

February 1, 2015

RE: Community Priority Evaluation for .GAY (dotgay LLC)

To members of ICANN and the Economist Intelligence Unit:

There have been questions about whether the string GAY qualifies as an established name by which the community of LGBTQIA people is commonly known to its own members and to the world at large. ICANN and the EIU have already received [media research](#)*, submitted by Dr. David Gudelunas, Chair of the Department of Communication at Fairfield University, presenting evidence that the term GAY is frequently, and without confusion, used interchangeably around the world with terms that refer to any and all groupings of LGBTQIA individuals.

As the former Editor in Chief of *The Advocate*, America's national gay newsmagazine, I concur with Dr. Gudelunas. My staff and I alternated these terms in nearly every story we wrote. Each of the acronyms we used to describe our many constituencies was important, yet none could stand as a collective noun to embrace us all. Therefore we used GAY as the best descriptor of our community as a whole—often to sum up a story that began with more specific terms like lesbian, transgender, or LGBT. This style is consistent in the gay press and, as Dr. Gudelunas noted, in the mainstream press as well.

To further illustrate, several samplings are noted below, including two recent articles from *The Economist*. These examples show that the term GAY, which 40 years ago was understood to refer primarily to homosexual men, has expanded in the 21st century to mean the community of non-heterosexual people. In today's media, the string GAY is not just a well-known short-form or abbreviation of the community—it is the one term that is recognizable to people around the world, no matter what language they speak.

Given that political correctness is not a metric being examined in the new gTLD program, the media research findings show clear alignment with the claims made in the dotgay LLC application.

Sincerely,



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* <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/gudelunas-to-icann-eiu-evaluators-30apr14-en.pdf>

Media references:The Economist – October 11, 2014

In many places attacking the rights of **gay people** can still be politically useful and popular

IN THE argot of human rights, **LGBT means lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender – a catch-all term for sexual minorities**. But Yahya Jammeh, president of Gambia for 20 years, has a different reading. “As far as I am concerned,” he thundered during a televised speech in February, “**LGBT** can only stand for leprosy, gonorrhoea, bacteria and tuberculosis.” He compared **gay people** to vermin, and said his government would fight them as it does malaria-bearing mosquitoes, “if not more aggressively”.

The Economist – October 11, 2014

Today gay sex is legal in at least 113 countries. **Gay marriages** or civil unions are recognised in three dozen and parts of others. In most of the West it is no longer socially acceptable to be homophobic. **Gay life** in China is now both legal and, in cities, undisguised. Latin America is even more **gay-friendly**: 74% of Argentines and 60% of Brazilians believe that society should accept homosexuality. Thais are more relaxed about **transgender people** than Westerners are. South Africa’s constitution is remarkably **pro-gay**.

The Atlantic – November 29, 2014

The positive link between rights and development is clear: Countries that come closer to full equality for **LGBT people** have higher levels of GDP per capita over the 22 years we studied.

Even after we take into account other differences across countries that matter for GDP growth, like capital stock and international trade, we still find a strong positive effect of **gay rights**.

New York Post – October 18, 2014

How the **gay** community shamefully lets Clintons off the hook

Few political allegiances are more inexplicable than the love affair between Bill Clinton and America’s **LGBT** community.

New York Times – January 9, 2013

Sure, Penn already had some two dozen **gay** student groups, including Queer People of Color, Lambda Alliance and J-Bagel, which bills itself as the university’s “Jewish **L.G.B.T.Q.I.A.** Community.” But none focused on gender identity (the closest, Trans Penn, mostly catered to faculty members and graduate students).

PENN has not always been so forward-thinking; a decade ago, the L.G.B.T. Center (nestled amid fraternity houses) was barely used. But in 2010, the university began reaching out to applicants whose essays raised gay themes.

New York Times – [January 27, 2015](#)

The church's announcement, an attempt to placate all sides of a divisive issue, astonished some lawmakers in the halls of Utah's Capitol, who called it a watershed moment that could reconfigure the debate over **gay** rights in their socially conservative state. With the church now backing nondiscrimination laws, a bill offering such protections to those who are **lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender** now appears more likely to pass after years of being stalled in the Legislature.

Washington Post – [December 19, 2014](#)

The Salvation Army went all out in its outreach on **LGBT** issues after a string of embarrassing incidents, including an Australian official's 2012 comments that suggested that death as a consequence of being **gay** is part of the organization's belief system, and a Vermont employee's claim that she was fired for being **bisexual**. The Salvation Army issued an apology for the Australian official's comments and the organization has tried to emphasize its outreach to **LGBT** individuals online with a series of glossy video testimonials.

Central Queensland News – [date not included](#)

HOMOPHOBIC attacks are par for the course for Gladstone's **gay community** - especially when the Observer is publishing them.

"Most lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (**LGBT**) people move away to places where being **gay** is more acceptable."

Sowetan – [July 31, 2014](#)

Signed by Uganda's veteran President Yoweri Museveni in February, the law calls for homosexuals to be jailed for life, outlaws the promotion of homosexuality and obliges Ugandans to denounce **gays** to the authorities.

Rights groups say the law has triggered a sharp increase in arrests and assaults of members of the country's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (**LGBT**) community.

South China Morning Post – [March 14, 2014](#)

We also wanted to direct the **LGBT community** to 'safe' places, like restaurants and bars that would make them feel welcome; places where they would not raise eyebrows just because they were **gay**.

EKantipur.com (Nepal) – [October 27, 2013](#)

When the Supreme Court on December 21, 2007 ruled that the new democratic government must create laws to protect LGBTI rights and change existing laws that are tantamount to discrimination, it handed an unopposed victory to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and inter-sex (**LGBTI**) rights movement. It also marked Nepal's fast-growing reputation as the most **gay-friendly** nation in Asia even as it continues its transition from a Hindu monarchy to a republic.