



A Note of
Gratitude and Appreciation

The Hague, 4th January 2019

To,
The Makers of GUL MAKAI,
The Producer, the Director, the Global Advisor, the Investor and the Team Tekno Films,

The story of GUL MAKAI that pays a tribute to the bravery, intelligence and empowerment of Malala Yousafzai, is told to the world by MEN ENGAGED in promoting women`s human rights and gender equality: they are the brilliant team at Tekno Films, the gracious producer Sanjay Singla, dedicated director Amjad Khan and an inspiring co-producer & global advisor Shahid Khan: The GUL MAKAI message is acknowledged as loud and superb, through an influential film medium.

It is with great pleasure and honour to learn about the premier screening of a wonderful story of defiant Gul Makai whose ultimate real-life resilience as Malala Yousafzai, has turned this diva into a living legend, the most loved young heroin of our time. Gul Makai, a school girl from a beautiful town of Swat in Pakistan, an advocate for children`s right to education, merges as a heroin from within the complex regional geo-political context. Her real name is Malala.

While the tale of heroine Gul Makai is a real-life story of Malala Yousafzai, the Malala narrative itself echoes the hardship, fight and struggle of women`s movement in Pakistan which for decades is facing an on-going denial and abuse of women`s basic human rights and dignity. The Gul Makai story is also an untold and underwritten tale of success of so many stalwart` heroines in Pakistan who undoubtedly championed, many remarkable legislative battles, gained a bit stretched political space and acquired wider recognition for freedom of self-expression and movement.

Gul Makai, is a tribute not only to women who fought for protecting their own rights and preventing against manipulation and terrorization in Pakistan but **the film can also be considered as a candid recognition of the support and sacrifices by those great buddy men and boys who often stood up side by side and shoulder to shoulder with women activists in the decades of global challenges, regional politics and domestic violent brutalities in Pakistan: Sanjay Singla, Amjad Khan and Shahid Khan certainly belong to a clan whose doctrine remains an un-faded and undefeated commitment, now through a well-told story: The story of Gul Makai!**

It is of great importance to highlight women`s resilience and promote their right to education, especially in conflict ridden regions and in emerging democracies. Terrorism and violent extremism have long been outsourced to the global market. Security around us is fragile. To invest in educating girls must be a priority but devoting in training of and consultation with the politicians, the national institutions, the parliamentarians and civil society organisations, is equally important for women, peace and planetary security. Women`s share in governance needs to be promoted through gender focused electoral reform.



A gender balanced governing structure is instrumental in placing the fair resource allocation mechanisms to combat the challenges of gender-gap in education, governance, environmental security, climate change, food security, water management and acute-malnutrition/hunger.

In a world where women`s gender and development organisations are systematically excluded from sustainable funding mechanisms, films like GUL MAKAI help furthering the work of gender focused international organisations. We the people, girls and boys, women and men need to support gender equality around us and in doing so respect, recognition and resources for women organisations must be acknowledged.

Thank you,

With best regards,

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Director

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[Gender Concerns International](http://www.genderconcerns.org) is a gender and development organisation based in the Netherlands. It works with national institutions and local organisations in Asia, the MENA Region, Africa, and Europe since 2004. Key areas of work include: democracy, climate change, women, peace and security and election observation. Through its [Gender Election Observation Mission \(GEOM\) program](#), the organization addresses [the democratic participation of women](#) as electoral officials, candidates, and voters before, during, and after the elections. The organization has extensive experience observing elections from a distinct gender perspective, evidenced by the successful implementation of GEOM`s in countries such as Pakistan ([2008](#) and [2013](#)), Libya ([2012](#)), Morocco ([2011](#), [2015](#) and [2016](#)), Tunisia ([2011](#) and [2014](#)), Myanmar ([2015](#)), and the Netherlands ([2017](#)). **Gender Concerns International is as well a signatory to the UN Declaration of Principles on International Elections Observation, and an active member of the community ([2013](#), [2016](#), [2017](#) and [2018](#)).** Organisation work to promote UNSCR 1325 and SDG Agenda 2030 in collaboration with UN Bodies internationally.