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Lecture – 6 pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## **THE GRENFELL TOWER FIRE: KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE INQUIRY AND FURTHER CHANGES ON THE HORIZON**

Professor José Torero BSc, MSc, PhD, CEng, FEng, FRSE, FICE, FIFireE

Institution of Civil Engineers, One Great George Street, London SW1P 3AA

### **Synopsis**

Major disasters always tend to result in a period of active change. This year brings the ninth anniversary of the Grenfell Tower Fire and the year that will see the enactment of the government's response to the final report of the Public Inquiry led by Sir Martin Moore-Bick. In the last nine years there have been major changes in legislation as well as massive retrofit programmes for multiple affected buildings. Government has reaffirmed its position of retaining a regulatory system based on functional requirements and not on prescriptive rules. For such a system to work properly there must be a framework of competence.

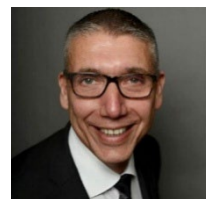
Central to the Grenfell Tower failures is the absence of a competency framework that has led to a widespread misunderstanding of how to properly implement fire safety in construction. The Inquiry emphasises that competency issues extend way beyond those who call themselves fire engineers and include all disciplines involved in building design and construction. Provisions of competency have been incorporated in the Building Safety Act (2022). The Building Safety Regulator has been introduced to enhance the quality of the review process. Government's acceptance of all the Phase 2 recommendations has further emphasized the need for competent practice and has challenged the role of professional bodies. In stark contrast, professional organizations and practice do not appear to have implemented changes that are of sufficient significance. In this presentation Professor Torero will summarize these actions and conclusions setting the stage to what could be expected to be the future of fire safety within the construction industry.

### **Speaker**

Since 2018 he is Professor of Civil Engineering and Head of the Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering at University College London. He works in the field of fire safety where he specializes in complex processes and environments.

He has participated in numerous fundamental research studies that involve complex urban environments, novel architectures, new construction materials, critical infrastructure, aircraft and spacecraft. He is actively involved in practice, participating regularly in complex building designs, forensic failure analysis and project peer review. Among key projects he has worked on are the collapse of the World Trade Center towers 1, 2 and 7, the design of the world tallest mass timber office building and the investigation of the Address building fire in Dubai. He was an instructed expert for the Grenfell Tower Inquiry (2017-2024) producing five major reports.

He has received multiple awards and is a Chartered Engineer (UK) a fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering (UK), The Royal Society of Edinburgh (UK), The Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering and the Institution of Civil Engineers (UK) among others.



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Any IESF non-members wishing to book for the drinks reception at £10 per person, or the drinks reception and dinner should request a booking form by emailing [events@iesf.co.uk](mailto:events@iesf.co.uk)

### **Timings**

Tea and coffee from 17.15

Lecture at 18.00

Drinks reception 19.15

Dinner 19.50

Carriages 22.00