

## Grenfell as Social Murder



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## Grenfell Tower as a Source of Harm

- Physical Harms
- Emotional / Psychological Harms
- Cultural Harms
- Financial / Economic Harms
- Harms of Recognition

## Grenfell as Crime?

Mohammad Gamoota, Elaine Douglas and Tommy Brooks,  
 Omega Mwaikambo, Eamon Zada, Anh Nhu Nguyen and Joyce  
 Msokeri

The Corporate Manslaughter and Homicide Act

- Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea
- Kensington & Chelsea Tenants Management Organisation
- Rydon as lead contractor on refurbishment, some from 8 other main sub-contractors

Health and Safety and/or Fire Safety legislation

## Grenfell as the outcome of a long-term, sustained attack on 'regulation' ...

Four mutually supportive processes:

- A long term *rhetorical assault* on regulation as burdensome, red tape etc
- *A mass of Institutions* within and around Government undermining regulation
- *Legal reform*: deregulation and re-regulation
- *Reviews* of Regulators and Regulation

### ... and enforcement

The withdrawal from *enforcement* from (2005) 2010 onwards, especially at local level:

- Health and safety at work inspections down by 69% from 2010/11 to 2015/16)
- Food 'safety' – hygiene and standards inspections down 15% and 35%
- Pollution control inspections down 55%
- Fire safety inspections down 25%

### Grenfell as Social Murder

“When one individual inflicts bodily injury upon another, such injury that death results, we call that deed manslaughter; when the assailant knew in advance that the injury would be fatal, we call this deed murder. But when society places hundreds of proletarians in such a position that they inevitably meet a too early and an unnatural death, one which is quite as much a death by violence as that by the sword or the bullet; when it deprives thousands of the necessities of life, places them under conditions in which they cannot live - forces them ... to remain in such conditions until that death ensues which is the inevitable consequence—knows that these thousands of victims must perish, and yet permits these conditions to remain, its deed is murder just as surely as the deed of the single individual”.

So, “with perfect correctness”, he continues, we should characterise such deaths as “as **social murder**” (Engels, 1969, p. 106)