

Under embargo until 00:01 on Friday 14 June 2024

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission releases film to mark the seventh anniversary of the tragedy

‘Capturing those images of the spontaneous memorials around the area is very powerful. They represent people’s feelings. They are a living document. And they are very evocative of the time that has passed. Time moves on, and those messages are a moment in time. If we don’t capture them, they will fade...’

These are just some of the words spoken by one of the Memorial Commission’s community representatives and bereaved family members, who appears in the Memorial Commission’s [moving video message released on 14 June 2024](#), seven years after the Grenfell Tower fire tragically took 72 lives.

The film features several of the Memorial Commission’s community representatives: Hanan Wahabi, Sandra Ruiz and Susan Al-Safadi. Between them, they represent the bereaved families, the survivors, and the local residents who live close to Grenfell Tower. They speak powerfully and thoughtfully about the importance of preserving and capturing the spontaneous messages and other expressions of loss, grief and anguish, left by the affected community in the hours, days and weeks after the tragedy.

Also featured in the film are:

- Local ‘ACAVA Shoots’ photographers, Jason Garcia and Andreia Sofia Leitão
- Mary White from Latymer Community Church

Within the Memorial Commission’s recommendations for a future memorial, published in their November 2023 report, is the development of an archive beyond the site of Grenfell Tower. The Commission said that some elements of the archive would potentially only be accessible to bereaved family members and survivors. The Commission also recommended that a sensitive and reflective digital archive should be curated with family members and survivors, and a long-term public exhibition.

Together, these will help to tell the story of the Grenfell Tower tragedy and provide a long-lasting record for generations to come.

The recommendations to develop such archives have been informed by the views that the Commission has heard from the Grenfell community, and also by the poignant and creative archiving work of other notable memorial teams. These include the Aberfan Archive at the National Library in Aberystwyth, the Manchester Together Archive, the September 11 Digital Archive and the 4.16 Memory Archives in remembrance of the MW Sewol ferry tragedy.

The Memorial Commission’s community representatives said:

‘Our film this year, in memory of the 72 beautiful souls we lost seven years ago, explains how

important archiving is in preserving the memory of Grenfell in perpetuity.

'Through what has already been written and created, and the subsequent archiving of those expressions, we can continue to hear what people said, and their thoughts and feelings about that night. This will help to ensure that what happened on 14 June 2017 is never forgotten.

'Our 72 loved ones, and our community, deserve nothing less.'

The Memorial Commission's co-chairs, Thelma Stober and Lord Paul Boateng, said:

'Seven years on from the terrible tragedy at Grenfell, our primary commitment as the Commission is to establish a dignified, peaceful space for the Grenfell community to commemorate.

'Our fundamental pledge has always been to prioritise the voices and wishes of the bereaved, survivors, Lancaster West Estate residents and the immediate community in the memorial decision-making process, both now and in the future.

'This will ensure that the final memorial embodies a truly meaningful tribute to the 72 lives lost and provides a lasting and appropriate place for loved ones to pay their respects, mourn, and feel connected to their memory. We promise never to forget.'

So far, the Memorial Commission has spoken with more than 2,200 individuals, including 31 out of the 43 bereaved families. For more information on the Memorial Commission's next steps to a physical memorial, see their report: ['Remembering Grenfell: Recommendations and next steps to a memorial'](#).

Notes for editors:

- The Memorial Commission's film will be available in the news section of their website from 9am on 14 June 2024: www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/sevenyears
- The film was filmed during May 2024 by production company, bigSmallTV.
- The filming took place at locations including the Memorial Wall, Notting Hill Methodist Church, and the [Bishopsgate Institute](#). The latter is currently looking after several Grenfell-related items, at the request of different community individuals and groups, for temporary safekeeping.
- [ACAVA Shoots](#) is an opportunity for photographers who graduated from the Young Photographers programme at the Association for Cultural Advancement through Visual Art (ACAVA), a mentoring project in North Kensington.
- Read the Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission's blogs about archiving: [Visit to Manchester Memorial](#) and [Lessons in archiving materials](#)
- Read and download the Commission's November 2023 report at www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/report2023 and their May 2022 report, 'Remembering Grenfell:

our journey so far', at: www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/report

- The Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission comprises ten [community representatives](#) made up of five bereaved family members, three former residents of Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk who lost their homes, and two residents from the Lancaster West Estate. This composition of community representatives enables the bereaved to have the majority say. Community representatives were selected by the bereaved families, survivors and local residents.
- The Memorial Commission's [co-chairs](#), Thelma Stober and Lord Paul Boateng, set the direction of the Memorial Commission's work and oversee their work.
- The Memorial Commission is working closely with the bereaved families, survivors and the community to decide the most fitting and appropriate way to remember those who lost their lives in the Grenfell tragedy, and how the memorial site will be owned and managed in the long term.
- The Memorial Commission has been reaching out to families and others regularly, and will continue to. Please see the contact page of their website for other ways to get in touch: www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/contact.
- Information about the Memorial Commission can be found at www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk, and on Instagram and X (@GrenfellTowerMC)
- The Memorial Commission is not responsible for deciding the future of Grenfell Tower. The government owns the Grenfell Tower site and is responsible for its safety and security. No decision has been made about the future of the Tower. For more information go to www.gov.uk/grenfell-community-updates.

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