



Undergraduate Torah Studies
Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary
Yeshiva University

יב ניסן תשפ"ה

April 10th 2025

Dear Members of the Yeshiva University Community,

For over 130 years, our yeshiva has been committed to educating our students in strict accordance with Orthodox teachings. We empathize with individuals struggling with their religious observance, including matters of a sexual nature. To be clear, we have always held, and will continue to hold, compassion for students and members of our community who find themselves navigating such challenges. In the past, we have privately spoken with and guided those who are struggling, offering religious support and empathy for their pain and inner confusion. The Rabbeim remain committed to providing a compassionate and respectful space for all who are struggling. We care about each individual of our community, and we strive, to the best of our ability, to provide guidance with kindness, respect, and understanding.

We feel compelled to express our profound disappointment, frustration, and concern regarding how the recent settlement agreement has been misrepresented as running contrary to the values and overall direction of our yeshiva. This club is intended solely to provide *chizzuk* and support to those who seek to fully maintain traditional halachic standards of sexual morality as defined by the Shulchan Aruch, and who are wholly committed to their Judaism, in full alignment with the Torah's expectations of every Jew. The club's purpose must be in harmony with the principles we hold dear.

We reiterate the core principles upon which our yeshiva stands. We uphold Torah values; we do not, under any circumstances, allow for the acceptance or promotion of sexual lifestyles and gender identities that are not compatible with those values. The endorsement of any such lifestyle or identity, whether in a social club or any other format, runs contrary to the very essence of what our yeshiva represents.

As the halachic authorities over undergraduate Student Life, we would like to address misconceptions that have arisen. Since we sought and continue to seek to create a structure as abovedescribed in which individuals would receive religious support [*chizzuk*] in a manner consistent with our values, we insist that all materials, communications, publications and activities associated with, or emanating from, Hareini will be clearly consistent with its intended goals. As such, all materials, communications, and publications from Hareini must include in a clear and noticeable fashion the following statement:



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“This club is for students who seek to fully maintain traditional halachic standards of sexual morality, as defined by the Shulchan Aruch” —for then it will be absolutely clear that the club is in accordance with the original agreement and Approved Guidelines for Hareini. Similarly, Pride flags, symbols, and emojis as well as the term ‘Pride Club’ are not sanctioned in any context. Additionally, if proposed events are believed to be primarily social and recreational in nature, even if they are advertised as “educational,” they will not be approved. If these guidelines and expectations are not upheld and we feel that our original vision is not being implemented, we will not permit the club to continue to operate.

Our mission is to educate our students in the pleasant ways of the Torah, enabling them to find meaning in their individual relationships with Hashem and inspiring them to live with full commitment to the standards and values of our Torah, thus sanctifying Hashem’s Name in the world.

As we approach this joyous holiday of Pesach, may our Seder tables be filled with joy. May Hashem answer all of our *tefillos* for Eretz Yisrael, our soldiers and our hostages, and may we soon merit to celebrate the *yom tov* fully as a unified nation in Yerushalayim — *ve-nochal sham min ha-zevachim u-min ha-pesachim ... ve-nodeh lecha shir chadash al geulaseinu ve-al pedus nafsheinu*.

This statement reflects the consensus position of the Roshei Yeshiva of YP/RIETS