

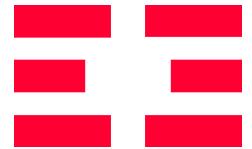


YouTube

Locations: California (HQ)

Industries: Media and Entertainment, Video Communications

RISK LEVEL:



High Risk

DESCRIPTION:

YouTube, a subsidiary of Google, has regularly targeted right-leaning and conservative content for censorship, including banning or suspending popular commentators such as Dan Bongino. YouTube does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees. The company is part of the Global Alliance for Responsible Media and its CEO regularly supports ideological policy positions. For these reasons, YouTube receives a High Risk rating.

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, YouTube 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). YouTube 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). YouTube 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). YouTube is 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.

High 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). Youtube's 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 is a member of the Global Alliance for Responsible Media (1)(2)(3). In 2020, YouTube 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).

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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