

Zeta Beta Tau

A Brotherhood of Kappa Nu, Phi Alpha, Phi Epsilon Pi, Phi Sigma Delta, Zeta Beta Tau

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ZBT adopts official policy condemning the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) movement

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana — In response to the growing BDS movement on college campuses aimed at delegitimizing the state of Israel, Zeta Beta Tau's Supreme Council, its highest governing body, has unanimously passed a policy condemning this movement that clearly communicates this stance to anyone wishing to be associated with the organization.

“While we hold sacred the rights of individual free speech, we believe that the efforts on college campuses to demonize, delegitimize, and hold to an unfair double standard the state of Israel that are at the core of the BDS movement are anathema to everything we stand for as an organization. ZBT was founded in response to intolerance, and the BDS movement violates our core tenets,” said ZBT International President Matthew J. Rubins, Kappa (Cornell University) '90.

ZBT was founded as a Zionist youth organization which later became the world's first Jewish fraternity. For more than 60 years, ZBT has been an inclusive organization welcoming of all men who understand and are dedicated to our founding purpose. The Zionist roots remain strong in the organization today, as does its involvement in the Jewish and pro-Israel community. ZBT provides year-round Israel Advocacy training to its brothers, and partners with organizations on a regular basis that share our Mission and can serve as a valuable resource to our brothers in their efforts to fight any anti-Semitic or anti-Israel sentiments on their campuses.

“The Fraternity certainly respects individual opinions and perspectives on Israel, but will simply not tolerate any attempts to threaten or compromise the world's only Jewish state,” said ZBT Executive Director Laurence A. Bolotin, CAE, Alpha Zeta (University of Florida) '01. “We continue to see situations where students on college campuses are making decisions without having the correct information and, as a community, we must ensure that we are properly educating tomorrow's leaders.”

The policy states that the Fraternity shall not support any effort to delegitimize or demonize Israel, nor will we support the boycott of, divestment from, or sanctions against Israel. Furthermore it also makes clear that a brother of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity is a member of the Fraternity at all times, even when not purporting to act on behalf of the Fraternity or his Chapter.

ZBT recognizes that support for the BDS movement exists even amongst members of the Jewish community. We call upon all organizations who share our beliefs to examine ways we can better educate our brothers and sisters so that all members of the community understand how the BDS movement does, in fact, serve as a breeding ground for anti-Semitic behavior as well as intolerance as a whole.

The Fraternity plans to continue increasing its efforts to end all forms of hate, bigotry, and violence on college campuses and communities across the globe. These efforts are highlighted through ZBT's Israel Advocacy programming, its active stance against sexual assault and dating abuse, as well as the promotion of healthy relationships. To get involved with the Fraternity's efforts to combat anti-Semitism or other heritage-related programming including Israel Advocacy, please contact Laurence A. Bolotin, CAE, Alpha Zeta (University of Florida) '01, at lbolotin@zbtnational.org.

Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity was founded in 1898 in New York City as the world's first Jewish Fraternity. ZBT is a Brotherhood of Kappa Nu, Phi Alpha, Phi Epsilon Pi, Phi Sigma Delta and Zeta Beta Tau. ZBT is represented on close to 100 campuses in the United States and Canada and has more than 130,000 undergraduate and alumni brothers throughout the world.

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