



## Christmas Bowl

### First Sunday of Advent Keeping hope alive for girls in Afghanistan

**Hope keeps us going in bleak times. It's faith that God's love will prevail in our lives. But COVID-19 is dashing the hopes of Afghani girls to go to school and escape the oppression they were born into. This Christmas, please help girls like Jaleela\* to keep learning – and restore their hopes for the future.**

Jaleela didn't start school until she was eight, because girls' education wasn't encouraged in her community. But thanks to your support, Act for Peace's partner organisation showed her dad the benefits of having an educated daughter.

Because of this advocacy, ten-year-old Jaleela has been getting the education that both her father and mother missed out on. She loves school, and wants to help build a better future for her conflict-torn country. Jaleela said:

*"There is a lot of fighting in this country, so I should become a doctor."*

Sadly, COVID-19 is now making it even harder for girls like Jaleela to learn and realise their dreams. Afghanistan's schools closed in March to stop the spread of the virus. And most children don't have internet access, or even a TV or radio, to learn remotely.



Thanks to your support, girls in Afghanistan like 10 year old Jaleela, are able to attend school and receive an education.

The lockdown is particularly hurting girls, who are already the most vulnerable in their society. As their families come under greater financial strain, many girls are being forced to work, to care for their households, or into early marriages.

**The longer girls go without learning, the more likely they will lose their hard-won right to go to school for good. But through your gift to the Christmas Bowl, you can help show them a life of hope and opportunity is still within reach.**

Your kindness will help Act for Peace's local partner, Community World Service Asia (CWSA), create and distribute self-learning packages to children across Afghanistan.

You'll help run awareness sessions for families, so they understand how important it is to keep their daughters in school. And, you will allow CWSA to train more teachers so they can provide the best, child-centred classes as schools reopen.

**Education brings hope. Please give this Christmas and renew that hope for girls in Afghanistan.**

*\*Jaleela's name has been changed to protect her identity as a minor.*