

Press Release Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017

## Community to Turn Notting Hill Carnival Green for Grenfell

### For Immediate Release

Survivors of the Grenfell Tower fire and the wider community of North Kensington are calling on all attendees of this year's Notting Hill Carnival (Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August) to show solidarity with the ongoing plight of those most deeply affected by wearing green to this year's event. We ask that we turn the carnival area green, and are encouraging attendees to wear green as a sign of empathy and acknowledgment with the dead and survivors of Grenfell Tower.

We also ask that attendees respect a protective area around the Lancaster West housing estate, where Grenfell Tower is located. A separate quiet reflection zone will be provided on the Carnival procession route for respectful contemplation in sight of Grenfell Tower. This zone will be marked out separately in yellow.

These actions, coupled with the silences that will be held over the weekend, will allow people from across London and the world to take part in a mass movement of solidarity that will send a message of love and togetherness globally.

### The community asks for support in four areas

Resident group Grenfell United have the backing of a wide range of community groups and are asking for support to ensure that Notting Hill Carnival is supportive of survivors:

1. ***The closure of Lancaster West Estate*** (which Grenfell Tower forms a part of) to the general public to ensure the immediate area is untouched by the event. Special arrangements have been made with Latimer Road Station to restrict what is usually a busy route through to Carnival.
2. ***Turning carnival green***. In the weeks following the fire, local school children decided to wear green as a sign of remembrance for their friends and family members from Grenfell. The community now wants to expand this theme to Notting Hill Carnival with the wider community of Carnival attendees following suit. Members of the North Kensington community are encouraging all attendees to this year's event to come as green as they can: green tshirts, jumpsuits, shorts, trainers, socks, bandanas, hair, flags, hats. The community wants all those visiting Europe's biggest street event to show their creativity. Plans are also underway for local artists, children and volunteers to create green artworks, memorials and banners across the Notting Hill area to turn the whole of the community green as a sign of support.
3. ***Creating a quiet zone for contemplation***. A number of streets along the procession route lead to Grenfell Tower. The community has organised a quiet zone for reflection around the junction of Lancaster Road and Ladbroke Grove. Whilst moving through the reflection zone all carnival floats will switch off their music and all those in sight of the tower will be encouraged to pass respectfully in quiet contemplation. The area will be yellow, as a mark of respect and remembrance toward those still missing.
4. ***Moments of silence***. The community will be supporting a moment of silence across the whole of the Carnival footprint on both Sunday and Monday at 3pm. There will be a 3-

minute lead up to the silence to ensure everyone is ready for what will be a defining moment in the residents quest for answers and justice.

### Other essential information

The residents of North Kensington are proud to host Europe's biggest carnival and this country's largest celebration of multicultural Britain. We see Carnival as an annual opportunity to get together with our friends and neighbours in unity. This year it is only right that we also ensure that the biggest tragedy to ever impact our community is also properly reflected over the Carnival weekend.

Carnival will fall ten weeks after the fire. At the time of writing, those impacted are still in the process of healing. None of the survivors from this unprecedented event have yet been permanently rehoused. Carnival is an opportunity to raise awareness and to help focus people's thoughts on what has happened in our community, while we continue to fight for justice for the dead and survivors.

The Green for Grenfell project has been developed in consultation with a wide range of representatives and grass roots groups from the Grenfell, Lancaster West, North Kensington and Carnival Community.

- Quotes -

A spokesperson from Grenfell United said:

"Notting Hill Carnival is a defining part of our local culture and heritage. We hope people will follow these requests from us and our friends and family in the wider community. They will enable people to pay their respects; be conscious of our vulnerability; and show solidarity for our ongoing demands for housing and full justice, in the creative spirit of Carnival"

For more information

See the [www.grenfellsupport.org](http://www.grenfellsupport.org) website

Visit the dedicated Facebook and Instagram pages [www.facebook.com/GreenForGrenfellOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/GreenForGrenfellOfficial)  
<http://instagram.com/greenforgrenfell.carnival>

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