



February 5, 2015

RE: Comments for CPE panel – Criterion #4 (Application ID# 1-1713-23699)

To ICANN and the Economist Intelligence Unit,

Following please find comments that dotgay LLC would like to highlight for the new CPE panel. Please note that these comments in no way constitute a change to our application, but instead offer guidance to a better understanding of our responses to Question 20 as it relates to Criterion #4.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JBaxter".

Jamie Baxter  
Vice President of Marketing  
dotgay LLC

The gay community is unique in its structure and organization, primarily because of ever changing social and cultural influences that both advantage and disadvantage our visibility and consequence to formally assemble. We as a community have not changed, however due to ongoing stigma and the absence of consistent recognition and rights around the world stakeholder groups in the form of organizations have emerged to provide anonymity and support for individuals invested in finding a path towards human rights and equality.

A careful examination of the community structure will reveal that "reciprocal recognition on the part of community members of an entity mainly dedicated to the community" truly exists at multiple intersections inside of the gay community. It is also the basis and driving force behind modern progress on community issues inside government and the United Nations.

The application provides the following on how the community is structured and organized:

A cooperating loose mesh of organizations that represent the diverse segments and various interests of the Gay Community, often created to work towards ending discrimination of the Gay Community.

The cooperating loose mesh of organizations is where interaction and resolution adoption occur for the gay community. Local input shared across the community network ultimately contributes to the shaping of national and international agendas within the community, and from where authoritative directives are generated and acted up to impact public policy and social integration. As noted in the application, key hubs for generating discussion include the workplace, marketplace, sports, travel, human rights and social services.

Among organizations within the gay community acknowledged for having global reach within their membership is ILGA, an institution that also encompasses the wide and varied interests of the community and maintains documented authority from the United Nations to represent the gay community in international fora. With regional branches touching every continent and a membership inclusive of emphasis ranging from gender issues to sexual rights and workplace policy to cultural events ([see 2013 Annual report](#)), ILGA stands as a destination for many community paths.

Despite not being a household name, ILGA and many other global gay organizations remain institutions of the community that helps connect and empower the cooperating loose mesh of

organizations to drive global change. An examination of its membership list draws direct and ancillary links to much more than a large majority of the gay community around the globe. Although individuals may be more familiar with the names and activities of groups representing their voice locally, they are not without recognition of coordinated efforts taking place in national and international arenas.

Requiring 'recognition by the community' must surely not be limited in definition to individual name recall, logo awareness or even mission statement memorization; especially in the context of community applications for a TLD. Organizations like ILGA, and all those included in the dotgay endorsement list, have been recognized and continue to be recognized by the community for their ongoing work to improve the lives and rights of LGBTQIA people. These organizations do not work in opposition of the community, but instead exist to support and often represent those who cannot represent themselves. It is without question that the global support received for dotgay, and void of relevant opposition, that reciprocal recognition of the community entities by community members exists as it relates to .GAY.

The Applicant Guidebook includes the following statement about CPE;

The scoring process is conceived to identify qualified community-based applications, while preventing both "false positives" (awarding undue priority to an application that refers to a "community" construed merely to get a sought-after generic word as a gTLD string) and "false negatives" (not awarding priority to a qualified community application).

The community has spoken loud, clear and consistently: that dotgay LLC is the only desirable and qualified applicant for .GAY, while providing ample evidence and reasoning to support their choice. It is also clear that the gay community is not a construed community, nor is dotgay LLC attempting to secure .GAY without the blessing and support of the global gay community.

It remains the assertion of dotgay LLC and the globally supported community application for .GAY, that ILGA and the others supporting dotgay, through membership or otherwise, are clearly recognized by the community members as representative of the community.

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<sup>1</sup> Represented by over 240 community endorsements (<http://dotgay.com/endorsements/>), letters in support of an ICANN reconsideration (<https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/14-44-2014-10-22-en>) and multiple other letters submitted to ICANN via the ICANN Correspondence page (<https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/correspondence-2012-09-24-en>)