

**Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission Meeting
with bereaved families and former residents
(Monday 26 April 2021)**

Attendees

Memorial Commission

Michael Lockwood
(Meeting Chair)

Community representatives (2)

(Bereaved representatives)	(Survivor	(Lancaster West
Sandra Ruiz	representatives ¹)	representatives)
Hanan Wahabi		

Secretariat

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission Secretariat (2)

Other

Bereaved family and former
resident attendees (10)

Meeting purpose

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

Opening

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

Update of Commission's work

- Michael and community representatives introduced themselves and thanked attendees for joining the meeting.
- Michael noted it's been a difficult time throughout COVID19, and that the Inquiry has been particularly challenging recently. He recognised that both of these things have brought additional pressures and worries for the community.
- Michael reminded attendees all community representatives are accessible and available to speak to via the [contact buttons](#) on the website. A community representative said they all take their responsibilities to heart and are on the Commission to represent the views of the community.
- You can sign up to the Memorial Commission's newsletter on the [website](#). Michael encouraged attendees to sign-up to receive this and share with others.

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

- Michael explained that the Commission has continued to meet with other memorials including 7/7 Memorial, Manchester Memorial and Holocaust Memorial to learn how they have faced and overcome challenges. The Commission has received a number of questions about the plans to ensure any memorial is properly maintained for the community and have recently met with the Aberfan Memorial Trust Charity and learned how they have maintained their memorial.
- A community representative explained that the Commission wants to communicate with the community in ways that suit individuals best. This may be by one-to-one meetings by phone or face-to-face and family meetings. The community representative added that the conversations are recorded to ensure everyone's views are captured. The Memorial Commission would like to arrange face-to-face meetings as soon as social distancing restrictions allow – the hope is to begin having these early in the summer.
- A community representative said the Commission is meeting, and looking to work with, local schools and others who support children and young people, to ensure their voice and views are included in our work to gather ideas for the memorial. The Commission is committed to gathering young people's views as part of this process.
- A community representative said the Commission has formed a [word cloud](#) which is formed of words that have been gathered from the local community. The community representative explained that some bereaved and survivors have fed into this, but it is important to hear more from these groups so the word cloud is representative of the bereaved and survivors – they are at the heart of the memorial. Michael added that the word cloud will evolve as the Commission hears from more people.
- An attendee said they would like to see something similar to the 9/11 memorial with the names of those who lost their lives. The attendee added that the words in the word cloud are beautiful and agree they should be incorporated in a memorial, but they do not represent the lives that were lost.
- Another attendee agreed that they would like to see the names of those who lost their lives as part of the memorial. The attendee also suggested that families could write something about their loved ones to be featured with their name so their loved ones' stories can be told and remembered. Another attendee agreed that the names of loved ones should be featured. A community representative said that the idea of having people's names as part of the memorial has come through strongly, particularly from bereaved and survivor groups. Michael assured the attendees that these ideas would not be lost and recognised that this is something that is important to this group.
- Michael shared and read the vision statement for attendees.
- A community representative shared some details they had heard about a memorial in Budapest. The memorial features a metal willow tree, with the names of loved ones engraved on its leaves, in a memorial garden. The Community Representative said the person they had spoken to about this suggested having something similar for the memorial, with people's names on a community tree – different leaf colours could represent different groups. This could be a way of representing unity in the community. An attendee said the tree is about bringing the survivors and those that we lost back together again. It was explained that the suggestion of the tree was not for the main memorial, but to be featured in the memorial space.

- An attendee said they felt it would be important to feature names, but too much writing may take away from the importance of remembering the individuals.
- A community representative said that a few memorials have a digital aspect which could be evolved over time and asked attendees what their feelings would be towards learning centres, a museum and digital displays etc. An attendee said they thought this was a great idea.
- An attendee asked whether the Commission had a possible vision of what may be on the site and whether there was currently a popular view on this from the community. A community representative explained that there are different views from the community about whether part or all of the Tower should remain. The decision on the future of the Tower is for the government. The Commission has heard a wide range of ideas so far, including having a green living wall to bring life to the area and that the memorial has to be something heavyweight that is visible and iconic. The community representative explained that none of these ideas have been fixed or agreed at this stage – the Commission is still gathering ideas and wants to hear as many as possible. Michael added that people want something which is special and unique and that using part of the Tower in the memorial is an idea which keeps coming up.
- Michael said it is important to the Commission that they have listened to everybody. Michael thanked attendees for joining the meeting.

To share ideas about the memorial, you can contact the Memorial Commission via the details below:

Phone: 0303 444 4831

Email: GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk

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

Alternatively, you can contact our engagement organisation, Kaizen:

Phone: 020 7082 5508

Email: grenfellmemorial@kaizen.org.uk

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