

Grenfell: Article 2 Human Rights Act Remy Mohamed Grenfell Project Coordinator

Introducing INQUEST

• Independent charity formed in 1981



- Free specialist casework service to bereaved people following deaths in custody, detention and other contentious deaths such as Grenfell Tower.
- Evidence based policy, research and legal work; primarily informed by the collective experience of the bereaved people we work with.
- Coordinates INQUEST Lawyers Group, a national pool of lawyers who represent bereaved families and share values and aims of INQUEST.





Families tell us

- They want Truth, Justice and Accountability.
- They want meaningful change so something like that never happens again.



Article 2 Human Rights Act – The right to life

- Article 2: Right to life:
 - Everyone's right to life shall be protected by law. No one shall be deprived of his life intentionally save in the execution of a sentence of a court following his conviction of a crime for which the penalty is provided by law.
 - Deprivation of life shall not be regarded as inflicted in contravention of this Article when it results from the use of force which is no more than absolutely necessary:
 - (a)in defence of any person from unlawful violence;
 - (b)in order to effect a lawful arrest or to prevent the escape of a person lawfully detained;
 - (c)in action lawfully taken for the purpose of quelling a riot or insurrection.



Article 2 Human Rights Act – The right to life

- Places obligations on the State negative, positive, investigative
- Impact of Article 2 on post death investigative processes



Inquest or Inquiry?

• Similarities and Differences between the two.

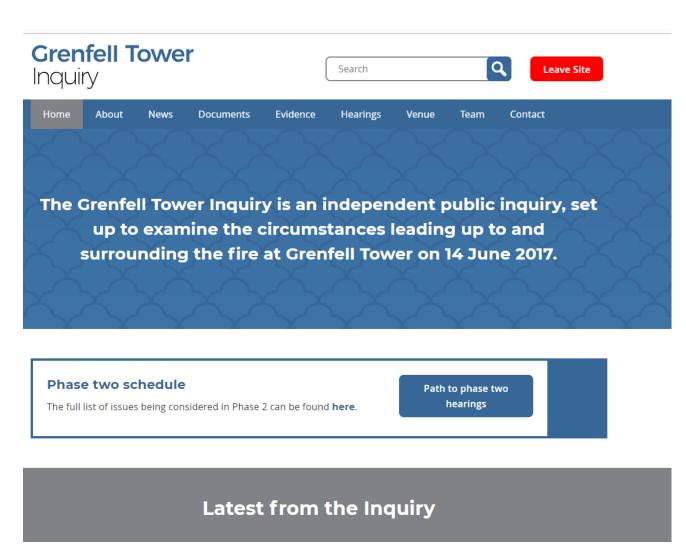
• Why an Inquiry for Grenfell?



The Grenfell Tower Inquiry

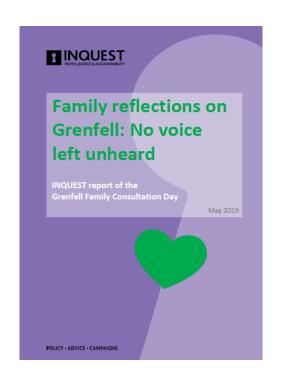
- Setting up the Inquiry Terms of Reference
- Timeline so far
- Trust in the process eg panel
- Proper and meaningful participation of those most affected – eg venue, lawyers asking questions
- Recommendations **not** binding on the Government.





POLICY . ADVICE . CAMPAIGNS

Family reflections on Grenfell: No voice left unheard



INQUEST held a Family Consultation Day with bereaved families earlier this year.

Families came together to speak about the aftermath of the fire and the process of Phase One of the Grenfell Public Inquiry.

Powerful anonymised report with family testimony at its heart.

Suggestions for change for best practice from their lived experience.



POLICY . ADVICE . CAMPAIGNS



"Participation in a meaningful way is what would give the Inquiry credibility. Justice must be seen to be done".



- Bereaved Family Member





"If our lawyers had the chance to speak, it would have been far better. What are we doing there if we are not allowed to scrutinise?".



- Bereaved Family Member



- The families' key suggestions regarding the second phase of the Inquiry concentrated on putting families at the heart of the Inquiry process;
- the need for an independent diverse decision-making Inquiry panel;
- meaningful consultation on selecting the venue;
- practical improvements ensuring facilities are family friendly;
- support for families whose first language is not English e.g. skilled interpreters proficient in the specific dialects spoken by individual families;
- re-examination of procedures for questioning witnesses to enable family lawyers to directly ask questions;
- adoption of a duty of candour by public authorities and public entities;



The Public Authority Accountability Bill

- Duty of Candour
- Equality of Arms



Next steps for the Grenfell Inquiry:

- Expectation of the Phase one report to be published in October 2019
- Oral hearings for Phase two to begin in January 2020 before the chairman and two panel members.



In memory of the 72 people who lost their lives in Grenfell Tower **Anthony Disson Gary Maunders** Jeremiah Deen Ligaya Moore **Bassem Choukair** Berkti Haftom Mohammad al-Haj Ali Jessica Urbano Ramirez Nadia Choucair **Biruk Haftom Denis Murphy** Omar Belkadi Mierna Choucair Hamid Kani Ali Yawar Jafari Farah Hamdan Fatima Choucair Isaac Paulos Abdeslam Sebbar Malak Belkadi Zainab Choucair Fatemeh Afrasiabi Fathia Ahmed Elsanosi Leena Belkadi Hashim Kedir Sakineh Afrasiabi **Abufars Mohamed Ibrahim** Mary Mendy Isra Ibrahim Nura Jemal Vincent Chiejina Khadija Saye Mohamed Amied 'Saber' Neda Yahya Hashim Khadija Khalloufi Victoria King Firdaws Hashim Kamru Miah Hesham Rahman Alexandra Atala Yaqub Hashim Rabeya Begum Rania Ibrahim Mohamednur Tuccu Sirria Choucair Mohammed Hamid Hania Hassan Amalahmedin Tuccu **Logan Gomes** Mohammed Hanif Fethia Hassan Amaya Tuccu Abdulaziz El-Wahabi **Husna Begum** Marco Gottardi Amna Mahmud Idris Faouzia El-Wahabi Joseph Daniels Gloria Trevisan Maria 'Pily' Burton Yasin El-Wahabi Sheila Eslah Elgwahry Marjorie Vital Nur Huda El-Wahabi Steve Power Mariem Elgwahry Ernie Vital Mehdi El-Wahabi Raymond 'Moses' Bernard Zainab Deen Debbie Lamprell Image by INQUEST. www.INQUEST.org.uk . @INQUEST_ORG





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