

IBM Shareholder Meeting Question
Justin Danhof, Esq., General Counsel and Free Enterprise Project Director
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I'm Justin Danhof of the National Center for Public Policy Research. I want to ask about the company's opposition to religious liberty.

IBM is one of the top donors to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC).ⁱ HRC is perhaps the nation's leading opponent of religious liberty. Right on HRC's website, on the corporate sponsors page, is a big IBM logo listing the company as an HRC partner.ⁱⁱ HRC threatens and organizes boycotts when states seek to enact laws protecting the right of people to act according to their faithⁱⁱⁱ or to use a bathroom in privacy that matches their DNA.^{iv} What is IBM's interest in those activities?

HRC also works to dictate corporate philanthropy away from conservative and Christian organizations. I highly doubt that when shareholders invest their hard-earned money with IBM they anticipate those funds will be used to try and root out Christianity and oppose religious liberty.

HRC was also the primary author of an *amicus curiae* brief in the U.S. Supreme Court case *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, thus supporting Colorado's efforts to undermine religious liberty and to restrict freedom of speech.^v HRC's position in that brief would give unelected government bureaucrats the power to compel speech of private citizens under the threat of massive fines and potential imprisonment. Thank God your side lost, and liberty prevailed.

We are a free-market organization. We have never called for a boycott or tried to direct a company's philanthropy. We just want to make sure that the company is actually informed about what HRC is doing with IBM's money. Can you explain to us investors why IBM is funding anti-religious bigotry and opposing freedom of speech? And can you explain how this helps the company's bottom line?

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ⁱ <https://www.hrc.org/hrc-story/corporate-partners>

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ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2016/03/20/hrc-president-puts-gov-deal-spot-religious-freedom-bill/82047226/>

^{iv} <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/21/us/north-carolina-fails-to-repeal-bathroom-law-that-prompted-boycotts.html>

^v https://assets2.hrc.org/files/assets/resources/16-111_bsac_37_Businesses_and_Organizations.pdf?_ga=2.104399552.1101744136.1525438701-265520832.1470858850