



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER
BRAD LANDER

February 27, 2023

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

Dear Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman,

As the City's chief accountability officer, I have been monitoring the situation surrounding your refusal to officially recognize the YU Pride Student Alliance, including the appellate court's recent affirmance of the lower court's denial of Yeshiva's motion to dismiss. Your students are alleging that your current practices are discriminatory and in violation of the New York City's Human Rights Law. I must urge your institution to change course and offer a secure environment for your LGBTQ+ students and staff to create a supportive space to rightfully express their full selves.

In the past, student-led organizations like the YU Pride Alliance have worked to educate members about their rights as LGBTQ+ people while also creating a safe space for all students. Yeshiva University's own anti-discrimination policy is wholly undermined by the refusal to allow students to form this group within their own terms and mission.

Furthermore, I must remind you that all recipients of public funding from the City must attest that they are in compliance with City laws and statutes, including the New York City Human Rights Law. Our records show that Yeshiva University has received some \$8.8 million in City funding since 2010. The University's discriminatory actions may put future funding and associated services at risk. By recognizing the YU Pride Alliance, you can help ensure that the rights of LGBTQ+ students at Yeshiva University are respected, celebrated, and upheld in the City of New York.

I have confidence in your ability to make the right decision and welcome everyone in Yeshiva University including the LGBTQ+ members of your institution.

Sincerely,

Brad Lander
New York City Comptroller