

## **Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission (GTMC) Meeting 23 March 2026**

### **Attendees:**

#### **Memorial Commission**

- Lord Paul Boateng (Chair)

#### **Community Representatives**

(Bereaved representatives)

- Sandra Ruiz Paulos Tekle
- Hassan Hassan

(Survivor representatives)

- Mohammed Rasoul

(Lancaster West and immediate community representatives)

- Susan Al Safadi
- Andrea Newton
- Samia Badani
- Abbas Dadou
- Hanan Cherbika

#### **Apologies:**

- Thelma Stober
- Adel Chaoui
- Hanan Wahabi
- Nabil Choucair
- Abraham Abebe

### **Meeting purpose**

The seventy-eighth meeting of the Memorial Commission, to discuss progress of the design team's work, and an update from MHCLG.

### **Opening**

- A one-minute silence was held at the start of the meeting.
- It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate.
- Lord Paul Boateng opened the meeting, welcoming all in attendance.
- No new conflicts of interests were declared.
- The secretariat presented the minutes from the February meeting for approval, along with an update on the risk register and action log.
- The secretariat provided an update on the Memorial Commission's three Iftars. This is the fourth time the Commission has hosted these events, which this year brought together about two hundred members of the Grenfell community – including bereaved and survivor families, and Lancaster West Estate and immediate community – residents during Ramadan. The design team thanked the Secretariat for hosting and advised that many introductions were made over the three evenings.

### **Agenda item 1: Design team update**

#### **Engagement update**

- Freehaus advised that they were providing a range of approaches and options for engagement to meet the needs of as many families and individuals as possible. For example, the team had met with a bereaved family member in her home as she was unable to attend engagement events or access online meetings. They also held several workshops on Sunday 22 March and the first of their monthly afternoon tea drop-in events on 23 March.

- Freehaus continued that a range of online slots are available and an independent memorial design activities workbook is also available on the Memorial Commission website for those who wish to consider the design in private. The team will be attending events that are being held by other organisations, including those run by the local health service.
- Freehaus reflected that individual discussions with the bereaved were particularly effective and they had heard poignant memories from these families. They are considering how these memories can be interpreted into the design of the memorial.
- The design team is building on the conversations they have had with bereaved families through speaking to all those bereaved families who are ready and able to engage, in whatever way suits them best. The community reps offered to provide additional support and introductions with bereaved families.
- Freehaus advised that they are developing a tailored approach to engaging with children and young people. In addition to attending the Memorial Commission's children and young people Iftar, they have attended the monthly Grenfell Education Fund Steering Group meeting and are having conversations with local schools and youth organisations.
- The community representatives discussed the importance of effective and timely communications around engagement so that they can plan their attendance. The representatives will continue to work with Freehaus on this and provided suggestions on additional communications approaches that might be used.
- Freehaus recognised the importance of this and welcomed the community representatives continuing commitment to support their work and the value this brings to the design process.

## **Agenda item 2: MHCLG update**

### **Retention of elements from within the Tower**

- The department apologised for its failure to communicate, to the Memorial Commission, the request regarding the retention of Tower elements in July 2025. The department also apologised for failing to recognise this in its recent letter to bereaved families and survivors.
- The department agreed to have follow-up conversations with the Commission regarding retention of elements.
- The community representatives advised this had been very difficult and requested, for transparency and clarity for all bereaved families and survivors, that the government make a public statement on the elements from the Tower that families had requested be retained.
- The community reps also requested a meeting with the Minister for Building Safety, Samantha Dixon MP, and the Permanent Secretary.

### **Update on the second site**

- The department advised that work continues on the second site on ensuring it is protected in perpetuity.

### **Grenfell Tower Memorial (Expenditure) Bill**

- The Department advised that the Bill to enshrine in law the funding for construction and long-term management of the Memorial, the site where the Tower is being sensitively laid to rest, and the physical and digital archive and public exhibition, has completed its journey through the Commons. They thanked the community reps that attended the second reading in the House of Commons on the 16 March.

- The Bill will now go to the Lords for its second reading on the 14 April and community representatives were very welcome to attend.
- The community representatives that attended the second reading in the Commons reflected that they welcomed the very respectful, non-partisan approach from MPs, and the recognition of the role and work of the Memorial Commission.

#### **Item 4: Update from the Secretariat**

- The Secretariat confirmed the following:
  - A letter from the Commission will be sent to the MPs who spoke during the third reading of the Grenfell Tower Memorial (Expenditure) Bill in the Commons.
  - A letter to RBKC asking about the future of Grenfell Walk was currently with the co-chairs for approval.

#### **Any other business**

It was confirmed that the next meeting will take place on the 23 April at the V&A.

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

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