

**Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission Meeting
with the Bereaved Families**
(Monday 19th October and Wednesday 21st October)

Attendees

Memorial Commission

Michael Lockwood
(meeting chair for Monday 19th Oct)

Thelma Stober
(Meeting chair on Wednesday 21st Oct)

Community Representatives (8)

(Bereaved Representatives)	(Survivor	(Lancaster West
Sandra Ruiz	Representatives ¹)	Representatives)
Hanan Wahabi	Abraham Abebe	Andrea Newton
		Susan Al-Safadi

Secretariat

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission Secretariat (3)

Other

Bereaved families

Meeting purpose

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

Opening

- A one-minute silence was held at the start of the meeting.

Introductions

- Michael introduced himself and explained that he had previously been involved in Grenfell directly after the tragedy. He has had the opportunity to get to know many of the bereaved families and this is very personal for him.
- Thelma introduced herself and explained that as a 7/7 survivor, she understands a little of what the bereaved families might be going through and the importance of the memorial.
- The community representatives introduced themselves and explained why they are on the Commission and what their role is.
- Commission members explained that since their first meeting in September 2019 they have set up structures for the Commission's ways of working (for example, selecting the co-chairs, agreeing the public authority representatives, and deciding the decision-making quorum). The Commission held some engagement events in February to update on their work and begin early discussions on ideas for a memorial.

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

- The Commission explained how the pandemic has affected their work, resulting in limited face to face engagement opportunities. However, the Commission has succeeded in continuing to work effectively during the pandemic and has met with representatives from other memorials to learn from their experiences.
- A bereaved family asked how long it took for other memorials to be established and whether this might indicate how long it will take for the Grenfell Tower Memorial to be established. The Commission explained that every memorial is different in scope and the length of time varies. The Commission is currently working with the phrase “as fast as possible but as slow as necessary” in mind.
- The Commission explained that they are working with Kaizen (engagement specialists) to gather ideas regarding the memorial from the bereaved, former residents of Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk, Lancaster West Estate residents and the wider community. The Commission explained that they are carrying out their own independent engagement to provide different ways for people to share their thoughts, ideas and concerns. Holding these meetings virtually over Teams is one of the many ways the Commission intends to engage going forward.
- The Commission asked bereaved families how they would like to be updated. One of the bereaved families expressed that they felt they had been kept up to date and appreciated these meetings via Teams, however, they would like to meet in person when possible. The Commission agreed and hoped that they would be able to do so soon. The Commission agreed to hold more of these meetings on a monthly basis going forward.
- When asked about their thoughts on a memorial, one of the bereaved families said it felt too early for them to be thinking about this. The Commission acknowledged that it is likely many people will feel this way and are aiming to work at a pace that is right for bereaved, survivors and the community.
- One of the bereaved families did not want the memorial to be half-hearted; they want it to be a fitting memorial with enough funding to support it. The Commission agreed with this, explaining that a fitting and sustainable memorial is something they are striving for.
- A bereaved family asked whether the ideas are currently being shared with families or if they will be in the future. The Commission explained that whilst ideas will be shared, it’s also important to hear people’s own ideas. The Commission’s job is to gather all these ideas.
- A bereaved family emphasised the importance of understanding that the Grenfell memorial will be different to other memorials because Grenfell Tower was home to hundreds of people. The Commission agreed, stating that it will be different because it was an established, thriving community. However, no decisions have yet been made on any designs and therefore no decision has been made on how to incorporate this element into a memorial. At this point, the Commission is considering how to listen to people’s views on this.

- A bereaved family mentioned that Dr Fiona Wilcox, the Coroner, had said that the memorial could be a resting place for unidentified remains and asked whether this was still the intention. One of the bereaved community representatives explained that, personally, this is something they would like to happen, however, the Commission needs to engage with bereaved families to explore their views on this before a decision can be made.
- Bereaved families asked for clarification on how to contact the Commission members and how to submit their views or arrange a one-to-one meeting. The Commission explained that there are many ways to get in touch with the Commission; emailing the Secretariat (who supports the Commission) at GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk to send through views or to request a meeting with the Commission members, Kaizen (engagement specialists) or the Secretariat. People can stay up to date by signing up to the mailing list on the website at: <https://www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/contact> or following the Commission on Twitter: [@GrenfellTowerMC](https://twitter.com/GrenfellTowerMC). The Secretariat is working on developing further ways that the community representatives can be contacted directly and will be updating the website during November with further details about this.

Next meeting with the bereaved families:

24th November 11:30 – 12:30

25th November 18:00 – 19:00