

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission (GTMC) Meeting
21 May 2026

Attendees:

Memorial Commission

- Thelma Stober (Chair)

Community Representatives

(Bereaved
representatives)

- Hanan Wahabi
- Paulos Tekle
- Sandra Ruiz

(Survivor representatives)

- Mohammed Rasoul

(Lancaster West and immediate
community
representatives)

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

Apologies:

- Abraham Abebe
- Adel Chaoui
- Hassan Awadh Hassan
- Nabil Choucair

Secretariat:

x3 team members

MHCLG:

x3 individuals

Design team:

x4 individuals

Meeting purpose

The eightieth meeting of the Memorial Commission, to discuss the design team's progress, 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.
- Thelma Stober opened the meeting, welcoming all in attendance.
- No new conflicts of interests were declared.

- The secretariat presented the minutes from the April meeting for approval, along with an update on the risk register and action log.

Agenda item 2(a): Design team update

- Jonathan Hagos (JH) from the design team gave an update on the planning and design process, including the programme for Design Working Groups and feedback from engagement so far. He acknowledged the differences of opinion in the community regarding the option of retaining part of the Tower to the fourth floor.
- He noted a recent meeting with local faith leaders discussing prayer spaces and how this can be achieved in a multi-faith environment. He noted that the consensus from this conversation was that a prayer space should be open to all of any faith or none, with a separate space reserved for bereaved and survivors only. Conversations with faith leaders are ongoing.
- A community representative reiterated the need for a private prayer and reflection space for bereaved and survivors.
- A community representative stressed the sensitivity of this work, and the importance of the community being able to make informed decisions throughout the process.
- A community representative noted the need for flexible and diverse routes for the community to engage with and feedback to the design team.
- Julia King (JK) gave an update on engagement activities and progress, noting limited numbers of survivors engaged with to date, although significant progress made in other areas.
- A community representative reflected on how powerful it is to engage with the design team and the models they have created of the memorial site and possible design features. The design team is considering further places and ways in which this can be shared with the community, including a further bespoke meeting with the community representatives.

Agenda item 2(b): Reflections from the design advisers

- Stephanie Edwards gave an update on the planning progress, noting that the design team have submitted the draft RIBA Stage 02 Report. The independent design advisers have shared some comments, noting the importance of the community representatives' feedback at the monthly meetings and throughout the process.
- A community representative requested a follow-up meeting with the design advisers before the next RIBA Stage submission.
- A community representative noted concerns about the public hiring of local spaces close to the memorial site and the need for privacy and respect to be afforded to the memorial.

Agenda Item 3: MHCLG update

- Helen Town noted the good news of the Memorial Expenditure Bill recently gaining Royal Assent. She also noted the next steps for the works on the Tower site, including that the technical planning documentation will shortly be uploaded to the Planning Inspectorate website.
- A community representative requested that MHCLG provide a statement regarding the publication of the technical planning documentation.
- Helen noted the next steps for appointing the principal contractor, and invited community representatives to sit on a panel for this.

- Helen presented a proposed draft of updated Terms of Reference for the Memorial Commission. She invited any feedback from the community representatives, after which the department could bring an updated version to the July Commission meeting.
- Plans are underway for the upcoming anniversary, including lighting the space above the Tower on the nights of 13 and 14 June.

Any other business

- It was confirmed that the next meeting will take place on 4 June.
- A member of the Secretariat noted preparations are underway to produce a short film for the upcoming anniversary of the tragedy, the topic of which is communicating the design journey to the memorial.
- The Commission discussed the gifting of trees for the anniversary. The Secretariat advised that this and other anniversary arrangements will be discussed again in more detail on 4 June.
- Jenan Hasan updated that the Secretary of State and Building Safety Minister plan to attend an upcoming Commission meeting.

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

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Email: GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk

Website: www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/contact