

**Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission meeting  
with bereaved families and former residents of  
Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk  
(24 January 2022)**

**Attendees**

**Bereaved family members (4)**

**Memorial Commission**

Thelma Stober (meeting chair)

**Community representatives (2)**

(Bereaved representatives)

Hanan Wahabi

Sandra Ruiz

**Secretariat**

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission secretariat (1)

**Meeting purpose**

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

**Opening**

Thelma started the meeting with a one-minute silence as a mark of respect.

**Introductions and update**

- Thelma thanked all those families who had joined the meeting, stressing how important it is that they felt able to share their thoughts.
- Sandra and Hanan updated the attendees on what the Commission had been doing in recent months; Sandra highlighted the pause to the Commission's work in September following The Times' report speculating on the future of Grenfell Tower and that it had been important to seek assurances from the secretary of state, both as a community and as a Commission. Now that those assurances had been received, the Commission felt able to continue with its work.
- Hanan updated that this meeting was the start of engagement activities resuming. The Commission had hoped to be able to produce its report at the end of last year, but with the pause to its work this has been moved to April. This reflects the Commission's approach to this work: we as a community must not be rushed and it is important to get this right. The Commission will also be restarting its face-to-face engagement from 29 January with an event at Al-Manaar Cultural Centre.

## Discussion on progress towards a future memorial

- One attendee thanked the Commission for all its work and recognised that this was a big responsibility but one that was vital to supporting the community to work towards a fitting memorial.
- Another attendee expressed support for the decision to pause in September and felt this was the right thing to do, though they were pleased that the work had resumed.
- One attendee was interested to find out more about the timeframe of the work of the Commission. Sandra explained that the Commission was committed to this work and that all involved recognised how important it was to get this right. She highlighted that there was no fixed timeframe in mind and that it would be more important to ensure that progress was at the pace the community was comfortable with. The Commission does have a timeline on its [website](#) as an indication of how it thinks this will progress, but will always keep this under review to check the community are happy with the pace.
- Thelma explained that the next big step will be the interim report, which is planned for April. It will be an opportunity for the Commission to 'check in' with families and the community on what it has heard so far and to check that this feels right. The Commission has heard from many families but recognises that it hasn't heard from everyone, so the next stages of engagement, both before the interim report and after that, will be important to ensure the Commission has given every opportunity for anyone who wants to share views to do so.
- Sandra talked attendees through what the Commission has heard so far and what the Commission needs to do in further work to understand views. Strong views have been shared across bereaved families, survivors and the local community that any memorial needs to be a peaceful place, with options for reflection spaces, water and education also being important. Some believe that this will be achieved through a garden, while others are more focused on specifics such as names of their loved ones being included as part of the design. The Commission has also heard that capturing the stories of those lost will be important as part of the memorial.
- One attendee expressed some frustration that there was a risk of settling on a design for the memorial that lacked creativity and was more traditional. They felt that Grenfell was such a unique event, it should have a truly unique and incredible memorial to reflect that. For them, the idea of retaining some of the Tower was important; the visibility on the skyline was important. Hanan agreed that families have given the clear message through the engagement that we need a creative approach to the memorial. Sandra highlighted that the visibility point was a key part for many families in ensuring that the memory of Grenfell is never forgotten. All agreed that there would be differences of opinion on how this could be achieved and that compromises would be needed along the way, including looking at alternative options for retaining the importance of height, with some on the call suggesting that this could be achieved with lights and other creative options.

- Thelma, Sandra and Hanan thanked all attendees for taking the time to join the meeting and for speaking so honestly and openly.

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

**Phone:** [0303 444 4831](tel:03034444831)

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

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

**Next online meeting with bereaved families and former residents:**

Wednesday 16 February 6 to 7pm. Please contact [GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk](mailto:GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk) for the joining details.

Our full list of engagement dates can be found here: [hwww.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/news/dates-your-diary-our-community-online-meetings-and-person-drop-ins](http://www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/news/dates-your-diary-our-community-online-meetings-and-person-drop-ins)