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Akram Attalah
President of Global Domains Division of ICANN
Chris Disspain
Chair of the ICANN Board Governance Committee

Dear Mr. Attalah and Mr. Disspain,

I am adding my voice in support of dotgay LLC's Community Application for the .gay domain. As a small business owner and proud member of the gay community, I would encourage you to reverse any negative decisions against dotgay LLC and their Community Application that the Economist Intelligence Unit may find in their current and second re-evaluation attempt.

Whether you are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex or a supportive ally, we are all connected within a community. This community connection could be made safer, more visible and supportive by using .gay as a Community Domain. Despite recent advances in equality in some geographic areas, there are others-*many others*-where we are losing basic rights and protections. Having a domain, not only created by and for the gay community, but also whose goal includes protection and philanthropic endeavors for the community, would be a global move forward in the continually evolving history of the community of LGBTQIA.

The EIU's disregard for our community and its resounding commitment and support for the umbrella term *gay* as a community TLD is a blatant attack against the community that has created an unfair roadblock and disadvantage to an already vulnerable population. It is completely unacceptable that ICANN is permitting the EIU to twist and manipulate what is obvious to people all around the world and entities such as Google and the United Nations. *Gay* is a well-known community term inclusive of the LGBTQIA. There is unmistakably a widely accepted agreement that this diverse group of people, regardless of geography, gender, political affiliation or social status all form a vibrant community – the “gay community.”

By allowing the .gay domain to be run as a standard domain through the ‘highest bidder’ approach, there are real and frightening risks and hazards for the LGBTQIA. Considering a standard domain will give access to those the EIU is trying to segregate out of the community application anyway, what is really at stake here is the safety and community benefit that dotgay LLC's application provides. In a standard domain there would be no community oversight; there would be no protections; hate speech, slander and misinformation would run rampant. There are already plenty of unregulated domains that would allow that. The .gay domain should be as special as the community it serves.

This is a dynamic time for the LGBTQIA, but our struggles continue around the world. Our history, good and bad, is written every day in every corner of the world. To let the EIU rule that as a community space .gay is not permitted to include all of its segments is discriminatory. Please join us in making our history better for a global population.

Jay Boucher
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