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Dear Mr Greig,

I am writing to express my gratitude for the editorial published in today's paper, 'Obama's olive branch' (ES, Wednesday, 3 June) and also, more generally, for the positive steps the Evening Standard has taken in recent weeks to move away from a recent past that was unfortunately characterised by often blinkered and incendiary reporting about life in our great capital city.

Today's editorial makes the very important point of concrete actions ultimately being crucial to progress on the path towards peace in the Middle East.

The emphasis placed in the editorial on the key actions that are required; ceasing the building of illegal settlements in the Occupied Territories, dismantling those thus far built on occupied Palestinian land, and accepting unreservedly an equitable two state solution, is to be welcomed.

For too long the peace process has suffered, as have the reputations of the UK and the US, due to their willingness to overlook the infringements of international law on the part of Israel and its refusal to accept policies it needs to execute in the long term interests of peace.

We too look forward to policy outcomes and actual results as President Obama works to renew relations between the US and the Muslim world by tackling those factors that have contributed to their steady deterioration.

Yours sincerely,

Sufyan Ismail
on behalf of the Trustees
ENGAGE