. She went to university, became a lawyer, and got married. Faiza and her husband had four children.

In 2003, the **government** started attacking people in a place called Darfur, in the west of Sudan. They were attacking them because of the colour of their skin and who they were. Lots of Faiza's mother's family lived in Darfur, and many of them were killed.

Faiza wanted to be able to help the women who survived these attacks. She visited where they were living and went back to university to find ways to make sure this never happened again.

Other countries noticed what the government in Sudan was doing, and how wrong it was. The Sudanese Government tried to say that it was all lies. They tried to stop people like Faiza, who knew what had been happening.

Soldiers started following Faiza around. They waited outside her house and office and threatened her. She was afraid but wanted to keep working.

One day, a soldier showed Faiza a picture of her daughter, and threatened to hurt her. Faiza realised she had to leave the country – her children were in danger.

In 2007, Faiza took her four children out of their home in the middle of the night. They took just one small bag with them. They got on a plane to the UK. Faiza's husband stayed behind to make it look like they were going on a short trip. They couldn't even tell anyone they were going. Faiza didn't see her husband again for four years.

When they got to the UK, Faiza and her children were **asylum seekers**. This made life very hard. They had to move house all the time. Sometimes there was no heating even in the middle of winter. Faiza was used to having lots of friends and family around, but now she had to be a good mum all by herself. She knew that they could be asked to leave the country at any time.

Because Faiza was an asylum seeker, she wasn't allowed to work, so she decided to **volunteer**. She worked with charities helping other people like her. She **campaigned** against hate crime and worked with community groups.

Finally, two years later, Faiza and her children were told they had permission to stay in the UK.

In 2017, Faiza was given an 'Inspire Women Award' because of all the good work she has done here.

Faiza cannot return to Sudan, because it is still not safe for her there. The government who attacked her are still in power and could put her in jail.

Faiza is very grateful to have found safety in the UK, but she misses a lot of things from her home in Sudan. She misses the sunshine, and her friends and family. She had plans for her life and wasn't able to do them because of what happened. She hopes one day, she will be able to go back home safely.

Find out more...

Genocide in Darfur: hmd.org.uk/darfur

Other resources for educators: hmd.org.uk/education