

Grenfell Fire Response News

Books of condolence now at the Westway

Volunteers, survivors and members of the public are recording their respects to the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire in two books of condolence at the Westway.

A book for members of the public has been placed at the main entrance to the Westway Sports Centre, while there is also a book for survivors and volunteers in place at the dedicated Westway Assistance Centre.

Roisin, a volunteer at the centre, said: "It means a lot to the local community and volunteers to have books of condolence at the centre so we can pay our respects and come together to show our support. It's nice to be able to help out in any way that we can as volunteers at a time when people are going through such a difficult time."

If volunteers and those directly affected by the fire wish to record their respects, the Westway Assistance Centre is open every day between 10am and 8pm.

The book of condolence in the Westway Sports Centre is available to be signed by members of the public during sports centre opening hours.

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Love Grenfell logo on hoardings

Since yesterday, the hoardings near Kensington Leisure Centre have been decorated with the 'Love Grenfell' logo.

This design is based on London Underground's famous round logo, with the text in the middle replaced with 'Grenfell'. This new symbol merges the familiar sign with the AHeart4London movement.

The logo was originally developed by designer Charlie Crockett and stylist Kyle Devolle as part of the Love4Grenfell Campaign.

The decision to decorate the hoardings with the logo took place in consultation with local residents. Panels on the hoarding alternate between those with the logo, and blank panels that have been reserved to allow local community groups to add their own artwork over the coming days.

More details on this will follow in the near future.



What is this newsletter for?

This is the sixteenth edition of the Grenfell Fire Response Team newsletter. We want to keep you up to date with all the latest information and services available to help.

The newsletter is also available in Arabic and Farsi languages. For up to the minute info, please follow us on Twitter @grenfellsupport and on Facebook at [facebook.com/grenfellsupport](https://www.facebook.com/grenfellsupport) or visit www.gov.uk

Housing update

Finding housing solutions that work for everyone directly affected by the Grenfell Tower fire remains our absolute priority and we are working hard to achieve this.

Offers of temporary accommodation are being made on a daily basis, but we know that families will have concerns around this process and the idea of accepting a temporary home.

For some people, it's still too soon to make such a major decision. For others, there are all sorts of considerations to take into account, such as the needs of elderly relatives, proximity to schools, and dealing with historical overcrowding. Choosing a temporary home for families that have undergone unimaginable loss and trauma is a big decision, and we are at pains to ensure they have the time to select a home that is right for them at a time that is right for them.

Government has given commitments to help reassure families that:

- their needs are paramount, all other considerations are secondary to these
- their rent will not increase and the same terms and conditions of their previous home at Grenfell Tower or Grenfell Walk will be maintained
- they will have lifetime security of tenure
- they will not be forced to stay in temporary accommodation on a long-term basis
- accepting an offer of temporary accommodation does not mean that they lose priority for a permanent home
- no one has to accept a particular property and not accepting a property does not mean that they will be made intentionally homeless
- temporary homes will be rent and utility bill free for 12 months
- for some cases, if they like their temporary home there is the potential for it to become their permanent home (this will be discussed when the home is offered to them)

More information is available on the housing line on **020 7361 3008**.

What help is on offer?

Any family and friends concerned about their loved ones are asked to contact the Metropolitan Police on **0800 032 4539**.

Other important contacts

Bereavement support: Call the Freephone helpline on **0808 808 1677** or email helpline@cruse.org.uk. The line is open 24 hours a day.

Replacement UK passports, visas or immigration queries

Call our advice line on **0300 222 0000**. The line is open 24 hours.

Air quality and smoke exposure:

If you have concerns about any symptoms, please see your doctor or call NHS **111**.

NHS Mental health support:

Call **0800 0234 650** or email cnw-tr.spa@nhs.net for mental health support. The line is open 24 hours a day.

Victim support:

Call **0808 1689 111** for practical and emotional support, or visit victimsupport.org.uk. The line is open 24 hours a day.

You can also get physical and mental support at the Assistance Centre, Westway Sports & Fitness Centre, Crowthorne Road, W10 6RP, open from 10am to 8pm. Find out more by calling **07712 231 133**.

You can also call the Red Cross helpline on **0800 458 9472**. The line is open from 8am to 8pm.

For regular updates please follow us on Twitter at [@grenfellsupport](https://twitter.com/grenfellsupport) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/grenfellsupport](https://www.facebook.com/grenfellsupport), or visit www.gov.uk

Public meeting at St Clement's Church

The next community public meeting will take place this evening from 6pm to 7.30pm at St Clement's Church, Treadgold Street, London, W11 4BP. The session will be led by the London Resilience Group and will aim to provide:

- an update from Response team representatives
- a face-to-face question and answer session
- guidance on information and support available

Meetings are open to the public, so please do come along or invite people from the Lancaster West estate who you think would like to attend. If you are unable to make this meeting, upcoming newsletters will provide updates on the timing and location of future meetings.

If you have suggestions of any issues you would like to see addressed in future meetings, please contact communityengagement@grenfellresponse.org

Health update

Public Health England (PHE) is continuing to provide specialist advice on health following the Grenfell Tower fire. This includes health advice on air quality, smoke exposure, asbestos, water quality and the handling of any waste materials and debris.

Air quality

The risk to people's health from air pollution around the site is low. PHE is constantly monitoring air quality and the latest readings show the air pollution level near the site continues to be low. Air quality monitors were installed in the immediate area of Grenfell Tower, with additional equipment being put in to support ongoing monitoring.

Water quality

Drinking water quality has not been impacted by the fire and tap water is safe to drink and use as normal. If anyone has any concerns regarding their drinking water quality, they should contact the local water company in the first instance.

Waste materials and debris

If you have waste material or debris from the fire at your property, please contact the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council on **020 7361 3001** to make arrangements for them to collect it.

Air purifiers

Air purifiers, which are generally used to reduce allergens from pets from the air, are not recommended for use in this situation because larger particles produced during the fire will have already settled and not be present in the air. Larger dust particles settle quickly onto surfaces and are best removed with a damp cloth.

More advice from Public Health England can be found online found online at www.gov.uk/government/news/public-health-advice-following-the-grenfell-tower-fire

Legal aid for residents

Legal Aid is available to help people made homeless by the Grenfell Tower fire, and funding is also available to families to support them as they prepare for inquests. We encourage any family affected by the tragedy to apply for funding, which is granted by the independent Legal Aid Agency.

You can find out more about legal aid online at www.gov.uk/check-legal-aid

Key Workers available to give you support

Key Workers are the first point of contact for affected residents and their families to point you in the right direction to the support you need.

Help is on hand for people living on the Lancaster West estate and can be accessed at the Westway Sports Centre, 1 Crowthorne Road, W10 6RP.

In total, there are 267 Key Workers supporting people affected by the fire. This support ranges from help to obtain documents such as passports and driving licences, through to psychological support, as well as housing, education and health assistance.

Additional support includes:

- support for bereaved relatives to attend funerals.
- transporting children from hotels to schools.
- giving people a timeline as to when they will be rehoused.
- replacing key health related items such as new braces, walking sticks and glasses.
- replacing laptops and mobile phones

To request a key worker or check if one has been allocated to you, people ring the helpline on **020 7745 6400** or email GrenfellTowerKeyWorkerHub@rbkc.gov.uk. The line is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

London Emergencies Trust – funding from public donations

The next of kin for each of those who tragically lost their lives in the Grenfell fire will receive an initial £20,000 from public donations. Those injured and hospitalised for seven days will receive an initial £10,000, and those injured and hospitalised for six hours or more an initial £3,500. London Emergencies Trust is distributing these funds on behalf of the British Red Cross, K&C Foundation and the London Community Fund/ Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund. This funding all comes from donations by the public.

How to apply: Family Liaison Officers (FLO) who are attached to families affected will pass on and help fill in an application form. They can also call the British Red Cross helpline on **0800 458 9472** between 8am and 8pm.

Frequently asked questions

Will victims have to pay for outstanding utility bills?

The Government and utility companies have announced a package of support for Grenfell victims across energy, water and telecommunications. This includes suppliers agreeing to write off outstanding utility bills for victims of the fire, and the support comes on top of the £5 million fund to pay for emergency supplies, food, clothes and other costs. Further details can be found online at <https://goo.gl/yhcniU>

How can people find their post?

Mail for Grenfell Tower can be collected from Royal Mail's West London Delivery Office, Unit 20–23, West London Delivery Office, Premier Park Road, NW10 7NZ (open Mon to Fri 8am to 2pm and Sat 8am to 1pm). Mail collection is also available by prior arrangement on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from the Royal Mail desk at the Westway Sports Centre.

Please call **01752 387055** to make a mail collection arrangement. ID is required to collect you mail.

Will my eligibility for benefits be affected if I receive the £5,500?

The Department for Work and Pensions have said that your income-related benefits won't be affected by payments from the fund. Other benefits, such as Personal Independence Payments, won't be affected either and any payments from the emergency fund will not be taxed.

For all other contacts, please consult our leaflet.

Consultation deadline for Grenfell Inquiry extended

Following the announcement of Sir Martin Moore-Bick as Chair of the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry, he and his team have held discussions with a range of interested parties, in particular survivors of the fire and other residents of the Lancaster West estate.

It has become clear from these discussions that those affected need more time to respond to the Inquiry's consultation on its terms of reference. The consultation period is therefore being extended by two weeks until 28 July. This will provide additional time for people to respond meaningfully and ensuring the Inquiry's work, which cannot begin without terms of reference, can progress quickly.

Details of meetings open to survivors and local residents to discuss the terms of reference, will be announced in the near future.

Minute's silence to mark a month since the fire

Everyone who has been affected by the Grenfell Tower fire is invited to the Westway Assistance Centre on Friday to observe a minute's silence in memory of the victims of the fire.

This gathering will mark a month since the tragedy took place. Lunch will be provided and volunteers will be on hand to provide emotional support available for those who need it.

'Spread the Love for Grenfell' music event

A night of live music, featuring reggae stars, hip-hop artists and DJs is being held on Friday 14 July to honour the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire.

The 'Spread the Love for Grenfell' event is taking place at the Fox and Firkin, 316 Lewisham High Street, SE13 6JZ, from 8pm to 2am.

Entry is free with donations being taken on the door to raise money for those affected by the Grenfell Tower fire.

Find out more online at www.foxfirkin.com/events

Covering Grenfell Tower

Views from local residents are being considered on the viability of covering the Grenfell Tower in tarpaulin. Any final decision will need to consider its impact on the critical recovery operation being undertaken by the Metropolitan Police Service and London Fire Brigade.