

ישיבת רבנו יצחק אלחנן

RABBI ISAAC ELCHANAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Affiliate — Yeshiva University

2540 Amsterdam Avenue / New York, N.Y. 10033 / (212) 960-5280

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

STATEMENT BY DR. NORMAN LAMM

In an article which I was commissioned to do for the Encyclopedia Judaica Year Book - 1974 on "Judaism and the Modern Attitude to Homosexuality," I wrote:

Under no circumstances can Judaism suffer homosexuality to become respectable... In remaining true to the sources of Jewish tradition, Jews are commanded to avoid the madness that seizes society at various times and in many forms while yet retaining a moral composure and psychological equilibrium sufficient to exercise that combination of discipline and charity that is the hallmark of Judaism.

Now, more than two decades later, after much tumultuous change in the temper and tone of society, I subscribe to these sentiments no less surely than when they were first enunciated.

Nonetheless, I will do nothing to compromise Yeshiva University's integrity as a non-sectarian university as that is defined by legal statute, nor will I do anything that imperils the existence of the University, which is Jewry's most original and grandest educational contribution to American culture and society. By the same token, I cannot be unmindful of its authentic Jewish origins and the moral vision that brought it into being. I will never condone but will always deplore what, for me, is an indelible blemish upon that vision nor will I grant it any more than the law requires.