



Newsletter

August 2022
Issue 18

Message from Catherine Nalty, Deputy Secretary to the Inquiry

In this issue we look ahead to the Inquiry's work over the next months. We hope that in October it will once again be possible to hold meetings outside London – more on this below. I'd also like to reassure you all that we will continue to arrange meetings for participants between the end of hearings early next year and the close of the Inquiry. As we enter the final year of the Inquiry's work, we have asked our British Red Cross team to start us thinking about how we approach endings.

Local Meetings in October

In the middle of March 2020 I was travelling to Swansea with two colleagues after a meeting in Cardiff. That evening we heard that coronavirus meant that the remaining meetings would need to be cancelled and, well, you know what happened next.

Many Inquiry participants have told us how valuable it is to meet other participants from the same area, and we are optimistic that it will be possible to hold local meetings again this autumn. We are also exploring how we can hold these with some people in the room, and others (who would prefer not to, or cannot, meet in person) joining online.

We are aiming to hold the meetings in the two weeks beginning 17 and 24 October, and the locations we're considering are: London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Newcastle, Leeds, Belfast, Bristol, Cardiff, Bournemouth, Norwich, Exeter and Glasgow.

To help us with the planning we're asking anyone who is interested in attending to answer a very short survey by clicking [here](#).

Using this survey will make it much easier for us to complete our planning. We will update you, and open registration, once we have confirmed the locations and dates.



Inquiry's British Red Cross team on Endings

At some point next year, the Inquiry will finish its work, and Sir Brian's report and recommendations will be published. This may bring with it feelings of relief, anger, or sorrow with questions like "What happens now?" "What's next?"

We'd like to share some thoughts with you about the normal endings we all encounter in life - which can affect us all very differently.

When something significant such as this Inquiry ends, some of us look forward, hoping for a kind of closure, perhaps a new phase of life, and possibilities. Others wonder what life will look like without such deep involvement, especially when they have given years of their time, commitment and energy. Many will think of those with whom they started the journey, but who won't be there to see it end. So many different perspectives and feelings, all equally valid and normal. Perhaps none of us can ever really know how we will feel, as the experiences we go through draw towards a close.

What we can know though, is that all our feelings are a natural part of being human, even the ones that are confusing and painful. We've all coped with endings before, and we've learnt how to prepare and pace ourselves. We carry precious memories, new connections and learning onwards with us. We also recognise that we might need support. You'll find our details at the bottom of the page so please remember that we are here for you.



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British Red Cross Confidential Support line

Tel: 0800 458 9473 or 0203 417 0280 at these times:

Monday between 11am - 1pm;
Wednesday between 7pm - 9pm; and
Friday between 2pm - 4pm.

Or leave a message any time and you will receive a call back as soon as possible