

October 9, 2024

Rabbi Jason Rubenstein  
Harvard Hillel  
52 Mt Auburn St.  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Rabbi Jason Rubenstein and Harvard Hillel Board of Directors,

We are writing to address the regrettable incident on Harvard's campus that resulted in the suspension of the J Street U chapter from Harvard Hillel.

It is important for us to clarify that the student was not a chapter chair recognized by J Street U and did not inform the J Street U team of their plans to conduct this action on campus. If these students had been J Street U leaders, their actions certainly would not have been approved as they run counter to our organizational values.

We understand that the action taken was a violation of Harvard Hillel's trust and affiliation agreement. On behalf of J Street and J Street U, we sincerely apologize for the damage that this has caused within the Harvard Hillel community, as well as to the trust between J Street U and Harvard Hillel.

We want to assure you that we are firmly committed to contributing to Hillel's mission of ensuring the safety of Jewish students and the flourishing of Jewish campus life at Harvard. It is deeply important to us, to the organization and to the whole J Street U team that we maintain and deepen a productive working relationship with Hillel at Harvard and universities across the country.

We are grateful for the open and constructive line of communication that exists directly between Rabbi Jason Rubenstein and J Street U, and the desire to work together to create a vibrant and inclusive pro-Israel community on Harvard's campus.

We are committed to developing genuine J Street U leadership on campus that represents our values and mission, specifically providing a safe space for students to hold nuanced views without compromising their pro-Israel values. We look forward to working closely with Harvard Hillel in this shared goal.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Ben-Ami  
J Street President

Erin Beiner  
J Street U Director

Janette Hillis-Jaffe  
J Street New England Regional Director

