

**Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission Meeting
with bereaved families and former residents
(16 February 2022)**

Attendees

Michael Lockwood (chair)

Community representatives (4)

(Bereaved representatives)	(Survivor	(Lancaster West
Sandra Ruiz	representatives ¹)	representatives)
Hanan Wahabi	Mohammed Rasoul	
Nabil Choucair		

Bereaved family members and former residents (3)

Secretariat

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission secretariat (2)

Meeting purpose

The purpose of these meetings is to update bereaved families and former residents on the Commission's work, 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 at the start of the meeting.

Update of Commission's work

- Michael thanked all the families that joined and appreciated that they were taking time out to join. Sandra, Hanan and Mohammed welcomed all to the meeting.
- Mohammed and Hanan updated the attendees on what the Commission has been doing so far, the number of people that they have spoken to and the number who have shared views with the Commission.
- Hanan asked the attendees their thoughts on any other ways the Commission can engage with the community.
- An attendee said what the Commission has and is doing, is as much as is possible that can be done, and that people don't like to be reliving the experience and feels the Commission is asking them to do that, even though the Commission is asking for views, and it is working towards a fitting memorial.
- Another attendee agreed but said maybe a few more events for people to attend may help get views.
- Hanan said she knows that a lot of the community may not be ready and that the Commission has held face to face meetings and drop-ins, and sent letters, but asked for thoughts on how to reach out to bereaved and survivors. Hanan asked if an online

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

questionnaire may be appropriate and asking them to complete this when they are ready to.

- An attendee said that questionnaires may not work, especially if too long, as these also open emotions, and that the Commission needs to be mindful of that if a questionnaire is sent out. The attendee added it's not what you say, it is the effect the question may have on the person reading it.
- Sandra said the face-to-face events are a priority for the Commission, as people feel able to communicate freely, but the Commission wanted also to reach out to people who didn't want to go to the face-face or online meetings and ensure that everyone is able to have a say.
- An attendee said that completing short surveys, maximum 10 questions, that are emailed to the community may be convenient and agreed with Hanan when she suggested completing the questionnaire whilst with a therapist.
- An attendee thanked the Commission for all the work and gave 100 per cent support. The attendee added that the Commission are reaching out as best as they can and that everyone has got an opportunity to speak, and people who are not may engage when they are ready.
- Nabil joined and said the focus needs to be five to eight questions and not too long and translated into different languages. Nabil continued and suggested that as some families do not want to, or have not engaged, a spokesperson to represent the family to voice any ideas may help. Sandra added that the community representatives are always available to take any views from anyone from the community.
- Hanan shared details about the tower site footprint with the attendees and the actual space that has been given for the purposes of a memorial. Hanan continued to share details about the themes that people have said they would like to see, for example names or images to show that loved ones are never forgotten, and a place to sit and reflect; a water feature was also a strong theme.
- Hanan asked everyone what their views were on involving elements of the tower, and Michael asked for views on ownership and control for the future. An attendee said there needs to be at least an element of the tower so that loved ones are remembered. Sandra added that a lot of views gathered were about the importance of visibility so people can remember. An attendee agreed and said some of the tower must remain and understood that for some families it is still traumatic, but that there needs to be a compromise.
- An attendee said the tower as it stands is very sensitive for so many people in the community and so their views will need to be considered. They suggested having a small monument, a replica of the building to remember the people on the different floors, and add the floor numbers.
- Another attendee agreed with Nabil that the bereaved should have the largest say on all of this. The attendee continued that a sculpture that is as high as five floors that imposes onto the community to show that the tower was there, or for the tower to look like it did before the fire, could be a way towards a compromise. The attendee added that the most important thing is that the bereaved have a fitting memorial for their loved ones and that, as a community, they get the support and help to be able to reach that place.
- Sandra said the Commission will be looking at different structures for ownership and share these with the community to see which is right for the memorial.
- Hanan asked if there were any ideas on how to involve the younger generation to come and engage. An attendee replied that as there are varying ages of children and

there only seem to be activities that attract younger people at the events, there needs to be more focus to attract older children as they are a very important part of what is going on. Hanan agreed that the focus also needs to be on the young adults.

- Nabil said that any young person's involvement needs to be organised with care because of the sensitive and traumatic issues. Sandra agreed and suggested having trauma informed processes/workshops/focus groups in place to have the appropriate support and to be able to come and discuss those ideas with the Commission. Young creators from the local area to help support could also be an option. An attendee said that some young people are still finding it traumatic to go to events around the area and suggested maybe an event held away from the area. Hanan responded that there is the option of dedicated keyworkers who can work with young people affected, with the agreement of parents/guardians who may want to reach out for this service.
- Sandra expressed that the aim of the Commission is to open and explore as many channels as possible to engage with young people. Holding workshops for young people, or having parents working with children in their own homes producing a piece of work, are some of the areas to consider for input from young people. Mohammed, Sandra, and Nabil agreed that all engagement would require consent from parents/guardians if the young person is under 18.
- All agreed that for any decisions made, the bereaved should have the majority consensus in deciding the future of the memorial.
- Michael, Sandra, Hanan, Mohammed and Nabil 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

Email: GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk

Website: www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk via contact buttons in the 'About us' section.

Next online meeting with bereaved families and former residents:

Wednesday 22 February, 6 to 7pm. Please contact GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk for the joining details.

Our full list of engagement dates can be found here: www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/news/dates-your-diary-our-community-onlinemeetings-and-person-drop-ins