

Ayaan activist. i can't
begin to describe
what

[Family](#), [Marriage](#)



Ayaan was able to lift herself up from a small life in which she would not be heard, to the life of a public speaker and a women's rights activist. I can't begin to describe what she has gone through, and she is still speaking in public about her morals and ideals. Nothing was able to shut her up, not even death threats. Her persistence is incredibly admirable and something I wish I had my own life.

I also chose to write my hagiography about Ayaan Hirsi Ali not despite my disagreement with some of her views concerning Islam, but rather because of my disagreement. I feel like nowadays people are far too eager to demonize anyone with opposing views, instead of respectfully disagreeing with them. Instead of calling each other bigots or stupid liberals, we should be trying to debate each other. This is exactly what Ayaan is doing; she is creating room for debates about the less pretty parts of Islam and other things that should be discussed. In the end Ayaan is an inspirational woman who shows girls they can become whatever they want. Ayaan Hirsi Ali was born on 13 November 1969 in Somalia. Her father was a prominent person in the Somali revolution, but was imprisoned after she was born.

Her father was heavily against female genital mutilation, but her grandmother decided she should be cut anyway. Fortunately Ayaan's father was able to escape prison, and the family decided to leave Somalia in 1977. They went to Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia and lastly settled in the capital of Kenya, Nairobi. There Ayaan attended an English-speaking secondary school for Muslim girls. Her religious teacher inspired her to practice a more conservative and strict version of Islam, which led to Ayaan choosing to wear a hijab. At the time she also agreed with the Muslim Brotherhood, an

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organization in favor of shariah law. But soon she started reading English novels with female leads, which changed her view on the position of women in society.

After finishing high school Ayaan followed a secretary course. In 1992 she decided to move to the Netherlands, because she wanted to escape an arranged marriage. She proceeded to study Political Science at Leiden University and worked as an interpreter for Somali women. She started to read books, such as Sigmund Freud's books, which challenged her beliefs on morality.

This was also a step towards Ayaan's independent thinking process. The 9/11 attacks were also a turning point for Ayaan's relationship with Islam, she realized the Qur'an is just a book, not everything it says should be followed. She finally renounced her religion when she read the "Atheist Manifesto" by Herman Phillipse. After graduating from Leiden University she joined the PVDA and started joining public debates. But in 2002 she decided to leave the PVDA for the VVD, as the latter party had more room for criticism towards Islam. In 2004 Ayaan and film director Theo van Gogh published the movie Submission, which offered criticism towards the way women were treated in Islamic societies.

This short film sparked so much outrage that Theo van Gogh was murdered and Ayaan was threatened. She later went into hiding with Geert Wilders. In 2006 she moved to the U.

S. because of an issue concerning her asylum application. Because Ayaan had lied about her surname (she used her grandfathers name) and her age. According to Ayaan this was necessary because she was afraid her family would find her. But in 2006 minister Rita Verdonk launched an investigation into her naturalization.

In the end Ayaan was allowed to retain her Dutch citizenship, but she decided to move to the U. S. anyway. In the United States she founded AHA, a women's rights organization, and continued to be a public speaker. My hagiography is about Ayaan Hirsi Ali. Even though I don't agree with everything Ayaan has to say about Islam, I have chosen to do my hagiography about her simply because her journey through life has inspired me.