August 18, 2015

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

Dear ICANN,

We appreciate ICANN acknowledging the enclosed endorsement letter for dotgay LLC’s community application for .GAY (Application ID# 1-1713-23699) by posting it on the ICANN correspondence page.

Best regards,

Jamie Baxter
dotgay LLC
Strasbourg, 17 August 2015

Dear ICANN and the ICANN Board,

We are the LGBTI Centre of Strasbourg/Alsace of which the Council of Europe’s LGBT Network “Equality in Diversity” is a member. The LGBTI Centre and “Equality in Diversity” are supporting the LGBTI community with advice, counselling and information and the LGBTI Centre is specifically a resource centre for the LGBTI community in our city/region.

We express through this letter our strong support for a .GAY community application that puts the interests of the LGBTI community first, with tangible policies and community engagement designed to help tackle real community issues around safety, visibility and support for the LGBTI, which is part of our missions as a LGBTI umbrella organisation.

We also express support for the use of “GAY” as an umbrella term that is inclusive of all segments (LGBTI). Supporting reasons for the importance of the existence of an inclusive offering to the LGBTI community include the alignment of inclusivity with existing community goals, agendas, efforts and initiatives.

We expressed concern that ICANN evaluations have come to conclusions that are in stark contradiction to common use of the term “GAY” in society around the world.

Indeed, in the media use, “GAY” is more than often used as an umbrella term, used interchangeably with other acronyms when referring to the various LGBTI segments (i.e. no one ever assumes “gay rights” or “gay marriage” or “anti-gay policy” are topics unique to homosexual men and certainly not in line with the CPE panel findings that suggest otherwise).

Despite language variances, the term “GAY” is also used as a synonym for “LGBT” according to Wiktionary, covering or representing the multi-linguistic understanding of the term “GAY” around the world, both within the gay community and the mainstream population (including media).

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