

TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN AND CHILD REFUGEES



UNA CHICHESTER DISTRICT



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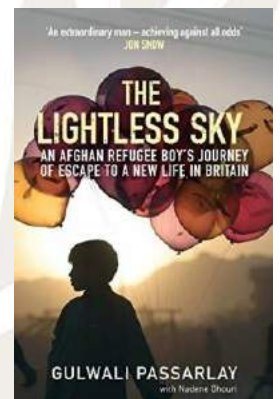
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From top right: Gulwali aged 8; carrying Olympic torch; one of many interviews; aged 12 with his family

Gulwali Passarlay is an Afghan refugee who was trafficked as a result of the US invasion of Afghanistan following 9/11. He arrived in the UK aged 13 and eventually found help, learning English, getting GCSEs and A levels and graduating in politics from Manchester University.

Now aged 22, Gulwali is or has been a Department of Education Youth Advisor, a Model Westminster Ambassador, a Young Labour representative and president of the United Afghan Peace Movement. In 2012 he was chosen to carry the Olympic torch through Bolton, Lancs. He was invited to represent the North West on the British Youth Council's National Scrutiny Group whose task was to express the views of young people to government departments and ministers. Gulwali aims to work as a UN negotiator and ultimately to run for the leadership of Afghanistan.

Having experienced the ordeals that refugees continue to endure today, Gulwali decided that his story had to be told. His book *The Lightless Sky* (Atlantic Books 2015) describes his harrowing journey and his eventual reception in the UK. He explores why people are leaving their countries and suggests how we should be treating them when they arrive here, and why.



Copies of *The Lightless Sky* by Gulwali Passarlay will be available on the night

Further info about UNA Chichester District: unachichester.org.uk