

**From:** Rob Schlein

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**Subject:** Reflections on the Problems Facing Community Objections

To: Fadi Chehadé and the ICANN Board of Directors:

cc: Spela Kosak, ICC

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Scott Seitz, dotgay LLC / SPI Marketing

Dr. Bernhard Schlink

I would like to briefly address the ruling by the ICC's Expert Panel and offer reflections on the problems facing Community Objections in ICANN's New gTLD Program and the issue with trying to prove standing within an expansive and self-identified population.

We, Metroplex Republicans of Dallas, objected to a Community Priority application for .gay (ID 1-1713-23699) and were told by Dr. Bernhard Schlink that, "[While] the conservative segment, with which Metroplex claims association, is a segment of the clearly delineated gay community, it is not a clearly delineated community in and of itself."

This implies that Dr. Schlink accepts the assertion that a singular gay community exists, and that we represent a non-substantial aspect of that population. However, I believe that our lack of solidarity and marginalization within the mainstream gay and LGBTQ discourse should itself prove that there is no singularity and cohesion across a group characterized only by certain, but varying, sexual and gender identities.

To an extent, this "community" is made up of groups, both large and small, with a variety of unifying factors, whether political, cultural, or otherwise, but it is by and large made up of individuals with no affiliation to any one group. To be told that the Metroplex Republicans do not have standing is to then also note that no one group or individual has standing to speak on behalf of the global LGBTQ population or minority groups therein.

We strive to represent the interests of our gay and gay allied conservative constituents, and we often feel marginalized by mainstream groups, including those that are part of dotgay LLC's coalition. Assurances that our points of view will be respected are concerning since our views have so often been dismissed as novel or insignificant, and the prompt dismissal of our objection is the latest example of the reception we are all too familiar with.

If we do not have standing to object, then 99% of the LGBTQ spectrum -- hundreds of millions of individuals that are co-opted as part of dotgay LLC's "community" -- also have no recourse of being heard or respected as distinct,

unique, and important within the global LGBTQ population. We stood up on behalf of our constituents, who do not want to be lumped into a singular community to be led by a small subsection of the politically liberal gay population. We can only assume that other LGBTQ minorities, and not necessarily politically conservative ones, would be equally frustrated with the attempts of one LGBTQ coalition attempting to speak for an entire world of individuals.

Yours truly,  
Rob Schlein, President  
MetroPlex Republicans (formerly Log Cabin Republicans of Dallas)