

IN THE MATTER OF THE GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY

WITNESS STATEMENT OF CCC


I, CCC, will say as follows:

1. I live at an address known to the inquiry with my children. I was a victim of serious domestic violence and me and my children were moved here for our safety some time ago. My name is anonymised for my own safety and the safety of my children, and I have limited the personal information in this statement to avoid providing any details from which I could be identified by my former partner, including information that could lead to working out precisely where we live.
2. On the night of the fire, we were all in bed (our own beds, which hasn't happened since). I was woken up by the screaming and shouting for help. I looked out of the bedroom window and could see people were running about and shouting for help.
3. I woke the children, because something really serious had happened and I felt we had to go and help. I didn't think about it, I knew I had to go outside to try to help.
4. It was about 12:30, I think, but I'm really not very clear about timings that night. We were asking if anyone wanted to come in to ours, if they needed somewhere to go – no one did.

Signed by CCC



5. The kids were frightened so after about 20 mins, we came back in. I stood on my balcony. More and more people were coming out, people went onto the grass in front of the tower. They were screaming.
6. I wasn't even back in the flat for more than 20 mins when the police banged on the door and told us we had to get out. They didn't say anything else. I grabbed the kids and went out, I didn't even have my shoes on.
7. We went and sat on a wall and from here we could see the Tower, the side facing the finger-blocks. I don't really know what time this was. It was like a different building now, it was like the fire had wrapped round. The majority of the building was on fire. There were police everywhere, firefighters, ambulance.
8. You could see when the gas went – a bluey green flame shot up, the middle of the side that is opposite the sports centre. I can't remember what time that was. The whole of the building was already on fire at this point. But that flame was really different.
9. At some point you could see that the inside of the building was on fire – you could see the flames coming out of the windows. I can't remember what time this was and whether it was before or after the gas flame.
10. People were screaming – it wasn't real – you couldn't believe it. I could hear people on the phone, talking to family and friends in the tower, saying things like, 'Put a towel under the door' or 'You've got to get out'. There were people wanting to get to the block, because their people are in there. The police were stopping them. There were little kids.
11. You could hear people in the block screaming, you could hear children, you could hear adults. That screaming, it's something you can never get over. I hear

Signed by CCC 

the screams from children playing in the playground at the school nearby and it's like I'm hearing screams from that night again. At some point, it was terrible because the screaming and shouting stopped.

12. It's terrible too hearing the sirens now – it just brings it all back in a flash.

13. There were people from the press trying to get us to speak to them. I couldn't believe that.

14. At 4.30, a woman from the house out the back, she invited us in, with three other families with children. I know it was 4.30, because I saw her clock when we went in. They were lovely, they gave us coffee, they were looking after the kids. We stayed there in the end for about three days. We didn't sleep. I didn't have no clothes. They got clothes for the kids from the church where people brought clothes for victims of the fire. [REDACTED]

15. Then we came back to the flat. It was hard and some people moved into hotels to keep away from it all, [REDACTED]
This is all I've got here, I had to leave everything because of the DV. Even my mum's ashes are in here. So I felt I needed to be here.

16. It was hard though. When I got back to my flat and first went out onto the balcony for a cigarette, I saw all the stuff on the grass from the night and I couldn't bear it. And I left my balcony door open because we had to leave so suddenly, so the flat smelled of all the smoke. You couldn't just forget about what had happened because the smell kept reminding you. I don't think I'll ever forget the smell. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] That sits at the back of my head.

Signed by CCC [REDACTED]

17. It's still so raw for me, and to think how raw it is for those families, those people. I have so many questions, did they hurt when they died, were they with their families? It's impossible not to ask yourself questions because the Tower's right there in front of you. That's what people don't realise. You survived but you can see the building and you can't stop thinking about those people who died and who had all that life inside of them. It makes it hard when you've got kids and there are kids your kids' age screaming in there.

18. My kids are doing OK but it's been tough for them. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] They still can't sleep in their own beds. We all sleep in the front room. You can see the impact on them. I just do what I can to help them, talk to them, let them know they're safe and it's OK to be sad.

19. I would like to say things about what happened after the fire but I'll do this in a separate statement. I just hope the Inquiry gets to the truth of how this terrible event happened, for the sake of those poor people who died that night and the people who got out, and for all of us who went through that awful night. None of us will ever forget it.

Statement of truth:

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed:

[REDACTED]

(CCC)

Dated: 17 May 2018