



planetdwellers
travel • tours • events

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8th March,, 2017

RE: INACTION ON DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF .GAY

Dear ICANN

My name is Mario Paez and I am the Co-Founder/Managing Director of Planetdwellers, a proudly gay-owned and operated Australian tour and travel company.

I also serve as President of Gay and Lesbian Tourism Australia (GALTA) and we are proud members of the International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association (IGLTA), who have been involved extensively in the community efforts for .gay on behalf of the gay travel sector.

I write to express concerns with ICANN's inaction on numerous independent reports and supporting evidence that outline a gratuitous trail of discriminatory scoring suffered by the community application for .gay.

ICANN inaction and the lack of a swift and transparent investigation are only amplifying these concerns. I will specifically highlight the findings of Prof. William Eskridge (Yale Law) and the Council of Europe.

At all intersections of today's society there are solutions needed to address the unique challenges facing the LGBTI.

These range vastly based on policy, law and culture of each region, but one shared challenge of the LGBTI is deceptive and harmful online activity that targets the gay community.

To my knowledge, existing domain operators offer nothing to improve trust in the online experience for the LGBTI. Neglecting this void will continue to pose a serious threat to the gay community.

It is near 5 years since a proposal to address community challenges has been offered to ICANN by Dotgay llc. Tremendous effort from all corners of the gay community poured into finding a solution to the internet related challenges, but discriminatory actions by the evaluators have now jeopardized the greater purpose.



ICANN must intervene in light of these inappropriate actions and prioritize public interest, especially the interest of the LGBTI and the global gay community.

The kind of discriminatory scrutiny and unfair treatment suffered by the LGBTI simply because they have chosen to find solutions to community issues that affect their daily lives should not be tolerated by ICANN.

We look forward to ICANN taking steps to resolve this issue in a quick and transparent manner.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mario Paez', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mario Paez
Managing Director
Planetdwellers