

GAC Advice Response Form for Applicants



The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) has issued advice to the ICANN Board of Directors regarding New gTLD applications. Please see Section IV of the [GAC London Communiqué](#) for the full list of advice on individual strings, categories of strings, and strings that may warrant further GAC consideration.

Respondents should use this form to ensure their responses are appropriately tracked and routed to the ICANN Board for their consideration. Complete this form and submit it as an attachment to the ICANN Customer Service Center via your [CSC Portal](#) with the Subject, “[Application ID] Response to London GAC Advice” (for example “1-111-11111 Response to London GAC Advice”). All GAC Advice Responses to the GAC London Communiqué must be received no later than 23:59:59 UTC on 04-August-2014.

Please note: This form will be publicly posted.

Respondent:

Applicant Name	DotKids Foundation Limited
Application ID	1-1309-46695
Applied for TLD (string)	KIDS

Response:

Dear ICANN Board, NGPC and GAC,

The DotKids Foundation supports the GAC Advice on the protection of children (<https://gacweb.icann.org/display/GACADV/2014-06-25+Protection+of+Children>), and appreciates the opportunity to provide a response.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is an international human rights treaty that grants all children and young people (aged 17 and under) a comprehensive set of rights. The UNCRC is the most rapidly and widely ratified international human rights treaty in history, with 194 countries having ratified, accepted, or acceded to it.

The DotKids Foundation applaud the ICANN Board NGPC for its acceptance of the GAC Beijing Communiqué safeguard advice applicable to all new gTLDs which includes the emphasis on being fully respectful of human rights conventions (i.e. including the UNCRC), and the ICANN Board NGPC’s acceptance of the Buenos Aires GAC Category 1 and Category 2 Safeguard Advice, which also included the importance of protecting children and their rights consistent with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Furthermore, in the GAC Category 1 Safeguard Advice, some TLD strings pertinent to children were identified, including “.kid(s)”.

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While all new gTLDs should be fully respectful of human rights (including the UNCRC), we believe that it is especially important for TLD strings that are targeted or closely related to children, including “.kid(s)” to explicitly commit to the protection of children and their rights consistent with the UNCRC.

The proper governance of such online space is crucial in order to reduce the risks of harm and ensure that the protection of children and their rights is not compromised. Such proper governance requires the participation of the children’s rights community, including children themselves, within the governance structure, in order to ensure the best interests of the child and guard against commercial gain being the main driver, in line with the UNCRC.

Most importantly, applicants for such TLD strings who rejects or refuses to ensure that their operations and policies be consistent with the UNCRC should be disqualified.

The DotKids Foundation believes that a kids-friendly space on the internet enhances the accessibility of knowledge and can impact positively on children worldwide, but without proper safeguards, what should be a playground for kids online could become detrimental to the kids community.

The UN General Assembly adopted the UNCRC on 20 November 1989 (the 30th anniversary of its Declaration of the Rights of the Child), so 2014 marks the 25th anniversary of the UNCRC. At this historical moment for both children around the world and of the expansion of new gTLDs into the kids community space, we look to ICANN to uphold the best interests of kids around the world by ensuring that TLDs targeting or closely related to kids must fully commit to abiding by the UNCRC.

Sincerely
DotKids Foundation