

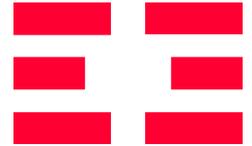


Patreon

Locations: California (HQ)

Industries: Commercial and Professional Services, Media and Entertainment

RISK LEVEL:



High Risk

DESCRIPTION:

Patreon is High Risk. The company yields to political activism in shaping corporate governance, potentially alienating consumers, dividing employees, and harming shareholders. Patreon 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 corporately boycotts, divests, or sanctions regions, people groups, or industries. High Risk

Patreon has banned numerous influential conservative personalities, including BlazeTV host Sydney Watson, from using its platform, with little explanation and no possibility of appeal (1)(2). Patreon's Community Guidelines regarding hate speech are extremely vague and subject to weaponized interpretation. For example, the company states that "criticism of a State, institution, or belief" must be "legitimate," which reads as though the company itself is the arbiter of the legitimacy of its users' opinions (3).

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

Patreon does not publish charitable giving guidelines (1).

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

Patreon does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees (1)(2).

Corporate Governance and Public Policy

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

Patreon signed an open letter endorsing the Equality Act, a contentious proposal to amend the 1964 Civil Rights Act by adding sexual orientation and so-called gender identity as protected categories. The legislation would, among other implications, grant biological

men access to women-only spaces such as sports teams and public restrooms, and compel healthcare providers to deliver sex-denying healthcare (1). The company 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 (2). Patreon opposed various state and local legislation intended to protect parental rights, girls' sports, bathroom facilities, and gendered spaces (3)(4). The company opposed legislation in Iowa intended to protect parental rights, girls' sports, bathroom facilities, and gendered spaces (5). Patreon opposed the Florida Parental Rights in Education Act, which would prohibit teaching gender identity and sexual orientation to kids in K-3rd grade (6). The company signed an amicus brief opposing former President Donald Trump's immigration policy and supports BLM (7)(8). Patreon's Head of Legal, Colin Sullivan, co-signed a letter to law firms demanding an improvement in diversity in order to retain business with the company (9).

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

In 2020, Patreon pledged support to Black Lives Matter and related causes (1)(2). Otherwise, there are no publicly known cases of Patreon using its corporate funds to advance ideological causes, organizations, or policies (3).

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

Patreon does not operate a PAC or engage in lobbying at this time (1)(2)(3).

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