

**Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission Meeting
with the Bereaved Families**
(Tuesday 24th November and Wednesday 25th October)

Attendees

Memorial Commission Chairs

Thelma Stober

(meeting chair for Tuesday)

Michael Lockwood

(meeting chair for Wednesday)

Community Representatives (6)

(Bereaved Representatives)

Hassan Awadh Hassan

Sandra Ruiz

Hanan Wahabi

(Survivor
Representatives¹)

Abraham Abebe

Hanan Cherbika

Mohammed Rasoul

(Lancaster West
Representatives)

Others

Members of bereaved families

Secretariat

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission Secretariat (2)

Meeting purpose

The purpose of these meetings is to update bereaved families on the Commission's work, start to share back what the Commission is hearing as part of their 'ideas gathering', 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 was involved in the Grenfell response directly after the tragedy. He has had the opportunity to get to know many of the bereaved families and community, 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.

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

- The community representatives introduced themselves and explained why they are on the Commission and what their role is.
- Commission members reminded those on the call that the Commission has been meeting since September 2019, and that they ran engagement events in February to update on their work and begin early discussions on ideas for a memorial.
- They explained how the pandemic has affected their work, and said how much they would like to be able to meet in person.
- The co-chairs summarised what the Commission has been focusing on:
 - Setting up structures for the Commission's ways of working. This has included ensuring that the Commission has the right experts in place to give high quality advice, and high-profile supporters in place, to ensure their work remains in the public eye and that what happened at Grenfell Tower is never forgotten.
 - Learning from other memorials. Although every tragedy is different, the Commission wants to learn from the successes and mistakes of other memorial processes.
 - Engaging with community stakeholders, such as community groups, faith leaders, and local schools.
- The Commission explained that they have started the process of working with families and the whole community to gather views and ideas about a future memorial. The co-chairs explained that part of this work is also about deciding how a memorial is owned and managed in the long-term.
- The Commission are working with Kaizen (engagement specialists) as part of the work to listen to views and ideas from the families and the whole community. The Commission is keen to provide choices for how people want share their thoughts, ideas and concerns. Holding these meetings virtually over Teams is one of the many ways the Commission is engaging with the community.
- The co-chairs explained some of the findings that have come from Kaizen's conversations so far. There is an emerging view that the memorial should be a peaceful, respectful tribute. The question 'which three words would you want to use to describe the Memorial?' gives insight on views about how the memorial should feel. The words have been grouped into core themes, and the most common themes are: peaceful and reflective, respectful and remembrance, hope and positive, community and love. These are being shared with the whole community, and can also be seen on [ideas](#) gathering section of the website.
- When asked about their thoughts on a memorial, one of the attendees said it is too hard to think about this because the ongoing Grenfell Tower Inquiry is so stressful and painful. The group reflected that working together towards a memorial could be a positive thing to focus on.
- Another attendee suggested some ways that the Memorial Commission can be more open and transparent. This included an idea for a monthly newsletter to anyone who has joined the mailing list, and also to community

organisations, who could distribute information. This could contain details of meetings and events. The Commission agreed with this idea.

- An attendee fed back on how they thought the memorial should feel, in particular that the word 'honour' was important to them. They also reflected that some families want it to tell the stories of those who were lost. The Commission will feed this in to Kaizen's work: the word 'honour' has been suggested by others and is reflected in the early findings, and comes under the theme 'respectful and remembrance'.
- There was a conversation about the Tower structure, and the impact that this has on the families. The group reflected that bereavement and trauma affect people in different ways, and that there is no 'correct' way to feel but that it was important for individuals to feel they can express their views and for differences of opinion to be respected.
- The group spoke about the importance of trust. The Commission explained that it is independent and prepared to do everything it can to communicate openly, listen, and act on what it hears. The Commission asked for views on its approach, and asked if single language meetings, women-only meetings, and meetings at different times of day might help. The group felt that early evening was the most convenient time for meetings. An attendee said that coffee mornings would also be helpful when it is possible to meet in person.
- The co-chairs asked if those on the call had found the meeting useful, and the attendees agreed that they had. The co-chairs encouraged attendees to join future meetings, and to ask others they know to join too. The co-chairs explained that the next meeting might include bereaved and survivor families.
- The Commission shared information on how to contact Kaizen, who are consulting on behalf of the Commission, when people feel ready to give their views. The bereaved, survivors and Lancaster West residents community can share their thoughts with Kaizen at grenfellmemorial@kaizen.org.uk or on 020 7082 5508.
- The Commission thanked those on the calls for sharing their thoughts, and reiterated that families can get in touch with the community representatives directly at any time. There are also other ways to get in touch with the Commission; emailing the Secretariat (which supports the Commission) at GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk to send through views or to request a meeting. People can also stay up to date by signing up to the mailing list on the [contact page](#) or following the Commission on Twitter: [@GrenfellTowerMC](https://twitter.com/GrenfellTowerMC).

The next GTMC community meeting for bereaved families will be held on Tuesday 19 January 2021 from 6pm to 7pm.

- Please contact us at GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk for details of how to join the meeting on 19 January. As this is an event for bereaved families only, we are not sharing joining details more widely.

The next GTMC community meeting for residents of the Lancaster West Estate will be held on Tuesday 26 January 2021 from 6pm to 7pm.

- To join the meeting on 26 January [Click here](#)
- Or you can dial in by phone on [+44 20 3795 5763,,536847292#](#) with the phone conference ID: 536 847 292#