



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 May 2019

Dear Sir Martin

My letter to you of 10 May 2018 advised of my intention to appoint additional members to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry panel for phase 2 of its work.

Section 7 of the Inquiries Act 2005 states that the power to appoint additional members to the Inquiry panel is exercisable only with the consent of the Inquiry Chair. I am therefore writing to seek your consent to the appointment to the Inquiry panel of Professor Nabeel Hamdi and Thouria Istephan.

Section 8 of the Inquiries Act is clear that in deciding to exercise my power to appoint additional panel members to the Inquiry, I must have regard to:

- (1) the need to ensure that the Inquiry panel (considered as a whole) has the necessary expertise to undertake the Inquiry; and
- (2) in the case of an Inquiry panel consisting of a chair and one or more other members, to the need for balance (considered against the background of the terms of reference) in the composition of the panel.


Professor Hamdi is a widely respected and accomplished academic with an international reputation in housing and participatory design and planning. Ms Istephan is an experienced and highly respected architect. She is a partner at Fosters + Partners, a British architectural practice with a global reputation, and has a range of skills and experience directly relevant to the issues that the Inquiry will be investigating in phase 2 of its work.

A curriculum vitae for each appointee is attached to this letter for your consideration. I am confident that Professor Hamdi and Ms Istephan will provide the Inquiry panel with the balance of skills and experience and the professional standing necessary to add real value to the Inquiry's work for phase 2.

The Act is also clear that I must not appoint a person to the panel who has a direct interest in the matters to which the Inquiry relates or a person who has a close association with an interested party unless those links could not reasonably be regarded as affecting the impartiality of the Inquiry panel. The individuals have confirmed that they are not aware of any conflict of interest and Cabinet Office officials have also undertaken due diligence on each of the candidates which has not identified any concerns.

I hope that these appointments will also reassure the victims, survivors, bereaved and the wider public that, along with your Chairmanship, the Inquiry has all the breadth of skills and experience to conduct a thorough investigation of the phase 2 issues.

I look forward to receiving your consent to the appointment of Professor Hamdi and Ms Istephan which, along with my letter to you, I would expect to publish on gov.uk when an announcement of the appointments is made.

Yours sincerely


The Right Honourable Sir Martin Moore-Bick

Professor Nabeel Hamdi CV

AA Dipl Professor Emeritus – Oxford Brookes University

AWARDS

- Doctor of Architecture (Honoris Causa) University of Pretoria 2008
- Regeneration Award: International Category awarded to the International Development Projects Office, Oxford Brookes University, for its contribution to the Malecon 2000 Project in Ecuador (Principal Advisor) 2005
- Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education, 2001: awarded to CENDEP for its MSc in Development Practice (founder)
- UNCHS (Habitat) Scroll of Honour 1997
- Honorary Professor Universidad Nacional de San Antonio Abad del Cuosco, Peru 1994
- American Institute of Architects Education Honors Program 1989
- Ford International Career Development Professorship, Massachusetts Institute of Technology 1983
- Neighbourhood Service Award, Topeka, Kansas 1979
- Architectural Design Pick of the Projects 1974

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1978 - Present

- Consultant and principal researcher on housing, urban development, community action planning, training, slum improvement, participatory methods - for governments, NGOs and international agencies including European Union, Malecon 2000 Foundation Ecuador, ODA/DfID, Palestine Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, UNCHS, UNRWA, USAID, UNHCR, UNICEF, Banco Ecuatoriana de la Vivienda Ecuador, Intermediate Technology Development Group, SDC, CAREUK, FORUT (Sri Lanka). Habitat for Humanity.

1971 - 1978

- Job Architect/Researcher for Greater London Council: developed award winning pilot projects PSSHAK, N. Wilkinson, Stamford Hill and Adelaide Road, London

IN-COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

- Housing and community based urban development and slum improvement projects and programmes including training in Britain. (Eden Project, Multistory, Birmingham), Egypt, Sri Lanka, Chile, USA, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Sudan, Jamaica, Iraq, India, Somalia, Belize, Ecuador, Philippines, Mexico, Byelorussia, Peru, South Africa, Syria, Kenya, Guatemala, and Romania.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

1997 – Present

- Visiting Professor, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University
- Professor, Housing and Urban Development: Oxford Brookes University, and Director, Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP)
- Visiting Professor – Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, USA
- Adjunct Professor, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway
- Ove Arup Fellow: University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Teaching Fellow and Course Leader - Participatory Processes – Building for Development: Development Planning Unit, University College London
- PhD External Examiner: Trondheim, Loughbrough, Edinburgh, Cambridge, UCL London, Strathclyde University

1990 - 1997

- Founder and Chair of the MSc in Development Practice, Senior Lecturer, School of Architecture, Oxford, Brookes University
- Adjunct Professor, MIT
- External Examiner: Architectural Association, Bartlett School of Architecture, Development Planning Unit, University College London

1981 - 1990

- Assistant Professor, then Associate Professor of Housing, Department of Architecture, MIT, Cambridge, Mass

1980 - 1981

- Visiting Associate Professor, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada

1978 - 1980

- Visiting Assistant Professor, School of Architecture, Kansas State University

SPONSORED RESEARCH – Principal Investigator & Team Member in a variety of research programs including:

- Norwegian Research Council
- Charles Mott Foundation Economic Development Institute of the World Bank
- ODA/DfID
- British Council
- Charity Know How Fund
- Massachusetts Housing Partnership
- Government of Sri Lanka
- Swiss Agency for Development Co-operation (SDC)
- Rowntree Memorial Trust

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

- The Spacemakers Guide to Big Change (Routledge 2014)
- The Placemakers Guide to Building Community (Earthscan 2010)
- Urban Futures (ed) (Intermediate Technology Publications 2005)
- Small Change: about the art of practice and the limits of planning in cities (Earthscan 2004)
- Action Planning for Cities - a Guide to Community Practice, (John Wiley & Sons; Chichester, 1997) – with R. Goethert
- Educating for Real: the Training of Professionals for Development Practice (ed) (Intermediate Technology Publications, London, 1996)
- Housing without Houses: Flexibility Participation, Enablement (Van Nostrand Reinhold, New York 1991 and Intermediate Technology Publications, London 1995)
- Making Microplans: a community based process in programming and development (Intermediate Technology Publications; London 1988), republished in Spanish by the World Bank, 1992 - with R. Goethert
- Various papers in international journals including Architectural Review, Progressive Architecture, Habitat International, Urban Design International etc

PUBLIC LECTURES, CONFERENCES AND SHORT COURSES

UK; USA; Canada; Belgium; Holland; Italy; Norway; Germany; Ecuador; Peru; South Africa; Kuwait; Chile; Jordan; Sweden; Zambia; Turkey; Mozambique, Guatemala, Romania

Thouria Istephan CV

BA (Hons) Arch, Dip Architecture, Dip Health and Safety, ARB RIBA MIOSH

Thouria Istephan is partner and CDM Manager at Foster + Partners, and in this role she is responsible for the application of Construction (Design and Management) Regulations – strategically and operationally – as well as global health and safety compliance. She is also the Technical Design Deputy of the practice's Construction Review Group, advising on buildability.

She studied architecture at the City of Leicester Polytechnic School of Architecture and at Sheffield University, graduating in 1990. She later gained a postgraduate Diploma in Health and Safety at Aston University.

She worked for several UK practices including Abbey Hanson and Rowe Architects before joining the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) as an HM Inspector of Health and Safety. At the HSE, she worked as a Field Inspector, Construction specialist before acting as advisor on Construction (Design and Management) Regulations.

She joined Foster + Partners in June 1997 as CDM Manager for the practice, consolidating her Health and Safety expertise and architectural experience, working to integrate health and safety by design.

She has contributed to several associations and research projects, including: the HSC/HSE Occupational Health Working Party; DTI Initiatives - 'Working Well' and 'Rethinking Construction – Toolkit'; the Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRA), the European Construction Institute (ECI) and Loughborough University, and Glasgow Caledonian University. As a member of the Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRCIA) she contributed to several research publications: 'CDM Regulations-work sector guidance for Designs'; CDM Regulations–Practical guidance for clients and clients' agents'; and, 'CDM Regulations – Practical guidance for Planning Supervisors' to the 2015 'CITB Principal Designer Guidance' update.

She has also contributed on a number of papers and publications on Fire and Façade Access matters.

She has also lectured at the RIBA, to the HSE, IOSH, CIC, as well as at construction forums in the United Kingdom, Holland, Spain, Denmark, Hong Kong, UAE and the United States.

She was promoted to partner in 2007 and Technical Design Deputy 2015.