

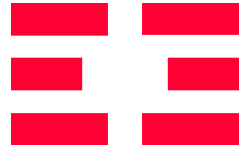


# YouTube

Locations: California (HQ)

Industries: Media and Entertainment, Video Communications

## RISK LEVEL:



High Risk

### DESCRIPTION:

YouTube 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. YouTube 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**

YouTube has regularly demonstrated that the company's moderators have explicitly political reasons for choosing which videos to flag and remove. For example, it removed conservative rapper Bryson Gray's anti-Biden "Let's Go Brandon" song due to the lyrics regarding the COVID-19 pandemic (1). The company also suspended the Right Side Broadcasting Network and indefinitely disabled comments on the channel's videos due to "concerns about violence" (2). The company removed the comedy troupe Nelk Boys' podcast featuring former President Donald Trump without reason (3). The company also removed a roundtable discussion hosted by Gov. Ron DeSantis that featured reputable doctors and scientists from Stanford, Harvard, and Oxford that called into question the validity of data regarding the efficacy of mask-wearing in reducing the spread of COVID-19 to children (4). The company permanently banned conservative commentator and former NYPD officer Dan Bongino from its platform (5). The company has also permanently demonetized many firearm-focused channels, including ones that make primarily educational and hobby-focused videos, despite the existence of no clear rule in the site's guidelines prohibiting such content (6). It was a member of the Global Alliance for Responsible Media, which aims to demonetize advertisements and suppress content that "vilifies" individuals based on sexual orientation and gender identity, discusses "debated social issues in a negative or partisan context" or spreads "hate speech" (7)(8)(9).

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

In order for a nonprofit to be eligible for the YouTube Giving fundraising program, the organization must "follow YouTube's monetization policies both on and off YouTube" (1). Although YouTube does not specifically discriminate against any type of organization via this policy, the site's Community Guidelines are vague and often selectively enforced. Thus, especially with YouTube's history of censorship, conservative or faith-based organizations could be easily disqualified from this program (2). Parent company Google does not disqualify religious organizations from receiving grants, provided that the organization engages in community work under a separate 501(c)(3) status (3). However, Google does require that all potential grant recipients have non-discrimination policies regarding sexual identity (4).

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

**Medium Risk**

*YouTube 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**

*YouTube CEO Susan Wojcicki has publicly taken political sides and urged large YouTube creators to use the platform to do the same (1)(2). The company has partnered with the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) (3). Its parent company Google has also taken numerous advocacy positions regarding LGBTQ policy, voting legislation, and the BLM movement (4)(5)(6).*

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

**High Risk**

*YouTube was a member of the Global Alliance for Responsible Media (1)(2)(3). In 2020, the company donated \$1 million to the Center for Policing Equity, a research organization that publicly advocates on behalf of ideologically influenced police reform policies (4)(5)(6). YouTube was a Platinum Tier corporate sponsor of the Trevor Project, an organization that advocates for controversial sex and gender ideology, including "gender transition" drugs and surgeries for minors, through legislation, litigation, advertising, and PR campaigns. The organization also hosts online chatrooms that allow adults to communicate with minors as young as 13 about sexually explicit topics. Adults in these chatrooms have encouraged minors to adopt transgender identities and withhold this information from their parents (7)(8)(9)(10)(11). Otherwise, there are no publicly known cases of the company using corporate funds to advance ideological causes, organizations, or policies (12).*

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

**N/A**

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

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