



# **Hilton Worldwide**

Subsidiaries: DoubleTree, Embassy Suites, Hampton Inn

Locations: Virginia (HQ)

Industries: Consumer Services



#### **DESCRIPTION:**

Hilton fired an employee for not working Sunday shifts due to religious purposes in 2016; the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) later prosecuted the case successfully. Hilton Worldwide 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, Hilton 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 and gender identity-based benefits. It also uses sex and gender ideology criteria in employee recruitment, vendor selection, marketing, and philanthropic support. Hilton 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. Hilton has signed open letters supporting the Equality Act and opposed Florida's Parental Rights in Education law. The company funds multiple LGBTQ organizations and applies additional scrutiny to religious charities in its charitable giving. Hilton opposed various state and local legislation intended to protect parental rights, girls' sports, bathroom facilities, and gendered spaces. The company signed an amicus brief in opposition to the 2016 North Carolina bathroom bill HB2, which required people to use the bathroom of their biological sex. For these reasons, Hilton receives a High Risk rating.

## **Corporate Weaponization**

Has denied service to customers, suppliers, or vendors due to their political views or religious

High Risk beliefs OR corporately boycotts, divests, or sanctions regions, people groups, or industries.

In 2016, Hilton fired a woman who refused to work on Sundays due to religious convictions, after initially accommodating her requests. The EEOC ruled in her favor in 2019 (1). Hilton 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 (2)(3).

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

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



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

**High Risk** 

Hiltonindicates 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 specific benefits guide with a comprehensive explanation of transgender services funded by the company (1)(2). Hilton3).

# **Corporate Governance and Public Policy**

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

Hiltonng 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. Hilton has signed an open letter in support of the Equality Act (3). The company opposed the Florida Parental Rights in Education Act, which would prohibit teaching gender identity and sexual orientation to kids in K-3rd grade (4). Hilton signed an amicus brief in opposition to the 2016 North Carolina bathroom bill HB2, which required people to use the bathroom of their biological sex (5). CEO Christopher Nassetta is a member of the Business Roundtable (67).

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

Hiltonindicates 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.3). Hilton is a copper sponsor of Out & Equal and a corporate partner of the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce (4)(5).

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

**High Risk** 

Hiltonindicates 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. Hilton has not used its PAC donations or lobbied for ideological purposes ( $\underline{3}$ )( $\underline{4}$ )( $\underline{5}$ ).

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