



## IRAQI ASSOCIATION

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### Press Release

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017

### Grenfell Tower Fire

It has been five days since the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower in Latimer Road, West London and the numbers of those feared dead continues to rise each day. There are many questions yet to be answered, but what is clear is that the response by the local community has been overwhelming. The sheer volume of donations, the huge numbers of volunteers and the messages of support for those affected has been staggering; a true illustration of community spirit in London and from further afield. Our charity's AGM on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June began with a minute of silence to remember the victims.

Local community centres and places of worship spontaneously became places for people to take donations and have been inundated with food, water and clothing to the point that they no longer have space to take more. If you would like to make a donation, the Kensington and Chelsea Foundation has been coordinating the fundraising effort at: [www.thekandcfoundation.com/donate/](http://www.thekandcfoundation.com/donate/)

One of the centres which has received donations is one which we use regularly as a venue for our weekly women's sessions and other events – The Edward Woods Community Centre (60-70 Norland Road, London, W11 4TX). Whilst they also can no longer accept donated goods, they have suggested sending gift cards from supermarkets or clothing stores that will help to give those who have lost everything some independence when buying the things they need. We are also approaching the agencies currently delivering support to the community in order to offer our services.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to the families, friends and neighbours of those who lost their lives in this devastating tragedy. Our thoughts are with all who have lost their homes, and those who remain in hospital, as well as the firefighters and other emergency personnel who responded that night, many risking their lives, and are continuing with their difficult work.

**Iraqi Association**

19<sup>th</sup> June 2017

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