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The DGLFF is a sole proprietorship company (Jason Fiddler: Festival Director/Proprietor)
Annual proceeds from the Durban Gay & Lesbian Film Festival are donated to the
KwaZulu-Natal Society of Arts (KZNSA) and KZN Gay & Lesbian Tourism Association
(Both are registered non-profit organizations)

15 January 2015

Dear ICANN and the Board Governance Committee,

Reconsideration Request 14-44 (.GAY)

As proud South Africans, the Durban Gay & Lesbian Film Festival (DGLFF) thanks ICANN for bringing ICANN 47 to our city in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Delegates from our organization were thrilled to participate throughout the week and appreciate the opportunities this creates here in Africa. ***Please accept this letter from DGLFF containing our trepidations over the CPE findings for the .GAY community application by Dotgay LLC.***

DGLFF is the first city-based LGBTI film festival to ever be established in Africa and has played a pivotal role in bringing education and visibility to the gay community across the continent for the past 4 years. The festival is an independent platform for filmmakers from South Africa and across the world to specifically address topics relating to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Intersexed (LGBTI) issues, especially those that deal with human rights and issues of human sexuality in their work.

DGLFF is an inclusive showcase that highlights all segments of the gay community, including segments that ICANN's CPE evaluators have laid claims to have no association to the word *gay*. Despite the segments identified by the EIU being among the most invisible, most misunderstood and of minority population within the gay community, it is disturbing that the EIU has taken liberty to exclude them from consideration, regardless of the technical justifications it may have had. It is festivals like the DGLFF that continue to expose and celebrate the multiplicity of our community. We do not necessarily view the term *gay* as non-inclusive nor do we deem mainstream media's use of the term on occasion broadly defining our diversity.

The gay community is broader and more encompassing of diverse self-identifications, and does not need strict definitions being applied by the EIU. At the EIU's own admission there are transgender people who identify as *gay*, dispelling the attempt to create exclusive "boxes" for each segment of our community. The DGLFF does not believe it is appropriate for the EIU to err as it has in trying to take literal definition, connotations and interpretations and use such to deny our community representation regarding the Dotgay LLC application, which we remain firmly in support of. This, in spite we are sure of the best intentions, is tantamount to a dictation to us globally and this is not correct.

Of other concern is the EIU's position on allies of the gay community. There appears to be a clear double standard exercised by the EIU by refusing Nexus points because of the inclusion of support segments of the gay community while acknowledging and approving support segments of communities on other applications like .HOTEL. If marketing support firms for hotels can be deemed acceptable community members, it is both unreasonable and prejudice to not permit supporters of the gay community to be included. Fair's fair now.

We look forward to ICANN taking a very close look at the request submitted by dotgay LLC for a CPE reconsideration and presume ICANN will take corrective action.

Yours Faithfully

Jason Fiddler, Festival Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Fiddler", is written over a light blue horizontal line.