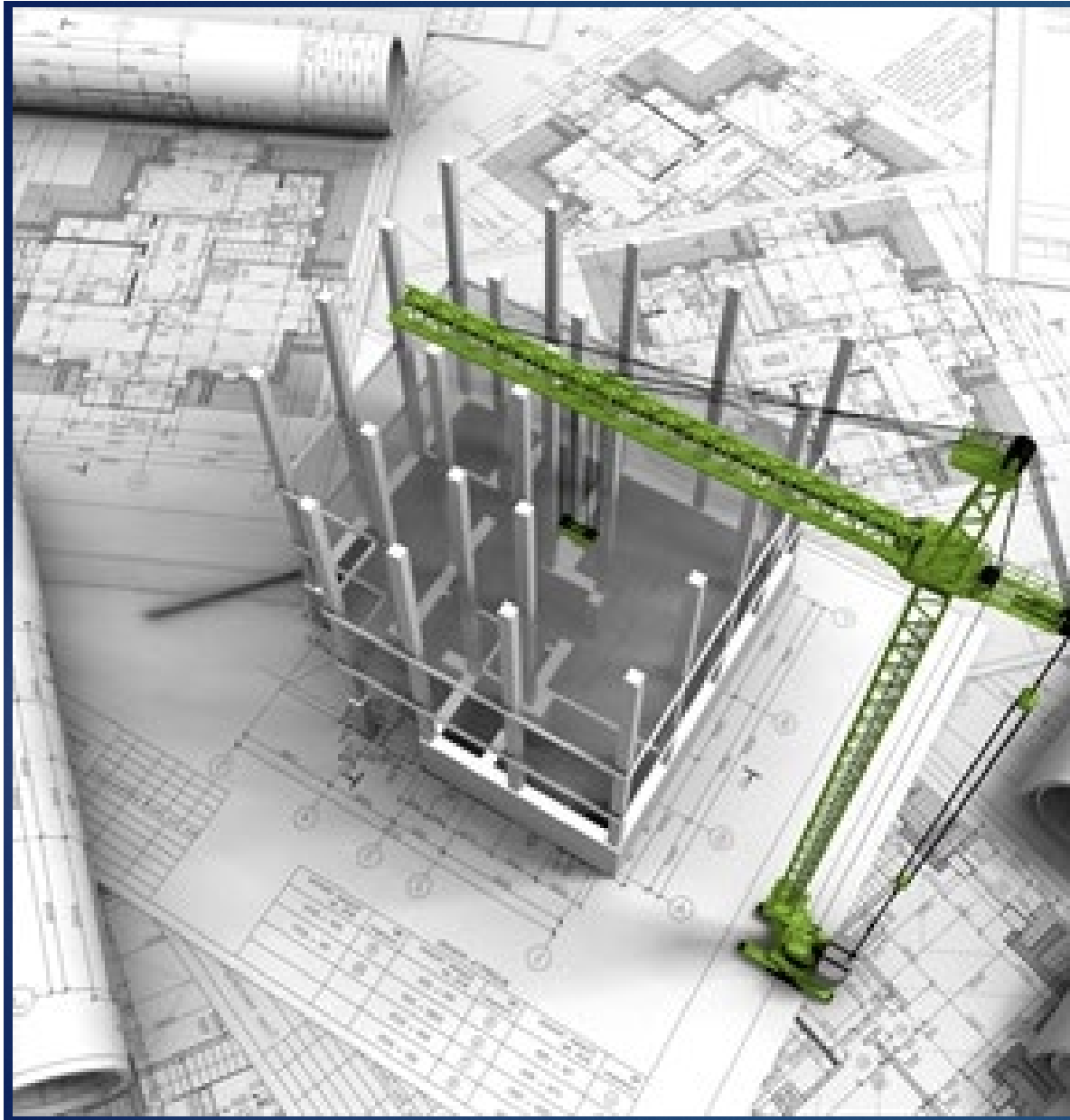




Ethics in Construction: Building with Integrity and Responsibility

Ethics

Ethics refers to a branch of philosophy that deals with questions about what is morally right and wrong, good and bad, fair and unfair.



Professional Ethics



Professional ethics refers to the principles and standards that guide individuals in performing their work and conducting themselves in a professional setting.

Ethics in Construction

Ethics are important in construction because...



Ethics in Construction

Ensure that projects are carried out with integrity and responsibility

- ▶ Leading to better quality work
- ▶ Safer work sites
- ▶ Better relationships with clients.





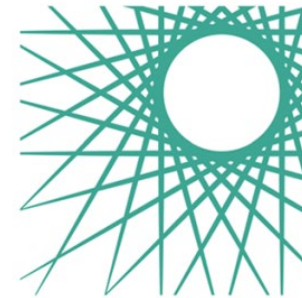
Promoting Ethical Practices in Construction

Role of Professional Organisations

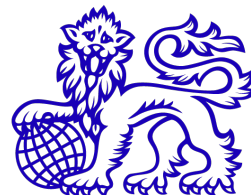


Professional organisations play a vital role in promoting ethical practices in construction by providing guidance and resources and promoting codes of conduct and best practices.

Role of Professional Organisations



cabe
chartered
association
of building
engineers



Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors



- The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) is a globally recognised professional body that promotes and enforces high standards in land, real estate, construction, and infrastructure sectors.

Institution of Civil Engineers

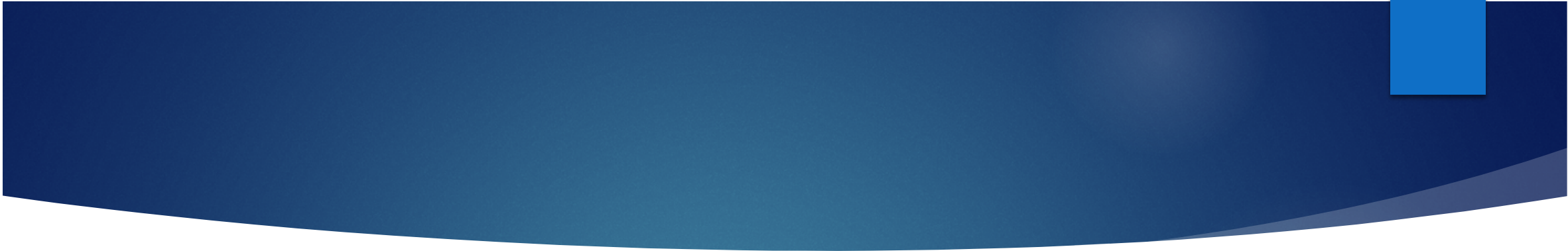
The logo for the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) is displayed in white lowercase letters on a light blue rectangular background. The letters are bold and sans-serif, with the 'i' having a distinct dot.

- The Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) is a professional organisation that supports and represents civil engineers worldwide.

Chartered Institute of Building



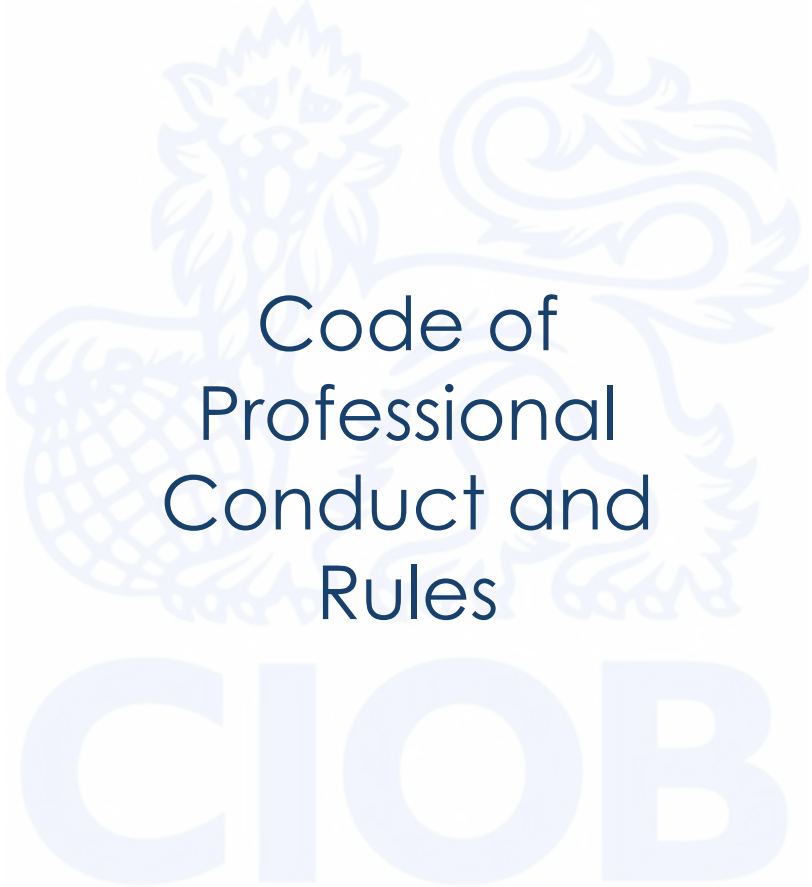
- ▶ The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) is a globally recognised professional body dedicated to the management and leadership of construction and the built environment.



Rules of
Conduct



Code of
Professional
Conduct



Code of
Professional
Conduct and
Rules

Honesty & Integrity

Professional Competence

Continuing Professional Development

High Quality Service

Respect, Equality and Inclusion

Public Interest

Sustainability

Conflicts of Interest

Confidentiality and Data Protection

Whistleblowing

Responsibility to the Profession



Common Ethical Issues in Construction

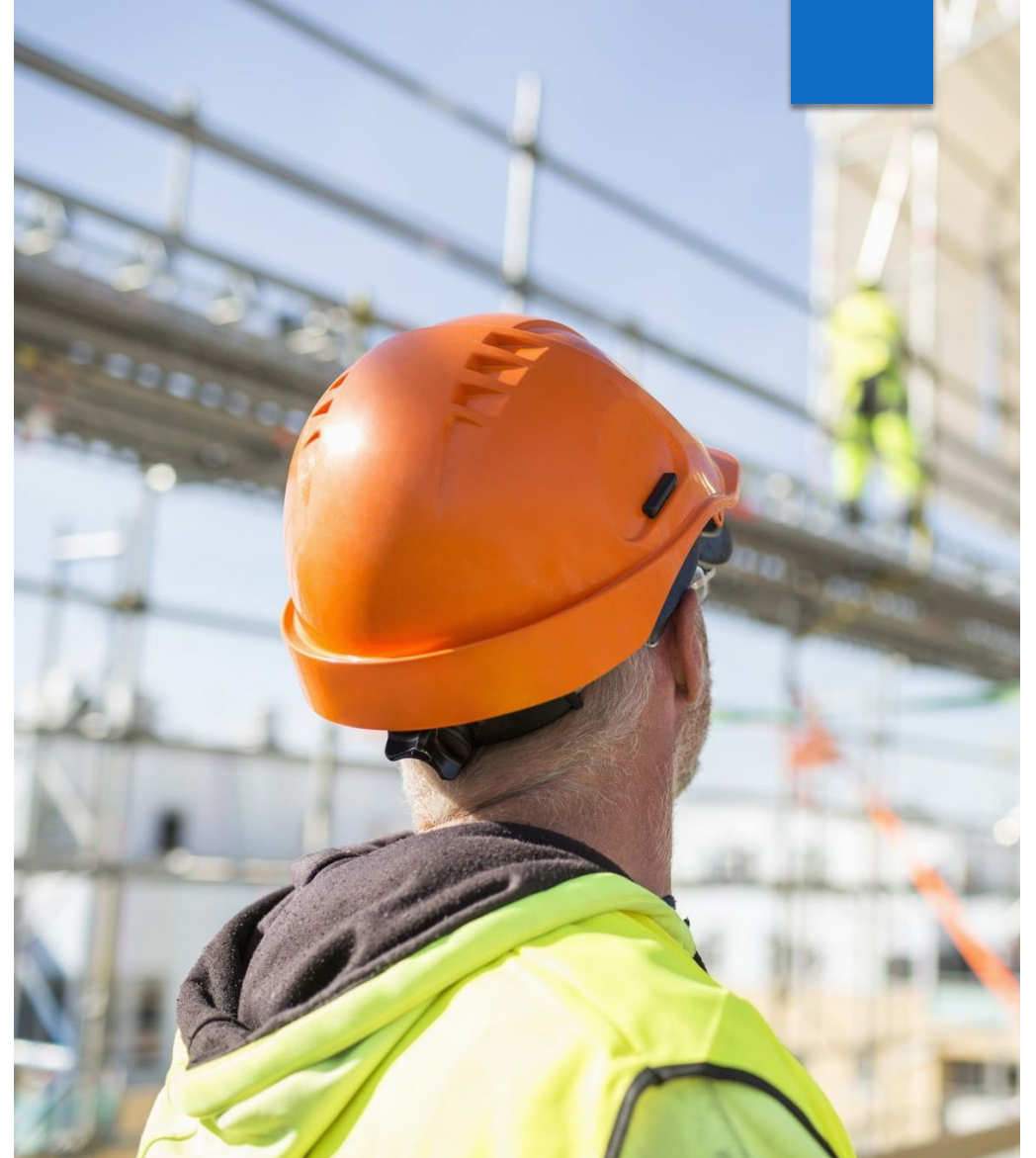
Safety and Health Practices

Failing to maintain safe working conditions or ignoring safety regulations.



Fair Labour and Employment Practices

Ethical labour practices are essential in ensuring that workers are treated with respect and dignity.



Environmental Impact and Sustainability

Environmental ethics in construction involves making decisions that minimise harm to the environment while meeting societal needs.

Construction projects can have significant environmental impacts, from resource consumption to waste generation and pollution.



Bribery and Corruption

Offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting something of value to influence a decision or gain unfair advantage.



Quality and Compliance Compromise

Using substandard materials or ignoring specifications to cut costs or meet deadlines.





Case Study

Grenfell Tower Fire

Event: A devastating fire engulfed Grenfell Tower, a 24-story residential building in West London, on June 14, 2017.



Grenfell Tower Fire

Casualties: 72 people lost their lives, and over 70 others were injured. Hundreds of residents were displaced.



Grenfell Tower Fire

Cause: The rapid spread of the fire was primarily due to the use of combustible cladding and insulation materials during a refurbishment project in 2016.



Grenfell Tower Fire

Use of Unsafe Materials:

The cladding installed during refurbishment was made of aluminium composite material (ACM) with a highly combustible polyethylene core.



Grenfell Tower Fire

Neglect of Safety Regulations:

Fire safety measures in Grenfell Tower were inadequate, with no proper sprinkler system and inadequate fire alarms.



Grenfell Tower Fire

Disregard for Resident Welfare:

Complaints from residents about the poor quality of renovation work and fire safety hazards were ignored.



Grenfell Tower Fire

Lack of Accountability:

Multiple parties, including contractors, suppliers, and the local council, failed to take responsibility for ensuring that materials and renovations met safety standards.

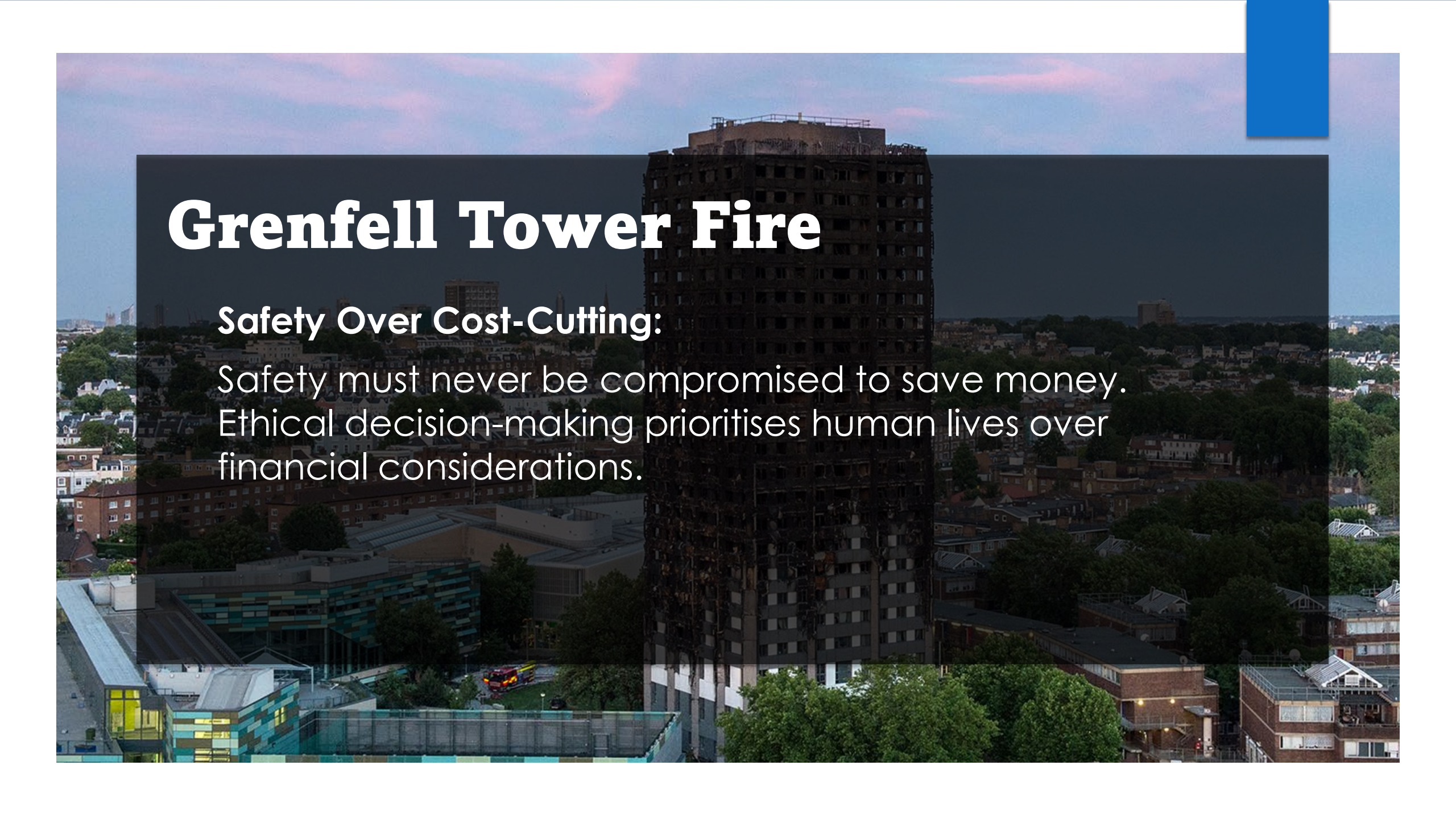


Grenfell Tower Fire

Ineffective Oversight of Building Regulations:

The tragedy revealed flaws in UK building regulations and the lack of enforcement of fire safety standards.

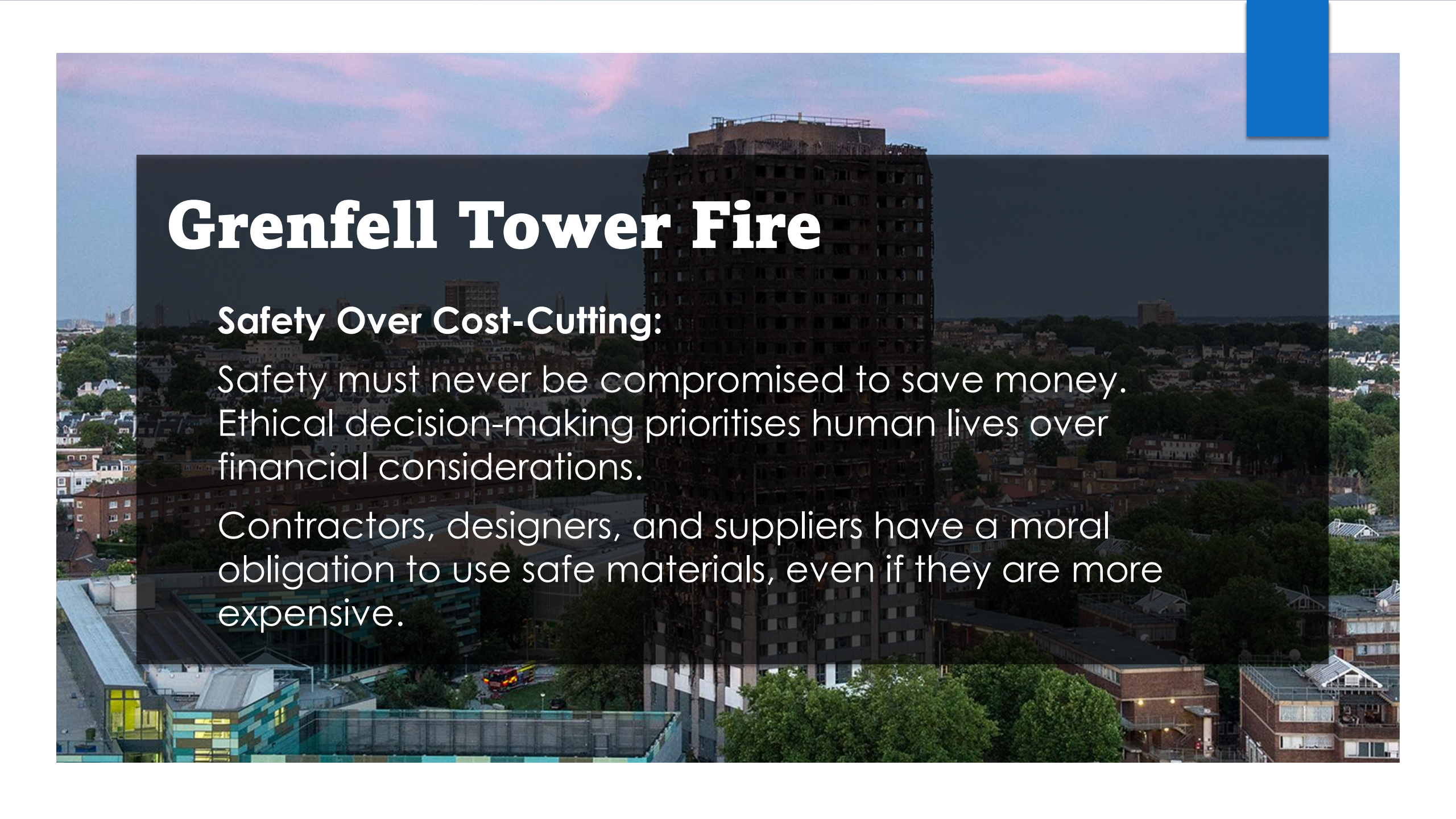




Grenfell Tower Fire

Safety Over Cost-Cutting:

Safety must never be compromised to save money.
Ethical decision-making prioritises human lives over financial considerations.



Grenfell Tower Fire

Safety Over Cost-Cutting:

Safety must never be compromised to save money. Ethical decision-making prioritises human lives over financial considerations.

Contractors, designers, and suppliers have a moral obligation to use safe materials, even if they are more expensive.

A photograph of Grenfell Tower in London, heavily charred and blackened after a fire. The tower stands prominently in the center, surrounded by other residential buildings and greenery. The sky is a mix of blue and pinkish-purple, suggesting dusk or dawn. A semi-transparent dark grey rectangle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the title and text. A solid blue rectangle is in the top right corner.

Grenfell Tower Fire

Compliance with Regulations:

Ensuring full compliance with building and fire safety codes is an ethical responsibility, not just a legal requirement.

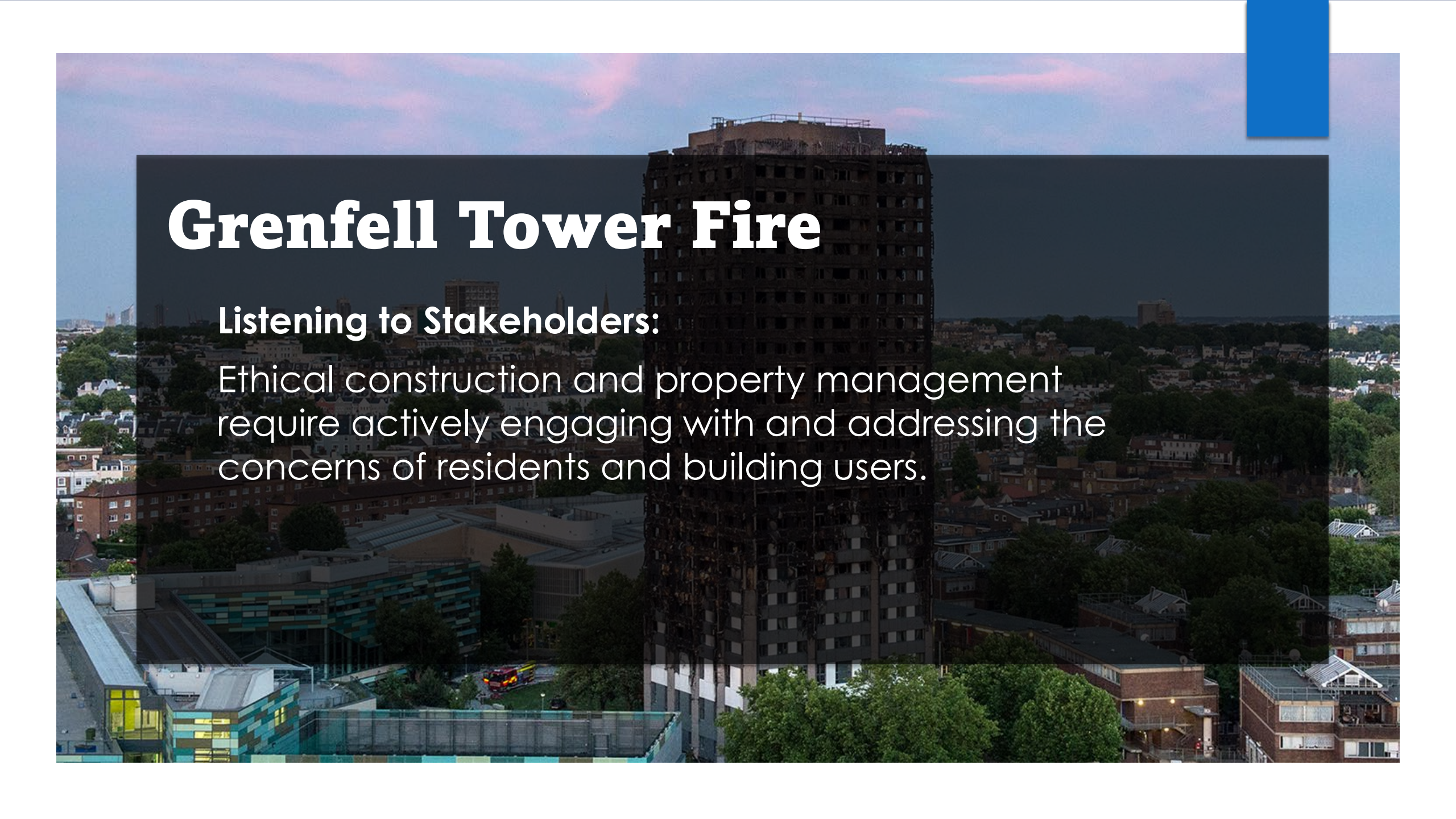


Grenfell Tower Fire

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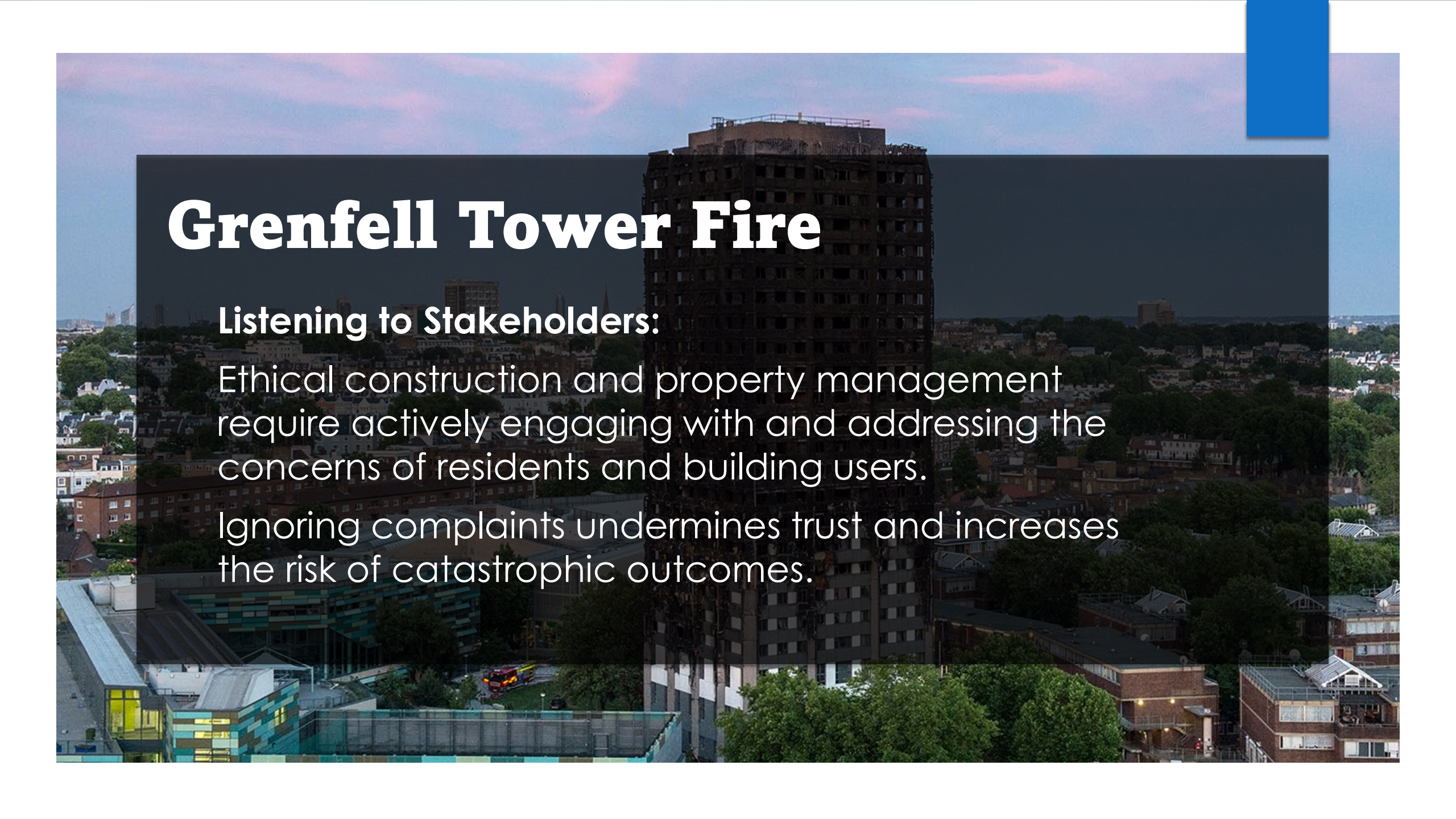
Regular inspections and audits by independent bodies can help ensure adherence to safety standards.

A photograph of Grenfell Tower in London, heavily charred and blackened by fire. The tower stands prominently in the center, surrounded by other residential buildings and greenery. The sky is a mix of blue and pinkish-purple, suggesting dusk or dawn. A semi-transparent dark grey rectangle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the title and subtitle text. A solid blue vertical bar is located on the far right edge of the image.

Grenfell Tower Fire

Listening to Stakeholders:

Ethical construction and property management require actively engaging with and addressing the concerns of residents and building users.

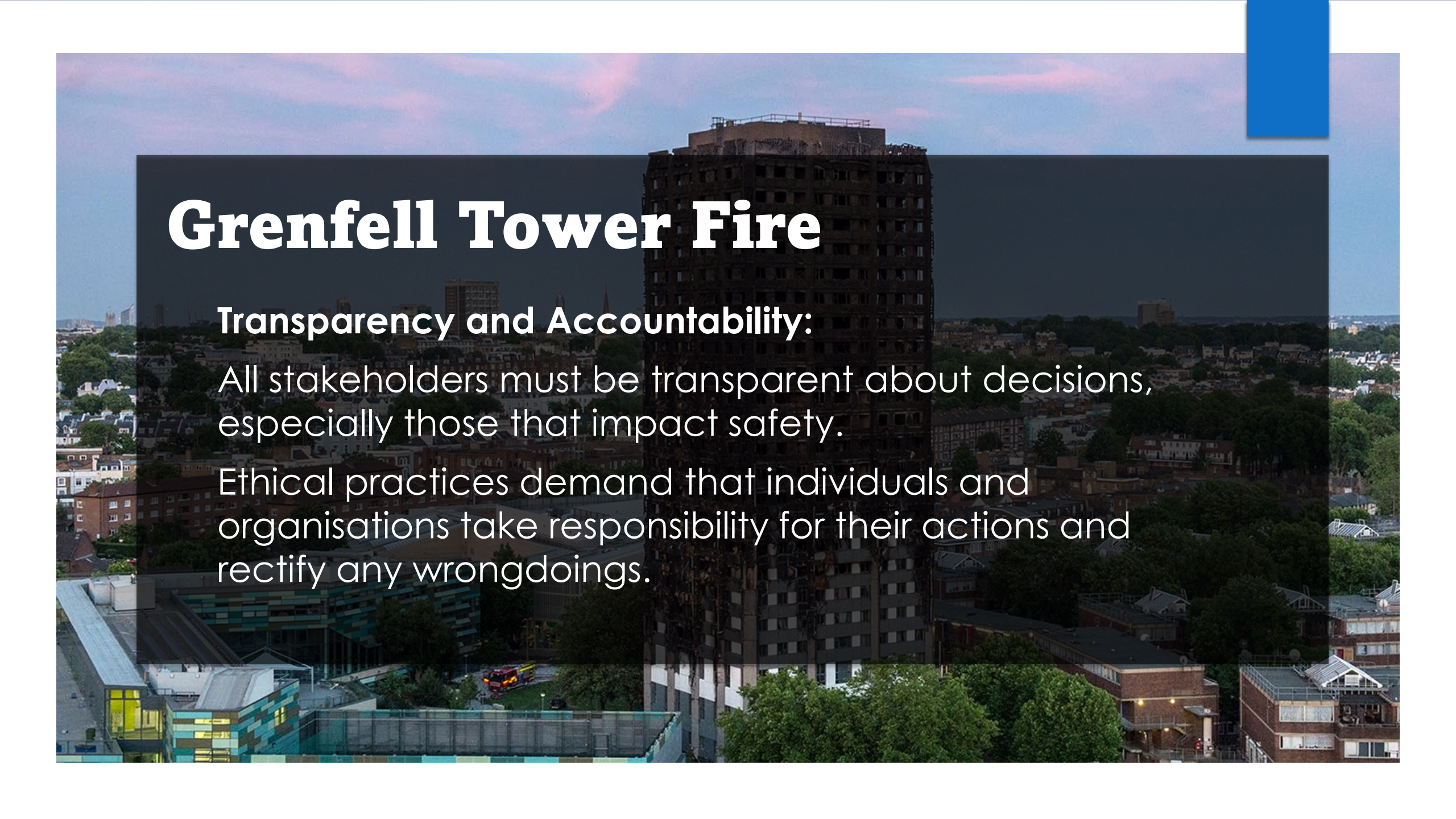


Grenfell Tower Fire

Listening to Stakeholders:

Ethical construction and property management require actively engaging with and addressing the concerns of residents and building users.

Ignoring complaints undermines trust and increases the risk of catastrophic outcomes.

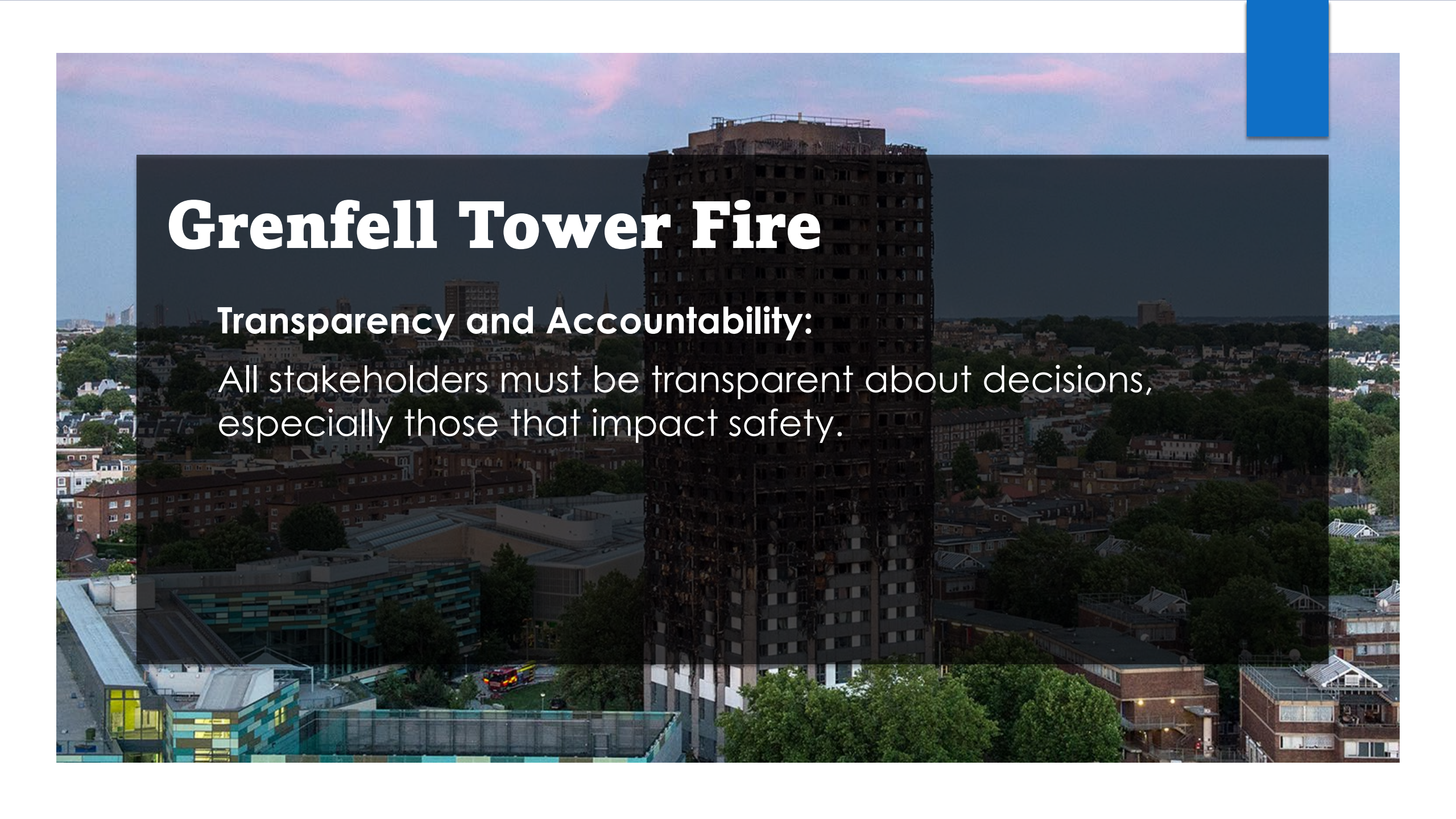


Grenfell Tower Fire

Transparency and Accountability:

All stakeholders must be transparent about decisions, especially those that impact safety.

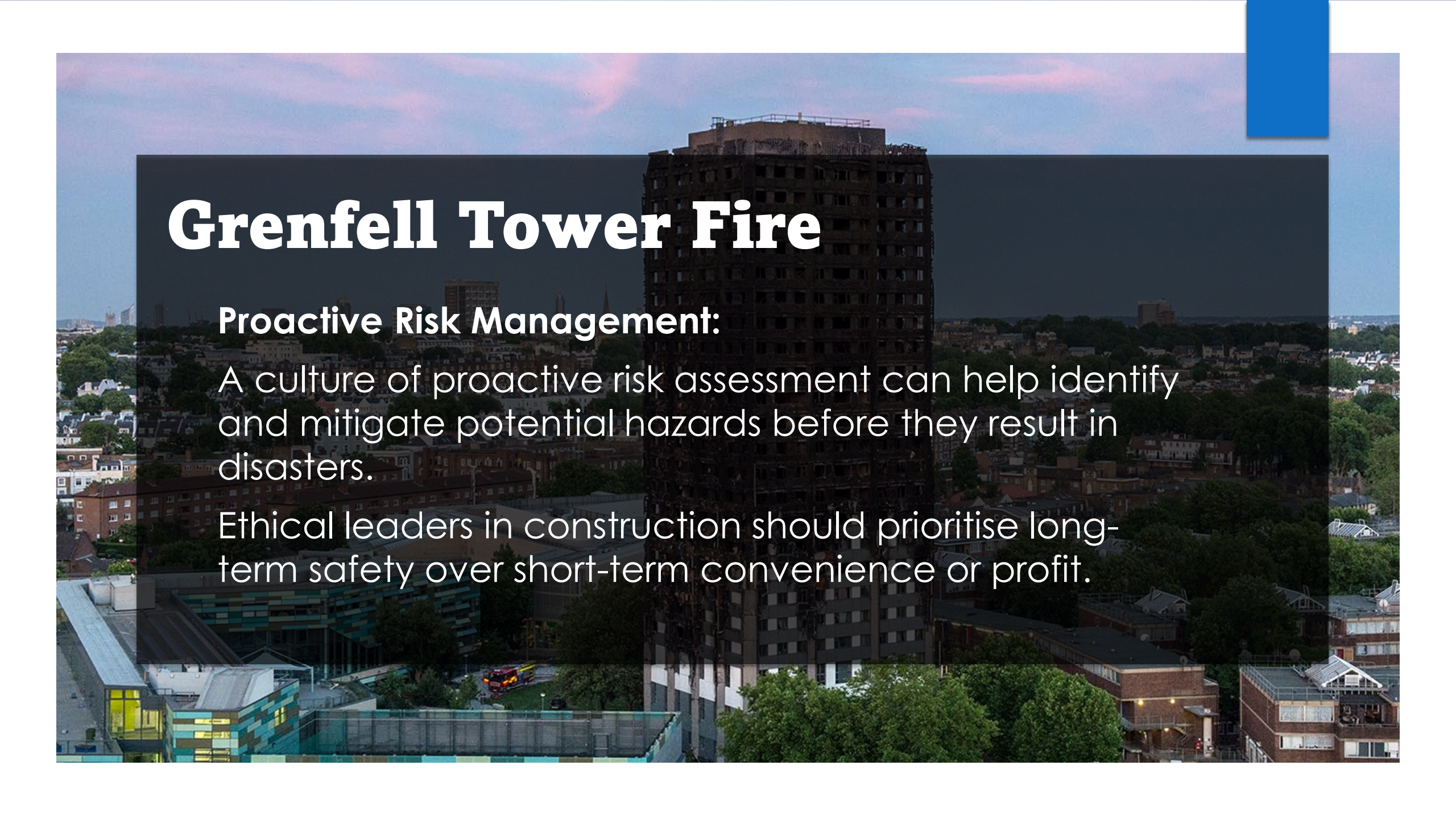
Ethical practices demand that individuals and organisations take responsibility for their actions and rectify any wrongdoings.



Grenfell Tower Fire

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Grenfell Tower Fire

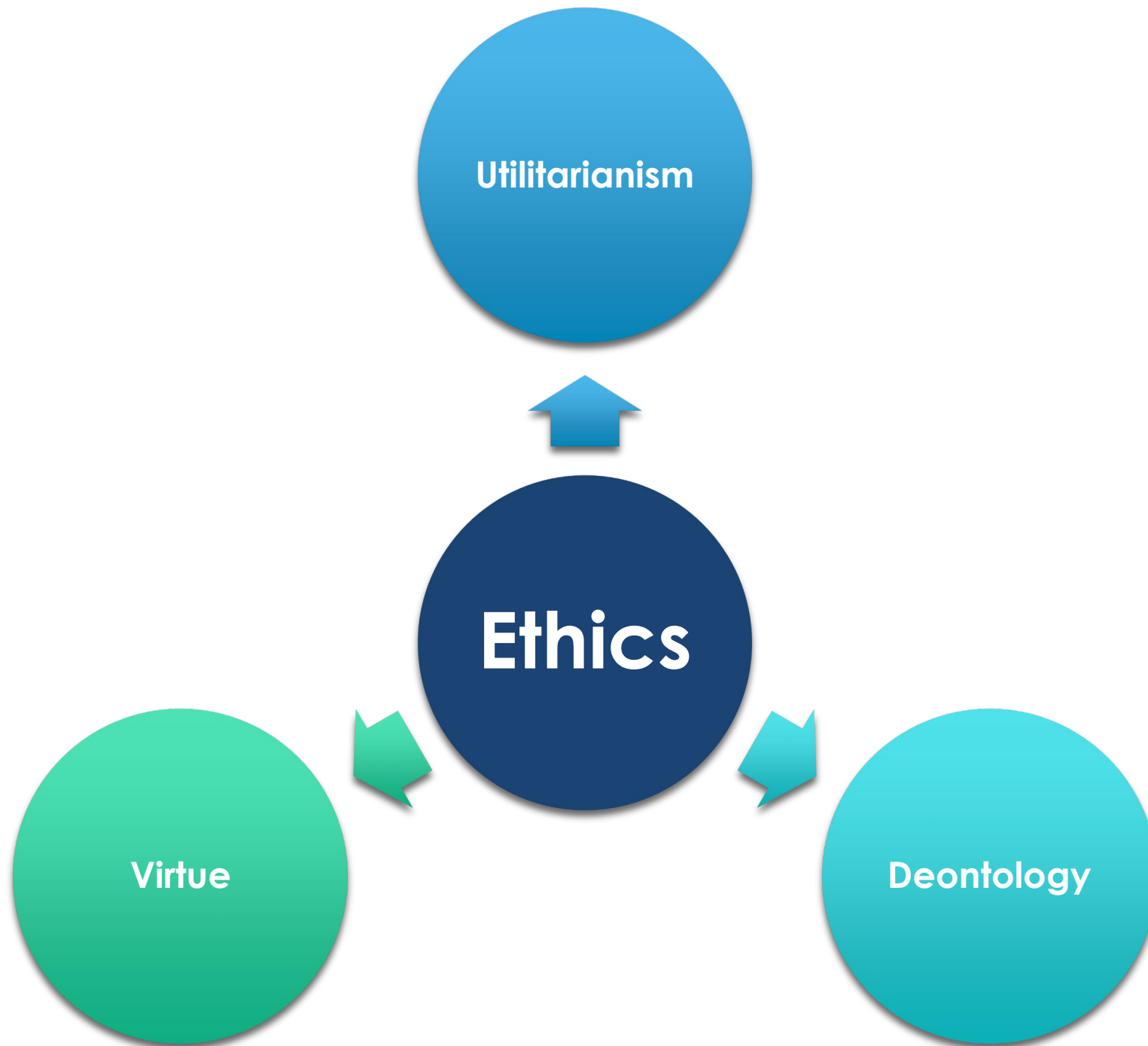
Proactive Risk Management:

A culture of proactive risk assessment can help identify and mitigate potential hazards before they result in disasters.

Ethical leaders in construction should prioritise long-term safety over short-term convenience or profit.



Ethical Frameworks





Utilitarianism

Core Idea: Choose the action the maximises overall well-being and minimises harm.



Deontology

Core Idea: Morality depends on duties and rules — not outcomes.



Virtue

Core Idea: Focus on moral character — acting with virtues like courage, responsibility, honesty, and compassion.

Ethical Dilemma

You are a project manager overseeing a large construction site. Due to budget constraints, you are encouraged to hire temporary workers for certain parts of the project, even though some tasks require specialised skills and experience. The use of temporary labour saves costs but might compromise the quality of work and safety on the site.



Utilitarianism

Analysis

Using temporary, less-qualified workers:

- Short-term benefits: lower costs, quicker staffing.
- Long-term risks: accidents, injuries, poor construction quality, future repair costs, legal liabilities.



Utilitarianism

Analysis

Hiring skilled labour:

- Short-term costs increase.
- Long-term benefits: safety, durable building, public trust, fewer delays due to rework.



Utilitarianism

Conclusion

The option that leads to the most overall good is prioritising qualified workers, especially for specialised tasks, to prevent harm and ensure project success.



Deontology

Duties:

- Ensuring workplace safety (legal and ethical requirement).
- Complying with industry standards and regulations.
- Providing fair working conditions.



Deontology

Violations if unskilled workers are used improperly:

- Unsafe employment practices.
- Cutting corners on compliance.
- Risking worker and public harm.



Deontology

Conclusion:

Even if it raises costs, your duty is to follow laws and professional standards — and to protect workers.



Virtue

Virtue Considerations:

- A good leader protects workers and the public.
- Courage is needed to resist pressure from senior management.
- Integrity means valuing human lives over financial savings.



Virtue

Conclusion:

A virtuous project manager would advocate for safety, quality, and fair treatment — even when it's difficult.