

18 December, 2014

RE: Reconsideration Request 14-44 (.GAY)

Dear ICANN and the Board Governance Committee,

In response to the recent CPE results issued for the .GAY top-level domain (TLD) community application, please accept this letter in support of reconsideration for dotgay LLC.

The International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association (IGLTA) is one of many organizations in the gay community that has had the privilege and resources to engage in ICANN's multi-stakeholder process. Not only has our attendance at ICANN meetings dating back to Prague helped us to better understand how ICANN works, but the Community Objections session hosted by the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris and subsequent objection filings has further rooted and schooled our organization in ICANN process. We consider ourselves and the gay community to be valuable ICANN stakeholders and by way of IGLTA's participation, thousands of valuable stakeholder voices within the gay community are amplified.

Our observation, as stakeholders who have been silenced and disappointed by the ICANN process on numerous occasions thus far, is that ICANN has lost sight of how to best serve the public interest because of the cloud of litigation. A focus on process completion that is void of common sense or a forward-looking acknowledgement of future complications is both short sighted and reckless. ICANN must take caution with .GAY and not be blinded by its own process limitations.

IGLTA fully acknowledges that untested processes will have growing pains, but it doesn't excuse ICANN from its mandate to put the public interest ahead of others' interests. This is especially true when evidence shows that other interests have not played fairly in the process. ICANN is poised to grow and strengthen its stakeholder model by simply doing right by the gay community, otherwise ICANN risks alienating millions at the expense of pleasing only a few.

As an organization mandated to serve the public interest, ICANN has an obligation to use its influence for the protection and betterment of the people, especially when that calls for representing the underrepresented and vulnerable segments of society.

Not unlike the recent International Olympic Committee decision that restricts hosting eligibility to those countries without anti-gay laws, ICANN has the same opportunity to be as bold and affiliate with the right side of history. Countries now ineligible to host the Olympics will certainly take issue with the IOC decision, but the IOC will move forward as an organization knowing that they have acted in the public interest, and subsequently removed the larger concern for public safety, human rights and future litigation.



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The IGLTA calls on ICANN and the BGC to reconsider the CPE results for dotgay LLC. Doing so shows that caution and care is being given to the .GAY TLD; one that is not only certain to impact the gay community and LGBTQIA people everywhere, but also a reflection of ICANN's competence to serve the public interest.

Sincerely,

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