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59th edition

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THE 59th BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR — 21-24 MARCH 2022

UKRAINE AT THE BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR

A “manifesto” stand, the *Ukrainian Books* exhibition, a brand new book and the value of peace in the words of Etgar Keret

Ukraine is represented at the 59th Bologna Children's Book Fair with the **Ukrainian National Stand**, a “manifesto” stand (Hall 26, A174) promoted by the Ukrainian Book Institute, PEN Ukraine, the International Book Arsenal Festival and the Book Forum. Ukraine's publishers, who have always been a popular presence at the Fair, will be represented by a series of protest posters against the ongoing war and its violence. The national stand is an appeal to all participants at the Fair, so that they may promote the dissemination of these posters and show their solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

The Bologna Children's Book Fair - BCBF, together with the **International Conference of Book Fair Directors**, has decided to take a stand against the Russian invasion and the Bologna Children's Book Fair has been chosen as the stage to give voice to the position of the associated fairs, reaffirming the value of peace through the words of **Etgar Keret**. **At 5.45 pm on Tuesday 22 March, at the Illustrators Café**, the Israeli author will hold the lecture *What stories can you tell in times of war?*. The directors of the international book fairs also confirm the suspension of contacts with any Russian state agency or institution, and are inviting Ukrainian publishers, authors and illustrators to their events at no cost. The signatories, together with the Bologna Children's Book Fair and its extension BolognaBookPlus, are: Feria Internacional del Libro de Bogotá; Foire du Livre de Bruxelles; International Book Festival Budapest; Frankfurter Buchmesse; Göteborg Book Fair; Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara; Jerusalem International Book Forum; Leipziger Buchmesse; Book World Prague; Bienal Internacional do Livro de São Paulo; Seoul International Book Fair; Taipei International Book Exhibition and the Warsaw Book Fair.

The Ukraine emergency has also prompted BCBF to work on other projects to ensure a **genuine presence** at the Fair of all Ukrainian publishers, authors and illustrators. A worthy tribute to Ukrainian publishing is being made through **Ukrainian Books**, an exhibition dedicated to Ukrainian books and located in the **Service Centre, organised by BCBF in collaboration with its exhibitors and the Ukrainian Book Institute**. The exhibition gathers books that have been chosen from winners and candidates at previous editions of the BolognaRagazzi Award, while others have been brought to the Fair, in their translated editions, by publishers from all over the world who will be present as exhibitors. A collection of **new books** has also arrived from the Ukrainian Book Institute thanks to a network of volunteers.

The exhibition also includes two special books that deal with the theme of war with the aim of facilitating children's understanding of this issue. *Vijna, Sco Zminyla Rondo (The War That Changed Rondo)*, by **Romana Romanyshyn and Andriy Lesiv** (The Old Lion Publishing House, Ukraine) received a **special mention** at the BolognaRagazzi Award 2015: BCBF now turns to the beauty of its images for a message of hope and peace that the world needs now more than ever. Another important project is *The War: The Children Who Will Never Get to Read Books* (My Bookshelf Publishing House, Kyiv, 2022), a picture book created in a very short time by **Masha Serdiuk** and illustrated by **Tetiana Kaliuzhna**: the work was printed in Bologna in quite exceptional circumstances in a single copy that is now on display at the exhibition at the Services Centre. “*This book should never have existed. It is a book about children who will never be able to read books because their lives have been taken away*”. Based on true accounts, the book aims to tell these stories with “*no embellishment, no sentimentality. Just the naked, unadorned, ugly truth*”.

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