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Maeda Alavis tale på Kulturmødet Mors

Taler Maeda Alavi Dato 22. august 2024 **Sted** Folkescenen, KulturPladsen, Nykøbing Mors

Omstændigheder

Talen blev holdt ved Røsts arrangement "Unge ord fra Nord" på Kulturmødet Mors, hvor syv unge fra Danmark, Finland, Færøerne, Grønland og Norge blev inviteret til at dele deres perspektiver på at være ung i norden.

1 Hello ladies and gentlemen,

My name is Maeda, and I am originally from Afghanistan. A country where women are currently in the worst conditions, having virtually no presence in

- society and being deprived of their rights to work and education. There was a time in my life when everything felt dark, like I was walking through a tunnel with no end in sight. I moved to Sweden, hoping for a fresh start, but instead, I felt completely lost. Making friends seemed impossible, and I couldn't see myself as part of the community around me. It was as if I were invisible, alone
- ¹⁰ in a world where I didn't belong. The colors of my life had faded, and I was stuck in a place that felt gray and empty.

Just when I thought I couldn't go on, I found an organization called Songlines for Music. It felt like a lifeline when I needed it most. Songlines is a group in Sweden that brings together young people from different backgrounds, helping them connect through music, volunteering, and workshops. This organization became my support system, giving me a sense of belonging and purpose.

We connected through our shared love of music, and for the first time in a long while, I felt alive again. It was like a new song started playing in my heart, bringing back the color and joy I had lost. I went from feeling invisible to being part of something bigger, something that made me feel seen and valued.

Songlines helped me discover talents I didn't know I had. The encouragement I
received from these professionals was like a ray of sunshine breaking through the clouds, giving me the strength and confidence to keep going. Through this

organization, I found my place among the people in my new country. It made me realize that even in a foreign land, you can find a home through shared

passions and friendships. I was no longer invisible; I had found where I 30 belonged.

As I started to feel more at home in Sweden, I also began to notice some of the challenges that come with living in a diverse society. On the one hand, cultural events and community spaces in Sweden celebrate diversity and bring people 35 together, enriching our society. These places allow Swedes and immigrants to learn from each other, creating a richer and more diverse culture.

But, of course, there are still challenges. Sometimes, tensions arise when different cultural practices don't align with Swedish norms and values. Issues 40 like unemployment, housing, and social exclusion still affect many immigrants, making it hard for them to fully become part of society. The rise of right-wing populist movements across Europe is like a dark cloud on the horizon, threatening the progress we've made in building communities where everyone

belongs. These movements often try to divide people, seeing differences as 45 threats instead of chances to learn and grow.

While populists may claim they want to protect national identity, their approach is like building a fence around a garden, shutting out the very things

- that help it grow. A society is like a garden; it thrives when there are many 50 different flowers, each adding to its beauty and diversity. We need to remember that every culture and every person adds to the richness of our shared experience.
- The rise of these movements reminds us that we must stand up for values like 55 inclusion, respect, and unity. At the same time, these challenges push us to find better ways to bring everyone into the community. There's a Swedish proverb that says, "Shared joy is double joy; shared sorrow is half sorrow." We need to work together to share both the joys and challenges of living in a multicultural world.

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In conclusion, while the rise of populism in Europe is a serious challenge, we must not let it overshadow the power of unity and the potential that lies in our diversity. Just as Songlines helped me find my place and my voice, we must help

others find theirs. Only by singing together can we create a harmony that 65

drowns out the voices of division and builds a community where everyone belongs.

70 Thank you.

Kilde Manuskript tilsendt af taler

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> **Tags** Agitationstale

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