26 April 2018

RE: Complaints Officer Initiated Project - ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy Awareness

On 19 March 2018, the ICANN organization received a letter from an anonymous sender. The letter, published on ICANN org correspondence page at: https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/anonymous-to-chalaby-et-al-19mar18-en.pdf, expresses concern that the newly established ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy (see: https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/community-anti-harassment-policy-2017-03-24-en) may be insufficient. The anonymous letter provides three primary recommendations:

1. There should be a woman ombudsperson for harassment reporting
2. ICANN org should put forth more effort to raise participant awareness regarding the Anti-Harassment Policy at ICANN meetings
3. Certain amendments to the Anti-Harassment Policy should be considered

In reviewing the letter, item #2 is regarding ICANN org and the work it delivers and is, therefore, within the scope of the Complaints Office. While no complaint has been submitted, my office is taking it upon itself to research and analyze whether ICANN org can do more to raise awareness about the Anti-Harassment Policy. Once the research and analysis is complete, I will issue a response memo, similar to what is provided to complainants, and publish it on the Complaints Report page (see: https://www.icann.org/complaints-report). The response memo will include my findings and any recommendations, if applicable.

While item numbers 1 and 3 of the anonymous author’s recommendations are important points and suggestions, they do not appear to fall within the scope of the Complaints Office at this time.

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