

Letters to the Editor



Grenfell, 5 years on

Sir, This week marks the fifth anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire. Seventy-two people died. Forty per cent of disabled residents died. No residents had evacuation plans.

Despite Boris Johnson's pledge to implement the Grenfell inquiry recommendations in full, none have been implemented. Even worse, the government has rejected outright the recommendation to place a legal duty on building owners to provide personal emergency evacuation plans for disabled residents unable to escape the building unaided. Evacuation plans would mean disabled residents, and those around them, would feel confident in an emergency. This would include knowing who might help and having access to appropriate aids. By refusing to implement evacuation plans the government is showing a shocking disregard for the lives of disabled people.

This week the government, and the country, will remember those lost in the Grenfell fire. Many will say "never again" but without a legal duty for evacuation plans for disabled people this will ring hollow. We have launched a petition calling on the government to reverse its callous and bewildering decision.

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Sarah Rennie

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