# Bereaved father urges action as Netflix’s Grenfell documentary exposes corporate neglect



Marcio Gomes, a bereaved father whose son Logan was stillborn following the devastating Grenfell Tower fire in 2017, is resolute in believing that the newly released Netflix documentary, "Grenfell: Uncovered," should serve as a catalyst for change in the ongoing struggle for justice. He asserts that the documentary, which premiered on June 20, is pivotal in ensuring that the tragic circumstances surrounding the incident—and the systemic failures that allowed it to happen—are not forgotten or ignored.

The Grenfell fire resulted in the loss of 72 lives, a tragedy that a recent independent inquiry concluded could have been prevented if not for "decades of failure" at multiple levels of government and the construction industry. The inquiry's final report detailed how deficiencies in fire safety protocols, particularly concerning the use of highly flammable cladding materials, contributed to the disaster. It highlighted a troubling pattern of negligence among entities such as the Ministry of Housing, local authorities, and the manufacturers involved, including Arconic, Kingspan, and Celotex. Each of these companies has faced severe criticism for prioritising profits over human lives and engaging in deceptive practices regarding the safety of their products.

In the lead-up to the documentary's release, Gomes expressed hope that it would resonate with audiences and spark a renewed call for accountability. "Ultimately, I’m hoping that people understand that this was no accident. This was very much avoidable," he remarked in an interview. He urged the public, particularly in the UK, to recognise the broader implications of the tragedy, stating, “These companies have a duty of care but they’ve ignored it completely.” His passionate plea emphasizes that the fight for justice is not solely about his personal loss, but an urgent issue that should concern everyone.

The documentary comes during a period of increasing scrutiny of the companies involved. The inquiry's report revealed that Arconic deliberately misled consumers about the dangers of its cladding, while Kingspan and Celotex engaged in practices that created a "false market" for unsafe insulation materials. In February, the Cabinet Office revealed that seven companies, including Arconic and Kingspan, are potentially facing bans from public contracts due to misconduct related to the tragedy. Meanwhile, investigations by the government are ongoing, aiming to assess whether any of these firms have engaged in actions warranting legal penalties.

Despite the sombre context, Gomes remains hopeful that the documentary can galvanise public action, encouraging people to write to their MPs and advocate for the removal of unsafe cladding from other buildings. “Knowing that these companies…are still making record profits and still working globally is appalling," he insisted, asserting that the lack of prosecutions after eight years signifies a failure of justice. He passionately urges a collective response, advocating for actions that resonate with the gravity of the situation—the removal of harmful materials and stopping the companies' unethical practices.

As the eighth anniversary of the Grenfell fire approaches, criticism has also been directed at plans to demolish the tower itself—a decision met with discontent from bereaved families who feel their perspectives were overlooked. The inquiries into the fire and the construction practices that led to it continue, with potential criminal proceedings anticipated as investigations deepen into the roles of various companies and individuals involved.

In this climate, the release of the documentary stands as a stark reminder of the lives lost and the urgent reforms needed to prevent future tragedies. While the inquiry's findings and the documentary seek to expose the systemic failures and promote accountability, the journey towards justice for the victims of Grenfell is far from over.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/bereaved-father-grenfell-documentary-must-mark-turning-point-in-justice-fight-SBSIAGBELROS3BWJSLBIZ6IVVY/), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/who-is-blame-deadly-2017-grenfell-tower-fire-2024-09-04/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/bereaved-father-grenfell-documentary-must-mark-turning-point-in-justice-fight-SBSIAGBELROS3BWJSLBIZ6IVVY/), [[2]](https://www.ft.com/content/18b217c4-db74-4b1a-a11e-62889dee8eca), [[5]](https://www.ft.com/content/948e9c02-2173-48dc-b5a0-79e2446f6ee9)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.lemonde.fr/en/economy/article/2024/09/04/grenfell-tower-fire-final-report-delivers-damning-verdict_6724781_19.html), [[6]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/09/04/grenfell-fire-systematic-dishonesty-cladding-inquiry/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/bereaved-father-grenfell-documentary-must-mark-turning-point-in-justice-fight-SBSIAGBELROS3BWJSLBIZ6IVVY/), [[5]](https://www.ft.com/content/948e9c02-2173-48dc-b5a0-79e2446f6ee9)
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* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/bereaved-father-grenfell-documentary-must-mark-turning-point-in-justice-fight-SBSIAGBELROS3BWJSLBIZ6IVVY/), [[6]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/09/04/grenfell-fire-systematic-dishonesty-cladding-inquiry/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/bereaved-father-grenfell-documentary-must-mark-turning-point-in-justice-fight-SBSIAGBELROS3BWJSLBIZ6IVVY/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/18b217c4-db74-4b1a-a11e-62889dee8eca> - The final report on the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire attributes the disaster to 'decades of failure' by the UK government and the construction industry. Seventy-two people perished in the fire, which began in a fridge and spread due to highly flammable cladding. The report criticizes the housing department for ignoring safety warnings, prioritizing deregulation, and allowing manufacturers to mislead about product safety. Companies like Arconic, Celotex, and Kingspan were denounced for deceptive practices. Local authorities, the Tenant Management Organisation, and the London Fire Brigade also faced scrutiny for their roles. Prime Minister Keir Starmer committed to barring implicated companies from public contracts and considering criminal penalties for slow cladding replacement. Survivors and advocacy groups emphasize that justice remains unfulfilled. A police investigation is ongoing, and further evaluation of the report's recommendations is expected.
3. <https://www.lemonde.fr/en/economy/article/2024/09/04/grenfell-tower-fire-final-report-delivers-damning-verdict_6724781_19.html> - On June 14, 2017, a catastrophic fire broke out at Grenfell Tower in North Kensington, London, leading to 72 deaths. The final report, published on September 4, 2024, after an independent inquiry, revealed severe failures and negligence in the building’s refurbishment and regulatory oversight. Essential conclusions include inappropriate use of highly flammable ACM cladding, negligence by the Ministry of Local Authorities, and regulatory circumvention by manufacturers and construction bodies. The Building Research Establishment failed to enforce fire safety rigorously. There were widespread systemic issues in construction practices, regulatory oversight, and inadequate emergency response training. The report underscores the failure to heed warnings from past fire incidents and necessitates simplified responsibility chains and strict regulatory reforms. Efforts to retrofit buildings with safer cladding continue, but widespread incompetence persists in the construction sector. The families of the victims seek justice, with possible legal proceedings anticipated from 2026.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/who-is-blame-deadly-2017-grenfell-tower-fire-2024-09-04/> - A public inquiry concluded that the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire, which killed 72 people, resulted from 'decades of failure' by the UK government and the construction industry. The report highlighted multiple failures, including the government's disregard for risks associated with combustible cladding, particularly following a 2009 blaze. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) failed to ensure safety compliance during refurbishment, and the response to the fire was criticized as slow and indecisive. The Tenant Management Organisation (TMO) prioritized cost-saving over safety. Various firms were found guilty of dishonesty by using and misleading the market about dangerous materials. Architects and contractors involved in the design and construction exhibited neglect regarding fire safety. The London Fire Brigade was unprepared due to poor management and assumptions about building regulations. Additionally, the Building Research Establishment and National House Building Council succumbed to commercial pressures, compromising safety standards.
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/948e9c02-2173-48dc-b5a0-79e2446f6ee9> - The UK government intends to ban companies identified in the Grenfell Tower public inquiry from securing public contracts. The 2017 fire resulted in 72 fatalities and revealed 'decades of failure' by the government and parts of the construction industry. The government has committed to all 58 recommendations from the six-year inquiry report, which includes reforms to construction materials testing and regulation. Companies such as Arconic, Kingspan, and Celotex, were found to have acted dishonestly, prioritizing profit over safety. Proposed reforms include civil and criminal penalties for misleading practices. The government plans to use procurement legislation to investigate and potentially ban these companies from government contracts. The Metropolitan Police are also investigating, focusing on 19 organizations and 58 individuals. Companies’ responses range from denying misconduct to acknowledging past failings. The inquiry highlighted regulatory gaps, prompting government efforts to tighten product safety and standard enforcement.
6. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/09/04/grenfell-fire-systematic-dishonesty-cladding-inquiry/> - The final report of the public inquiry into the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire blamed the disaster on failings by the government, the construction industry, and particularly the companies involved in fitting the building with flammable cladding. The fire, which killed 72 people, was deemed avoidable. The inquiry criticized the firms for incompetence, dishonesty, and greed, particularly highlighting the roles of Studio E, Rydon, Harley, and fire safety inspectors Exova. The government and local authorities were also criticized for inaction and indifference towards fire safety regulations. Prime Minister Keir Starmer apologized to the victims' families, admitting governmental failure. The inquiry found that the fire, sparked by an electrical fault in a refrigerator, spread rapidly due to the combustible cladding. Many were condemned for systematic dishonesty in the marketing of materials. Despite the tragedy, many buildings in the UK still retain similar unsafe cladding.