

ICANN & EIU

Dear Sirs

I submit the following comments in relation to the exclusive use of the Oxford English Dictionary in the context of the new gTLD application by dotgay LLC for the string .GAY.

The Oxford English Dictionary definition of "gay" is semantically insufficient.

"gay":

Gay meaning 'homosexual' became established in the 1960s as the term preferred by homosexual men to describe themselves. It is now the standard accepted term throughout the English-speaking world. As a result, the centuries-old other senses of gay meaning either 'carefree' or 'bright and showy' have more or less dropped out of natural use. The word gay cannot be readily used today in these older senses without arousing a sense of double entendre, despite concerted attempts by some to keep them alive. Gay in its modern sense typically refers to men (lesbian being the standard term for homosexual women) but in some contexts it can be used of both men and women.

Firstly, it is using non specific formulation "...in some contexts it (gay) can be used of both men and women", without any further explanation of what contexts are meant.

Such a vague terminology obscures the understanding of any contextual meaning of the word. By doing so, it is misleadingly stressing the term "gay" as "homosexual men" as the only understandable meaning.

It completely neglects semantic context of "gay" in terms of "gay community".

Moreover, a definition of "gay community" is missing from the Oxford English Dictionary entirely!

For example in medical dictionary (<http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Gay+Community>) figures this definition:

"gay community":

"A loosely coherent group of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals and their supporters, organizations and subcultures, united by a philosophy and culture that accepts non-traditional partnerships, lifestyles, and relationships."

From this definition it is clear that term "gay community" provides such context in which not only homosexual women are associated with the term "gay", but also bisexuals, transgender persons and also their supporters. This context is neglected by the current definition in the OED.

I strongly suggest, the OED to replace a vague and sloppy formulation "...in some contexts..." by a specific description of the meaning of "gay" in the semantic context of the term "gay community".

As it was similarly acknowledged by the Gender Equity Resource Center at The University of California, Berkeley. (http://geneq.berkeley.edu/lgbt_resources_definiton_of_terms#gay)

"gay":

"Men attracted to men. Colloquially used as an umbrella term to include all LGBTIQ people."

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Prokopik', is centered on the page.

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