

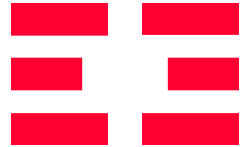


# Simon & Schuster

Locations: New York (HQ)

Industries: Media and Entertainment

RISK LEVEL:



High Risk

## DESCRIPTION:

Simon & Schuster canceled a book deal with U.S. Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO) over his comments surrounding the 2020 presidential election. The company does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees. Simon & Schuster's parent company, Paramount has also donated to the Equality PAC. Simon & Schuster features LGBT book collections on its website. However, It has not used its corporate funds to advance ideological. For these reasons, Simon & Schuster receives a High Risk rating.

Note: Penguin Random House (parent company, Bertelsmann) made an offer to buy Simon & Schuster in late 2020. The sale from its current parent company, Paramount Global, was blocked by the Justice Department in a antitrust lawsuit. Kohlberg Kravis Roberts is now trying to buy Simon & Schuster.

## 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**

*Despite its statement against book banning and censorship, Simon & Schuster publicly canceled a book deal with U.S. Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO) in January 2021, citing his objection to the 2020 presidential election results [\(1\)](#)[\(2\)](#).*

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

*Simon & Schuster does not appear to discriminate against charitable organizations based on views or beliefs [\(1\)](#).*

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

*Simon & Schuster 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.** Lower Risk

*Simon & Schuster features a Pride collection and a teen LGBT fiction book collection on its website [\(1\)](#)[\(2\)](#).*

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

*Simon & Schuster has not used corporate funds to advance ideological causes, organizations, or policies [\(1\)](#).*

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

*Simon & Schuster's parent company, Paramount Global, has donated to the Equality PAC [\(1\)](#)[\(2\)](#)[\(3\)](#).*

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