



29 January 2021

Subject: SSAC2021-01: Remembering Ben Butler  
From: Rod Rasmussen, Chair, ICANN Security and Stability Advisory Committee  
To: ICANN Board  
Via: Merike Kaeo, SSAC Liaison to the ICANN Board

Dear ICANN Board,

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of a fellow SSAC member, and a dear friend, Ben Butler, on 12 January 2021, in Scottsdale, Arizona. He was 44.

Ben was the Director of Global Policy at GoDaddy. He was responsible for creating internal and global public policy matters, specializing in issues relating to Internet security and stability, as well as legal issues that relate to customer content.

Ben was especially passionate about keeping the Internet a safe and enjoyable place for children. He was responsible for efforts to identify, investigate, report, and remove child abuse content at GoDaddy. Towards protecting children online, he also worked to draft and improve US legislation such as the Protect Act of 2009. Beyond that, he trained hundreds of law enforcement personnel, network administrators, and cybersecurity professionals on the proper ways to effectively deal with these issues. His work undoubtedly led to many, many children being saved from horrible circumstances. As was his way in all things, he did this work with passion and great competence, but also humbly, without fanfare or seeking of recognition - a model for all volunteering their time in public service.

Ben has been an active member of the SSAC since 2013. He authored and contributed to six SSAC advisories. Most recently he dedicated a great deal of his time by participating in the GNSO as one of the SSAC's representatives on the Expedited Policy Development Process on Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data.

Besides his work protecting children, Ben's major passion in life was his love for golf, which he pursued relentlessly, and with great skill. If ICANN were to ever hold or

sponsor a social event involving golf in the future, it would be a great gesture to recognize him then.

Ben will be remembered by SSAC members not only for his technical contributions, but also for his sense of humor, love of great Scotch, and his kind, relaxed and supportive demeanor. One SSAC member wrote: “[Ben was] a gentle giant, a kind soul, who made everything better just by being part of it.” Many have said that there is now a Ben-sized hole in our lives - and that’s a large one.

He will be sorely missed.

Rod Rasmussen  
Chair, ICANN Security and Stability Advisory Committee