

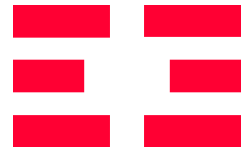


## Braintree

Locations: Illinois (HQ)

Industries: Payment Processing

RISK LEVEL:



High Risk

### DESCRIPTION:

Braintree is a subsidiary of PayPal, which is owned by eBay. PayPal scored a 100 on the 2023 Corporate Equality Index (CEI) from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a political stakeholder group. By complying with the HRC's controversial demands, PayPal increases the risk of dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. The company covers transgender-related medical costs for its employees and their children and provides specific sexual orientation and gender identity-based benefits. It also uses sex and gender ideology criteria in employee recruitment, vendor selection, marketing, and philanthropic support. PayPal forces employees to undergo multiple ideological trainings and uses its reputation, corporate funds, and political influence to support controversial sex and gender ideologies, organizations, and legislation. Braintree does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees. PayPal has shut down many accounts, such as the Christian crowdfunding platform GiveSendGo, for purportedly violating its "Acceptable Use Policy." It has banned users without warning for discussing differences based on biological sex. Braintree signed an open letter in support of the Equality Act. Moreover, PayPal partners with the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) to help police charitable organizations by defining "hate groups" and acceptable conduct. PayPal also funds the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Planned Parenthood. For these reasons, Braintree receives a High 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.** **High Risk**

PayPal, Braintree's parent company, received a score of 100 on the 2023 Corporate Equality Index (CEI) from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a political stakeholder group. The company recruits employees based on sexual identity issues. The company discriminates against vendors that do not promote divisive sex and gender policies, indicating it prioritizes sexual issues over merit (1) (2). PayPal has shut down numerous accounts for violating its Acceptable Use Policy, including GiveSendGo, a widely-used Christian crowdfunding platform (3). PayPal banned evolutionary biologist and writer Colin Wright from receiving payments after Mr. Wright claimed that there are biological differences between males and females and pushed back on popular theories surrounding gender (4) (56). PayPal also suspended the account of Moms for Liberty, only unfreezing the account after Governor of Florida Ron DeSantis brought the matter to light (78)(910). PayPal banned Freedom Phone, a mobile phone startup with its own app store (11). PayPal also suspended the personal account of British journalist Toby Young and later the account for his publication, the Daily Skeptic (12). PayPal reversed those suspensions after pressure from members of the British Parliament. PayPal suspended UsForThem, a group of parents fighting to keep schools open during COVID-19 (13).

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

Braintree provides its services at a discounted rate to accredited nonprofits, and the company does not exclude faith-affiliated organizations from its discount (12). PayPal has partnered with the ADL to vet charitable organizations (3). PayPal's HRC CEI rating indicates the company will not donate to non-religious charities unless they embrace controversial sexual identity policies (4)(5).

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

**High Risk**

Braintree does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees (1)(2). PayPal indicates the company forces employees to attend multiple, controversial trainings on gender identity, sexual orientation, transgender issues, and divisive racial ideology. The company provides gender transition guidelines for its employees and a specific benefits guide with a comprehensive explanation of transgender services funded by the company (3)(4). PayPal does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees (5).

## Corporate Governance and Public Policy

**Uses corporate reputation to support ideological causes and/or organizations hostile to freedom of expression.**

**High Risk**

Braintree signed an open letter in support of the Equality Act (1). It has also opposed state-level efforts to protect the integrity of women's sports (2). PayPal also denounced election integrity legislation at the state level (3). PayPal opposed the Florida Parental Rights in Education Act, which prohibits teaching gender identity and sexual orientation in schools to kids in K-3rd grade (45). PayPal indicates the company agrees to allow a controversial stakeholder group focused on sexual identity issues to dictate marketing or advertising strategy (6)(7).

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

**High Risk**

Braintree has not used corporate dollars to support ideological organizations hostile to freedom of expression (12)(3). PayPal provides a benefits package for employees which covers travel/lodging costs for an abortion (4). PayPal indicates the company covers transgender related costs for its employees and their children, including paid short-term leave, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, chest surgeries, genital surgeries, medical visits and lab monitoring, travel and lodging. Additionally, the company has pledged philanthropic support of at least one organization or event that promotes sex and gender ideology (5)(6). By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company increases health care costs and risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders.

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

**High Risk**

PayPal indicates the company publicly advocated for controversial sex and gender ideology through local, state or federal legislation or initiatives (1)(2). By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. Braintree does not have a PAC. Braintree's parent firm, PayPal, has not used its PAC donations or lobbying for ideological purposes (3)(4)(5).

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