

Hyatt 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.

Hyatt is one of the top donors to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC).ⁱ HRC is perhaps the nation's leading opponent of religious liberty. HRC threatens and organizes boycotts when states seek to enact laws protecting the right of people to act according to their faithⁱⁱ or to use a bathroom in privacy that matches their DNA.ⁱⁱⁱ

Hyatt has also been linked with the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), apparently allowing the SPLC to help determine who can stay at company properties.^{iv} This is appalling. The SPLC smears Christian, Muslim^v and conservative organizations as hate groups simply for disagreeing with the SPLC's extreme leftist policy views. By comparing Christians to the Ku Klux Klan, the SPLC's aim is obvious, but you all took the bait.

Did you know the SPLC "hate map" has been used to foment *actual* violence against innocent people? Take Floyd Lee Corkins, who used the SPLC "hate map" to identify and assault Family Research Council's (FRC) headquarters in 2013 and was only stopped from killing many people by an armed guard. Another crazed shooter, James Hodgkinson, shot House Republican Whip Steve Scalise in 2017 and would have killed many House members if not for the Capitol Police. He too was a big follower of the SPLC. The SPLC itself has recently come under fire for anti-black and anti-female bigotry and harassment in its offices.^{vi} And after realizing that the SPLC's "hate" labels are nothing more than a political sham, Charity Navigator, the FBI, the Justice Department and Twitter have all stopped working with the SPLC.

The SPLC placed me on its hate radar simply because I did a radio interview on a Christian network. My Christian faith doesn't teach hatred. My mother didn't raise me to hate anyone. I am not raising my daughter to hate anyone. That the SPLC wants people to think otherwise is insulting and appalling. My daughter is only two. Someday she is going to be in school and one of her classmates is going to ask her why her daddy is on a hate list. Just think about that.

I highly doubt that when shareholders invest their hard-earned money with Hyatt, or when customers stay at your hotels, they anticipate those funds will be used to try and root out Christianity and attack conservatives and pro-family groups as some sort of hate mongers.

Can you explain to us investors why you support such anti-religious bigotry? And will you vow to reconsider your relationships with both of these groups? If you don't, it's hard to see why any Christian or conservative would ever stay at one of your hotels again.

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

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

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

^{iv} <https://pjmedia.com/homeland-security/why-hyatt-hotels-and-other-companies-should-not-trust-splcs-judgment/>

^v <https://www.dailysignal.com/2018/07/23/muslim-who-squeezed-3m-out-of-splc-for-calling-him-an-anti-muslim-extremist-says-others-also-wrongly-labeled/>

^{vi} <https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/southern-poverty-law-center-splc/>