



September 26, 2013

Dear ICANN,

I am pleased to write to you on behalf of the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), to lend our support to Dotkids (.kids), the proposed gTLD. CWLA is one leading organization organization in the United States. As a coalition of individuals, and non-governmental and governmental child serving organizations, CWLA to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of the nation's children, youth and families.


CWLA believes that the propose gTLD, Dotkids (.kids) ought to be a domain dedicated specifically to serving the children's community. The domain should recognize and care for the special needs of the kids, for they are the primary beneficiary and major end-users. In view of this, we commend the DotKids Foundation, a not-for-profit, community-based organization, for its commitment and mission in creating a kids-friendly cyberspace that protects children from inappropriate content and promoting child participation in Internet governance, whose initiatives are distinct from the other two applications submitted by the profit-making non children centric corporates.

CWLA recognizes and applauds the DotKids Foundation for its strict adhere to the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)¹. Its express complaint-response system² together with the Monitoring Committee³ is believed to be an effective portal in monitoring the registrants. In the meantime, the DotKids Foundation establishes a core mandate to advocate a kids-friendly namespace.

CWLA also recognizes that the DotKids Foundation is dedicated to providing the best environment for children's participation and contributing funds to projects that support the training of children to participate in the global Internet government discourse and incorporating children-led groups into the children advisory council⁴.

We hereby support the DotKids Foundation and its mission and principles in promoting a kids-friendly Internet space, encouraging children participation in Internet Governance discussion and supporting the children community through the proposed .kids initiatives. We also express our interest in the DotKids Foundation's future development and render our support to the shared goals and principles.

Yours sincerely,


Christine James-Brown
President and CEO

Appendix

1. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

It is the first legally binding international instrument to incorporate the full range of human rights, ratified by 194 countries. The DotKids Foundation strives to protect children from materials “likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child’s education, or to be harmful to the child’s health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development, as stated in Article 32 of the UNCRC.

2. Express complaint-response system and the Monitoring Committee

An online portal will accept complaints reports of any inappropriate content from the public through a structured report form, followed by a takedown decision process. The Monitoring Committee, which consists of members of the foundation, individuals from the Professional Advisory Council and other qualified children’s rights, children services or children centric organization, oversees the registrants. In case of violation of the guiding principles that results in the proliferation of materials likely to harm and disturb the kids, the registrants will be subjected to cancelation, suspension and takedown of the domain name.

3. Kids-friendly namespace

The establishment of a core mandate advocates the kids-friendly namespace through the use of kids-friendly language, graphics and presentation formats and the recruitment of children information experts, all of which entitle children a safe platform for knowledge exploration, free expression and participation in global policies, especially Internet governance.

4. Children advisory council

Children are entitled the freedom to express opinions freely in matters affecting their social, economic, religious, cultural and political life. Being a major stakeholder of escalating involvement in the cyber world, children could be active contributors to the information society. Therefore, a children advisory council would be set up as part of the organizational structure and governance to facilitate children’s participation. It serves as a child-friendly discussion environment for child representatives from various child-led organization, where different concern groups are free to express their opinion.