



Survivors and bereaved people from major UK and overseas disasters founded the charity Disaster Action (DA) in 1991. Members have personal experience of surviving and/or being bereaved in 27 disasters over a period of 30 years, including terrorist attacks, transport and natural disasters within and outside the UK. The organisation consists of an informal national network. DA's purpose is to represent the interests of those on the receiving end of disaster.

Guidance for responders

The DA website contains a section with guidance documents for responders on issues such as disaster victim identification, helping to bring people together and enabling the development of support groups after disaster, and longer-term support needs. See <http://www.disasteraction.org.uk/guidance/default.htm>

DA acts as independent advisers to the police, central and local government and voluntary agencies such as the British Red Cross Society. We offer our views and experience of a range of issues relating to victim identification; viewing, recovery and release of bodies; the inquest process; communication channels; death certification; and support networks and family and survivor support groups.

We advised on the setting up of the first Humanitarian Assistance Centres in the UK following the July 2005 London bombings and the April 2009 North Sea Super Puma helicopter crash.

Support for those directly affected by disaster

In our experience, contact with those who have previously experienced a disaster can be beneficial for those going through a similarly traumatic experience. DA members are not counsellors, but people with such personal experience. We support survivors and the bereaved through our leaflet series **When Disaster Strikes** (see <http://www.disasteraction.org.uk/support/default.htm>) and telephone/ email contact. We also help to bring people together through self-determining family and survivor support groups, if they wish.

For the bereaved and survivors and their relatives and friends, DA offers:

- The benefit of personal experience
- Non-judgmental, listening support
- Practical advice
- An understanding of the issues particular to disasters
- Experience of the civil/criminal justice system
- Ongoing support and contact with others similarly affected.

Where appropriate, DA signposts those with whom we are in contact to other sources of support.

Contact Details

For further information, please contact Pamela Dix, Executive Director of Disaster Action, on 01483 799066 or visit our website, details below.

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www.disasteraction.org.uk

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