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Rabbi Ze'ev Smason  
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Rabbi Moshe B. Parnes  
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Rabbi Steven Pruzansky  
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Rabbi Jonathan Guttentag  
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Rabbi Yaakov Menken  
*Managing Director*

8 Tishrei 5783  
October 3, 2022

Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman  
Yeshiva University, Office of the President  
500 West 185th Street  
New York, NY 10033

Dear Rabbi Dr. Berman,

We, the officers of the Coalition for Jewish Values, and the over 2,000 Orthodox rabbis that we represent in matters of public policy, would like to commend you and the Administration of Yeshiva University for your principled stance upholding the honor and the ideals of the Torah.

The Torah clearly forbids homosexual acts, and does so as a key moral principle. In modern times, there are those intent upon changing this and other timeless Torah precepts to suit their personal desires, and who even call it “immoral” to uphold Torah values. What was unassailable in previous generations is under severe attack today, and to oppose this trend is unquestionably what the Torah expects of us.

The idea of a “pride” club glorifying defiance of Torah law is explicitly counter to the goal of Yeshiva University, to provide a university education in a Torah environment. This is not, and can never be, a matter governed by the opinions of students, journalists, or alumni petitions—much less a half-dozen New York politicians, including some noted for insensitivity towards our community, presuming to tell a Jewish university how to apply our religious laws and values.

Yeshiva University must follow rabbinic guidance, which in this case is emphatic and clear. There are over 2,800 four-year colleges in America; no student can claim that he or she was not cognizant of the different, Torah standard required of the lone school with “Yeshiva” in its name, when he or she chose to attend it.

We write this with full knowledge that many individuals feel drawn to transgress Torah law in various ways. In all such cases, it is our obligation to understand and counsel the individuals, but never to endorse, much less glorify, such violations. As rabbis, we stand ready to guide and assist anyone in meeting life’s challenges, yet we cannot promote that which the Torah prohibits.

It is for these reasons that we must express our profound respect for you and your administration for demonstrating true leadership in a misguided age. May you be blessed with continued strength to meet

the challenges of the times, and may you continue to provide vision and fortitude for the People of the Book and for all who respect the directives of G-d to His creations.

Yours Sincerely,

Rabbi Yoel Schonfeld  
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