

Letters: Grasping the real issue on Israel

There is a great scene in *Wall Street*, when Gordon Gekko advises his protégé to focus on the real issue. "The rest," he says, "is just conversation".

The editorial "[Back to Mid-East drawing board](#)" (December 13) depicts Israel's settlements as "the roadblock" to peace. The real issue is the Palestinian leadership's consistent refusal to accept Israel's presence; the rest is just conversation.

Settlements, refugees, borders, Jerusalem can all be discussed once the real roadblock has been removed. The Palestinian people deserve a state - and leaders who will negotiate in good faith.

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