

## Why this book was written...

In the spring of 2016, the UK government refused to give sanctuary to 3,000 unaccompanied child refugees. At about the same time I heard a story about a refugee child being refused entry to a school because there wasn't a chair for her to sit on. Out of that this poem came and was published first on the Guardian newspaper's website, with images of an empty chair by the artists Jackie Morris and Petr Horacek. In the days that followed, hundreds and hundreds of people posted images of empty chairs as symbols of solidarity with those children who had lost everything and had nowhere to go – and no chance of education. I want this story to remind us all about the power of kindness and its ability to give hope for a better future.

One way you can help children like the little girl in this story is to support charities such as Help Refugees. Founded by a group of friends who saw the worsening situation for refugees in Europe and wanted to do something about it, Help Refugees now supports over 70 projects to aid refugees worldwide with funding, food, shelter and volunteers. Filling gaps left by governments and large NGOs, they respond to the genuine needs of refugees and displaced populations in a fast, flexible, empowering way. Go to **[helprefugees.org](http://helprefugees.org)** to learn more about their work and how you can help.

*Nicola Davies*