

**Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission Meeting  
with bereaved families**  
(Thursday 18 March 2021)

**Attendees**

**Memorial Commission**

Michael Lockwood  
(Meeting Chair)

**Community representatives (8)**

(Bereaved representatives)

Sandra Ruiz  
Hanan Wahabi

(Survivor  
representatives<sup>1</sup>)

Abraham Abebe  
Mohammed Rasoul

(Lancaster West  
representatives)

**Secretariat**

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission secretariat (3)

**Other**

Bereaved attendees (7)

**Meeting purpose**

The purpose of these meetings is to update bereaved families and former residents on the Commission's work and to provide an opportunity for residents to share their thoughts or concerns and to ask questions.

**Opening**

- Michael introduced the meeting, and a one-minute silence was held.

**Update of Commission's work**

- Michael and community representatives introduced themselves and thanked attendees for joining the meeting.
- Michael updated on the Commission's progress so far and explained the Commission recognises the impact the Inquiry and Covid-19 are having on the community's readiness to engage. He said that he has felt some of this frustration and has heard that people feel things are taking too long to progress, which the Commission is conscious of.
- He set out that the Commission is continuing engagement locally, and has spoken to Grenfell United, Grenfell Tower Trust, Lancaster West Residents' Association, faith leaders, some local schools and ward councillors. The Commission is also looking at patrons who will act as advocates for the Commission and community. A community representative reiterated Michael's point on the Commission's learning journey and challenges faced while engaging virtually and added that all community representatives take their role on the Commission seriously as it is close to everyone's hearts. The

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of the Memorial Commission, this refers to former residents of Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk.

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community representative emphasised that all community representatives are available and encouraged attendees to reach out to them as individuals.

- Michael shared with attendees that the Commission has been speaking with representatives of other memorials including Aberfan, 7/7, and the UK Holocaust Memorial.
- Michael said that community engagement organisation, Kaizen, are helping the Commission with ideas gathering and reminded attendees that the community representatives are also available for the community to speak to. Community representatives can be contacted directly via [contact buttons](#) on the Commission's website.
- Michael reminded attendees that the decision on the Tower is with the government. The Commission appreciates the emotional significance the Tower has with the community and the Commission is committed to ensuring there is a fitting memorial the community is proud of, and that Grenfell is never forgotten.
- MHCLG shared a [word cloud](#) for attendees to see. A community representative noted that the word cloud is largely built on ideas gathering within the Lancaster West Estate and wider community, and noted the Commission has faced challenges engaging with the bereaved. A bereaved community representative said that it would be nice to hear directly from the bereaved families what they would like to see as part of the word cloud.

### **Ideas gathering**

- An attendee said that they joined this meeting to feed ideas into a design proposal for the memorial, which will be shared with the Commission and community when the proposal is complete. They said they would like to translate the words from the word cloud into feelings to make the memorial an experience. The attendee explained that it is important the memorial site is well connected with green corridors or a cycle path, and it would be helpful to understand the site plan. The Secretariat explained that the Commission is reviewing options for sharing a visual/model of the site in a sensitive way and added that this may be a physical 3D model or similar when engagement can happen face-to-face. An attendee suggested the Commission hold a 'roadshow' at a community event, where the Commission put forward some ideas that have been gathered so far. This could help drive engagement and encourage people to put their ideas forward.
- An attendee said that they had heard there is a lack of engagement with the bereaved family members and noted that the lack of engagement does not mean people are not interested. The attendee added that their biggest concern was if the Tower is taken down before the bereaved are ready. The attendee added that their idea for a memorial should represent the site as it was before the refurbishment, and that a memorial should have lots of access points, as another attendee suggested. The attendee suggested the names and photos of those who lost their lives (with consent) should be included in the memorial, and also suggested leaving a part of the building as a reminder. A community representative said that the idea of using an element of the building has been raised by the community in a number of conversations the Commission has had. The attendee said they felt it should be a part of the building that represents the Tower before the tragedy.

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- An attendee asked how they could share their ideas for a memorial. A community representative explained that ideas can be shared in this forum, via the Commission's website, with Kaizen or directly with community representatives by using the contact buttons on the website. The community representative also noted that the Commission would welcome views from the community about what they would not like to see as part of the memorial so the Commission can take these into consideration as part of the ideas gathering phase.
- An attendee shared their idea for a memorial and explained they would like to see a sculpture of a large pair of hands holding faces that have been carved into them. Michael reassured the attendee that this idea had been recorded.
- A community representative shared that an option for engaging bereaved families in a way they feel comfortable could be to use the WhatsApp group. An attendee explained that this covers many of the families and while not everyone engages, it is a good way to share details of events and ways for people to get involved. The attendee added that this is an option, but more needs to be done by the Commission. A community representative explained that the Commission is restricted in terms of data protection and added that the Commission is going to be sending out cards and Commission-branded envelopes. The Commission understands that the community receives a large number of letters from RBKC and solicitors; the Commission's cards will be different to other letters and it is hoped that this will help increase engagement with the bereaved and the community.
- Another attendee said that the bereaved community may not know each other by name and suggested the Commission attend a meeting whereby a number of bereaved are present and provide an update to the group. A community representative said this was a good idea and an opportunity for the Commission to share copies of the Commission's cards featuring the community representatives faces/contact details.
- Michael and the community representatives thanked attendees for joining the meeting, sharing their ideas and concerns. An attendee thanked them and said they found it helpful and reassuring.

## Q&A

Attendees asked Michael and the community representatives a number of questions:

- **How many years will it take from inception of a memorial to completion?**  
Michael explained that the Commission's [workplan](#) is indicative, but the expectation is that the Commission will produce an interim report by the end of 2021, and expect a memorial to be complete by 2025.
- **Is the memorial going to take up the full footprint of the site, or only a small percentage?**  
Michael explained that there is not a clear answer at this stage, but the Commission would like it to be as large a space as possible. The attendee added that they would like the design of any memorial to be seen from all angles. A bereaved community representative added that the more the Commission hears from people about the size of the memorial, the more helpful this will be for reaching a clear position on the site footprint.

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- **Where are the funds coming from for the memorial?**

Michael explained that they have spoken with the government about funding and are reassured that this will not be an issue. The government has been clear that the memorial must reflect what the community wants.

- An attendee asked **whether the council were putting pressure on the Commission to bring the Tower down?**

Michael reiterated that the decision on the Tower is with the government and reassured all attendees that the Tower is currently safely maintained by the government. The Secretariat reiterated that RBKC is not involved with the ownership of, or a decision, on the Tower.

- The attendee thanked Michael and the community representatives for their answers and agreed they felt reassured by the answers provided.

**You can contact the Memorial Commission using the details below:**

**Phone:** 0303 444 4831

**Email:** [GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk](mailto:GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk)

**Website:** [www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/](http://www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/) via [contact buttons](#) in 'About us' section.

**Alternatively, you can contact our engagement organisation, Kaizen:**

**Phone:** 020 7082 5508

**Email:** [grenfellmemorial@kaizen.org.uk](mailto:grenfellmemorial@kaizen.org.uk)

**Letter to:** Kaizen, 22a Cliff Villas, London NW1 9AT