

Alphabet

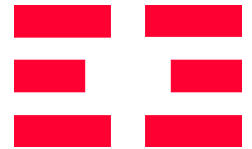
Alphabet

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 scored a 100 out of 100 on the 2023-2024 Corporate Equality Index (CEI) from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a political stakeholder group. By complying with the HRC's controversial demands, the company increases the risk of dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. The company provides a benefits package for employees which covers travel/lodging costs for an abortion and transgender medical procedures for covered employees and dependents, including children. It also uses sex and gender ideology criteria in employee recruitment, vendor selection, marketing, and philanthropic support. Google 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. Google does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees and discriminates against conservative and religious nonprofits in its charitable giving. Google is a signatory of the Gender & Diversity KPI Alliance, appearing to prioritize diversity over merit in its business structure through the establishment of gender and racial targets for its leadership composition and its support of DEI in its hiring and promotions. 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. Google signed an open letter in support of the Equality Act, a controversial bill. For these reasons, Alphabet 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

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). In June 2024, Google suspended PragerU from its Google Play store, citing its hate speech policy. The suspension was likely triggered by PragerU’s new documentary, “Dear Infidels: A Warning to America,” which shares stories of victims who fled violent Islamic regimes”. Google retracted the suspension within hours and claimed the app had been suspended in error (17). Google’s HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company recruits employees based on sexual identity. The company discriminates against vendors that do not promote divisive sex and gender policies, indicating it prioritizes sexual issues over merit (18)(19).

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

Google’s HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company will not donate to non-religious charities unless they embrace controversial sexual identity policies (1)(2). Google’s charitable giving guidelines require that organizations abide by its nondiscrimination policy, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, thereby excluding some religious charities (3). Google’s employee donation-matching program eligibility requirements are not public (4).

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

Google’s HRC 2023-2024 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). Google implemented “antiracism” training that taught that all Americans are “raised to be racist” (3). Google is a signatory of the Gender & Diversity KPI Alliance, appearing to prioritize diversity over merit in its business structure through the establishment of gender and racial targets for its leadership composition and its support of DEI in its hiring and promotions (4)(5). Google’s PhD Fellowship restricted applicants based on race, limiting the number of White and Asian Applicants. After backlash, Google lifted its exclusion and said it “strongly encourage[s]” diverse applicants (6)(7)(8). Alphabet does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees (9).

Corporate Governance and Public Policy

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

Google’s HRC 2023-2024 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. Google opposed various state and local legislation intended to protect parental rights, girls’ sports, bathroom facilities, and gendered spaces (3). Google opposed legislation in Iowa intended to protect parental rights, girls’ sports, bathroom facilities, and gendered spaces (4). Google signed an open letter in support of the Equality Act, a controversial bill (5). It also decided to corporately oppose Georgia’s voting integrity legislation and other states’ election reform laws (6). While still Executive Chairman at Google, former CEO Eric Schmidt served on the Democratic Victory Task Force (7). Google opposed the Florida Parental Rights in Education Act, which would prohibit teaching gender identity and sexual orientation to kids in K-3rd grade (8).

). Google Docs released an update in 2022 to suggest edits for “more inclusive” language on its Docs (9). Google opposed North Carolina’s “Bathroom Bill” that forced people to use the bathroom of their biological gender (10). CEO Sundar Pichai is a member of the Business Roundtable, but has not supported any ideological initiatives (11).

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). Google’s HRC 2023-2024 CEI rating indicates the company provides a benefits package for employees which covers transgender medical procedures for covered employees and dependents, including children. This includes 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 (4)(5). By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company increases health care costs and risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders. Google dissolved its charitable fund and gave all of its assets, over \$40 million, to the far-left Tides Foundation, a progressive grant-making organization (6). Alphabet is a Platinum Sponsor of the Human Rights Campaign (7). Google has run giving campaigns for Planned Parenthood (8). Alphabet pledged a combined total of over \$300 million to the Black Lives Matter movement and related causes (9)(10). Google is a member of the MCCA, indicating its focus on recruiting, retaining, and promoting employees based on race (11)(12). Google is a copper sponsor of Out & Equal and a corporate partner of the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce (13)(14). Google is also a member of many partisan organizations, both liberal and conservative (15).

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

Google’s HRC 2023-2024 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. Alphabet does not operate a PAC at this time and has not lobbied for ideological purposes (3)(4)(5). Google has not used its PAC donations for ideological purposes and has not reported on its lobbying (6)(7)(8).

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