



Shopify

Locations: Canada (HQ)

Industries: Payment Processing, Retailing

RISK LEVEL:



High Risk

DESCRIPTION:

Shopify is High Risk. The company yields to political activism in shaping corporate governance, potentially alienating consumers, dividing employees, and harming shareholders. Shopify 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

In 2017, Shopify refused to remove the conservative news site Breitbart from its platform, despite pressure to do so, due to CEO Tobi Lutke's decision to protect "free speech" (1). However, it suddenly banned most firearm manufacturers and dealers from using its platform the following year (2).

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

Shopify does not discriminate against charitable organizations based on views or beliefs. The company allows customers and stores using its service to donate through rounding and independent matching, respectively, and these programs do not exclude religious organizations (1).

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

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

Corporate Governance and Public Policy

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

Shopify published an article promoting LGBTQ-owned businesses (1). The company also published an article supporting carbon

removal and publishes climate reports encouraging carbon removal to "help reverse climate change" (2)(3). Otherwise, it has not supported ideological causes or policies (4).

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

Shopify has pledged \$1 million to the Black Lives Matter movement and related causes, including Campaign Zero (1)(2)(3). In 2019, the company launched its Shopify Sustainability Fund, which "includes an annual commitment to supporting projects that work to combat climate change." It has spent over \$32 million on carbon removal purchases and \$55.7 million in contracts with 39 carbon removal suppliers to "help reverse climate change" (4)(5)(6). The company is also a corporate partner of the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce (7). Otherwise, there are no publicly known cases of the company using corporate funds to advance ideological causes, organizations, or policies (8).

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

Shopify does not operate a PAC at this time and has not used its lobbying for ideological purposes (1)(2)(3).

The contents of this website and related resources (collectively, the "materials") are general in nature and intended for educational use only. Nothing in the materials or any other 1792 Exchange content constitutes legal or professional advice for any specific matter. Anyone seeking legal or professional advice should obtain such advice from competent counsel. Since individual circumstances vary, anyone reviewing the materials and/or any other 1792 Exchange content is strongly urged to obtain specific legal and/or other professional advice before acting or refraining from acting based on such materials or other 1792 Exchange content. 1792 Exchange accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage, howsoever incurred, which may result from accessing or relying on the materials or any other 1792 Exchange content. Further, 1792 Exchange disclaims, to the fullest extent permitted by law, all liability for any acts or omissions based on the materials or any other 1792 Exchange content.

USER AGREEMENT: Company reports and other resources are intended only for the private educational use of the registered user. Republishing and distributing reports and resources is strictly prohibited. By downloading reports and resources, the user accepts these conditions.

© 1792 Exchange 2023