



March 6, 2016

To: ICANN and the Board Governance Committee

Trans-Fuzja Foundation would like to express its concerns surrounding the handling of the .GAY application by dotgay LLC. Throughout the process we have seen many instances of disregarding dotgay LLC as a legitimate community-supported application, even though it has been supported by a few hundred LGBTQIA organizations around the world. As an organization working with the Polish transgender community, we would like to specifically express our concerns about the EIU's work to exclude and alienate transgender issues and transgender in general from the community proposal for .GAY.

We are outraged that for the sake of dismissing dotgay LLC proposal, transgender people are used as an excuse and are being said to not belong under the broad understanding of GAY. As a group working primarily in Central Europe and working with a diverse trans community, we would like to remind the Committee that as a term for sexual orientation, GAY describes both cisgender and transgender experiences, as matters of gender identity and expression are far different from sexuality in our regional context. In this understanding, gay is accessible to those trans people who describe their sexuality in such a way, while at the same identifying as male, female or outside of this spectrum (gay trans men, lesbian trans women and non-binary people using different labels).

We are also aware of the fact that in a global movement, in certain places and cultures where categorization of gender and sexual experiences differ from this dichotomy, GAY may be and is understood as a broad umbrella term, which incorporates a number of diverse experiences and identities. We believe that in a world where discourses are shaped throughout the whole globe, regional and local realities must be taken to consideration, especially when a decision on the future of a TLD is concerned.

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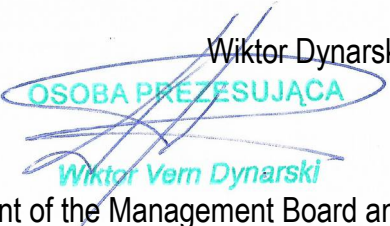
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This form of required segregation by the EIU is a serious mistreatment and among the worst options for the transgender population when it comes to the eventual operation of .GAY. If there is not community effort behind .GAY then it is certain to cause the greatest harm to those who sit on the outer fringes of the gay community. Especially remembering that worldwide our communities struggle with resources, poverty and homelessness. The EIU's decision is reckless and does not take into the account the unprivileged and excluded.

Trans-Fuzja would also like to express that it is concerned with how the references used by the EIU are taken out of context to work against the efforts of the collective gay community to create an inclusive TLD that represents all segments of this diverse group, including trans people. We are especially saddened by the fact that supporting voices coming from worldwide trans organizations themselves have been ignored, which we understand as avoiding the reality that there is no expressed opposition from trans people on that matter.

We are urging you to reconsider dotgay LLC application, considering the marginalizing manner in which it was evaluated and the numerous requests from LGBTQIA groups who have the most at stake with future operations of .GAY.

On behalf of Trans-Fuzja

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