



23 February 2018

Matan Uziel  
Real Women Real Stories

Dear Matan Uziel,

Thank you for your letter of 8 February 2018 regarding .WOMEN domains. Your letter has been posted to the ICANN Correspondence page here: <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/uziel-to-atallah-et-al-08feb18-en.pdf>.

I would like to provide some information about ICANN and the New generic Top-level Domain (gTLD) program. The New gTLD Program is enabling the largest expansion of the domain name system and has provided communities, governments, businesses and brands to apply to operate a gTLD registry with a domain name of their choice. ICANN's role in this initiative is strictly that of Program coordinator.

As background, ICANN's Board of Directors approved the Applicant Guidebook and authorized the launch of the New gTLD Program in June 2011. From 12 January to 12 April 2012, organizations and/or individuals had the opportunity to apply to operate a new generic top-level domain (gTLD) of their choosing. During this time, ICANN received 1,930 applications for new gTLDs. A list of applicants, applied-for gTLDs and related information is published here: <https://gtdresult.icann.org/application-result/applicationstatus/viewstatus>. As you will see, no one applied for the .WOMEN domain name, hence it is not possible to apply for a domain name ending in .WOMEN. That said, there are many opportunities to amplify women's voices by applying for a second-level domain name (e.g. HeForShe.EXAMPLE) attached to one of the more than 1,200 gTLDs that have been [delegated](#) thus far.

Although the opportunity to apply for a new gTLD in this round is closed, the community is working to define and shape how and when additional new gTLDs will be introduced. Once the community completes its work, the ICANN Board will consider the community's recommendations to introduce additional new gTLDs. I encourage you to monitor this process and future opportunities to apply for a new domain name such as .WOMEN (see: <https://gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/new-gtld-subsequent-procedures>).

Sincerely,

Akram Atallah  
President, Global Domains Division