



## Ross Stores

Subsidiaries: dd's Discounts

Locations: California (HQ)

Industries: Retailing

### RISK LEVEL:



High Risk

### DESCRIPTION:

Ross Stores 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, Ross Stores 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. Ross Stores 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. Ross Stores does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees but has not publicly terminated business relationships based on views or beliefs. The company is a corporate partner of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and pledged \$500,000 to BLM and related causes. Ross discriminates against religious organizations in its charitable giving and is a corporate partner of the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce. For these reasons, Ross Stores 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.** **Medium Risk**

*Ross Stores received a score of 100 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). However, Ross Stores has not publicly fired customers, suppliers, or vendors based on political views or religious beliefs.*

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

*"Ross will not support organizations or programs that spread political or religious beliefs or those who discriminate" (1). Ross' HRC CEI rating indicates the company will not donate to non-religious charities unless they embrace controversial sexual identity policies (2)(3).*

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

*Ross' HRC 2023 CEI rating 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 (1)(2). Ross Stores does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees (3).

## Corporate Governance and Public Policy

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

Ross' HRC 2023 CEI rating indicates the company agrees to allow a controversial stakeholder group focused on sexual identity issues to dictate marketing or advertising strategy (1)(2). By doing so, the company risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. Ross Stores has not supported ideological causes or policies.

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

Ross' HRC 2023 CEI rating 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 (1)(2). By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company increases health care costs and risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. Ross Stores is a bronze corporate partner of the HRC (3). Ross Stores pledged \$500,000 to the Black Lives Matter movement and related causes (4)(5). Ross Stores and dd's Discounts are corporate partners of the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce (6).

### Uses corporate political contributions for ideological, non-business purposes. High Risk

Ross' HRC 2023 CEI rating 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. Ross Stores does not operate a PAC or engage in lobbying at this time (3)(4)(5).

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