



Family  
Online Safety  
Institute

June 3, 2013

Dear ICANN,

The [Family Online Safety Institute](#) (FOSI) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the recent recommendations of the Governmental Advisory Committee to ICANN on the proposed additional safeguards for new generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs).

FOSI is an international nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C. and London, England. FOSI is a trusted convener, bringing together nearly thirty companies to innovate and collaborate around the best practices in online safety. FOSI promotes safe and responsible online use and works to make the online world safer for children and their families through research, resources and events. FOSI is not currently applying for a new gTLD and the views expressed in this letter do not necessarily reflect the views of all of the member companies that support FOSI's work.

FOSI encourages ICANN to accept the new GAC advice around safeguards, particularly for sensitive strings. FOSI is excited about the possibility of new gTLDs increasing the number of websites created for children, but FOSI believes ICANN should utilize safeguards to reduce the risk of abusive registrations, particularly around sites that will be accessed by kids. It is important to provide channels for complaints of abuse as well as requiring that domains will not be used for illegal activities, fraud, or deception. Incorporating the GAC advice may help the goals of expanding competition and protecting consumers.

FOSI is supportive of global best practices that encourage working relationships with child protection organizations and industry self-regulatory groups and believes that domain name registrants should be committed to carrying out legal activities and not engaging in fraud or deception.

FOSI particularly hopes that ICANN will implement safeguards for applications listed as sensitive. FOSI encourages ICANN to follow the GAC advice in order to foster a safer Internet.

Sincerely,

Stephen Balkam  
CEO  
Family Online Safety Institute