



Barnes & Noble

Locations: New Jersey (HQ)

Industries: Retailing

RISK LEVEL:



Medium Risk

DESCRIPTION:

Barnes & Noble scored a 70 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, Barnes & Noble increases the risk of dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. The company covers transgender-related medical costs for its employees and their children and provides specific sexual orientation. It also uses sex and gender ideology criteria in employee recruitment, vendor selection, marketing, and philanthropic support. Barnes & Noble uses its reputation, corporate funds, and political influence to support controversial sex and gender ideologies, organizations, and legislation. For these reasons, Barnes & Noble receives a Medium 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. **Medium Risk**

Barnes & Noblereceived a score of 70recruits 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 (1)(2).

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

Barnes & Noble's HRC CEI rating indicates the company will not donate to non-religious charities unless they embrace controversial sexual identity policies (1)(2). Barnes & Noble(3).

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

Barnes & Noble does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees (1).

Corporate Governance and Public Policy

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

Barnes & Noble's HRC 2023 CEI rating 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.

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

Barnes & Noble's HRC 2023 CEI rating indicates the company covers transgender related costs for its employees and their children, including 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 (1)(2). By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company increases health care costs and risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders.

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

Barnes & Noble's HRC 2023 CEI rating 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. Barnes & Noble does not operate a PAC or report on its lobbying at this time (3)(4)(5).

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