

**Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission Meeting
with bereaved families and former residents**
(Monday 15 February 2021)

Attendees

Memorial Commission

Thelma Stober
(Meeting Chair)

Community Representatives (4)

(Bereaved Representatives)
Hanan Wahabi

(Survivor
Representatives¹)
Hanan Cherbika
Mohammed Rasoul

(Lancaster West
Representatives)
Susan Al-Safadi

Secretariat

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission Secretariat (3)

Other

Bereaved family and former
resident attendees (6)

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

- Thelma introduced the meeting, and a one-minute silence was held at the start of the meeting.

Update of Commission's work

- Thelma and Community Representatives introduced themselves and thanked attendees for joining the meeting.
- Thelma said it would be good to hear any ideas attendees have for a memorial.
- A Community Representative updated that co-chairs and representatives have been gathering ideas from bereaved, survivors and the local community to help build ideas for a fitting memorial and noted that the Commission wants

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

to engage with as many bereaved and survivors as possible. They added that Kaizen have been supporting with this work. A Community Representative added that the Commission has found it more challenging to speak directly to families and the community during the pandemic, and noted the Inquiry was rightly the focus for families and this was also having an impact.

- A Community Representative updated attendees on the steps the Commission has taken to increase their engagement to make the Commission more visible. [Contact buttons](#) for representatives and details of how to contact the co-chairs have been added to the website and the Commission's first [newsletter](#) has recently been published.
- Thelma updated that the Commission have devised a [workplan](#) which has been published on their website. Thelma noted the workplan is indicative as things may change. The workplan sets out in terms of years from when the Commission started in 2019 to 2025, when it is hoped a memorial could be completed.
- Thelma added that the Commission is currently gathering ideas from the community. Thelma noted the memorial will be able to incorporate lots of different ideas. The Commission will write a report outlining the community's views. There will be a design competition based on the report, to select a preferred design and design team ahead of any construction. Thelma said it would be a decision for the community whether the Commission remains to oversee continuing engagement and decisions on the memorial once the report has been published. Thelma reiterated that the workplan which has been published is a living document and may change as we move forward.
- A Community Representative advised attendees that there will be repeated opportunities to share their ideas. (Find out more about [future meetings](#)). Thelma encouraged attendees to consider meeting 1:1 with Community Representatives, the co-chairs or Kaizen to share their ideas (details of these below).

Q&A

- Thelma explained that a word [cloud](#) which summarised what the Commission have heard about how the community would like the memorial to feel has been published on the Commission's website. She set out how this summarises over 300 words they have heard so far. A representative explained that this allows the community to see and give feedback. Thelma asked the community if there are any other words they would like to be added to the word cloud. Attendees made suggestions including:
 - Unity
 - Forever
- An attendee said they had recently spoken with Kaizen and felt the conversation was good. Kaizen had also sent through a summary of ideas to the attendee following their conversation. Thelma confirmed that all views captured by Kaizen were being shared with the Commission and that it was important for families to feel they could engage in many different ways.
- A Representative asked attendees if they had any other ideas for how they would like to remember the loved ones they lost and gave examples of digital memorials or remembrance books. An attendee suggested a tree which would represent the community and its branches represent words from the word

cloud. An attendee also suggested incorporating a piece of the Tower as a powerful reminder of what happened on the night of the tragedy.

- Thelma then reflected on other memorials the Commission has looked at and noted Coventry Cathedral memorial built a new building and within this are the remnants of the old Cathedral.
- An attendee said there are many people in the community, all from different backgrounds and religions – the memorial should have something to symbolise that everyone is from different parts of the world and a message to the community about living together in peace and harmony. The attendee also suggested having personal items to represent lost loved ones. Thelma thanked the attendee for this suggestion and said that the 9/11 museum has something similar.
- An attendee thanked the Commission for what they are doing and said they had been contacted by Kaizen several times before feeling ready to speak to them. The attendee said that they have now had a conversation with Kaizen, which they felt was good. The attendee added that it is important to reach a decision on a memorial together as a community. They added that they are concerned that bereaved and survivors do not feel they have been consulted and asked the Commission if there was any way the attendee could help Kaizen engage with bereaved and survivors. Thelma thanked the attendee for their support and explained that one of the challenges the Commission and Kaizen faces is access to direct contact details of the bereaved and former residents. Thelma added that these are held with RBKC which they are unable to release because of data protection. Thelma noted that if attendees were happy to share their contact details with the Commission, or their Community Representatives, the Commission would be able to build a database to communicate with bereaved and survivors directly. The Commission appreciates the support of all attendees in helping the Commission to reach everyone in the community.
- An attendee said there are 72 bereaved families, and each will have different views on a fitting memorial. They added that they have been asked for their views many times, but that it must be for everyone to agree together. They stated that they wanted decisions to be made. A representative said that it is important for the Commission to hear this and grateful for attendees to join these community meetings. The representative added that they appreciate that this is a difficult process. The Secretariat thanked the attendee for sharing their views and added that no decisions have been made on the Tower or the memorial at this stage. The Secretariat explained that these meetings have been set up to ensure bereaved families and former residents can share their views directly with the Commission and noted that the bereaved are at the heart of this process. A representative added that the Commission's aim is to make this process as fair as possible.
- Thelma emphasised the importance to the Commission of taking all reasonable steps to consult the people who are affected, providing information and giving them the opportunity to express their views. As experience has shown with all memorials, not all affected would want to take an active part in consultation. Also, not all cultures recognise these types of memorials, which must be respected. The important thing is that information is made available and opportunity to be involved provided to all those affected. The Commission also recognises that it needs to allow people the time to

engage. Thelma explained that all ideas that have been shared with Kaizen and the Commission will be put together and various options will be looked at. She asked the attendee what they would like to see as a memorial.

- The attendee explained that they would be happy with a memorial that others are happy with. They added that it should be a place people can visit every day or every week to remember those they lost.
- Thelma thanked the attendee for sharing their views and said it was very helpful and moving. She assured attendees that this meeting is a safe place for people to voice how they feel and encouraged attendees to share this with anyone they think would be interested.
- An attendee said they recently received the word cloud postcard from the Commission and appreciated the hard work the Commission is doing. Representatives thanked the attendee for sharing.
- An attendee said that people may not be ready to talk or want to wait for the Inquiry to finish. A representative said the Commission are conscious the Inquiry has an impact with what people would deem appropriate for a memorial and explained that the themes and ideas the Commission and Kaizen have at this time are not set in stone. These can be added to. The representative added that it is a unique situation and the Commission will be available when people are ready to engage.
- Thelma and representatives thanked attendees for joining the call and sharing their ideas. Thelma said she appreciated attendees' advice and support and would welcome any further ideas or thoughts they may have. The Commission's website has details of how Community Representatives or co-chairs could be contacted.

To share ideas about the memorial, you can contact our engagement specialists, Kaizen:

Phone: 020 7082 5508

Email: grenfellmemorial@kaizen.org.uk

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

Alternatively, you can contact the Memorial Commission:

Phone: 0303 444 4831

Email: GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/>

Contact your **Community Representatives**

Next meeting with bereaved families:

18th March 18:00 – 19:00

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or dial in: +44 20 3795 5763 and use conference ID: 795 819 40#

Next meeting with former residents:

25th March 18:00 – 19:00

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or dial in: +44 20 3795 5763 and use conference ID: 113 700 527#