

Texas Hillel Foundation
Israel Action Plan 2002-2003

Draft: October 16, 2002

With the current situation in the Middle East, it is imperative that a coordinated strategic Israel Action Plan be implemented. The University of Texas is fortunate to have a number of excellent resources readily available:

- **Students in leadership positions.**
- **Student participants in Israel-related programs.**
- **Texans for Israel.**
- **Grinspoon Israel Advocacy Intern.**
- **Partner agencies.**
- **UT faculty.**
- **Lay leaders.**

Proposal: An Israel Action Cabinet should be convened in order to coordinate efforts on campus in the following areas:

1. **Education.** There are three main educational target groups: (a) the general campus community, which needs accurate and timely information on developments in Israel and the Middle East; (b) the majority of Jewish students who are ambivalent, uninformed, or disconnected, and do not know how to respond to anti-Israel protests, activities, and comments in class; and (c) the Israel activists, who wish to increase their understanding of Israel and the Middle East.
 - a. **General campus.**
 - Texans for Israel A-frame
 - West Mall ceremonies for victims of terrorism
 - West Mall table with information
 - Israel Block Party (February 27)
 - Israel Independence Day Celebration on the West Mall (May 7)
 - b. **Jewish students.**
 - Speakers
 - Academic symposium
 - Israel Awareness Week
 - Quote-of-the-week or Israel fact, along with Israel link on the e-calendar
 - Israel updates and links on the Hillel website
 - Information packets with answers to frequently asked questions from different perspectives along with websites for further information
 - Birthright Israel trip
 - Israel Resource Center at Hillel
 - c. **Israel activists.**
 - Regular discussions on more “advanced” topics
 - Information and subsidies for national conferences
 - Networking and opportunities to return to Israel
2. **Advocacy.**
 - Fundraising (UJC Israel Emergency Campaign, Magen David Adom, Seeds for Peace)
 - Political networking with city, state, and national legislators
 - Prominent pro-Israel speakers
 - Rallies
 - Briefings with *Daily Texan* staff
 - Pro-Israel giveaways (US/Israel flag pins, key-chains)

- Regular Hebrew or Israeli shirt day
3. **Monitoring and responding.**
 - *Daily Texan* and other campus media
 - Campus groups (Palestinian Solidarity Committee, Students for Justice in Palestine, NOWAR)
 - News on campuses across the country
 4. **Community relations.**
 - Austin, Houston and Dallas Jewish Federations and Community Relations Councils
 - University of Texas – campus and system administrations
 - ADL, Consulate General of Israel, Austin Police Department Intelligence Unit, FBI
 5. **Dialogue and intergroup relations.**
 - Jewish/Palestinian
 - Jewish/Muslim
 - UT Multicultural Information Center
 - Christian/Jewish (through the University Interfaith Council)

The Israel Action Cabinet would include:

- Texans for Israel representatives
- Pro-Israel student activists
- Hillel Student Executive Cabinet representative
- Grinspoon Israel Advocacy Intern
- Hillel lay leaders
(The principal role of lay leaders would be to make Hillel aware of resources in their local communities; to let Hillel know what's happening state-wide regarding the Israel agenda and to communicate back what's happening on the UT campus; to react to Hillel plans and action steps; and to help Hillel problem-solve and strategize when difficult circumstances arise on campus.)
- Texas Hillel staff

The Israel Action Cabinet will meet initially to review this plan and to determine how the various parts will be implemented. The group will then decide appropriate next steps.

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Reviewed by Student Leadership –October 2002

Reviewed by Executive Committee, Board of Directors – October 1, 2002

Edited and Modified – October 16, 2002