

Dear lovely illustrators and writers

Back in 2016 I wrote a poem, **The Day War Came** to highlight the plight of unaccompanied child refugees. The story of an orphaned child, fleeing from the destruction of war and refused entry to school because 'there is no chair for you to sit on', struck a chord; following its publication in [the Guardian](#), artists and writers, adults and children, posted their pictures of empty chairs to an online gallery. Each one was a symbol of the welcome and kindness we would like to see extended to these children, who have suffered so much.

The poem is now a book, with powerful illustrations by artist Rebecca Cobb, published by Walker books. Thanks to Walker's generosity, **£1 from every copy sold will go to the charity Help Refugees.**

I'd like the book to spread the message of kindness and welcome even further, so on **13th September** Walker Books and **Help Refugees** will be hosting an event at **Foyles Bookshop**. Rebecca and I will be there to talk and to sign copies, but we also want to hold a sale of pictures of empty chairs, to raise money for **Help Refugees**.

So we are asking everyone we know to create and donate a picture of an empty chair, to go alongside the chair pictures which I have been gathering from children for the last year. Guests on the launch night in September will be asked to give a standard donation to receive a chair picture. Pictures will be displayed anonymously, so guests won't know if their picture is the work of someone famous, or a talented six year old, until they have paid their money and can turn the picture over to read the artist's name on the back.

Would you do a chair picture? It doesn't have to take long, it doesn't have to be perfect or beautiful, it just has to come with a bit of love.

With warmest best wishes and thanks in advance...

Nicola Davies



