

August 8, 2016

Dear ICANN Board,

This letter is in response to the recent ICANN Ombudsman report on the .GAY community application and independent review findings related to community applications that participated in the community priority evaluations (CPE) being overseen by ICANN.

When commitments to fairness, transparency and nondiscrimination are proclaimed to be the guiding principles of a program like the new gTLD program, a measured effort towards delivering on those commitments is required. Reference to such commitments is not enough to ensure delivery, especially for vulnerable populations like the gay community who are commonly mistreated.

In light of the recent findings, ILGA once again expresses our deep concerns with ICANN's handling of the CPE process and the interests of the LGBTQIA as it relates to the .GAY community application. It is now documented that guiding principles of fairness, transparency and nondiscrimination have been compromised in the CPE process, not to mention heightened levels of scrutiny that have been applied to certain community applications. We believe this to be beyond reprehensible, especially when it contributes to the further marginalization of a vulnerable population like the gay community.

It is now in the hands of the ICANN Board to accept responsibility for the mistreatment of the .GAY community application and take action that will end the ongoing marginalization of LGBTQIA interests in the new gTLD program. This includes rejecting the CPE score from the EIU, one that is now further clouded in suspicion because of recent findings of the ICANN Ombudsman and independent reviewers examining ICANN's involvement in other CPE decisions.

ILGA urges the ICANN Board to accept the Ombudsman's recommendation and award community priority to .GAY, putting "an end to this long and difficult issue" by concluding that dotgay LLC and the gay community have fulfilled the necessary criteria required of community applicants. It is the right path forward.

Best regards,

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Executive Director, ILGA