

Dismantle the Occupation: Pillar Overview

Goal

Dismantle US's support for the occupation. Organize Jewish communal institutions, local community organizations and political representatives to oppose ongoing occupation, settlement expansion, and unilateral annexation of territory in the West Bank.

Strategy

Engage more students on more campuses to build a large base of students supporting J Street's work. Campuses push for manageable wins each year in their local communities, Jewish communities, and with members of Congress and candidates. These wins are aimed at addressing each campus's context, responding to what's happening on the ground in I/P, and advancing J Street's advocacy and political work. Once a goal is reached on an individual campus, students and staff will work together to come up with new asks to build on the power they have created over time.

J Street U chapters will educate and mobilize their bases around several issues:

- De facto annexation
- US security assistance to Israel and the need for transparency and restrictions
- Political, financial, and ideological support for the occupation from the American Jewish community
- The differences between antisemitism, anti-Zionism, and J Street U's work

Pillars

- Jewish Communal
The American Jewish community is our community, for many J Street U members, and we don't want our community to support or uphold the occupation. Communal institutions, especially Hillels, educate young Jews: we can influence that education to center pro-Israel, pro-Palestinian, anti-occupation perspectives. We can push back against the ways in which the organized Jewish community upholds the occupation through financial and political support for the right wing and the settler movement.

Which campuses might organize this pillar? Chapters should choose a goal that is potentially achievable on their campus and also helps to bring Jews on campus into our movement in a powerful way. A smaller chapter or a chapter with a more right-wing Hillel, for instance, might set a goal of cohosting a Palestinian speaker or a group like Breaking the Silence with or in their Hillel. Other possible targets could include asking Jewish student leaders to join advocacy efforts around aid use restrictions, demolitions, and settlement expansion. Chapters can also work on off-campus organizing, as well, asking local synagogues to host J Street U programs, for example.

If you are interested in working on the Jewish Communal pillar, you can find a list of potential targets and asks [HERE](#) and an example semester arc [HERE](#).

- Local/Community

We can't do this work alone. If we are going to end US support for the occupation, we need to bring in people in other, larger movements to do this work with us. The ongoing conflict in the region is impacted by many other issues, and impacts many other communities besides our own. Bringing people in from other organizations and faiths will be essential to reaching our goal of dismantling the occupation.

Which campuses might organize this pillar? This campus has a very strong club culture. There should be other campus organizations that have obvious power and whose power would be helpful to J Street. The Hillel should be either incredibly hard to move or already on J Street's side. This would lead to a dynamic where bringing in other clubs is the best way to continue to grow. The J Street U chapter should also be specifically interested in organizing outside of the Jewish community. Some possible targets for this pillar are student governments, college Dems, and environmental justice orgs. Chapters will ask targets to co-host events, sign onto letters, and publicly stand with J Street.

If you are interested in working on the local/community pillar, you can find a list of possible targets and asks and an example semester arc [HERE](#).

- Advocacy/Political

Our political representatives have direct control over US policies that support or uphold the occupation. Students have power to encourage their representatives to support pro-peace legislation and to elect political representatives that will hold J Street values when in office.

Which campuses might organize this pillar? This campus has a very exciting political district. The campus has either a race that is getting a lot of attention or a race that has a clear J Street vs AIPAC dynamic. The campus' college Dems chapter should be very active as well. The congressional rep should be either a J Street champion or someone who can be pushed. Chapters can phonebank for candidates, host townhalls with a representative, ask a rep to sign onto a letter, and run programs against their campus's AIPAC chapter.

If you are interested in working on the Advocacy/Political pillar, you can find an example semester arc [HERE](#) and a list of targets/asks [HERE](#).

Dismantle the Occupation Terminology

Pillar: the overarching categories that we are organizing within.

Target: Within each pillar are different organizations/institutions that are impacting the occupation.

Ask: the thing that we are trying to get our targets to change or to do! These will increase with difficulty as you gain power over the target

The About: this is the aspect on the ground that you want to organize around. Is it settlement expansion? Aid? Demolitions? Just pure awareness of the occupation? Knowing This will help focus your asks.