



Unlawful Disruptions

OF PRO-ISRAEL AND
JEWISH EVENTS ON CAMPUS






StandWithUs SAID OFF
LAW

A white silhouette of a crowd of people at the bottom of the page. Some figures are holding up flags, and others are holding up rectangular signs. The background is a solid light blue.



Unlawful Disruptions OF PRO-ISRAEL AND JEWISH EVENTS ON CAMPUS

Under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, a speaker at a public event has a right to speak without being substantially disrupted and an attendee has a right to hear the speaker. There is a constitutional right to protest, but it is not absolute and can be limited by the time, place, and manner of the disruption. When protesters substantially disrupt a public event, they likely are violating the constitutional rights of both the speaker and the audience, as well as breaking various applicable state laws and campus policies. Here are best practices to avoid disruptions and information on what you can do if a disruption occurs at your event.

Days Before the Event




-  Try to find out if detractors are organizing a disruption. If you find that they are, take screenshots/pictures to document.
-  Contact campus security or local police to tell them about a possible disruption of your event. Ask them to be at your event due to the possibility of an unlawful disruption. Ask them to arrest disruptors.
-  Arrange for someone to video the event (using a phone is fine).
-  If the event is being posted online or includes online registration, state that the event will be recorded. If possible, have a mandatory “checkbox” for consent to be recorded.
-  Tell your panelists/speakers that there might be a disruption. Encourage them to prepare statements about dialogue, remain calm, and have visuals ready, like standing and holding an Israeli flag in solidarity during the disruption.

Just Before the Event






-  Post signs at event entrances and at the registration table providing attendees with notice that disruptions are unlawful and that the event will be recorded. See sample sign below.
-  If you have in-person registration, require attendees to show their student ID (or regular ID for community members) to enter event; write down legibly their official name and address. Try to get their school email address. If possible, have them sign that they give permission to be recorded; do not give an opt out for photographs and/or recordings.

Note: as long as you are requiring the same of all attendees, you may deny entrance to anyone refusing to show their ID or refusing to give permission to be recorded.

During the Event

-  Read a script at the start of the event that disruptions are unlawful. See sample below.
-  Video record any disruption. Try to capture disruptors' faces on video.
-  Do not have an open microphone for Q&A, if possible. Instead, have attendees submit questions in advance to a moderator (e.g., on the event RSVP form, a QR code, etc.). You may pick and ask the questions you want. **There is no right for people to ask their questions as long as you apply the same process of obtaining questions to everyone equally.**

If a Disruption Occurs

-  Stay calm. Do not engage the disruptors.
-  Record and/or photograph the disruptors' faces.
-  Ask campus security or police to remove and then arrest the disruptors. Obtain the business card or badge number of any officers present. If arrests are made, ask for the police report number. This documentation is important for follow up.
-  Identify at least two witnesses: get their names, phone numbers, and email addresses.
-  Encourage supporters to share their experiences on social media. Show leadership and spread your message!



CASE STUDY

Successful Criminal Prosecution of Anti-Israel Disruption

A StandWithUs videographer recorded anti-Israel protestors disrupting a speech by Israeli Ambassador Michael Oren at UC Irvine. The video captured Ambassador Oren being disrupted repeatedly, university officials asking students to stop disrupting, and students chanting, "We did it," in the hallway after their protest—proof of conspiracy to disrupt, a separate crime.

This video led to the successful prosecution of eleven disruptors for multiple misdemeanors; UC Irvine also revoked the Muslim Student Union's charter and placed it on two years of probation.



Sample Opening Script

Thank you for joining us tonight! Tonight's program is designed to promote dialogue and understanding. We are recording the event. If you are considering disrupting, please know that it is against state law and campus policy to disrupt any lawful meeting, such as this one. This includes disrupting by making substantial noise. We will seek to arrest any disruptors. If you choose to leave, please do so quietly. We hope you choose to stay, learn, and participate in the conversation!

Sample Q&A Reference

Should you have a question during the program, please use the [QR code/card] provided to submit your question. Time permitting, we will answer as many questions as we can.

Sample Sign to Place on Event Entrances and at Registration Table

We hope that this event will not be disrupted because we are here to promote dialogue and education. However, if your intent is to disrupt, please note that substantial disruptions of authorized events are against state law and campus policy. This includes disrupting by making substantial noise. We will seek to arrest any disruptors.

Also, this event will be recorded. By attending this event, you give your implied consent to any photos or video taken during the event.

We hope you choose to join us in dialogue!