



RE: Additional Endorsement for dotgay LLC (Application ID# 1-1713-23699)

Dear ICANN,

As dotgay LLC's community application for .gay enters the Community Priority Evaluation (CPE) phase of the new gTLD program, we submit the following additional letters of support for consideration by the CPE evaluators. These letters from community organizations and businesses around the world offer exclusive support to the dotgay LLC community model, one that prioritizes community interest, community governance and community benefit.

dotgay LLC's ongoing efforts and interaction with the global community have resulted in more than 60 additional letters of support since our last submission in 2013. The outreach and exhaustive dialogue with the Gay Community is not only a reflection of dotgay LLC's commitment to the community, but also a direct contribution to the overall policy development for the TLD. This work has continued at an accelerated rate since submitting the application and it will continue even after launch.

Because of the volume of endorsements and the amount of time that has past since submitting our original application, dotgay LLC has also maintained a current contact list for each endorsement received and can certainly make that available to the CPE evaluators upon request when validating the letters.

We appreciate ICANN adding the enclosed endorsement letters to dotgay LLC's community application for .gay (Application ID# 1-1713-23699).

Best regards,

Jamie Baxter

dotgay LLC

## Additional Letters of Support

Since the time that dotgay LLC submitted the community application for .gay, outreach efforts have continued in the Gay Community to engage, listen, inform, interact and garner support. Building on the letters previously submitted, support has continued to grow include the additional 60+ enclosed. Endorsement from the following organizations, associations and businesses represent the voice of membership, constituents and networks of individuals in the community identifying as male or female homosexuals, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and ally.

As additional letters of support are received they will be made available on our website at <a href="https://www.dotgay.com/endorsements">www.dotgay.com/endorsements</a> and we encourage the CPE evaluators to consider those that arrive even after the CPE submission deadline.

## **ECOSOC Members**

In our original application submission to ICANN we included a grouping of endorsements from national and international organizations that hold accreditation within the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. Homosexuelle Initiative (HOSI) Wien is the newest LGBT member to provide their endorsement of dotgay LLC, bringing the total number of supporting LGBT organizations in ECOSOC to ten. Since 1979, HOSI Wien has been the most important advocates for the gay community in Austria and the organization is also a member of Human Rights Initiative, the National Committee, the NGO network to the UN Human Rights and in 2003 participated in the creation of a mission statement for the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Austria.



ICANN 801 17th Street, NW, Suite 400 Washington, DC 20006 USA

Vienna, January 14, 2014

## Letter of Support

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

Homosexuelle Initiative (HOSI) Wien is committed to a society and a world in which the human rights of all are respected and equal, where all are able to live free from discrimination despite sexual orientation and gender identity. Through education and public relations, HOSI Wien uses one hand for the removal of existing societal prejudice against members of the gay community, and the other hand for the strengthening of self-confidence and self-esteem to support the coming-out process. HOSI Wien sees itself as a part of civil society that fights for a fairer world and against exploitation, poverty, oppression and violence, in solidarity with all groups and initiatives who oppose sexism, hetersexism, transphobia, racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and related phenomena exclusions and combat this, both at national and international levels.

















Since 1979, HOSI Wien has been the most important political advocate for the gay community in Austria and we work closely with ministers, members of parliament and other politicians as well as the array of political parties, government agencies and media. Our goals include legal equality in all aspects of life: the creation of anti-discrimination law, legal recognition and equality with marriage, adoption and reproductive health. To date our achievements have included the repeal of four special paragraphs in criminal law (1989: § 210; 1996: §§ 220 & 221; 2002: § 209), Asylum Act 1991, deletion of "homosexuality from the Austrian diagnosis code (1991), Equal Treatment Act and the Federal Equal Treatment Act (2004), extension of § 283 of the Criminal Code on incitement to hatred based on sexual orientation (2011).

Since 1981, HOSI Wien has been an active member of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) and its working groups (Euro Europe/CSCE, EC: AIDS). Also as active members of ILGA-Europe, from 1990-2003 various HOSI Wien staff have served roles of CEO, board member and honorary Vice President. In 2013, with great honor, HOSI Wien was granted consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), becoming the newest member of only a select group of LGBT organizations to include the voice of the gay community within the United Nations work. Among a much longer list not included here, the HOSI Wien is also a member of Human Rights Initiative, the National Committee, the NGO network to the UN Human Rights and in 2003 participated in the creation of a mission statement for the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Austria – "Business success with social responsibility."

HOSI Wien has been following the discussion and progress of the community proposal for .gay over the last several years. It is our belief that a community approach is the only viable option and the only one that is in alignment with community interest, here in Austria and on a global scale. The level of community engagement, discussion, participation, oversight and review that has gone into dotgay LLC's application is that which undeniably puts community interest first. Understanding global issues and challenges facing the gay community and responding with real solutions is a commendable achievement and an innovative approach to ICANN's new gTLD program.

It is our belief that a community model that addresses concerns related to safety, visibility and support for LGBTIQ people is the best vision for .gay. Incorporating policies that address name protections, anti-gay hate speech as defined by the UN and

ongoing community participation in policy development are important components of dotgay LLC's proposal. In addition, dotgay LLC's commitment to return a minimum of 67% of profits from domain name sales to community groups and initiatives is the only commitment our community has received from any TLD proposal. Since dotgay LLC has willingly offered to operate with oversight from the community, we believe it will continue to serve community interest into the future.

With the experience, knowledge and vision that we hold as a respected organization within the gay community, Austrian political arena and the UN's ECOSOC, we stand behind dotgay LLC's community application for .gay and believe that it will provide for a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely, today and in the long term.

Sincerely,

Christian Högl

President of HOSI Wien

ZVR-Nr.: 524 534 408

IBAN: AT92 1400 0100 1014 3980

BIC: BAWAATWW (BAWAG P.S.K.)

UID: ATU 64 602 914

## **Gay Organizations**

This grouping of endorsements contains regional, national and international organizations that represent a wide variety of service oriented nonprofit and non-governmental efforts created to support members of the Gay Community. As stated in our original endorsement submission, these organizations have been on the front line of progress for the Gay Community, creating real change where it is needed and leadership where it is absent.

Supporting a community-based approach to .gay is a priority for these organizations as outlined in their letters supporting dotgay LLC's application, including strong reasoning that emphasize the need for community governance of the .gay TLD. Ongoing international outreach has garnered additional support from national organizations in Argentina, Azerbaijan, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, France, Guyana, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Mongolia, The Netherlands, Nicaragua, Serbia, Slovakia, Uganda, United Kingdom, Venezuela and the United States.





Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

The Argentine LGBT Federation (FALGBT) is a national organization that federates over than sixty ONGs in Argentina which advocate for the human rights of LGBTQIA+ community. It was conceived as a tool for political incidence regarding issues that were to be discussed at the federal level of government. In this sense, FALGBT conducted the national campaign that led to Marriage Equality in the year 2010, and also had great impact on the campaign for gender identity recognition, obtaining the first recognition of gender identity for a trans woman without pathologization or any other condition other than its will.

In our experience, an important step which was central for the success of LGBTQIA+ movement was becoming visible; that's why we support any initiative —like the .gay TLD— tending to make our community and our claims more and more visible everyday in our country and all over the world.

In that sense, we believe that .gay TLD, or any other TLD designed for the LGBTQIA+ community should be managed from within community, so it can become a tool for the development and integration of LGBT community throughout the world, not focused on profits but on helping spread equality globally.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a business model for .gay with the community in mind and believe this model will receive strong support of the LGBTQIA+ service and non-profit segments, business community, advertisers and media, and many individuals, thus creating a strong new TLD.

Sincerely,

Alejandro Nasif Salum

Secretary for International Relations Argentine LGBT Federation (FALGBT)



## **Transgender Netwerk Nederland**

Rhijnspoorplein 26 1018 TX Amsterdam

+31 20 205 0915 info@transgendernetwerk.nl www.transgendernetwerk.nl

Amsterdam, March 13, 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .GAY TLD under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

Transgender Netwerk Nederland (TNN) is the national advocacy organization for transgender people and their families in the Netherlands. TNN gives an active face to the joined forces of transgender people in the Netherlands. Because of TNN, transgender people in the Netherlands have a voice as a group, are more visible and represented in society and politics on a national and local level. The ultimate goal of TNN is to improve the position of transgender people in society as a whole. Together we are stronger.

Officially established in 2006, TNN is committed to a diverse society, combating discrimination and emancipation of transgender people and their environment. TNN does so in the broadest sense as conducive to the national agenda of transgender emancipation, bringing attention to important topics, providing expertise, consultation and support to both the field of emancipation policies and beyond.

In its first year of existence, the TNN focused on internal affairs and in 2007 TNN became politically active on three specific issues: discrimination and violence, improved health care and the change of legislation regarding sex registration. In the coming years, TNN will continue to grow as the driving force for the emancipation of transgenders by means of signaling, influencing policy and agenda. The Dutch Ministry of Education Culture and Science have recognized TNN as an important empowerment organization, also funding TNN's activities since 2008.

As ICANN considers the introduction of new TLDs that utilize 'words' which are clearly linked to communities of people, it is TNN's belief that community input and participation must be considered seriously. This is especially true in the case of the .GAY TLD which will have implications on such a large and diverse population of people already known to face unprecedented discrimination and intolerance. ICANN must deliberate carefully how the reputation of "all participants" in that community could be endangered further without community involvement in future operations of .GAY.

Reputational risk for "brands" is not unlike that of communities. TNN requests that ICANN consider very carefully how the two distinctly differing approaches to .GAY would directly impact transgender people. TNN believes that dotgay LLC has presented an operational structure for the .GAY TLD that will provide for inclusion, dialogue and solutions surrounding important matters for transgender people. The other .GAY applicants offer nothing to either protect the reputation of the community, or transgender people specifically, and this remains a serious concern for TNN.

Stichting Transgender Netwerk Nederland zet zich in voor een genderdiverse samenleving, emancipatie van transgenders en hun omgeving en bestrijding van discriminatie.



Through dotgay LLC's proposed community governance, transgender people will have the best opportunity to ensure that their reputation is not jeopardized over profit and ignorance. Also, by only permitting LGBTQIA people into the .GAY TLD, this will prove to further diminish maltreatment of all segments within the community including transgender people. Together we are stronger.

TNN supports dotgay LLC in creating a community-focused model for .GAY.

Best regards,

Carolien van de Lagemaat

Chair

Transgender Netwerk Nederland info@transgendernetwerk.nl



## 185, rue Carlton Street Toronto ON M5A2K7 www.egale.ca 1(888)204-7777



January 20, 2014

ICANN 12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300 Los Angeles, CA 90094-2536 USA

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Beckstrom and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

Founded in 1995, Egale Canada Human Rights Trust (ECHRT) is Canada's only national charity promoting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans (LGBT) human rights through research, education and community engagement. The .gay TLD advances our mission as it inspires trust within the community and enhances awareness of our programs and efforts both nationally and around the globe.

Egale's vision is of a world free of homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and all other forms of discrimination so that every person can achieve their full potential, unencumbered by hatred and bias. A TLD such as .gay will bolster the outreach and online visibility of organisations doing tremendous work for our community and help pave the way for our vision to become reality. As the media and landscape changes and technologies evolve, the internet and new TLDs like .gay will lend a strong support to link LGBT people and resources.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a business model for .gay with the community in mind and believe this model will receive strong support of the LGBT service and non-profit community, business community, advertisers and media, and many individuals, thus creating a strong new TLD.

Sincerely,

Helen Kennedy Executive Director



### Movimiento de Integración y Liberación Homosexual

Desde 1991

El brazo político de las minorías sexuales

Santiago, 27th January 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

The homosexual integration and liberation movement (MOVIHL) was founded in 1991. It is the oldest organization in Chile concerned about sexual diversity and the most successful in terms of its political influence, according to the United Nations Development Programme (NUDP). Among its achievements we can find the drafting and promotion of the Anti-discrimination Law (2012) and a set of comprehensive public policies, from the decriminalization of same-sex relationships (1998) to the promotion of sexual diversity policies in schools and universities.

.GAY dominion would benefit the organization as it would:

- a) Standardize the access to sexual diversity websites, including our own (movihl.com)
- b) Give and identity to the websites
- Facilitate searching for the website c)

Therefore, MOVIHL would appreciate that those who are in charge of taking this decision, would consider this arguments.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Sincerely,

Jaime Parada Hoyl Spokesman

Homosexual Integration and Liberation Movement (MOVIHL)





## MINORITY WOMEN IN ACTION

Advancing, protecting and advocating for equal rights for LBTI women in Kenya

02-04-2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that Minority Women in Action writes this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .GAY TLD under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

Minority Women in Action (MWA) was formed in 2006 with the purpose of advocating for the rights of lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LBTI) women in the gay community of Kenya by engaging with national and international partners. MWA educates and corrects misconceptions on sexual orientation and gender identity. In addition, MWA provides platforms and opportunities for members to build different skills in organizations management, economic empowerment, advocacy on LBTI rights and knowledge in health.

In 2011, MWA became a force for advocacy, outreach and policy support in the region of East Africa, as well as holding the Women's Secretariat Board position with the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA). MWA presented a policy paper titled "Counseling Homosexual and Transgender persons in Kenya" to the Kenya Association of Professional Counselors, and also contributed to a public inquiry on sexual and reproductive health of minority groups by Kenya's National Commission of Human Rights (KNCHR). A MWA delegation also visited Uganda's LGBT organizations to bond and share experiences.

Since 2012, MWA has also received a grant from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Norwegian LGBT organization LLH, as well as funding from AJWS, HIVOS, ASTRAEA Lesbian Foundation for Justice. Additional funding has opened opportunities for further international collaboration and advocacy, including participation in the

Minority Women in Action (MWA) Email: info@minoritywomeninaction.co.ke Website: www.minoritywomeninaction.co.ke



## MINORITY WOMEN IN ACTION

Advancing, protecting and advocating for equal rights for LBTI women in Kenya

Commission on the Status of Women at the UN, Pan-African Anthropological Association Conference, 5th African Conference on Sexual Health Rights and the UN Universal Periodic Review in Geneva. Our efforts continue in Kenya, within the region and internationally.

As new TLDs are being approved by ICANN, MWA would like to reiterate the expressed concerns by many that .GAY is a domain that must include community governance and operate in the interest of the gay community. Only dotgay LLC's proposed policies for .GAY include additional elements that uniquely address issues of importance to the varied segments within the gay community, such as ensuring .GAY is a trusted domain and not a stage for abuse to any segment within the community. A clear plan for community management has been presented by dotgay LLC and MWA believes it is well designed, well supported and in alignment with the best interest of each segment within the gay community.

MWA supports dotgay LLC in creating a community-focused model for .GAY and we look forward to ICANN approving this community model in the coming months.

Best regards,

Akinyi Ocholla

Representative, Minority Women in Action

limfelible

akiniom@gmail.com



Just be humanist!

e-mail nefeslgbt.az@gmail.com, facepage | lgbtazerbaijanofficial, twitter | twitter.com/NefesLGBT Azerbaycan

18.02.2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay toplevel-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

The main purposes of the Nəfəs (Breath) LGBT Azerbaijan Alliance are to provide defense of rights and freedoms of LGBT people in Azerbaijan, to initiate bills and statutes in this field, to make the legislation work properly, to carry out reforms in the educational and healthcare systems and to take actions in order to eliminate homophobia among broad masses toward LGBT people. The organization was created one year ago and over hundred LGBT people have been involved in our activities so far. Nəfəs LGBT has conducted a survey regarding to the employment rates and business environment for the LGBT people for the first time in Azerbaijan, and has statistical results to back up its claims about the difficulties that LGBT people face and homophobia.

As the technology develops, the competitive parties are growing in the cyber world. The initiative that will address important and primary needs of the LGBT community and make the Internet a safe space for LGBT global community is very important, as well as for Azerbaijan. We know that dotgay is not just a "marketing platform", rather, it is a platform which will encompass the whole gay communities over the world and must be operated for the mutual benefit of LGBT constituents, for internet is the best place to continue to work on the issue of discrimination and abuse towards LGBT people.

Under the leadership of LGBT advocate Mr. Scott Seitz, dotgay LLC will bind LGBT leaders together and that will further facilitate connections between them which are, doubtlessly, beneficial for our global community. There is big demand for the top-level domains on the international scale among LGBT community and dotgay LLC is the first and most successful step taken towards that end. We are sure that, this way, LGBT representatives will be able to communicate to each other easily and after that, will be able to address larger matters within our community.

It is also very important that any top-level domain designed for the LGBT community should be managed from within community. As shareholder mostly focus on the amount of their profits, we need that our community to grow not only commercially. There is a tendency in the hierarchical management that the vertical relations are being replaced by that of horizontal, and as the LGBT communities' needs are very specifically and different from each other according to their geographical locations, it is the best option that the .gay TLD ought to be managed from within our community.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Sincerely.

Atilla (Javid) Nabiyev General Director Nefes LGBT Azerbaijan Alliance Tel: +994556718884; +994503528684 e-mail | nefeslgbt.az@gmail.com



e-mail: thegrace.kg@gmail.com tel: (+996) 555 909804

November 26, 2013

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

With great enthusiasm we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD).

1. We are non-governmental LGBT association «the GRACE», organized in February, 2013. At first we functioned as initiative group, and on July 10, 2013, we gained state registration. Our activity is aimed on stable positive changes in the sphere of LGBT rights protection both in Kyrgyz Republic and Central Asia. We are to consolidate efforts of LGBT in CA by developing effective and long-term partnership; to create interactive communication area between society and LGBT community by using new technologies and media resources; also to provide constant interaction and community support by giving access to up-to-date information, taking part in making decisions, developing active civil LGBT community and attracting new partners into the region.

At the time we have no employees, only 3 members; more than 10 volunteers (LGBT representatives and allies) are deeply involved into organization's activity.

- 2. We support this initiative because it will be of great help to new LGBT organizations especially from developing countries and let them tell about themselves, their activities and share experience. It is well known that having good internet site requires a lot of material resources; and this initiative will give us the opportunity to use these resources for new useful and important initiatives. It will also enhance interaction of LGBTQI organizations all over the world.
- 3. .gay TLD and any other TLD designed for the LGBTQI should be operated by the community for following reasons: avoiding of hidden discrimination within internet, providing opportunity to share and access all possible information. We support dotgay LLC in creating a business model for .gay with the community in mind and believe this model will receive strong support of the LGBTQI service and non-profit segments, business community, advertises and media, and many individuals, thus creating a new strong TLD.





## Society Against Guyana Sexual Orientation Discrimination

February 10, 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

## Re: Support of ICANN to create the proposed .gay TLD by dotgay LLC

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

Our organization, the Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SASOD) is a 10-year old, rights-based, non-governmental, non-profit organisation committed to promoting the human rights, equality and dignity all persons, but particularly lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in Guyana and throughout the Caribbean. Our work focuses on ending discrimination, especially based on sexuality, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Over the last ten years SASOD has been successfully advocating for the rights of LGBT people at local, regional and international levels.

The .gay TLD would provide SASOD, and no doubt many other LGBT organisations and interests, with a sector-specific platform where we can easily be found and share valuable resources. This will vastly improve our results in searches with the index platform being introduced by dotgay LLC, and our internet presence overall. Ensuring that .gay is created to provide a safer environment and user experience is a welcomed approach and one that SASOD believes will benefit all members of our communities. The dotgay LLC's plan is the only one that helps address the unique circumstances of our ever evolving community while simultaneously providing solutions to community threats.

The .gay TLD should be managed by interests from in our communities who have a vested interest in advancing LGBT presence on the internet, over and beyond profits. A profit-making entity that treats our community like a commodity would be more likely to sacrifice ethical and community interests in a quest to maximize returns. A community-centred entity with ongoing community governance is best.

We support dotgay LLC in their collaborative quest, along with the hundreds of other LGBT organisations around the world, to create a community focused model for .gay that serves its members and commits to continue advocating on their behalf.

Sincere regards.

Joel Simpson, LL.B, PMP, LL.M. Founder and Managing Director

Dinnson



# Gayten-LGBT, Center for Promotion of LGBTIQ Human Rights Adress: Braće Baruh 20 b/3, 11158 Beograd, Srbija, Office number: (+381 11) 292 00 67, Fax: (+381 11) 292 00 73, Mobile: +381 64 0 170 235 E-mail: gayten@gmail.com web: www.transserbia.org

November 14, 2013

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

Gayten LGBT, Center for Promotion of LGBTIQ Human Rights is a national organization in Serbia and was founded in Belgrade in 2001. It was created by the Association Arkadia, which was originally established in 1990, and consists of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and straight supporters.

The mission of Gayten-LGBT is to contribute to the creation and implementation of legislation, institutional operation and creation of overall societal environment directed toward removal of all forms of violence and discrimination toward LGBTIQ persons. Our underlying values encourage all members of our community to work together with respect and appreciation, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or intersectionality (age, race, ethnic background, health status, etc). Gayten-LGBT's work has been recognized with three international awards, including the Heimdahl Award (2002) received by two Gayten activists DusanMaljković and Milan Đurić for the first queer radio program "Gayming" on Radio 202.

The .gay TLD, functioning as an umbrella TLD for the global community of LGBTIQ persons, will provide the much needed platform to bring all segments of our community together in a powerful manner that can help create change in our world. Having a dedicated TLD for those members of our community who want to engage is groundbreaking, especially while offering unique protections, more trusted user experiences and financial support. These are crucial components to our community's growth and self-empowerment.

We believe that any TLD associated with or targeting any part of our community (including .gay, .lesbian, .trans, .bisexual, .intersex or any combination of acronyms) should be managed with community oversight, and not simply given to anyone who can write a big check. These words are assets to our community, no different from any other community, and the long history of targeted abuses against LGBTIQ people leave no question in our minds that aTLD will become yet another weapon for the haters if not implemented under community watch. We strongly urge ICANN to only consider a community model for all community words, including .gay.

We fully support dot gay LLC in creating a community managed model for .gay and believe this model will receive strong support from all segments of the community.

Sincerely,

Kristian Ranđelović

Coordinator of Trans Section

Member of Transgender Europe Board



## HAGAMOS LA PAZ FIATPAX

March 4, 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

FIATPAX is the Latin abbreviation of LET PEACE ASSOCIATION, a non-governmental, non-profit, apolitical and secular organization in Nicaragua. Our mission is working for the deconstruction of ignorance and the imposition of force in Central America to build a culture of peace in the defense and promotion of Human Rights. Our hope is to provide for an inclusive, respectful, fair and equal world, that facilitates the development of lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgender (LGBT) people and men who have sex with men (MSM). FIATPAX is focused on building self-sustainable initiatives for human development of its members by creating public policy proposals that benefit the population of LGBT and MSM in Central America. This includes programs around social transformation, economic growth, cultural and environmental enhancement.

Since learning about the possibility of .gay becoming a new website suffix, FIATPAX has been pleased to support a community approach that recognizes the unique and diverse population the website suffix will be identified with. It is not only very positive for .gay to become a beacon of hope and a support mechanism for a community facing grave and abundant challenges, but it is also vital that the reputation of the community be shielded along the way. The community application of dotgay LLC is the answer to achieving the maximum benefit for the community, and the only option that involves and encourages the participation of the community.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new website suffix that our global community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Sincerely,

Director

No. Cedula

FIATPAX

HAGAMOS LA PAZ

telf. 505 22773416

marjog 57@yahoo.com.mx

Managua, Nicaragua



Caracas, April 30, 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

Venezuela Diversa Civil Association is a nonprofit institution of social and human development that was born on August 15, 2007. Our mission is the promotion and defense of Human Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex (LGBTI) people. This includes encouraging the development of initiatives and mechanisms of social participation that allow the involvement of civil society, individuals and the Venezuelan government in the fight against all forms of discrimination primarily by sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.

It is also the interest of our organization to engage within Venezuela on various levels to remain true to our mission. This includes assisting in the creation of public policies and legislation that promote inclusion and full respect of LGBTI people, promoting teaching and learning environments to encourage respect for sexual diversity, and developing training and information aiming to create a respect in the field of human rights. Our organization also supports the struggle of the various popular social movements and against any form of discrimination.

Venezuela Diversa Civil Association hereby expresses our support for dotgayLLC.It is our belief that a community focused and a community governed model for .gay offers the necessary strategy to enhance and support the continuing needs of LGBTI people, avoiding further maltreatment or impairment of community interest and efforts. We believe that ICANN's ultimate decision about .gay is one that carries lasting implications and our community must be heard and considered in the process. To ignore the wishes of the gay community or cast doubt about the gay community's status as a community is a direct attack and insult to the expressed and joint support from LGBTI people and organizations for a community model.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Truly,

Yonatan Matheus

Director General de Venezuela Diversa A.C.

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Buenos Aires, december 17th, 2013

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .GAY top-level domain under the community model presented by dotgay LLC. Comunidad Homosexual Argentina (CHA) was created on April 16, 1984 and is Argentina's oldest LGBT organization and one of the flagship organizations in the struggle for the defense of the rights of LGBT people. CHA is integrated by gays, lesbians, transvestites, transsexuals and bisexuals working pro bono for non-discrimination of people because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. In 1987 CHA became the first organization to conduct a prevention campaign for HIV-AIDS, receiving financial support from the Pan American Health Organization (United Nations) in 1988. CHA is also part of the National Forum of NGOs working with HIV-AIDS, LGBT Task Force and other UNAIDS HsH LGBT Network and Argentina.

The Internet is crucial in the lives and ongoing efforts of LGBT people everywhere; a remarkable tool we use daily to exchange information, extend support and share our stories so that we can create change in the minds and hearts of those who do not yet understand us. CHA believes that the opportunity to create a trusted .GAY top-level domain is critical to our continued work in these areas and the prevention of ongoing atrocities, both here in Argentina and around the world. The luring in of LGBT people via the Internet to then beat and torture them is a problem unlikely to end without serious action. LGBT people deserve a .GAY they can trust.

CHA also believes that it is critical that .GAY be administered from within the gay community, under a community governance model like that proposed by dotgay LLC. This is to ensure that .GAY is managed in a manner consistent with community interest, both today and into the future, while also ensuring that it does not become a top-level domain used to cause any further harm to the gay community. This is extremely important in our beliefs and an issue of accountability.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a community-focused model for .GAY with a strong emphasis on community interest. CHA believes this approach will receive strong support throughout the LGBT segments of the gay community, creating a trusted new TLD our community can be proud of and use to further our efforts towards equality.

Sincerely,

PEDRO PARADISO SOTTILE

Secretary

Comunidad Homosexual Argentina







Feb 28, 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

Established in 1999, Aibai Culture & Education Center is a non-profit organization based in China. Our mission is to promote equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities through strengthening community alliance and public advocacy. Currently, Aibai has branches in Beijing, Chengdu and Shanghai and volunteers throughout China and overseas.

Aibai published the first school homophobic bullying survey report in China in 2012, the first report on LGBT employees in 2013, as well as an annual workforce diversity report since 2010. Since its founding in 1999, Aibai.org has always been one of the leading LGBT news portals in Asia.

The important work that Aibai is doing in Asia helps to knock down cultural barriers that have long prevented our LGBT people from living happier and healthier lives. To know that community advocacy in the Internet space is an essential ingredient to dotgay LLC's proposal ensures us that the LGBT voice will be heard, especially around challenges and struggles still facing a huge portion of the non-western LGBT population. Under community governance, the .gay TLD has a much greater chance of creating change, while protecting the reputation and livelihood of all members of our community.

We support dotgay LLC'se fforts and their community proposal for the .gay TLD. With such resounding international support from all segments of our community, we believe that dotgay LLC has positioned .gay to become one of our community's greatest, safest and most beneficial resources.

Sincerely,

Alex Jiang Hui

CEO

Aibai Culture & Education Center



November 15, 2013 Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

dotgay LLC 307 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1807 New York, NY 10001 212-235-5154

www.dotgay.com

Re: Letter of Support for the .gay TLD

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

Founded in 2007 and officially registered in 2009, the LGBT Centre works to mainstream LGBT human rights into the broader human rights agenda within Mongolia, to form strong working relationships with civil society and governmental agencies, to ensure legislative and constitutional protections and redress for sexuality minorities, and to provide essential support services for the much marginalised, stigmatised and persecuted LGBT community. The LGBT Centre has taken a lead role among civil society organisations in terms of human rights activism, and has made LGBT history in Mongolia through its many advocacy initiatives, and has won both national and international recognition for its work. In December 2010, the LGBT Centre was named "Human Rights Defenders of the Year" by the Democratic Youth Union of the Democratic Party, and in March 2011 was awarded the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission's prestigious Felipa de Souza Award.

The LGBT Centre of Mongolia would like to proudly support the creation of a community managed .gay TLD, initiated by dotgay LLC. As many of the LGBT human rights organisations around the world, we join this important cause to protect and secure the rights and fundamental freedoms of the LGBT community members both online and offline. With increasing online activities of the community members, it is our utmost concern to have ownership with the .gay TLD brand in a safe environment.

In solidarity,

Otgonbaatar Tsedendemberel

y. Omrowsaamel

Executive Director LGBT Centre

Central Post Office P.O.B. 120 Ulaanbaatar 13, Mongolia

www.lgbtcentre.mn



April 1, 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

Iniciativa Inakosť is a non-governmental organization protecting human rights and freedoms of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people in Slovakia. Founded in 2006, our mission is focused on the detection and elimination of all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and liberation of the homophobia and transphobia.

Represented by an Administrative Board, Iniciativa Inakosť is comprised of a team of activists with experience working among citizen associations. In the last months of 2006 the organization reacted to the challenge of Human Rights and Minorities Section of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic with the project WE ARE HERE. The project was realized with the European Year of Equal Opportunities For All in 2007, receiving financial accommodation of the European Union.

It is the strong belief of our organization and Administrative Board that ICANN's decision on stewardship of the .GAY domain is extremely important and one that must fall in favor of the community model. Entrusting and involving LGBTI people in the operation and governance of .GAY is essential to ensuring that the TLD becomes a beacon of hope, safety and philanthropy for the gay community and true benefit for all LGBTI people. As Eastern Europe continues to make advancement in the area of equality and human rights, the gay community continues to be a target for those filled with hate and ignorance. The .GAY TLD should not become an opportunity to further exploit the gay community and only dotgay LLC offers a plan that puts community interest first.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Sincerely,

Martin Macko

Iniciativa Inakosť

Rajská 4

811 08 Bratislave IČO: 37 995 545

Tel.: +421252444187

**Executive Director** 

Iniciatíva Inakosť

martin.macko@inakost.sk

November 14, 2013

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community-based model submitted by dotgay LLC.

Platform for equality, recognition and diversity (PROUD) is a Czech non-governmental organisation that was officially established on 30th March 2011 (registration by local authorities). Board of PROUD has 7 members. The fundamental basis of all PROUD's activities is the belief that people are free and equal, both in dignity and rights, without any differences based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Our organization aims to create legal environment in which LGBT people will be considered eligible for adoption and parenting, to open the institution of marriage to same-sex couples, to create LGBT friendly atmosphere in educational institutions and at the workplace, to support a balanced media image, to guarantee good quality of life for LGBT people in their old age and to tackle hate crime against LGBT people.

Our organization strongly supports the idea of .gay domain being submitted by dotgay LLC because we think that the community oversight is really necessary and to ensure that .gay is introduced with the proper safeguards that protect against abuse and misuse. The model that dotgay has created for the .gay domain reflects the needs and wishes of the community, primarily because they are the only applicant that included the community in the planning.

It is for the same reasons our organization swell as any other organization with similar goals can benefit from the domain. We believe that .gay will make the issue more visible and acceptable. A strong internet tool is what the community needs.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a business model for .gay with the community in mind and believe this model will receive strong support of the LGBTQIA+ service and non-profit segments, business community, advertisers and media, and many individuals, thus creating a strong new TLD.

Sincerely,

Martina Štěpánková

Secretary

Platform for equality, recognition and diversity



Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

TransFúzia (TF) is the first Slovak organization focused on issues within the transgender community. We are a young organization and we are working with very vulnearable group of people who rely substantially on the Internet to gain positive identity, understanding, community and support. TransFúzia is part of the recently emerging global transgender movement and we are an active member of the national platform of LGBT organizations Iniciative Otherness, Advisory Committee on LGBTI Rights for Slovak government, platform for Raingow PRIDE march Bratislava and international network Transgender Europe.

We would like to steer your attention to the **community based model** for operating the .GAY TLD proposed by **dotgay LLC**, which clearly positions community interest as a priority. Voting in favor of this proposal will bring benefit to many people around the world by recycling a majority of it's profit back to the community. Voting in favor of non-community business model proposals will benefit only a few people who do not pay attention to the interests of people they benefit from. dotgay LLC pays attention to the community and their outreach to our organization is yet another example of how enegaged they are within the community. dotgay LLC is well prepared to create real community value around .GAY, and just as important they have committed in writing to giving back.

We all know – from the very recent global financial crisis – how businesses oriented strictly on profit just for a few, without any regards to wider community, can devastate people's lives on the global scale. This is the opportunity to give a chance to a responsible and sustainable business model where community plays an essential role in the governance and redistribution of it's own resources.

The .GAY TLD governance rooted by the community based model can serve as one of the necessary provisions to improve lives of LGBTQI people in the world, were losing our homes, jobs, health and even lives because of who we are is very real. We believe that we can improve our situation step-by-step and your vote for dotgay LLC proposal would be a very significant one.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Sincerely,

Mgr. Roman Kollárik, co-president

TransFúzia



Addressing the situation of poverty of LGBTI people worldwide

14 January 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

Micro Rainbow International C.I.C. (MRI) is a not for profit social enterprise whose mission is a world free from discrimination and violence, where LGBTI people live in freedom and equality. At MRI we believe that: (a) many LGBTI people around the world are poor because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or the way their bodies look; and that (b) LGBTI people trapped in poverty can break the cycle if they are given the opportunity. We also believe that addressing poverty could and should change social attitudes towards non-conforming sexual and gender identities.

We believe that the creation of the .gay TLD would be extremely beneficial to the work of Micro Rainbow International. One of the activities we are implementing in order to reduce poverty of LGBTI people is to provide start-up capital and support for the creation LGBTI owned small businesses throughout the world. We are currently working in Indonesia, Brazil, Cambodia and considering expanding into Nepal, Bolivia and other countries. A .gay LTD would therefore be a very valuable resource to those LGBTI small business and would support our poverty reduction efforts of the LGBTI community in developing countries.

We fight for equality as a community, we work together as a community, and we support each other worldwide as a community. We exist and we are very visible minority because we are a community. We believe that a .gay TLD should be another tool to empower our community and to increase its visibility and should therefore be managed from within our community, with policy development and oversight from the community.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Sincerely,

Sebastian Rocca Founder and CEO

Sebostian Recep

Micro Rainbow International CIC



November 5, 2013

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this note, on behalf of l'Autre Cercle, in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD).

L'Autre Cercle is one of the leading French national LGBT NGOs. Its 600 members are professional men and women working in the public and private sectors or in the liberal professions. All of them share a strong sense of social responsibility and are united in their goal to create a mutually supportive network of activists and friends.

We believe that the dot gay top-level domain would be of great benefit to l'Autre Cercle as well as to other organizations like ours in France since it would both personalize and greatly facilitate access to specialized LGBT informational websites like our own.

In our view the proposed dot gay top-level domain (or any other TLD designed for the LGBTIQ community) should be operated by members of that community, sensitive to its special needs and conscious of its history and culture

We support dotgay LLC in creating a business model for the .gay TLD and believe that this model will receive strong support not only from LGBTIQs themselves but also from the service and non-profit segments as well as from the business community, from media and advertisers and from many sympathising non-LGBTIQ individuals. The result will be to Contribute in creating a strong new TLD.

Sincerely,

Philippe Orillac

National President of l'Autre Cercle (e-mail: president@autrecercle.org)

FEDERATION NATIONALE DE L'AUTRE CERCLE

Association Loi 1901 : 913E N°SIRET : 488 429

Code APE: 913E N°SIRET: 488 429 895 00011 Organisme de formation N° 11754169875

Ass. Fédération Autre Cercle, 105 rue de l'Abbé Groult CS32584,75015 Cedex 15 Paris site web : www.autrecercle.org



Caracas, 20 April 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

DIVERLEX, Diversidad e Igualdad a Través de la Ley, a NGO based in Venezuela, founded in 2006, with a long activity concerning equal rights in Venezuela, and Latin America, and it was elected in 2012 as the World Trans Secretary Organization of ILGA, write to you this letter to support ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

As a NGO acting not only at the level of Venezuelan territory, but also in Latin America and Caribbean countries at large, and worldwide as World Trans Secretary of ILGA, it is key for us to emphasize the fact that a community controlled model is indispensable in order to avoid the .gay domain to become a domain that could be used inclusive against the interests of the community. We consider that a safer and more trusted TLD .gay domain is only possible taking into account the community and their specific needs, and putting the domain to the service of the community at large.

Very truly yours.

Tamara Adrian

President

**DIVERLEX** 

Ave. Francisco de Miranda. Ed. Cavendes. Piso 5.0f. 502.

Los Palos Grandes. Caracas. Venezuela

diverlex@gmail.com



## Letter of Support

Santiago de Chile, December 15th, 2013

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

The organization supporting this initiative names **HOD Chile**. It is a little activist group founded by Jewish gay men in 2011 in Santiago, the capital city of Chile. Although the organization is based on reformed and liberal Judaism, there are some few activist members who are not Jewish, especially invited to belong due to their close friendship and relationship with the founders. It has been very appreciated as sign of interreligious dialogue and inclusion, in times of social changes around the world. Hod Chile has been working for LGBTQIA+ rights both inside and outside the local community, working in alliance with other organizations and actors.

Simply, the Gay TLD should be managed from within the community because it is the best to know and deal with its own needs, challenges and philosophy. Nothing better than the same LGBTQI+ family in charge of its ongoing initiatives. It could be understood as a sign of empowerment.

Gay TLD will benefit the organization (HOD Chile) in the sense of consolidation and reinforcement of networks. A common Gay domain will improve the searching process, will organize well the information and will provide a common space for interactions and identities.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a business model for .gay with the community in mind and believe this model will receive strong support of the LGBTQIA+ service and non-profit segments, business community, advertisers and media, and many individuals, thus creating a strong new TLD.

Sincerely,

Raúl Martínez Quiroz

Hod Chile's Coordinator / LGBTQIA+Activist

raulmartinezq@gmail.com / hod.chile@gmail.com

56-95041445 / skype: raulmartinezquiroz

1410 Coquimbo Street, Santiago

Facebook: Hod Chile Judíos por la Diversidad



Schweizerische Schwulenorganisation Organisation Suisse des Gals Organizzazione Svizzera dei Gay Organisaziun Gay Svizra

Bern, April 30, 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

On behalf of Pink Cross Gay Organization Switzerland, Swiss Lesbian Organization LOS and VoGay I am writing to you to state that we are in full support and appreciation of all taken actions by dotgay LLC to obtain .GAY domain.

Pink Cross is the umbrella organization of gay associations in Switzerland and represents political, cultural and social interests of the community. Its main goal is to achieve complete equality of gay people in society and before the law. We also provide legal counselling to our members in cases of discrimination and homophobic incidents.

It is of great importance that .GAY domain is given to an organization from within the community so that therefore the interests and safety may be beneficiary to LGBTIQ people.

We are grateful for the important work of dotgay LLC. Not only do they show sympathy and understanding towards the importance of protecting .GAY domain. It is the idea of sharing and giving back to LGBTIQ organizations which shows that their ambition is not financially but ideologically motivated.

Obtaining .GAY domain means for the community to be visible, safe and well informed around the globe. We are proud to contribute to this goal in form of this letter.

Sincerely,

Bastian Baumann

Business Manager Pink Cross

SEKRETARIAT / SECRETARIAT Monbijoustrasse 73 Postfach 1100 3000 Bern 23



## Letter of endorsement

On behalf of the membership of Subversive Front, association for critical approach to gender and sexuality from Skopje, Republic of Macedonia, I would like to endorse the initiative of dotgay LLC to create a .gay domain space on the Internet that would exist as a Top-Level-Domain (TLD).

We strongly support the idea to promote greater innovation and choice and we believe the .gay domain can serve as a common platform for enhancing the resources, visibility and solidarity of the LGBTI community.

We also hope that it will become an empowering space that recognizes and celebrates diversity and that it will serve as a rallying point for the entire international LGBTI community on the Internet.

Yours sincerely,

Antonio Mihailov

Skopje, R. of Macedonia

8<sup>th</sup> November 2013





March 17, 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

I am writing on behalf of Gender Justice Nevada. We are a non-profit whose mission it is to champion the healing, dignity and justice of diverse trans\* and gender non-conforming persons in Nevada. While we are still a small organization, our numbers are growing and we serve a population of thousands.

It is my strong belief that .gay TLD, or any other TLD designed for the LGBTQIA+ community should be managed from within community, with policy development and oversight from the community (and not Internet investors who are focused only on profits and have no connection to the community). This seems very obvious to us as we have been fighting, and are still fighting, oppression and exclusion for decades. To have any ownership outside of the community is yet another form of oppression and exploitation and should be fought. If .gay were to be owned or controlled in any form outside of the community, we would not only not support it, we would help rally info sharing and encourage a boycott against affiliation which would deem the TLD worthless.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Sincerely,

Holly Reese

Queer Anti-Violence Project Advocacy Support Coordinator

Gender Justice Nevada

## Gay Business & Business Networks

To expand the previous list of community-based business networks and chambers of commerce in support of dotgay LLC's community model, we are including additional letters from local, regional and national chambers. This includes Columbia's national association Columbian LGBT Chamber of Commerce as well as city chambers from Brisbane, Australia and Fort Lauderdale, USA.



Bogota DC - Colombia, November 19th 2013

## Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

The Colombian LGBT Chamber of Commerce was created only 1 year ago and currently we are able to have more tan 100 affiliates, 8 larger corporations as partners & a digital reach of +15K LGBT people around the country. Currently we are the only chamber of commerce existing in the country that is taking care of the LGBT Business agenda and is being quite regarding seeing the positive impact of diversifying LGBT issues in the country to productivity, trade & entrepreneurship activations, also implement initiatives as a Diversity Supplier Program & running certifications like the International Diversity Supplier one in coordination with the NGLCC in the US.

We as a Colombian Organization that is deeply involved in the internationalization of our LGBT business we believe that online relevance is crucial nor only for entrepreneurs but also for major corporations, and taking into consideration how massive is the digital market right now, we do believe necessary having an option of differentiation such as the .gay TLD, clearly identify better those businesses a, campaigns & initiatives with regards the LGBT community.

We also believe initiatives like .gay TLD should be managed from within the LGBTQIA+ community, considering letting initiatives like this one in other hands could jeopardize a policy development processes & oversight from the community, thanks to other interests or agendas such as focus on profits or financial speculation and not an inclusive & collective benefit.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a business model for .gay with the community in mind and believe this model will receive strong support of the LGBTQIA+ service and non-profit segments, business community, advertisers and media, and many individuals, thus creating a strong new TLD.

Sincerely,

**FELIPE CARDENAS** 

CEO

Colombian LGBT Chamber of Commerce - CCLGBTCO

Felipe Cardenas 6.



Brisbane Gay & Lesbian
Business Network Association Inc
PO Box 67 Spring Hill Qld 4004

www.glbn.org.au

13<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

The Brisbane Gay & Lesbian Business Network provides a forum for Professionals & Business Owners that helps create long lasting partnerships, lead generation, ideas & education through events and networking opportunities.

As a non-profit community organisation, the GLBN was founded in the early 1980's by a group of people committed to networking G&L businesses in Brisbane. The socio-political factors that affected G&L business operators has changed significantly since the incorporation of the Free Business Association (later renamed The Gay and Lesbian Business Network), however its intents and purposes have not.

In principal, we support the .gay TLD or a similar TLD designed for the LGBTQIA community as we believe it would help support business & organisations that wish to identify solely as an LGBTQIA business. We have many members that would benefit from this TLD whose business is solely for the LGBTQIA.

We believe the .gay TLD should be managed by the community to ensure that domain registrations fit the intention of the .gay TLD as opposed to internet investors who are solely focused on profits, instead of using the domain as a way of supporting the community.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Sincerely,

Tyrone Shandiman
President
Brisbane Gay & Lesbian Business Network
president@glbn.org.au



3/7/2014

Keith Blackburn

GFLGLCC - Greater Fort Lauderdale Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (GFLGLCC) was founded in 2011 as a 501c(6) non-profit. The mission of our South Florida organization is; to promote business and economic opportunities for the LGBT and LGBT-friendly community, to advocate and resource for member businesses that promote equality, to promote tourism with a unified approach.

GFLGLCC works as partners with local LGBT organizations, the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC), as well as with businesses wishing to make stronger outreach to the Greater Fort Lauderdale LGBT community. The GFLGLCC is also involved with promoting the NGLCC Supplier Diversity Initiative (SDI) to members and corporate partners. The SDI is a business tool to make connections, open doors with America's top corporations, and drive contracts with LGBT businesses. Additionally our organization works with local, statewide and national corporate partners to bring sponsorship dollars to the chamber. The GFLGLCC also assists with development of local LGBT business education programs.

As an LGBT organization deeply interested in the pending decision about stewardship of .GAY, GFLGLCC believes that the community application submitted by dotgay LLC offers the best and only viable solution to its introduction on the Internet. dotgay LLC's community vision for .GAY is clearly focused on community interest and their ongoing outreach, engagement and communication with LGBT organizations including ours serves as the foundation for future success addressing community needs. Ensuring that .GAY serves as a positive representation of the gay community should never be compromised to pure profit.

One element of the community model that has been well received by our membership is the name protections for community businesses. With consideration given to the equity a business builds in a domain name, despite having a national or global trademark, it is extremely important to create an organized entrance into .GAY that does not put small and medium sized businesses at risk of domain speculation. Only dotgay LLC has fully considered this implication and appears to be the only applicant offering a solution that is community friendly.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Sincerely,

Keith Blackburn President / CEO

GFLGLCC - Greater Fort Lauderdale Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce | GoGayFortLauderdale.com

4044 NE 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. #102 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334 | 954-523-3500 | Keith@gflglcc.org



Gene Falk CEO, StartOut 22 River Terrace, 16D New York, NY 10282 Gene.Falk@StartOut.org

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

StartOut is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to creating great business leaders by fostering and empowering LGBT entrepreneurs. Currently with over 60 annual events and thousands of participants nationwide, StartOut inspires, educates and supports LGBT entrepreneurs like no other organization can. As many of our entrepreneurs are deeply rooted in the technology sector, we have a vested interest in seeing the .gay TLD be available to those, and run by those, who most understand the needs of a diverse community finding its collective voice in the digital marketplace.

We help create the next generation of LGBT business leaders by helping aspiring entrepreneurs start new companies, assist current entrepreneurs to expand their businesses, and engage successful entrepreneurs as role models and mentors for less established entrepreneurs. Having .gay as a way to unify the community is a practical and important way to strengthen the network of LGBT businesses that thrive online.

Our organization fills a void at the intersection of commerce and community, believing in the power of the entrepreneurial spirit as a force for social and political impact. We succeed by harnessing the shared knowledge and experience of our networks and it is essential that the LGBT community have a trustworthy, independent TLD which has the best interests of the community at heart. A .gay address is a symbolic acknowledgment of the legitimacy and value of the LGBT community's presence online, and should only be stewarded by an organization that understands the values of its constituency.

We at StartOut proudly support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future. We encourage ICANN to stand on the right side of internet history and support a .gay TLD by and for the LGBT community.

Sincerely,

Gene Falk CEO, StartOut

Gove Fah



### The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada

401 S. Maryland Pkwy. • Las Vegas, NV 89101 office 702-733-9800 • FAX 702-733-9075 • www.TheCenterLV.com

February 28, 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board:

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this letter in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada (dba "The Center"), a community-based organization, supports and promotes activities directed at furthering the well-being, positive image, and human rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community, its allies, and low to moderate income residents in Southern Nevada.

In 2013, **53,927 people** from the community utilized Center programming and services. The Center serves as a 'hub' for many Southern Nevada residents and visitors, referring over **11,000 people** to community resources in 2013. Our services also include The David Bohnett Foundation Cyber Center, which provides over **8,700 people** a year with internet access for job hunting, educational and recreational purposes. The Center is also proud to be home to the David Parks lending library, which provides **4,000 LGBTQ-specific books and media** to the public.

Beyond referrals and information, The Center offers engaging programming with a community building focus. The Vegas Mpowerment Project, The Center's HIV prevention outreach program, reached **2,974 participants** in the last year, and conducted **173 community outreaches** to at-risk populations, distributing **123,483 safer sex kits** (condoms, lubrication, prevention/testing information materials). Our Health and Wellness Center serves as a Health District Testing site for Sexually Transmitted Infections Monday through Friday, 10:30am to 5pm. **4,789 people** were tested at The Center for HIV in 2013, identifying **67** newly positive individuals for treatment.

The QVolution Youth program delivers drop-in and group activities to **4,795 LGBTQ** and allied youth, ages 13 to 24, in 2013. We were very proud to host the 12<sup>th</sup> annual LGBTQ prom in 2013, with over **398 youth** attending. Our support groups for trans\* members served **1,058 participants**. The Center's staff would not be able to continue to make our impact on the community without the support of our Board, donors, community partners, and **654 volunteers**, contributing **5,342 hours** of volunteer service.

We are enthusiastic about the .gay Top Level Domain (TLD). As a community-based organization, The Center staff greatly appreciate the significance of this development as a tool for outreach, as well as community and capacity building. The economic impact of this new TLD on LGBTQ-owned and friendly businesses is likely to be substantial, as it could serve as an important part of branding. In addition, community organizations such as ours could reap many benefits by expanding our marketing reach. A .gay TLD would simplify our efforts in identifying and/or attracting new clients, volunteers, community partners, and funders.

It is crucial, however, that efforts to reach any community are responsive to the needs of the community served. The Center's staff and stakeholders alike believe firmly in the principle of community oversight, as evidenced by our Community Advisory Boards, and emphasis on extensive quantitative and qualitative measurement of programming impact.

To this end, we offer our full support to dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Bob Elkins, Chief Executive Officer



April 28, 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

The Staten Island LGBT Community Center provides lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals and their family members with direct local access to culturally competent, gay-oriented, LGBT-friendly services, programs, events and activities.

We feel that any attempt to keep this domain in our community's hands would be beneficial to help the domain remain mindful of the proper usage of such a domain name.

Furthermore, having it in the hands of members of the community and not just individuals and corporation looking to make a buck on the backs of our community is also of utmost importance.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Sanders

Volunteer & Pride Events Coordinator Staten Island LGBT Community Center

Organizers of Staten Island PrideFest

### Gay Media

Ongoing communication with the gay media has furthered the level of awareness and coverage of the new gTLD program within the Gay Community, drawing the attention and further support for dotgay LLC's community application. Included in the list of new endorsements are the international media outlet Gay Star News which is based in the United Kingdom with exposure around the world. Also included are the largest gay media offerings in Argentine and Japan.



4 March 2014

The board and members ICANN

Gay Star News Ltd Unit 2, 1 Royal Oak Yard, London, SE1 3GA, UK +44 (0)20 3589 6082 trisrs@gaystarnews.com

Dear Dr Crocker, Mr Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm I write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

Gay Star News (www.gaystarnews.com) is a global LGBTI news and information content provider, with around 1.5million readers in 204 countries.

We believe the .gay TLD should be used to build the LGBTI community and so far dotgay LLC has provided the only credible method for doing so. For Gay Star News, we are anxious we should secure our name so the reputation we have built over two years is protected, enhancing our vital work.

The LGBTI community is still developing, is widely attacked and is vulnerable. This is a great opportunity to counteract some of that impact, which is why proper community oversight and development is more appropriate than a completely profit-based model.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Sincerely,

Tris Reid-Smith Editor/ Director



### Letter of Support for dotgay LLC

April 2, 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

Gay Japan News is a non-profit, non-commercial and free online LGBTI news source in Japanese and advocacy group run by LGBTI volunteer individuals and allies since 2005. We work within LGBTI community in Japan on the ground and nationally, in Asia and globally. We're a proud member of International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) since 2007.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a business model for .gay with the community in mind and believe this model will receive strong support of the LGBTI service and non-profit community, business community, advertisers and media, and many individuals, thus creating a strong new TLD.

Sincerely,

Azusa Yamashita Co-Director

agusa Yamashita

Gay Japan News



SentidoG www.sentidog.com

Contact: Leandro Fogliatti prensa@sentidog.com (54 9 11) 5757 9740

Buenos Aires, November 30, 2013

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

SentidoG is a news portal based in the city of Buenos Aires, oriented to a lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex community. We have a daily average of 2,000 visitors. We have a structure of six people, including journalists, webmasters and staff in charge of trade issues.

For us, and for LGBT media in general, it would be ideal to have a .gay domain, because it would help with a direct link to our niche of readers, which is likely to grow and be entrenched.

Also, we believe that a .gay domain managed by the LGBT community itself would provide protection and security for its members, as well as the possibility to agree appropriate regulations to the community.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a business model for .gay with the community in mind and believe this model will receive strong support of the LGBTQIA+ service and non-profit segments, business community, advertisers and media, and many individuals, thus creating a strong new TLD.

Sincerely,

**Leandro Fogliatti** 

**Content Coordinator** 

SentidoG



15<sup>rd</sup> April 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great seriousness and love that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

ELEMENT magazine is Asia's first alternative men's high-fashion and lifestyle journal, with a strong editorial interest in the LGBTI community. The publication has worked with many highly-anticipated brands and advertisers and we have been featured in international and regional media like BBC World News, The Wall Street Journal, Yahoo News!, The Atlantic, Huffington Post and others. ELEMENT is a bi-monthly publication based in Singapore, with an average of 18,000 digital circulation per issue, covering some key international markets including the U.S. Monthly website traffic is approximately 40,000 and we have published 7 issues since launch.

We decided to support dotgay LLC because they share the same vision and mission with us very closely. Being gay is always stereotypically thought of as a sexual or porn related issue, which in real life it is not exclusively just that, as gay men and women all have real families and experience everything any other straight person does. ELEMENT is looking after the gay community well, ending the negative stereotypical thought of majority of the people that being gay has to be out casted. We put the Asian gay men in the context of a larger society where we live in, encouraging them to take on social responsibilities toward making the world a better place for everyone.

The .gay domain must be managed by the community itself, by a trusted community source and with community oversight that ensures for safe operation. We definitely do not want for misuse of the .gay domains, nor do we think it should be used for huge profits that do not benefit or enhance the people of the community. It is also very important that operation of the .gay domain should in no way put the gay community's reputation at high risk of being further condemned because of incompetent policies and enforcement that are in alignment with the interests of the gay community.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Sincerely,

NOEL N.C. PUBLISHER / DIRECTOR

ELEMENT MAGAZINE

8A SAGO ST

SINGAPORE 059012



8 April 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

Q Magazine is the only LGBTI Lifestyle Magazine of its kind in Australia and is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year of publishing in 2014. We distribute throughout Australia via our monthly printed full gloss publication and the world via the World Wide Web and social media via Facebook and the like.

I strongly believe in creating a safer and more trusted TLD with registration restrictions to community members only as a means to ensure community-based services for our community. I say this not only as a gay publisher but also through the knowledge I have as Secretary of InterPride and my long term work in the Pride movement across the globe.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Sincerely,

Brett Hayhoe Publisher & Editor Q Magazine

Q Magazine P.O. Box 7479 St. Kilda Road Melbourne VICTORIA 3004 Australia

Phone: +61 422 632 690

Email: brett.havhoe@gmagazine.com.au

Website: www.qmagazine.com.au

# GayAshevilleNc.com

A Division of Carolina Company



March 14, 2014

The Board and members of ICANN

Dear Mr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and members of the ICANN Board,

We would like to go on record in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay.llc.

GayAshevilleNc is a new complete resource site representing the LGBTQ community of Asheville and Western North Carolina. Keeping the community informed is our main goal with an up-to-date calendar of events, year- long calendar, Community Bulletin Board, organization and health resources and on-line magazine "Community Connections.

In addition, we provide the viewer with gay and gay welcoming businesses and services. Our E-News sections are constantly updated bringing the latest in state, local and international LGBTQ developments of interest to our readers.

We are extremely pleased to have watched the site grow so quickly and elated at the number of inquiry forms coming in from other states and countries, all asking about Asheville and our role in bringing the information to them.

Just as we have lead the way here in Western North Carolina focusing on community needs and desires, we support the efforts of dotgayllc in creating a .gay that is also focused on long goals of community it's needs and future interests.

Warmest Wishes,

Jerry L. Conner

Founder and President

Gerry L. Conner

### **Gay Travel and Entertainment**

As the financial impact of the gay community continues to catch the attention of the world, it can in part be contributed to the years of work building and organizing products and services that directly speak to the Gay Community. From small businesses owners to festival organizers, along with national and international associations focused on the Gay Community, they have all become interwoven into the fabric of the community.

The Federation of Gay Games, organizers of the international Gay Games event which takes please every four years around the world, is the oldest gay sporting event in the world with a 30 year history. The European Gay Lesbian Sport Federation, Brussels Gay Sports and Queer Sport Split emphasize the sport of gay athletics as well. The Gay European Tourism Association along with tour operators in Canada, Peru and Switzerland add their support along with pride organizers in Asheville, Atlanta, Boston, Minneapolis/St Paul and New York City.



Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and members of the ICANN Board Jamie Baxter dotgay LLC 307 Seventh Avenue **Suite 1807** New York, NY 10001

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade, and members of the ICANN Board,

The Federation of Gav Games has a 30-year history of building the worldwide LGBT sport and cultural community, with a focus on the quadrennial Gay Games, the world's largest sport and culture event open to all. The advent and development of the social and web media during the past 30 years has led to the important recognition by thousands of LGBT sport, cultural, and human rights communities to depend on the "gaygames" name we use in the Internet to communicate with our stakeholders.

The addition of the .gay TLD to our "gaygames" brand is an important milestone in the development of global communication for the variety of LGBT communities. We can enhance our current programs, and further develop programs to promote our projects. One project we are focused to promote during the next year are the 2014 Gay Games, to be held in Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. The .gay TLD will allow us focus our communications with many international LGBT sport, social, and humanitarian groups continuing to support and build diverse programs.

We find merit in the application of dotgay LLC to ICANN for the management of the TLD .gay and offer our to dotgay LLC. The distinctive collaboration between dotgay LLC and the FGG would bring credible responsibility in the global use of the .gay TLD in our LGBT sport communities. Our participation together with dotgay LLC and the FGG will further our mission of supporting the LGBT sport communities on vital geopolitical and regional humanitarian issues affecting the world of LGBT sports, and our daily lives.

We appreciate and look forward to the effort of the management of dotgay LLC to include the FGG, developing a relationship managing the collaboration of LGBT sport and humanitarian communities in the Internet, providing a universally recognizable moniker "gay", that has the same meaning translated in many languages and the Internet, and to responsibly promote and use ".gay" on the Internet.

Sincerely,

Marc Naimark Vice President for External Affairs

Carl Schultz Officer of Technology



Barcelona, January 25, 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

The European Gay Lesbian Sport Federation was founded in 1989 and is the biggest European LGBT Sport Organization. Core activities are to work for more tolerance and to fight homophobia in Sport.

EGLSF is a federation which is open to gay, lesbian, straight and mixed sport groups and organizations. At the moment this network has more than 10,000 members within over 100 organizations and sport groups.

The EGLSF promotes, amongst other things, the organization of EuroGames, the European Gay & Lesbian Championships. The last Eurogames were held in Budapest, Hungary, the next Eurogames will be held in Stockholm, Sweden.

We believe that in order to fulfill the needs of community groups worldwide, dot gay LLC provides the best offer. Many groups cannot afford large sums of money to compete with commercial organizations for domain names which match their names.

As a non-profit organization with many member organizations which are also non-profit we support the community principle laid out by dot gay LLC.

Furthermore, many of our members are in developing countries without access to legal assistance or funds to pay commercial rates for domain names.

In addition, the commitments given by dot Gay LLC as regards waiting periods before domains are lost in the event of non-renewal are essential for small, member-based organizations

where a change in democratic leadership can lead to a temporary lack of continuity - we are aware of many cases where valuable domain names have been lost to professional domain "squatter" who subsequently attempt to sell the domain back to the original owner at an inflated price.

### Klaus Heusslein Co-President

Private address:
Via Luzzatti 3
20133 Milano
Italy
Mobile +39 377 1955 650
Skype Klaus20052
El klaus@eglsf.info

Central address: EGLSF c/o NCS Meeuwenlaan 41 1021 HS Amsterdam. The Netherlands

eglsf@eglsf.info

Web www.eglsf.info

Registered with the Charr of Commerce in The Hagi V40413152

Enjoys participatory status with the



We support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Best regards,

on behalf of the EGLSF Board

Klaus Heusslein Co-President

### Klaus Heusslein Co-President

Private address:
Via Luzzatti 3
20133 Milano
Italy
Mobile +39 377 1955 650
Skype Klaus20052
klaus@eglsf.info

Central address: EGLSF c/o NCS Meeuwenlaan 41 1021 HS Amsterdam. The Netherlands

eglsf@eglsf.info
Web www.eglsf.info

Registered with the Charrof Commerce in The Hagi V40413152

Enjoys participatory status with the







March 10th, 2014

Dear ICANN Board Members.

I would like to give GETA's strong support for the proposal made by dotgay LLC for a ".gay" top-level-domain.

Gay people form a huge world-wide community and it will greatly help its members and those working within it to be able to distinguish themselves through the .gay TLD if they wish. "Gay" is an internationally recognised word which crosses all borders and boundaries.

The Gay European Tourism Association helps businesses and organizations that wish to appeal to gay people travelling to and within Europe. We also, through our gaywelcome.com consumer website, provide the most comprehensive guide to gay tourists in Europe. We understand the importance community amongst gay people worldwide. We believe strongly that a ".gay" TLD should be controlled and managed by members of the gay community who appreciate and respect our issues and requirements.

For these reasons we are very happy to give our full support to dotgay LLC and we urge ICANN to create the ".gay" TLD in the form of the model proposed by them.

Best wishes

Carlos Kytka
Executive Director
Gay European Tourism Association
carlos@geta-europe.org





### THE ATLANTA PRIDE COMMITTEE, INC.

1530 Dekalb Ave NE, Suite A, Atlanta, GA 30307 Office: 404-382-7588 | Fax: 866-766-9104 www.atlantapride.org

March 5, 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade, and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

Atlanta Pride, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, is one of the oldest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer Pride events in the country and the largest in the southeastern United States. In 2013, over 250,000 people attended our 43<sup>rd</sup> annual festival in Piedmont Park with over 200 market vendors, over 200 parade entries, and over 5,000 participants in our parade. In addition to the festival, we produce a variety of programs throughout the year of an educational, social justice, advocacy, health and wellness, or social focus.

By keeping the management for the .gay TLD (and any other TLD designated for the LGBTQIA+ community) within the community, we will retain policy development and oversight from within the LGBTQIA+ community and not from Internet investors who are merely focused on profits and have no connection to the LGBTQIA+ community. Too often, minorities are used as cash cows by businesses within the dominant sector. Keeping the oversight for the .gay TLD and other LGBTQIA+ TLDs within our community reduces the likelihood of that occurrence.

Utilizing the community model for the .gay TLD will help nonprofit organization like ours protect our brand and have an opportunity for organizational enhancement through the giveback component, grandfathering existing names into the .gay TLD to protect businesses and organizations, and create a safer and more trusted TLD with registration restricted to members of the LGBTQIA+ community only.

We strongly support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Sincerely,

Buck Cooke Executive Director

Atlanta Pride Committee, Inc.



### **Board of Directors**

Sylvain Bruni President

Linda J. DeMarco Vice-President

Malcolm Carey
Clerk

Staci Stift Marco Torres Rob Zuromski

398 Columbus Ave. #285 Boston, MA 02116

> P: (617) 262-9405 F: (617) 261-1844 W: bostonpride.org

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

Boston Pride is the all-volunteer and not-for-profit organization that produces the Gay Pride celebration in Boston, Massachusetts. Boston Pride, the largest annual public event in New England, is also one of the top 5 largest and most recognized LGBT Pride events in the United States. This year will mark our 44<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of the LGBT community, and we expect over 1.2 million spectators in attendance.

We produce events and activities year-round, to achieve inclusivity, equality, respect, and awareness in Greater Boston and beyond. Fostering diversity, unity, visibility and dignity, we educate, communicate and advocate by building and strengthening community connections.

We support the .gay TLD as a means of grandfathering existing domain names into .GAY, in a manner that protects our community organizations and businesses. With a community-based approach, Boston Pride believes that a safer and more trusted TLD will be created.

In our view, the .gay TLD, or any other TLD designed for the LGBT community should be managed from within community, with policy development and oversight from the members of the community, rather than Internet investors who are focused only on profits and have no connection to the community.

Therefore, we support dotgay LLC in creating a community-focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Sincerely,

Sylvain Bruni President

Bull

Boston Pride

# Heritage of Pride, Inc.



154 Christopher Street, Suite 1D New York, NY 10014-2840 T. 212.80.PRIDE F. 212.807.7436 http://www.nycpride.org

March 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

Founded in 1984, Heritage of Pride works toward a future without discrimination where all people have equal rights under the law. We do this by producing LGBT Pride events that inspire, educate, commemorate and celebrate our diverse community. These events include the annual Pride March, Dance, Pridefest, and Rally that traditionally occur during the last week in June.

As a leading LGBT organization in NYC, we significantly rely on our online presence to communicate our mission and event details to the broader community. The .gay TLD would enhance these efforts by providing a go-to online 'safe space' where our audience can seek meaningful information about the LGBT community.

In that regard it is critical that the .gay TLD is managed from within the LGBT community. Only by adequately reviewing applicants from a community (not profit) perspective can we ensure that the online .gay TLD remains strong.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Yours in Pride,

Mike Dunlap

Mike Dunlap Male Co-Chair Heritage of Pride





2021 E Hennepin Ave, Suite 460 Mpls, MN 55413 t: 612.305.6900 tcpride.org facebook.com/tcpride

January 15, 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

Twin Cities Pride is located in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota and is one of the largest Pride events in the United States. We draw over 300,000 people to our free event each year; 2014 is our 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary. Our mission is to create experiences that bring the greater GLBT community together to commemorate our diverse heritage, foster inclusion, educate and create awareness of issues, and celebrate achievements in equality. To achieve this, we create events that are open and inviting to everyone in the community, providing a safe environment in which individuals feel free to celebrate their relationships.

It's important to us that we work with organizations that are supportive of the GLBT community. We see our role as a gatekeeper of sorts, inviting only organizations that truly support the GLBT community to participate in our events. Many individuals and organizations wish to profit off the community, and it's so very important .gay TLD assist us in this gatekeeping role, creating a safer and more trusted TLD with registration restrictions to community members only.

The GLBT community is unique and .gay TLD should be managed from within community, with policy development and oversight from the community (and not Internet investors who are focused only on profits and have no connection to the community).

We support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Dot Belstler

Dot Beleller

**Executive Director** 

Twin Cities Pride



2/28/14

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

Blue Ridge Pride is the Western North Carolina largest gay organization. Our organization uses multimedia to reach the population of Western North Carolina. With all the misinformation and distorted information that is in the multimedia today. It makes our job as communicators more difficult. Being different is not an easy thing to deal with as an individual, and we look towards today's web as a primary source of information.

Your consideration for a .gay TLD with the ability of developing oversight will have farreaching effects for young and old alike.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Cook-Riley

Blue Ridge Pride Board



Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

Brussels Gay Sports, with its 700 members the largest LGBTI-organization in Belgium, was created in 1991. Since then our regular activities have grown. Besides badminton, swimming, tennis, volley, ... we also have a choir, a theater group and a massage course.

Since 1996 we've organized Swim For Life, a swim marathon where all benefits go to AIDS/HIV-related projects. So far we've raised more than 400.000 euro and we're extremely proud of that!

We're also part of the Rainbow House in Brussels and of the European Gay & Lesbian Sports Federation and of the Gay & Lesbian International Sports Association. We think it would be fantastic that those, and thousands of other LGBTI-organizations have the .gay-suffix. That way it will be easy to find us on the internet. Especially for young people who are struggling with their sexuality or for people who live in less supportive countries. They'll quickly be able to find info about everything regarding the LGBTI-community.

It's important for us to know that the .gay TLD starts from within the LGBTI-community. That way we are sure that they know what is really important to the community now and in the future. And we also avoid that it becomes a tool purely to make money!

We support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Sincerely,

Bruno Olislaeger

President

**Brussels Gay Sports** 



Queer Sport Split Hektorovičeva 29 21000 Split Croatia www.qss.hr

LETTER OF SUPPORT

April 2, 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .GAY TLD under the community model submitted by dotgay LLC.

Queer Sport Split (QSS) is a non-profit organization in Croatia focused on the promotion of queer culture through sports and recreation. As the first association of this type in the City of Split, QSS's aim is to develop recreational and sporting activities in the gay community that are inclusive of all LGBTI people. QSS is an active member of the European Gay & Lesbian Sports Federation (EGLSF).

QSS's objectives are to foster integration of the LGBTI population through sport, culture and social activities, affirming the gay community with the rest of society here in Croatia. In order to achieve these objectives QSS performs a variety of activities including; organizing training and competitions for members, participation at sporting events locally and abroad, communication outreach with the wider society, as well as organizing workshops, lectures, symposia and exhibitions of public interest.

It is the belief of our organization and membership that the new .GAY TLD should without question reflect the needs and interests of the gay community. LGBTI people should not only be involved in the ongoing operation of the TLD, but they should also be the beneficiaries of its opportunities and financial success. Despite the diverse representation of community members in our organization there is agreement that a TLD like .GAY must be handled with great care, regardless of who does or does not ultimately identify with the TLD or register domain names for that matter. The interests and concerns of those the TLD most closely embodies must be a priority over commercial interests.

QSS fully supports the community model for .GAY that has been submitted by dotgay LLC.

Queer Sport Split coordinator

Tonči Kranjčević Batalić tonci@qsport.info

fond & Batalii



March 20, 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

The Arosa Gay Ski Week is a highly popular LGBT festival that takes place at Arosa, a typical mountain resort in Switzerland since 11 years. The village attracts several hundreds of gay and lesbian participants from all around the world and stands out as one of the most welcoming and gay friendly ski resorts, particularly during the Gay Ski Week. The organization crew and all the volunteers are very involved during Gay Ski Week and pride to work, help and serve the gay and lesbian community.

It is our belief that the best path forward for a .GAY TLD is one that includes community participation and oversight, both in the planning, implementation and ongoing operations. A community approach is one that will allow for the best success at prevention and combat of abuse, mistreatment and misrepresentation of any segment in our community.

It is not a secret that in most parts of the world LGBTQI people do not benefit from equal rights, primarily because they do not hold the positions of power to make it so. It's only because of the work and advocacy of LGBTQI people themselves that full equality has begun take hold. Progress is slow, but steady. By ICANN putting .GAY under control of the gay community it would be one of the first global opportunities for the gay community to control their own destiny and create equal opportunity for all LGBTQI people. That's an exciting prospect and we encourage ICANN to support dotgay LLC's community model for .GAY.

Arosa Gay Skiweek supports dotgay LLC in creating a community focused and governed model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Sincerely,

Alexander Herkommer COO, Arosa Gay Skiweek alex@gayskiweek.ch







# The Tel Aviv International LGBT Film Festival



# הפסטיבל הבינלאומי לקולנוע גאה

Tel-Aviv Cinematheque
TLVFest – Tel Aviv LGBT Film Festival
Maria Kuschicke
2 Shprinzak St,
6473802, Tel Aviv
Israel

Tel-Aviv, 16th April 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

TLVFest is Tel-Aviv's International LGBT Film Festival, now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year. The festival is scheduled to take place June 7-16, 2014 at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque during the pride parade week. In 2013 we have continued our successful growth, drawing in over 13,000 attendees, screening more than 250 movies and hosting 20 guests from all over the world. We plan to continue our mission in 2014 and bring to

Tel-Aviv the best of queer film making from around the world. 10 days of screenings, special shows, discussions and general festivities. www.tlvfest.com

We support dotgay LLC to bring forth a .gay TLD that will position community interest as a priority, and solidify that priority by enlisting a community governance model from which to operate. Everybody should fulfill his own sexuality and gender identity, even if you are lesbian, transsexual, gay, bisexual, straight etc, but .gay is a TLD unmistakably linked to the LGBT population and their opinions and interests should not be overlooked in the process of deciding who should manage it. It's important to allow the diversity of the gay community to continue to grow under a trusted community TLD like .gay, as they will be in a better position to be understood and to create real change.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Sincerely, Lella

Maria Kuschicke Marketing

TLVFest

maria@tlvfest.com

www.tlvfest.com



Montevideo, 29th January

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

Created in 2006, Llamale H is a non-governmental organization and international LGBT film festival in Uruguay that is among the most important in Latin America. As provided in its charter, the corporate purpose of Llamale H is the creation, management and development of cultural, educational and social projects, studies, analyzes and investigations, publication, training, creation of support groups and information dissemination, which aim to influence the modification of different institutional, social and individual practices affecting equal rights and duties and the social inclusion of both women and minority social and sexual.

Llamale H activity has been recognized with the declaration of interest of the National Commission for UNESCO in Uruguay, UNESCO (Cluster MERCOSUR), city attractions of Montevideo, cultural highlights of the Ministry of Education and Culture and of interest of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, In 2007 Llamale H won the award for the Grant Funds for Culture MEC and in 2009 was included by CONAEF -National Council of Assessment and Promotion Project Artistic -Cultural as draft punishable interest to be subsidized by the Funds of Cultural Incentive.

Among other public institutions that have contributed in over the years to strengthen Llamale H, supported by the Institute of Cinema and Audiovisual of Uruguay (ICAU - MEC) is highlighted and Montevideo Socio Audiovisual Programme of Montevideo, which have sponsored the festival since its inception, through competitive calls that open each year. In addition, several international organizations have also joined Amnesty International Movies that matter, Extremadura Agency for International Development Cooperation, Hegoak, LGBT Film Network, Triangle Foundation and recently received support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

To have a .gay domain will be an important and positive step to equality, a big window for the visibility of the gay community. With this, all the people who don't know our reality, or maybe they know nothing about LGBT commerce and our fight for human right; will see the true scope of our community, including all of the organizations, companies, ONGs, services and so on, that are dedicated day by day to the gay community. It will really change the way our community is represented on the Internet, and will contribute to the overall efforts towards equality. However, in order to achieve these great accomplishments .gay must be managed from within the community, with ongoing community oversight and input as presented by dotgay LLC.

Llamale H believes that .gay implemented under the community model will created a more trusted domain and help us to identify thousands of web pages that we look for every day, but at first sight don't have a URL recognition to LGBT. Think about the name of my organization - "Llamale H" - that Uruguayan expression does not refer to LGBT community, but has other meanings. We believe that with .gay, more people will more easily identify us.

We support dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Sincerely, Yamandú Lasa Producer Llamale H

## **TOURGUIDEPERU**

Tours tailored by Aaron

Peru, December 17, 2013

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this letter in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay LLC.

TOURGUIDEPERU is one of the premier tour operators in Peru, focused on culinary and gay tours in Lima, Cuzco and Machu Picchu. Started in 2002, with the idea of promoting Peru through the eyes of a local Peruvian, TOURGUIDEPERU remains a gay owned and operated family business that carries the motto of "it's not the destination but the journey." In addition to the tours, founder Aaron Paiva Leyton has also produced and directed several well received documentaries "Peru Magic and Mystery" and "From the Heart of Peru: My Mother's Kitchen." Involved in various projects promoting Peru around the world, Aaron has become an unofficial ambassador of the land he loves. TOURGUIDEPERU is an official member of the International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association (IGLTA) and an IGLTA Foundation "Building Bridges Scholarship" recipient in 2013 to attend the 30th Annual Global Convention in Chicago.

As a tour operator that caters to the needs of a variety of clients around the world, including a large gay contingent, it will be very useful to have a .GAY TLD option to independently highlight our offerings that are designed specifically for the gay community. TOURGUIDEPERU.gay can become a very useful tool that allows our business to develop a presence on the Internet where we can more uniquely serve our gay consumers.

As a small business, growth is essential to existence, and we believe that the community model proposed by dotgay LLC will aid in bringing authenticity to our engagement with the gay community and also offer needed visibility via dotgay's proposed index system. We believe that the community model for .GAY is the only one that can provide a trusted and authentic experience for users, an issue that is extremely important to community members who are considering a visit to destinations with less than questionable records on treatment of gay people.

As a proud member of the gay community, I believe that it is essential that .GAY be run by the community, and include the level of input and oversight from the community detailed in dotgay's proposal. The only way our community can be assured that .GAY is administered in the best interest of the community is if ICANN gives the community control of the .GAY.

We support dotgay LLC's community model for .GAY, one that has a clear plan for bringing value and benefit to the global gay community, now and into the future. We request that ICANN grant dotgay LLC the community status for .GAY.

Best regards,

Aaron Paiva Leyton

Founder

TOURGUIDEPERU

Tel: 416-962-2422 Toll Free: 800-387-1240

Fax: 416-962-6621

449 Church Street Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M4Y 2C5



February 27, 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .gay top-level-domain (TLD) under the community model presented by dotgay llc.

Rainbow High Vacations (RHV) based in the heart of Toronto's gay village, is the premier LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) tour wholesaler providing unique, innovative and safe, worldwide custom and guaranteed departure, group and FIT travels since 1992. RHV is the official tour operator for Toronto Pride, the largest LGBT celebration in Canada drawing 1.7 million people annually, and WorldPride 2014 in Toronto, a first-time North American mega-event with an expected attendance of 2 million people.

The LGBT tourism sector is not only recognized as important fuel for the Canadian economy, but it is also an important change agent to gaining full acceptance of LGBT people. RHV provides among the safest personal, group, corporate and community travel services to clients across Canada and the United States and specializes in customizing travel to North America, Europe, Australia and South America. We offer gay-friendly independent, group travel and packaged holidays and work with all reputable LGBT tour operators worldwide.

For the last 5 decades the gay community has been a united and effective force in the ongoing search for LGBT equality around the world, with momentum and leadership driven by LGBT people themselves. As we await complete acceptance and protection inside the United Nations, national borders, the workplace and our own families, it is important to recognize that LGBT people would not be where they are today if not for their own efforts. Putting LGBT people in charge of .gay is the only way our community can be assured that it will ever provide the positive impact dotgay llc's community application offers.

We support dotgay llc in creating a .gay that is focused on community needs, while offering community governance that ensures it continues to operate in the interest of the community long into the future. Ensuring that .gay is a trusted domain and community run is essential to the future and reputation of the gay community.

Best regards,

Liz Devine President

> Jeeves Travel (Weston) Inc. TICO Registration 2007102 GST 102621687



Dr. Rob Woodman, Founder 2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 8 Davis, CA 95616 www.gaytravelexchange.com

28/04/14

To: ICANN Re: dotgay LLC

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and members of the ICANN Board,

I write today as a member of the gay community and the founder/owner of an online business for the GLBT community. It may be difficult for someone who is not gay to understand how important it is, even today, for members of the gay community to have icons with which we can identify. This is not unlike identifying with one's national flag. Imagine, if you will, that the flag of your country was owned by and controlled by some other person or country and you were free to use it for a price. And the price you pay does not benefit your country but only the owner of that flag.

Domain names, while almost unlimited, are also unique collector items that can reach astronomical values. Releasing .gay to speculators, to the highest bidder, is releasing tremendous economical power. This power would only come from the pockets of members of the GLBT community who risk to have no control over the use of that power.

dotgay LLC has as its highest value the interests and protection of the GLBT community. dotgay LLC will keep .gay in the community so that it becomes an icon of identity and a community resource.

Please join me in supporting dotgay LLC's bid to secure and create the proposed .gay Top-Level-Domain.

Rob Woodman, Ph.D., MSCP

Pel by Woodwan, Ph.D. MSCP



Skalice 41
21000 Split
Croatia
queerartlab.com/tag/queeranarchive

### LETTER OF SUPPORT

April 2, 2014

Dear Dr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade and Members of the ICANN Board,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write this note in support of ICANN's consideration to create the proposed .GAY TLD under the community model submitted by dotgay LLC.

queerANarchive is a non profit collective. The main aims of the collective are researching local queer culture and challenging dominant cultural forms. The activities we organise are exhibitions, workshops and social events. queerANarchive collaborates with other LGBTQ, youth and cultural organisations in Croatia.

It is the belief of our organization that the new .GAY TLD should without question reflect the needs and interests of the gay community. LGBTI people should not only be involved in the ongoing operation of the TLD, but they should also be the beneficiaries of its opportunities and financial success. Despite the diverse representation of community members in our organization there is agreement that a TLD like .GAY must be handled with great care, regardless of who does or does not ultimately identify with the TLD or register domain names for that matter. The interests and concerns of those the TLD most closely embodies must be a priority over commercial interests.

queerANarchive supports dotgay LLC in creating a community focused model for .gay and believe this model will result in a strong new TLD that our community can trust and utilize safely into the future.

Tonči Kranjčević Batalić

coordinator queerANarchive

queerANarchive@gmail.com

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