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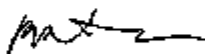
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Dear Mehri,

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the contribution which the Joseph Interfaith Foundation has made towards strengthening relations between Muslim and Jewish communities. I am grateful for the commitment the Foundation has shown in supporting the Government's key faith engagement policies. In particular, I recognise the effort made by you personally in co-ordinating arrangements for the Imam/Rabbi and Muslim-Jewish Women's conferences. I am confident that we will be able to build upon the positive outcomes which emerged from both events.

I welcome the work of the Foundation in promoting dialogue, friendship and understanding between the Muslim and Jewish communities. I believe that inter faith and multi faith bodies play a key role in bringing people of different faiths together to increase trust, mutual understanding and respect; help defuse inter-community tensions; build community cohesion; and foster co-operation. The Foundation acts as a positive example of how this can be achieved.



HAZEL BLEARS