



X (Twitter)

Locations: California (HQ)

Industries: Media and Entertainment, Software and Services

RISK LEVEL:



Lower Risk

DESCRIPTION:

Despite Twitter's lengthy history of discrimination against conservative, religious viewpoints and consistent opposition to free speech, X has changed course since Elon Musk took the company private in October 2022. Under Musk's leadership, X has not permanently barred users from its platform due to views or beliefs, and the company has restored the accounts of many formerly banned users. X does not provide its employees with protections against viewpoint discrimination, but it has not publicly terminated business relationships based on views or beliefs. Twitter pledged over \$100 million to BLM and related causes in 2020. However, under its new leadership, X has not used its reputation or corporate funds for ideological purposes. For these reasons, X receives a Lower 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. **Lower Risk**

Before Elon Musk bought Twitter and took the company private in October 2022, Twitter had a lengthy history of discrimination against conservative, religious viewpoints and consistently opposed free speech. This included de-platforming former President Donald Trump, Jordan Peterson, the Babylon Bee, and many others (1)(2)(3)(4). Twitter also censored a variety of conservative federal government officials, including the head of Customs and Border Protection, but not terrorist accounts (5)(6)(7).

In 2023, Musk reinstated the accounts of former President Donald Trump, Jordan Peterson, the Babylon Bee, and others (8)(9)(10). Later that day, Twitter reversed its suspension after public outcry. On March 1, Twitter briefly suspended the personal account of U.S. Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) without explanation (11). On June 1, Twitter canceled a deal with The Daily Wire to stream the latter's documentary "What is a Woman?" for free on the site on the anniversary of the film's release, claiming that the film violated the site's policy against "misgendering" (12). Amidst the controversy, Musk referred to Twitter employees' decision to cancel the deal as a "mistake" and reiterated that the film is "definitely allowed" on the site, as Twitter's community guidelines had recently been changed to remove "misgendering" as an offense (13). Musk later reposted the link to the stream on his personal Twitter page, stating that "every parent" should watch the film (14).

After these events, the company began court filings to rename itself "X" in April 2023 and was officially rebranded as X on July 24, 2023 (15). According to X Chairman Elon Musk, "Twitter was acquired by X Corp both to ensure freedom of speech and as an accelerant for X, the everything app. This is not simply a company renaming itself, but doing the same thing"(16). Musk has said X's new policy is "freedom of speech not freedom of reach" (17). X has adopted a new content moderation policy (18). From its rules page: "X's purpose is to serve the public conversation. Violence, harassment and other similar types of behavior discourage people from expressing themselves, and ultimately diminish the value of global public conversation. Our rules are to ensure all people can participate in the public conversation freely and safely." X has not deplatformed users due to views or beliefs.

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

X matches employee donations but does not publicly publish charitable giving guidelines (1).

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

X 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

Twitter was part of the Freedom for All Americans coalition, which advocated for federal legislation that would overrule state laws designed to protect girls' sports and similar laws (12). Twitter was also a part of the HRC's Business Coalition for the Equality Act. However, X is no longer part of this coalition (3). X received a score of -25 on the Corporate Equality Index from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), demonstrating its independence from the stakeholder activist group.

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

Twitter was a member of the Global Alliance for Responsible Media, however it is unclear if X is a member (1)(2)(3). Twitter pledged over \$100 million to Black Lives Matter movement and related causes in 2020 (4)(5). Twitter fulfilled some of these grants in 2021, but it is unclear if X has made similar contributions in line with this pledge.

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

Twitter terminated its PAC in 2020, and X has not used its lobbying for ideological purposes (1)(2).

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