



## The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Bereavement Support

### Secretariat The Good Grief Trust Minutes

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 10am to 11am

**Venue:** Meeting Room T at Portcullis House and Zoom

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#### In attendance:

Afzal Khan	Labour MP - Manchester Gorton
Linda Magistris	The Good Grief Trust Founder & CEO
Carol Manley	The Good Grief Trust Charity Manager
Paula Sandiford	The Good Grief Trust Admin Manager & PA
Sian Duddy	The Good Grief Trust Trustee
Helen Churchill	The Good Grief Trust Trustee
Lydia Baker	The Good Grief Trust Ambassador – Bereavement Midwife, Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust
Rabbi Daniel Epstein	Western Marble Arch Synagogue
Finella Craig	Great Ormond Street Hospital
Eve Henderson	Murdered Abroad
Revd Karl Carpani	Deputy Head of Chaplaincy, Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Alison Penny	Childhood Bereavement Network
Mohamed Omer MBE	Board Member- External Affairs, Gardens of Peace Muslim Cemetery
Holly Koegh-Davies	Co-op
Richard Boyd	Tamba Bereavement Support Group
Carolyn Brice	The Compassionate Friends
Nikki Speed	SUDC UK

Alison Summers	St Christopher's Hospice
Joanne Early	SAMM
Shelly Daniels	The Good Grief Trust Volunteer
Sarah Kiely	Grief Chat
Vini Hajari	Bone Cancer Research Trust

### Apologies:

Tobias Ellwood	Conservative MP – Bournemouth East
Patricia Gibson	SNP MP - North Ayrshire & Arran
Wera Hobhouse	Liberal Democrat MP - Bath
Gillian Keegan	Conservative MP - Chichester
Jan Soulsby	The Good Grief Trust Trustee
Mark Baxter	The Good Grief Trust Trustee
Finella Craig	Great Ormond Street Hospital
Beverley Radcliffe	Director, The Coroners' Courts Support Service
Fiona Murphy MBE	Honorary Doctorate – Health Care Director of Nursing, Liverpool Royal Foundation Trust
Kim Bird	Before You Go
Alice Davies	Associate Director of Nursing for Palliative, End of Life Care and Bereavement, The Royal Oldham Hospital

### Agenda:

1. Introductions and Welcomes
2. **Member** updates
3. **National Grief Awareness Week 2022** – Linda Magistris to present updates
4. **Ongoing areas for discussion**
  - Refugee Support – bereaved families arriving in the UK
  - Child funeral costs and family support
  - Signposting to bereavement services
5. **AOB**
6. Next meeting date

**\*\* END**

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## Minutes:

### 1. Linda Magistris introduced and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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### 2. Member updates

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### 3. National Grief Awareness Week 2022 Roundup

#### Linda Magistris

- Lots of enthusiastic input from stakeholders during last week's stakeholder meeting
- This year we are going back to basics to raise awareness of the bereavement support across the UK
- We are considering #StrongerTogether for this campaign
- Same dates apply from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> December
- Primarily the campaign is about collaboration and raising awareness of the impact of grief

#### Finella Craig

- Love the plans. Flagged #StongerTogether is Labour's pre-election hashtag to not align GGT with a political party.
- LM: We will consider changing for our campaign to make it more neutral.

#### Carol Manley

- High profile events to attract the publicity to raise the awareness, next level local events with bereavement services, Cruse suggested GGT links up with their 80 local offices to run events, next is grass roots and link up with community groups and networks who already have coffee mornings that aren't bereavement specific to utilise existing groups.
- Also want to link with Hospices for staff to join coffee events.
- Webinars will include professionals and non-professionals talking about various topics including using art, gardening, etc to help with the grief journey.
- All this is to help get the message out that we are there to help.
- LM: Recently invited to a Sue Ryder event to hear research from a recent report. Linking with SR for NGAW.

#### Rabbi Daniel Epstein

- Suggested setting up a link for GPs to have on their desktop to refer to when they see a bereaved patient.
- **LM:** Initiative to provide NHS England with our condolence and signposting card has been successful. We are now distributing the cards to GPs. Agreed every GPs desktop should have a tab on their website directing them to GGT's website to search for tailored support via the interactive map on our

website. Aligned with Sye Ryder's pathway through bereavement to ensure early signposting is in place for everyone. It is important we all work together to solve the various challenges as quickly as possible, for example getting crematoria websites to have the tab to signpost to tailored support.

### **Shelly Davies**

- What are the practicalities for NGAW of hosting events in coffee shops like Costa Coffee, would there any safeguarding issues doing this?
- **LM:** We are being approached to host events during NGAW. We will provide these orgs with the tool kit, and they will work under their safeguarding and guidelines to run cafes during NGAW.

### **SD**

- In the Dorset area, awareness for GGT is low, and would love to promote the week.
- **LM:** thank you, that would be fabulous, and yes please Shelly.

**Action:** Please do get in touch with us about the campaign and continue to send us your ideas.

## **4. Ongoing action areas for discussion**

### **Refugees support – bereaved families arriving in the UK**

- Childhood Bereavement UK has an excellent page on their website with lots of links for refugees to access bereavement support.
- SANDS trying to get Ukrainian speakers on their helplines.
- How can we standardise this process?
- GGT has reached out to the Chief Executive of the Refugee Council to see if there is anything GGT can do centrally or via the APPG

**Action:** All, please do feed in your thoughts and share information and we will add them to GGT's website.

### **Child funeral costs and family support**

#### **DE**

- Need to develop and introduce a country-wide policy for statutory bereavement leave and pay which is available for everyone.

#### **JE**

- It is essential to ensure there is flexibility with the bereavement leave policy
- Families bereaved from homicide abroad do not qualify for statutory leave because their loved one didn't die in the UK

#### **DE**

- Agrees there should be flexibility tied into this policy and allow at least a year to take the leave

### **Sian Duddy**

- Agreed flexibility is crucial and to be taken over at least a two-year period

#### **CM**

- A flexible hybrid approach is key and to introduce a 'work champion', a dedicated employee the bereaved can reach out to if they need to take a day of or struggling

### **Alison Penny**

- Important for this to be flexible for everyone in different circumstances, to allow people to take one day at a time.
- Time off around important anniversary is a must.
- Better support from line managers and colleagues to have more compassionate conversations.
- In Scotland, the Charter Mark Group are developing a charter mark for employers – employees can take three of five options and then they can apply for a Charter Mark.

#### **Lydia Baker**

- Time framing should be looked at as current parental bereavement leave is up to the age of 18 when a child dies.
- Bereavement leave should be standardised and not associated with the type of loss, Time framing should be looked at as current parental bereavement leave is up to the age of 18 when a child dies, should be extended to anyone who has lost a loved one.

#### **Mohamed Omar**

- Agree with Lydia cannot age restrict bereavement leave.
- The impact of bereavement by homicide or deaths from unusual circumstance is a complex

#### **Sarah Kiely**

- Important when thinking about stat leave, remember people who are not salaried in their jobs, ie freelancers, those on zero-contracts, as there is no option for them

#### **Karl Carpini**

- This is going to be a policy that is not one size fits all.
- Consider an assessment approach that looks towards those who are bereaved for example, the challenge for bereaved health care professionals who go back to work with those who are dying.
- Co-production in the policy to include input from those who have a lived experience.

#### **Holly Keogh-Davies**

- The Co-op has introduced policies around bereavement support and pregnancy loss. Both packages are flexible rather than statutory two weeks and about empowering managers to offer the right time off/support regardless of the relationship with the person who has died.
- Positive impact on colleagues.
- Anyone interested please contact me - [holly.keogh-davies@coop.co.uk](mailto:holly.keogh-davies@coop.co.uk)

#### **Joanne Earley**

- Picked up on the comment Mohamed made.
- SAMM supports people bereaved by murder and the complexities around that
- Consider those who have PTSD, etc not just for the bereaved by murder when developing this policy

#### **Eve Henderson**

- Agree with Jo, there is nothing available for those bereaved by murder, and manslaughter abroad.
- Some wait 5 years for a trial.
- The victims a small group of people are not considered victims because the crime happened abroad.

- These need to be considered and the time associated with this type of complex bereavement.

**Action:** Set an action group led by Rabbi Danial Epstein

**DE**

- This will also be a nod to let the public know the Government is taking bereavement seriously

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**Lydia Baker**

- Would like to see training for funeral directors to take footprints and handprints for loved ones.
- Creative memories are available in hospitals when a baby dies.
- Lydia flagged that creative memories for adult deaths is not and should be offered as standard for everyone, more so for parents leaving behind children too young to know or remember their late parent.
- The kit only costs £1.50 and it is easy to do.

**LM**

- Important to have those memory making moments and encourage Funeral Directors to consider this.
- It's all about us reaching in.
- Part of our future work with this APPG is to work closely with the APPGs for Funeral Directors and Palliative Care

**CM:**

- Would be great to have this topic as an agenda item for the APPG for Funerals

**LM**

- Will contact the Chair of APPG on Funerals and suggests Lydia presents at one of their meetings

**KC**

- Love this, fantastic idea.
- Concern is how it might get commercialised by some FDs
- Will take the idea to his trust to see if they can introduce it at his hospital

**Richard Boyd**

- Asked if anyone has been in contact with the trade bodies with this idea?
- Like the Society of Allied and Independent Funerals and the National Association of Funeral Directors.
- If not, he has a contact who can put us in touch with the trade bodies.

**LB**

- No because she works with babies.
- Has heard people have been charged a lot when the embalmer does it.

**Action:** Richard to share his trade body contact(s) and we will collate them along with the APPGs and move forward with this.

**Refugee Support – bereaved families arriving in the UK**

**LM**

- I know Childhood Bereavement UK has an excellent page on their website with lots of links and SANDS trying to get Ukrainian speakers on their

helplines. But how can we Standardise this process. CE of Refugee Council to see if there is anything we can do centrally or via the APPG

**Action:** please do feed in your thoughts and information and we will add them to GGT's website.

## **AOB**

### **Eve Henderson**

- Well done whoever did the minutes last time.
- Please add the chat notes with the minutes.

Thank you so much to everyone for joining us today and for your support and see you after the summer.

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