

MAYOR OF LONDON

The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Date: 13 June 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

The sixth anniversary of the fire at Grenfell Tower

As we approach the sixth anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire, I remain concerned that the country has still not taken the steps necessary to avoid another tragedy of that scale. Significant work is required to bring justice to survivors and the bereaved, and to ensure that all Londoners can have confidence in the safety of their homes. The pace of change must improve.

The loss of the lives of 72 people should have led to a rapid overhaul to ensure that building owners and developers treat fire and building safety with paramount importance. This will only be achieved with a competent and modern construction industry, and rigorous rules and regulations for the industry to follow, supported by clear guidance. Some welcome progress has been achieved with the passage of the Building Safety Act, but it fails to provide the assurance needed. Buildings under 18 metres will continue to escape sufficient scrutiny and the competence and skills gap in the construction industry undermines implementation of the Act. It seems that as the years pass, there continue to be missed opportunities for real systemic change and justice for Grenfell.

Inquiry recommendations

Of the 12 recommendations arising from Phase one aimed at central government, only eight have been completed. The remaining four recommendations are either being consulted on for alternative proposals, which water down the recommendations, or the government has not committed to a timeframe for implementation. The government should commit to fully and promptly implementing the recommendations from the Inquiry.

Survivors and those bereaved by the fire will rightly not tolerate inaction by any organisation found at fault by the Inquiry. This is why I continue to call on you to adopt the charity INQUEST's proposal, and establish a National Oversight Mechanism with a duty to monitor implementation of recommendations.

I also call on the government to introduce to parliament a Hillsborough Law to introduce a new legal duty of candour on public authorities and officials to proactively cooperate

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with official inquiries. Phase 2 of the Grenfell Inquiry has seen an unedifying 'merry-go-round of buck passing' with many organisations refusing to accept responsibility for their role in the disaster and instead seeking to blame others. This is all too familiar to victims of previous failings, and is why the families of those unlawfully killed at Hillsborough, following their lengthy fight for justice, have proposed legislation through their campaign 'Hillsborough Law Now'.

Personal emergency evacuation plans (PEEPs)

On the night of the Grenfell Tower fire, 15 of the 37 disabled residents at Grenfell Tower died. None of the residents who died had personal emergency evacuation plans (PEEPs) in place, consequently the need for PEEP was a key recommendation in the Grenfell Inquiry's Phase 1 report.

Failure to ensure the safe and dignified evacuation of residents with disabilities is forcing vulnerable residents to tolerate an ongoing threat to their safety, yet the government has failed to implement this important recommendation from the Inquiry. I urge you to commit to full adoption of PEEPs, rather than continue support for a watered-down evacuation strategy.

Migration status

Relatives who have travelled from other countries to participate in the Inquiry as Core Participants have aided in the uncovering of the truth and represented relatives affected by the fire. They also continue to play a key role in the community following the life-changing events of the fire, including as carers to survivors. The Home Office granted leave to enter and remain in the UK to Grenfell relatives. However, Grenfell relatives have been left with no bespoke route to settlement, have limited rights and entitlements, and have been required to re-apply regularly for leave, creating a huge amount of uncertainty and stress for families.

I urge you to implement a policy providing Indefinite Leave to Remain for the family members of those directly affected by the Grenfell Tower fire. This will ensure there is a route to remain in the UK, continue caring responsibilities, and engage in the ongoing legal proceedings in full.

Health support

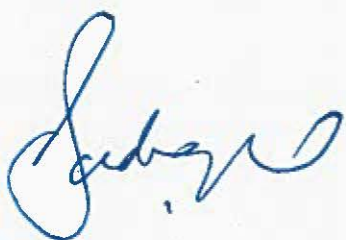
The psychological and physical effects of the Grenfell Tower fire have rippled through the Grenfell community and the trauma is still being felt six years on. Government must ensure that sustained and long-term physical and mental health support is in place to monitor and manage the ongoing health impacts of fire.

This will be the sixth year that the bereaved, survivors and residents are fighting for change and justice all the while trying to find peace and rebuild their lives. It is disappointing that they now must wait until next year for the Phase 2 Inquiry report to be published. It is imperative that no further delays are experienced when the report is delivered to you.

I pay tribute to the bereaved, survivors and residents and stand in solidarity with them.

MAYOR OF LONDON

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', written in a cursive style.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London