



# WK Kellogg Co (Kellogg's)

Subsidiaries: All-Bran, Corn Flakes, Crispix, Froot Loops, Frosted Flakes, Frosted Mini-Wheats, Kashi, Rice Krispies, Special K, Krave, Corn Pops,

Raisin Bran, Vector, Apple Jacks

Locations: Michigan (HQ)

Industries: Food Beverage and Tobacco



**RISK LEVEL:** 

### High Risk

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

Kellogg's is High Risk. The company yields to political activism in shaping corporate governance, potentially alienating consumers, dividing employees, and harming shareholders. The company implements race and identity-based policies that replace merit, excellence, and integrity with preferential treatment and outcomes. Kellogg's embraces corporate initiatives that redirect its central focus from business goals to partisan policies and divisive issues. This approach fails to safeguard free exercise, free speech, and free enterprise.

## **Corporate Weaponization**

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

Kellogg's HRC 2023 CEI rating indicates the company 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 (1)(2). In 2016, Kellogg's pulled all of its ads from Breitbart News, a conservative news network, along with a number of other companies (3)(4).

Charitable giving (including employee matching programs) policies or practices discriminate

High Risk against charitable organizations based on views or religious beliefs.

Kellogg's HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company will not donate to non-religious charities unless they embrace controversial sexual identity policies (1)(2). WK Kellogg Co does not appear to discriminate against charitable organizations based on views or beliefs (3).

Employment policies fail to protect against viewpoint or other discrimination and/or are High Risk ideological in nature.

WK Kellogg Co does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees (1). Kellogg's HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company forces employees to attend multiple, controversial trainings on gender identity, sexual orientation, transgender issues, and divisive racial ideology. The company provides a specific benefits guide with a comprehensive explanation of transgender services funded by the company (2)(3). America First Legal filed a letter with the EEOC requesting a civil rights investigation into Kellogg's over discriminatory practices in hiring (4)(5).



## **Corporate Governance and Public Policy**

Uses corporate reputation to support causes, organizations, or policies hostile to freedom of expression.

In 2021, Kellogg's ran a partnership with GLAAD featuring "pride" cereal and Froot Loops offers access to an online DEI educational library with the purchase of a cereal box (1)(2)(3)(4). The company has corporately embraced critical race theory and similar ideologies and opposed North Carolina's 2016 bathroom bill (5)(6). Kellogg's signed an open letter in support of the Equality Act, a controversial bill (7). 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 (8). Kellogg's opposed various state and local legislation intended to protect parental rights, girls' sports, bathroom facilities, and gendered spaces (9). The company's HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company agrees to allow a controversial stakeholder group focused on sexual identity issues to dictate marketing or advertising strategy (10)(11). By doing so, the company risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. In 2019, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation launched "Expanding Equity", an online platform to help transform companies "into more equitable places of opportunity" through various DEI initiatives (12). The company is a signatory of the Institutional Limited Partners Association's Diversity in Action Initiative, committing itself to specific actions that advance DEI within the governance and policies of the organization and the private equity industry more broadly (13)(14)(15).

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

Kellogg 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). Kellogg's HRC 2023-2024 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 (4)(5). By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company increases health care costs and risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. The company also pledged \$90 million to the Black Lives Matter movement and related causes (6)(7)(8). In 2021, Kellogg's ran a partnership with GLAAD featuring "pride" cereal and boxes where customers could fill in their own pronouns; this partnership raised funds for GLAAD (9). The company is a corporate partner of the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) (10). Kellogg's is a silver partner of PFLAG, an LGBTQ+ activist group that promotes books for children with sexually explicit and gender fluid content and advocates against laws that inform parents of their child's gender dysphoria or prevent unapproved transgender medical treatments for minors (11)(12)(13).

Uses corporate political actions and/or financial contributions for ideological, non-business High Risk purposes.

Kellogg's HRC 2023-2024 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. WK Kellogg Co does not operate a PAC or engage in lobbying at this time (3)(4)(5).

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