



Alphabet

Subsidiaries: Google, YouTube, Fitbit, Waze, Nest, Firebase, Google Chrome

Locations: California (HQ)

Industries: Cloud & Data Storage, Media and Entertainment, Software and Services, Web Browsers

RISK LEVEL:



High Risk

DESCRIPTION:

Alphabet, the parent company of Google and its many subsidiaries, has demonstrated a willingness to censor a wide range of voices, mostly conservatives and Christians, on its platforms and police-protected speech in discriminatory ways. Google does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees and discriminates against conservative and religious nonprofits in its charitable giving. Alphabet regularly uses its corporate reputation and funds to advance ideological causes. Google provides a benefits package for employees which covers travel/lodging costs for an abortion. The company covers the cost of "medically necessary transition-related care" for its employees and their children. The company opposed various state and local legislation intended to protect parental rights, girls' sports, bathroom facilities, and gendered spaces. Google is a member of the MCCA, indicating its focus on recruiting, retaining, and promoting employees based on race. For these reasons, Alphabet 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**

Google has a history of disproportionately censoring conservative ideas and messages. In 2021, the Google Play store removed the free-speech Parler social media app (1). In 2019, Google disbanded an advisory board because it included Kay Cole James, the former president of the Heritage Foundation (2). YouTube also has censored many conservative channels and videos like those of PragerU, the Heritage Foundation, and Live Action (3)(4)(5). In one instance, eyewitness accounts reported that Google subsidiary YouTube de-platformed an educational institution, Hillsdale College, by shutting down its livestream of an in-person and online event held to discuss the economic implications of the so-called "Great Reset." In another instance, YouTube censored a panel discussion in which Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and several renowned epidemiologists discussed the scientific studies regarding the efficacy of masking policies amongst children (6). Multiple employees have claimed viewpoint discrimination caused their terminations from Google, prompting Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) to write a letter to the CEO of Google demanding answers to its various censorship of conservative voices and channels (7)(8). A few months later, a study found that Google sends Republican campaign emails to spam over 1.5x more than Democrat emails (9)(10). YouTube censored a talk from theologian Carl Trueman discussing the Christian view of sexuality for a "content violation" (11). Google terminated the Gmail account of Gays Against Groomers, "a coalition of gays against the sexualization, indoctrination and medicalization of children" (12)(13). After Giorgia Meloni became the new Prime Minister of Italy, YouTube took down a years-old video of the politician giving a speech criticizing "global elites" (14). A Google employee was fired after reporting sexual harassment claims to HR against a female executive; in the ongoing lawsuit, the plaintiff describes being told that he was fired for not being "inclusive," being "ableist" by commenting on the walking paces of fellow employees, and that Google needed to fire a white man to make room for more women on the team (15). Google fired A.I. Researcher, Satrajit Chatterjee, for criticizing a published article featuring work from another team at Google (16).

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

Google's employee donation-matching program eligibility requirements are not public (1). Google requires all recipients of nonprofit grants to not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity in employment and the distribution of services (2).

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

Alphabet and Google does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees (1). Google also implemented "antiracism" training that taught that all Americans are "raised to be racist" (2).

Corporate Governance and Public Policy

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

Google has a perfect score on the HRC's 2022 Corporate Equality Index. This score indicates the company covers the cost of "medically necessary transition-related care" for its employees and their children (1)(2). The company signed an open letter in support of the Equality Act (34). It also decided to corporately oppose Georgia's voting integrity legislation and other states' election reform laws (5). While still Executive Chairman at Google, former CEO Eric Schmidt served on the Democratic Victory Task Force (6). Google opposed the Florida Parental Rights in Education Act, which would prohibit teaching gender identity and sexual orientation to kids in K-3rd grade (7). Google Docs released an update in 2022 to suggest edits for "more inclusive" language on its Docs (8). Google opposed North Carolina's "Bathroom Bill" that forced people to use the bathroom of their biological gender (9). CEO Sundar Pichai is a member of the Business Roundtable (10).

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

Google provides a benefits package for employees which covers travel/lodging costs for an abortion (1)(2)(3). The company dissolved its charitable fund and gave all of its assets, over \$40 million, to the far-left Tides Foundation, a progressive grant-making organization (4). It is also a Platinum Sponsor of the Human Rights Campaign (5). Google is also a member of many partisan organizations, both liberal and conservative (6). Google has run giving campaigns for Planned Parenthood (7). Alphabet pledged a combined total of over \$300 million to the Black Lives Matter movement and related causes (8)(9). Google is a copper sponsor of Out & Equal and a corporate partner of the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce (10)(11). Google is a member of the MCCA, indicating its focus on recruiting, retaining, and promoting employees based on race (12)(13).

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

Alphabet does not operate a PAC at this time but has not lobbied for ideological purposes (1)(2)(3).

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