



## PayPal

Subsidiaries: Venmo, Braintree, Xoom, PayPal Honey, Paidy

Locations: California (HQ)

Industries: Payment Processing

### RISK LEVEL:



High Risk

### DESCRIPTION:

PayPal has shut down many accounts, such as the Christian crowdfunding platform GiveSendGo, for purportedly violating its "Acceptable Use Policy." It has banned users without warning for discussing biological differences between males and females and withheld money from a flag store small business for making a flag with former President Donald Trump on it. PayPal scored a 100 on the 2023 Corporate Equality Index (CEI) from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a political stakeholder group. By complying with the HRC's controversial demands, the company increases the risk of dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. PayPal provides a benefits package for employees which covers travel/lodging costs for an abortion and transgender medical procedures for covered employees and dependents, including children. It also uses sex and gender ideology criteria in employee recruitment, vendor selection, marketing, and philanthropic support. PayPal forces employees to undergo multiple ideological trainings and uses its reputation, corporate funds, and political influence to support controversial sex and gender ideologies, organizations, and legislation. The company funds Planned Parenthood, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). The company partners with the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) to help police charitable organizations by defining "hate groups" and acceptable conduct. PayPal opposed various state and local legislation intended to protect parental rights, girls' sports, bathroom facilities, and gendered spaces. For these reasons, PayPal receives a High Risk rating.

### Corporate Weaponization

**Has denied service to customers, suppliers, or vendors due to their political views or religious beliefs OR corporately boycotts, divests, or sanctions regions, people groups, or industries.** **High Risk**

PayPal has shut down numerous accounts for violating its Acceptable Use Policy, including GiveSendGo, a popular Christian crowdfunding platform (1). PayPal banned evolutionary biologist and writer Colin Wright from receiving payments after Mr. Wright claimed that there are biological differences between males and females and pushed back on postmodern gender theory (2)(3). PayPal held over \$100,000 from a business owner who makes American flags for 11 months after he made a wooden flag with President Trump on it. PayPal offered to give his money back if he promised to not take legal action (4)(5). PayPal also partners with the SPLC and ADL to identify "hate groups" and "extremists" and consequently suspend their accounts (6)(7). PayPal also suspended the account of Moms for Liberty, only unfreezing the account after Florida Governor Ron DeSantis brought the matter to light (8). PayPal has threatened to drop its sponsorship of the Phoenix Suns if the owner remains a part of the organization after serving his one-year suspension for alleged racist and misogynist remarks (9). PayPal canceled the Gmail account of "Gays Against Groomers," a coalition of gays against the sexualization, indoctrination and medicalization of children (10)(11). In the fall of 2022, PayPal announced a new Terms of Service Policy that would fine users \$2,500 for "misinformation." After immense and immediate backlash, PayPal changed the policy to fine users for "intolerance" as opposed to "misinformation" (12). PayPal banned Freedom Phone, a mobile phone startup with its own unregulated app store (13). PayPal also suspended the personal account of British journalist Toby Young and later the account for his publication, the Daily Skeptic (14). PayPal reversed those suspensions after pressure from members of the British Parliament. PayPal suspended UsForThem, a group of parents fighting to keep schools open during

COVID-19 (15). PayPal received a score of 100 recruits employees based on sexual identity issues. The company discriminates against vendors that do not promote divisive sex and gender policies, indicating it prioritizes sexual issues over merit (16)(17).

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**Charitable giving (including employee matching programs) policies or practices discriminate against charitable organizations based on views or religious beliefs. High Risk**

PayPal(1)(2). PayPal does not publish charitable giving guidelines (3)(4).

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**Employment policies fail to protect against discrimination based on political affiliation/views and/or religion. High Risk**

PayPal indicates the company forces employees to attend multiple, controversial trainings on gender identity, sexual orientation, transgender issues, and divisive racial ideology. The company provides gender transition guidelines for its employees and a specific benefits guide with a comprehensive explanation of transgender services funded by the company (1)(2). PayPal does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees (3).

## Corporate Governance and Public Policy

**Uses corporate reputation to support ideological causes and/or organizations hostile to freedom of expression. High Risk**

PayPal indicates the company agrees to allow a controversial stakeholder group focused on sexual identity issues to dictate marketing or advertising strategy (1)(2). By doing so, the company risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. PayPal (3)(4). PayPal (5)(6). PayPal opposed the Florida Parental Rights in Education Act, which would prohibit teaching gender identity and sexual orientation to kids in K-3rd grade (7). PayPal CEO, Dan Schulman, released a letter opposing the decision overturning Roe v. Wade (8). CEO, Dan Schulman, is a member of the Business Roundtable, but has not supported ideological initiatives (9). PayPal signed an open letter in support of the Equality Act (10). PayPal is committed to net zero carbon emissions by 2040 (11)(12).

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**Uses corporate funds to advance ideological causes, organizations, or policies hostile to freedom of expression. High Risk**

PayPal provides a benefits package for employees which covers travel/lodging costs for an abortion and transgender medical procedures for covered employees and dependents, including children (1)(2)(3)(4)(5). PayPal's HRC 2023 CEI rating indicates the company provides a benefits package for employees which covers transgender medical procedures for covered employees and dependents, including children. This includes paid short-term leave, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, chest surgeries, genital surgeries, medical visits and lab monitoring, travel and lodging. Additionally, the company has pledged philanthropic support of at least one organization or event that promotes sex and gender ideology (6)(7). By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company increases health care costs and risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. (8)(9)(10). PayPal is a silver partner of the HRC (11).

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**Uses corporate political contributions for ideological, non-business purposes.****High Risk**

PayPal indicates the company publicly advocated for controversial sex and gender ideology through local, state or federal legislation or initiatives (1)(2). By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. PayPal has not used its PAC donations or lobbying for ideological purposes (3)(4)(5).

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