

# sacrededge<sup>2025</sup>

## *stories of the edge*

### Profile : Salma Gul

This is Salma Gul, a 39-year-old Hazara woman born in Kabul, Afghanistan. She is the 2nd eldest of 10 children. She started working when she was 9 years old. She grew up during the war. She could not read or write until she was 17 years old. In 2011, she started attending university and founded an organisation with her friends under the name of Young Women for Change with an aim to empower Afghan women. For the first time, they organised a protest against violence against women and harassment on the road. In February 2013, YWfC organised a fashion show to break down barriers in the highly conservative Muslim society, which became too dramatic. Salma left Afghanistan in March 2013 and went to India where she experienced being a single woman refugee in India for seven years. She learned many things about Indian culture, including its food, herbs, music, festivals, fashion, colours, and various other aspects of Indian life, which she found to be beautiful.

At the end of 2019, while traveling with a group of activist women from Europe and Afghanistan to South India, the UNHCR officer rang offering for her to come to Australia. On 19 March 2020, Salma arrived in Geelong, Australia, and she loves it. She says "We have a saying, Being patient is challenging, but it has a joyful result." In these past 5 years Salma has begun working at Cultura Migration Services and she is completing her Diploma in Community Services. She has a certificate in Mental Health and Community Services. She is now an Australian Citizen.

