

federatie van nederlandse verenigingen
tot integratie van homoseksualiteit coc nederland

ICANN and Board Governance Committee

Ref.nr.: 15.003 / 6.20.2

Amsterdam, 14 January 2015

Dear ICANN and the Board Governance Committee,

Please accept this letter from COC Netherlands containing our alarm over last year's CPE results for the .GAY top-level domain (TLD) community application by dotgay LLC.

COC Netherlands is the oldest organization in the world that works on the emancipation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. Being established in 1946 COC Netherlands has been at the forefront of achieving legal equality and promoting social acceptance for LGBT people. COC Netherlands is an LGBT-organisation active on a regional, national but also international level. Our organization is one of the founders of ILGA. We work with the United Nations, European Union, Council of Europe, OSCE and African Union. COC Netherlands has consultative status at the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Delegates from our organization also traveled to London and participated in ICANN 50 during 2014.

The ICANN new gTLD program is an initiative of great interest to the COC and our support of the dotgay LLC community model for .GAY has been in place since 2011.

The Internet is undoubtable an important change agent, especially for those who identify as LGBT, queer or intersex. It has leveled the playing field and created opportunity not previously available in an anti-gay society, opening access where social and economic inequality remained a barrier because of discriminatory policy and practice in the real world. Opportunity is often where progress and equality are achieved for the gay community, and each diverse segment plays an important role in achieving success.

Minimizing or refuting the connection of any LGBT, queer, intersex or allied segment choosing to identify as part of the gay community, especially when it restricts opportunity, is simply bad practice and ignorant by any modern day standard. This is especially true if a dictionary definition is the only illustrated reference. With full knowledge that a process exists for those seeking community priority status, there also exists legitimate authenticity in the dotgay LLC application, representing the dedicated work and collaboration of our cohesive community. To deny our community its opportunity so unjustly and without rebuke, while concealing the details on how such an ill reasoned CPE result was achieved, is both unacceptable and suspect.

Not only has a clear misunderstanding of our community and its members tainted results, but there also appears to be a blatant disregard to facts, letters, support and research provided by dotgay LLC and community organizations like ours. There exists an unsettling desire by the EIU to protect a single 501c3 organization, and the illusion of opposition created by .GAY competitors, before considering the interests of millions who rely and depend on the advocacy and leadership of those who have helped design and even endorse the dotgay LLC application.

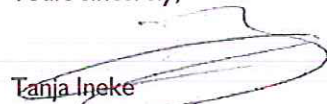
Contact Information Redacted

Aside from the ICANN policy and procedure compromises dotgay LLC has identified in reconsideration request 14-44, it is COC's opinion that more effort was put into finding ways to deny points than to understanding how our community and dotgay LLC's application warranted points.

If ICANN is committed to introducing TLD innovation and serving the global public interest, it should look long and hard at the .GAY community model delivered and ensure that reconsideration of the CPE results are approved.

We look forward to the BGC granting a reconsideration of the CPE evaluation for dotgay LLC's community application for .GAY.

Yours sincerely,



Tanja Ineke
President COC Nederland