

Reflections

Let's end this

BLOODY difficult women — this phrase grabbed the headlines a few weeks ago referring to the strict, solid and professional stand our Prime Minister Teresa May would take in the Brexit negotiations.

In this particular context the phrase was used to describe her ability to strike the best deal for the UK. But in history we notice lots of women across the globe were thought to be bloody difficult just because they stood for love, fairness, justice, peace, freedom and equality.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta was considered a difficult woman when she replaced her Loreto convent habit with a simple white cotton sari to venture eventually into the slums of Calcutta. But the hungry, the homeless, the naked, the blind, the crippled, the lepers, the unloved and the unwanted began to have dignity and self worth through her.

The Iron Lady of Britain Margaret Thatcher was considered a difficult woman by her opponents for her stand on economy, taxation and foreign affairs. But for rest of us she remains a legend with the record of being Britain's greatest-ever peacetime Prime Minister and the most popular general election victor in British history with historic hat trick and the tenure lasting over 11 years.

Malala Yousafzai was considered a difficult woman by the Taliban who



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shot her because her family was involved in education and humanitarian service to the people of Pakistan. But for the world she continues to be an inspiring icon of bravery championing the cause of education for every child free of gender discrimination.

Blessed Virgin Mary was considered a difficult woman by everyone who could not accept the apostles gathering under her leadership to be empowered by the Holy Spirit. But for the humanity she remains the central figure of piety and unity.

Fights for justice, peace, equality and freedom have largely been met with stiff opposition of harassment, defamation, torture and death threats. Opposition gets tougher especially when women lead the fights.

Even today women suffer from gender discrimination in the world including in a developed country like Britain. We must end this since God has created us to be fruitful and multiply as equals. 'She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue'. Proverbs 31:26.