



U.S. Department of Justice

Edward R. Martin, Jr.
United States Attorney

District of Columbia

*Patrick Henry Building
601 D Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530*

April 24, 2025

Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. AKA Wikipedia
P.O. Box 98204
Washington, DC 20090-8204
VIA EMAIL: business@wikimedia.org
legal@wikimedia.org

To Whom it May Concern,

As the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, I regularly receive requests for information, clarification, and official comment. I regard such inquiries with the seriousness they warrant and respond appropriately through formal correspondence, such as this letter.

It has come to my attention that Wikipedia, which operates via its fiscal sponsor, the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., is engaging in a series of activities that could violate its obligations under Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code. As a nonprofit corporation, which is incorporated in the District of Columbia, the Wikimedia Foundation is subject to specific legal obligations and fiduciary duties consistent with its tax-exempt status. In addition, the public is entitled to rely on a reasonable expectation of neutrality, transparency, and accountability in its operations and publications.

In its 2023 IRS Form 990, the Wikimedia Foundation describes its mission as, “empower[ing] and engag[ing] people around the world to collect and develop educational content under a free license or in the public domain and to disseminate it effectively and globally. . . [.]”

As you know, Section 501(c)(3) requires that organizations receiving tax-exempt status operate **exclusively** for “religious, charitable, scientific, testing for public safety, literary, or educational purposes. . . [.]” It has come to my attention that the Wikimedia Foundation, through its wholly owned subsidiary Wikipedia, is allowing foreign actors to manipulate information and spread

I am also interested to know if publishers, journals, and organizations with which you work are adjusting their method of acceptance of competing viewpoints. Are there new norms being developed and offered?

I look forward to your cooperation with my letter of inquiry after request. Thank you in advance for your assistance. Please respond by April 18, 2025. Should you have further questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to call my office or schedule a time to meet in person.

All the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edw R. Martin Jr", written in a cursive style.

Edward R. Martin, Jr.

United States Attorney for the District of Columbia