

## **Statement of Renato Sabbadini about Dotgay's application**

I would like to address two issues I find fundamental for you to consider about Dotgay's application.

First, the concept behind the dot gay application is to create a safe and shared space on the internet for the global gay community. This community includes all of those people whose gender identities and sexual orientations lie outside of the societal norms defined for heterosexual behavior. The members of this community are drawn together not only by how we identify ourselves, but more importantly by how others view us and discriminate against us. What we hope to achieve with a TLD name reserved for the gay community is internet representation and to increase the community visibility globally and allow our community to act together in a common forum. Only if the TLD represents our community will we be able to ensure that it will act as a forum for us to work together to improve our rights and freedoms as a group.

Second, as we are connected to all corners of the global gay community, Dotgay was able to enter into a conversation with over 250 organizations from around the world about the community name and obtain support for it. Indeed, Dotgay's application has a massive amount of support from several organizations recognized by the gay community. Notably, no transgender organization has opposed being part of the gay community. Much to the contrary, they have also supported the dot gay application, trusting that the dot gay concept aims to include all members of the gay community in the space it wishes to create on the internet. You should keep in mind that it is up to each member of the community to self-identify as part of the community or not. Thus, if a transgender self-identifies as part of the community, they will use the string. If they prefer to advocate their rights and gain visibility in a different way, they can simply not self-identify. Suggesting that some from our community do not have the right or authority to be linked to the term gay when they so choose is disrespectful at best.

Thus, we ask ICANN not to allow the EIU to break us apart on the false pretense that we are not all members of a single community.