



Transgender Equality Uganda

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Dear Icann and the Board Governance committee;

The outcome of the community scoring evaluation that was given to the dotgay llc application for .GAY is further escalating concerns from Transgender Equality Uganda. It is our viewpoint that Trans people are being miscategorized in the most harmful and self-serving manner to simply justify the evaluators decision. We reject Trans being categorized in this singular manner and we reject this depiction being used as a basis for destroying community efforts on .GAY.

Transgender Equality Uganda (TEU) is a transgender women led organization legality registered in Uganda that advocates for the rights, equal treatment, and dignity of the Transgender women in Uganda. Our vision is "A Ugandan society in which diverse gender identities are understood and the rights of Transgender women are fully respected and protected." TEU supports and facilitates economic, social, and political empowerment of its members through capacity building, personal empowerment and by creating opportunities for Trans people's development. TEU is also an active member of the Pan African global Transgender movement and is the pioneer Transgender organization in Africa.

It is quite reasonable to claim that Transgender people remain a mystery to most, primarily because society has kept us from plain view and avoided recognizing or understanding us. This is especially true in regions where protections for any person of the gay community are non-existent. Without protections from persecution and personal harm, Transgender people often don't have the opportunity to live openly and be understood. It doesn't change however the fact that we know ourselves better than anyone.

There are no rules that exclude Trans people from being gay, or even considered gay, and we cannot stand for evaluators being allowed to make such convenient assumptions of Trans people in general to deny this gigantic community effort. And despite a questionable existence of any real or legitimate study on how many Transgender people your evaluators suggest are not gay, it is doubtful that it amounts to anything closely resembling the "overreach" preventing the gay community from scoring well on the evaluation. We oppose the use of such convenient arguments that too commonly materialize and get used against the gay community when it comes to our rights and equality.

In a letter to Icann from the [UN-GLOBE](#) staff group at the United Nations, we support their field experience of the general understanding of gay around the world. Not every geographical region demands or uses the same complexities or precision for community terms that America. Despite how a dictionary might tackle an official definition of gay, in reality the word will continue to be a

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commonly used term for all members of the gay community including trans. Africa is no exception to this, but appears to be excluded in the consideration.

We ask Ican to assert their authority on this request for reconsideration. We believe it is important to ensure that hypocrisy and double standards are not permitted between how much care and precision is required of evaluators and applicants when interpreting Ican documents, especially when the result further marginalizes the gay community.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Beyonce Karungi".

Beyonce Karungi
TEU Founder
www.facebook.com/Transgender-Equality-Uganda-375888075826137/