Special Report: The Geopolitical Business







### EXPECTATIONS FOR BUSINESS: MORE PRESSURE TO ACT, MORE ISSUES TO ADDRESS

From the Edelman Trust Barometer...

March 2020

**COVID-19 pandemic** 

Business must act to protect employees and the community

Trust and the Coronavirus

May 2020

Racial justice

Taking a stand on racial justice seen as moral and societal obligation for brands

Brands and Racial Justice

September 2021

**Employee activism** 

Employees expect opportunities for social impact through their job

The Belief-Driven Employee

November 2021

**ESG** 

Investors subject ESG to the same scrutiny as operational and financial considerations

Institutional Investors

November 2021

**Climate change** 

Brands should bear the burden of making environmentallyfriendly products affordable

Climate Change









### 2022 EDELMAN TRUST BAROMETER SPECIAL REPORT:

### THE GEOPOLITICAL BUSINESS

Methodology

14-market global data margin of error:

Full sample +/- 0.8% (n=14,000); half-sample +/- 1.2% (n=7,000).

Country-specific data margin of error:

Full sample +/- 3.1% (n=1,000); half-sample +/- 4.4% (n=500).

#### **Online survey**

Fieldwork conducted: April 26 – May 2, 2022; The U.S. was fielded from April 26 – May 10, 2022

14

14,000

1,000

countries

respondents

respondents/country

All data is nationally representative based on age, region and gender

Brazil

Canada

China

France

Germany

India

Japan

Mexico

Saudi Arabia

S. Africa

S. Korea

UAE

Uł

U.S.

Unless otherwise indicated, global averages include all countries surveyed.

Due to the sensitive nature of some questions, certain data was prevented from being collected in China. When this occurs an average of 13 countries is shown.

### AMIDST UKRAINE CRISIS, TRUST RISES IN WEST

#### **JANUARY TO MAY 2022:** LARGE TRUST GAINS IN UK, U.S. **AND GERMANY**

Trust Index



2022 Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report: The Geopolitical Business. The Trust Index is the average percent trust in NGOs, business, government and media. TRU INS. Below is a list of institutions. For each one, please indicate how much you trust that institution to do what is right. 9-point scale; top 4 box, trust. General population, 14-mkt avg.





**Biggest gains:** 

+6 UK +6 U.S.

Germany



**Biggest decline:** 

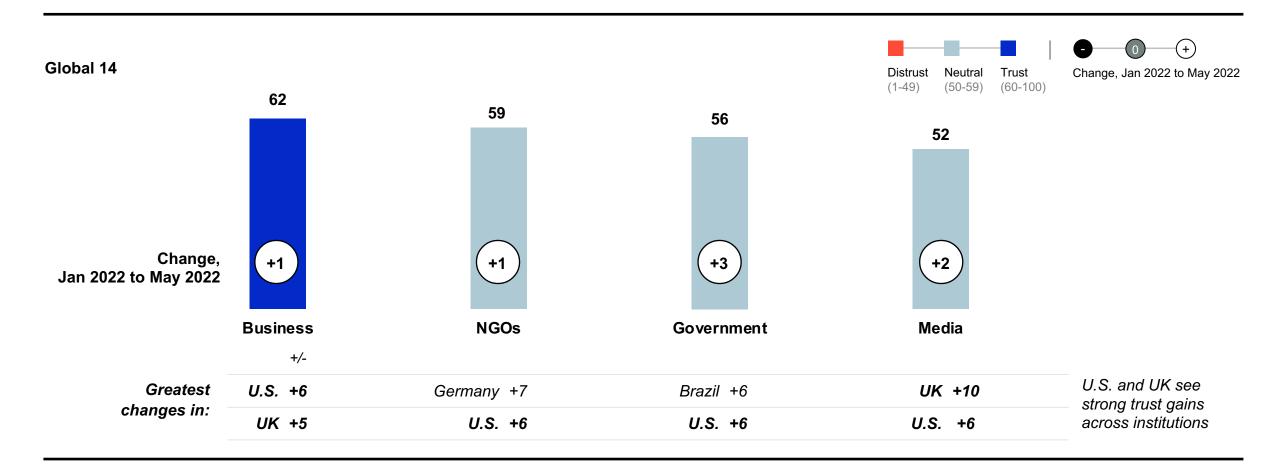
China



#### **JANUARY TO MAY 2022:**

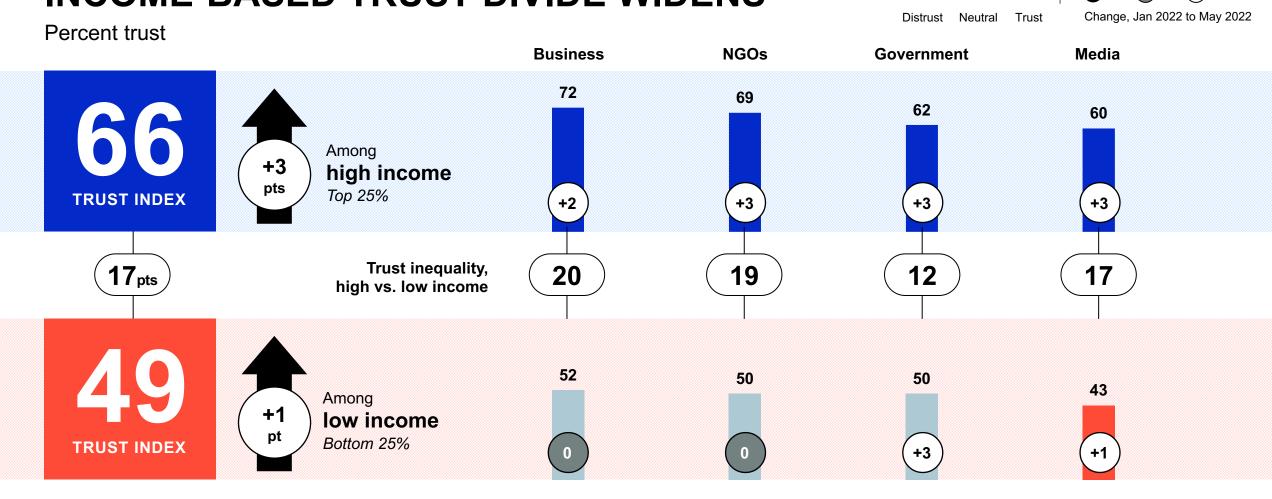
#### **GOVERNMENT GAINS, BUSINESS STILL MOST TRUSTED**

#### Percent trust



#### **JANUARY TO MAY 2022:**

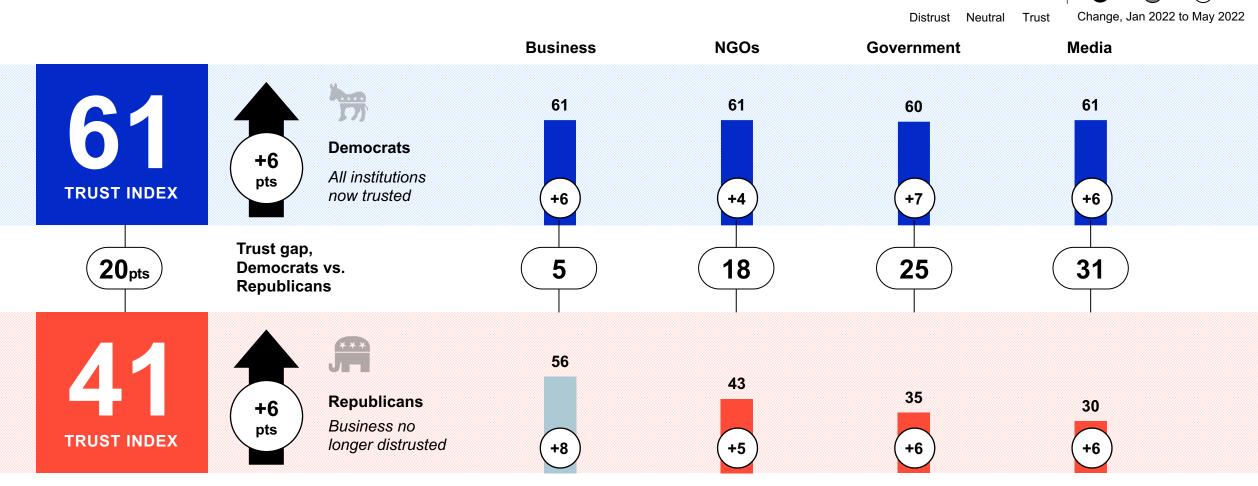
### TRUST RISES AMONG THOSE WITH HIGH INCOME, INCOME-BASED TRUST DIVIDE WIDENS



#### **JANUARY TO MAY 2022:**

#### U.S. TRUST RISES ACROSS INSTITUTIONS AND PARTY LINES

Percent trust, in the U.S.





### UKRAINE CRISIS: A NEW TEST FOR BUSINESS

### NEARLY 1 IN 2 BUY OR BOYCOTT BRANDS BASED ON UKRAINE RESPONSE

Percent who say

I have altered my behavior toward a brand or company based how it has responded to Russia's invasion of Ukraine

#### Global 13

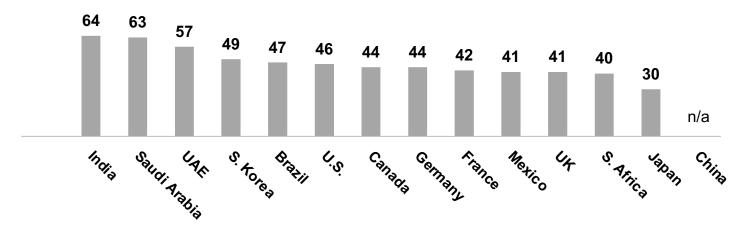
(net) 0/0

Changed behaviors:

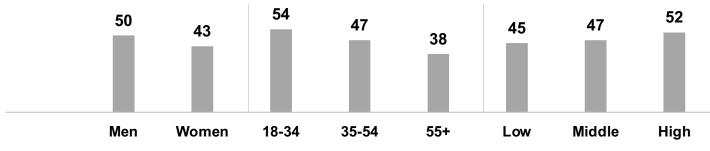
Started or stopped buying a brand

**Encourage others** to stop buying a brand

#### **Markets**

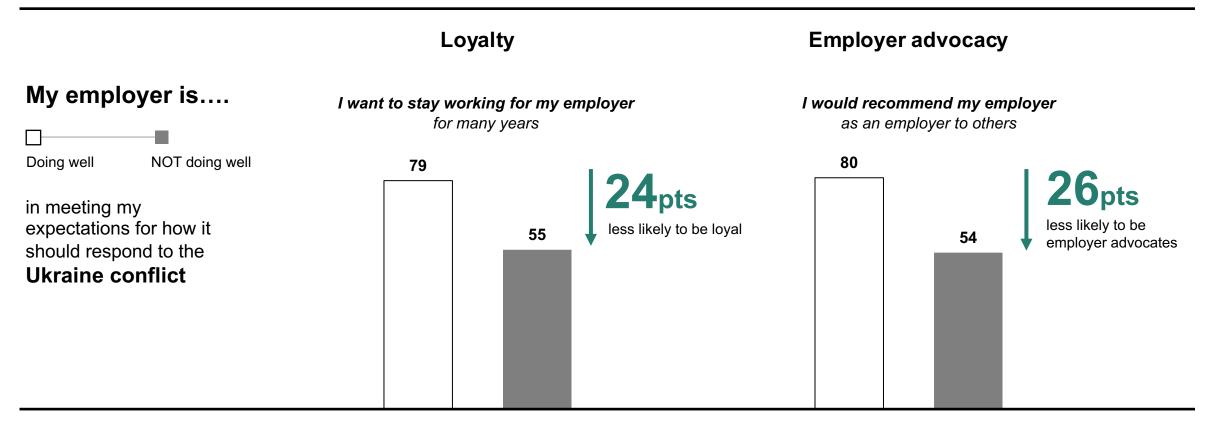


Gender | Age | Income



#### LESS EMPLOYEE LOYALTY AND ADVOCACY WHEN UKRAINE RESPONSE FALLS SHORT

Percent of employees who agree with each statement, among those who say their employer is or is not doing well in meeting their expectations



2022 Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report: The Geopolitical Business. EMP ENG. Thinking about your current employer, to what extent do you agree with the following statements? 9-point scale; top 4 box, agree. Question asked to those who are an employee of an organization (Q43/1). RUS SANC APP. Overall, how well is your employer doing in meeting your expectations for how it should be responding to the Russian invasion of Ukraine? 5-point scale; codes 1-3,99, not doing well; top 2 box, doing well. Question asked to those who are an employee of an organization (Q43/1). General population, 13-mkt avg. Data not collected in China for RUS SANC APP.

#### TRUST IN COMPANIES AT STAKE BASED ON RESPONSE TO THE UKRAINE CONFLICT

Percent who say each company response to the Ukraine conflict would affect their trust in each way



#### **MORE TRUST** FOR TAKING ACTION

If a company	Net, likelihood to increase vs. decrease my trust
ceases business in Russia; protects safety of ex-employees	+31 <sub>pts</sub>
temporarily suspends business in Russia	+27
Supports humanitarian efforts with no further action	+10



If a company	<b>Net,</b> likelihood to increase vs. decrease my trust
carries on doing business in Russia	<b>-38</b> <sub>pts</sub>
makes a statement in support of Ukraine with no further action	-20
no new investments in Russia, but maintains current operations	-15

2022 Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report: The Geopolitical Business. UKE TRST. Different companies have responded in different ways to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. What effect would each of the following behaviors have on your trust in a company that has responded in this way to the Russian invasion? 6-point scale; bottom 3 box, decrease or eliminate trust; top 2 box, increase trust. General population, 13-mkt avg. Data not collected in China. Data is showing the difference between those who say each would increase vs decrease or eliminate trust. For the full question text, please refer to the appendix.



## CALL FOR BUSINESS ACTION NOW EXTENDS TO GEOPOLITICS

#### NEARLY 6 IN 10 WANT BUSINESS TO ADD GEOPOLITICAL ISSUES TO ITS AGENDA

On average, percent who say

#### Each is a **business responsibility**:

#### **Economic** responsibilities

Create jobs
Provide safe and reliable products
Drive innovation
Grow the economy
Wealth creation

#### Societal responsibilities

Provide training to employees
Support local communities
Provide trustworthy information
Address climate change, pollution, poverty,
and food/water insecurity
Address discrimination, wage inequality,
healthcare, and education
Promote cooperation across political differences

#### Geopolitical responsibilities

Cultivate admiration for our country's values
Punish countries that violate human rights and
international law

85%

77%

**59**%

**2022 Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report: The Geopolitical Business.** CORP\_ROLE. Do you consider each of the following to be a primary, secondary, or not a responsibility of business? 3-point scale; code 1, primary; code 2, secondary. Sum of codes 1 and 2. General population, 14-mkt avg. "Economic responsibilities" is an average of attributes 1-2, 4-6. "Societal responsibilities" is an average of attributes 3, 7, 9-11, and 13. "Geopolitical responsibilities" is an average of attributes 12 and 14. Attributes under each responsibility grouping shown in rank order. For the full question text, please refer to the appendix.



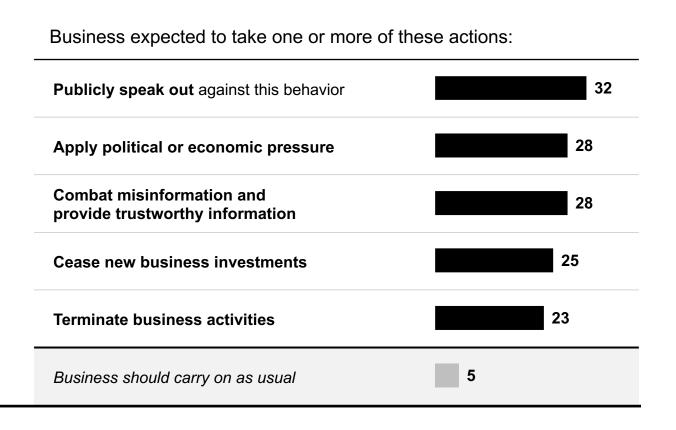
### BUSINESS EXPECTED TO ACT IN RESPONSE TO AN UNPROVOKED INVASION

Percent who say

When a country engages in an unprovoked invasion of another country, I expect companies that have business interests in that country to respond in one or more ways

Global 14

95% (net)



### BUSINESS ACTION EXPECTED ON GEOPOLITICS BEYOND ACTIVE CONFLICTS

Percent who say they would expect companies to respond in one or more ways if they have business interests in a country with one of these scenarios

#### If a country has...

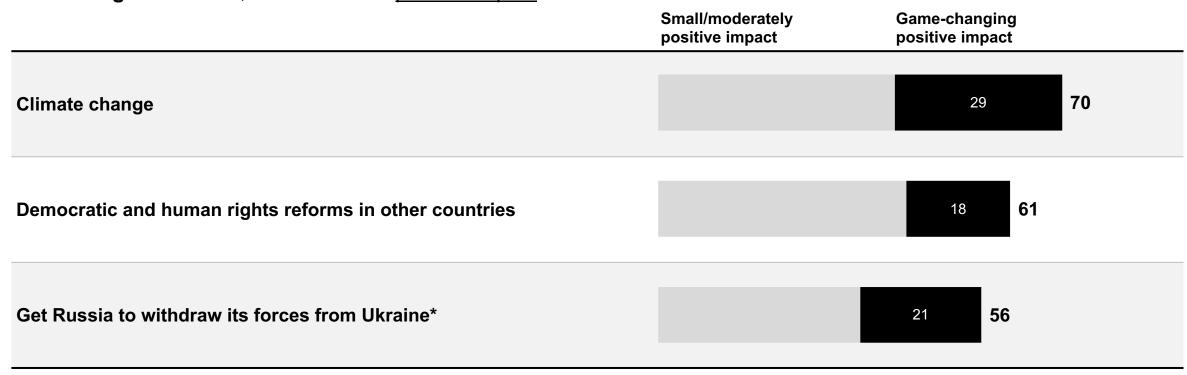
A repressive government	Abusive labor practices	Inadequate environmental protections	
95%	97%	94%	I expect business to take one or more of these actions (net)
34	39	32	Publicly speak out against this behavior
30	29	31	Apply political or economic pressure
29	26	30	Combat misinformation and provide trustworthy information
23	24	24	Cease new business investments
18	22	14	Terminate business activities
5	3	6	Business should carry on as usual

**<sup>2022</sup>** Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report: The Geopolitical Business. BUS\_RESP. For each of the following scenarios, please indicate how you feel corporations that have business interests in the countries or markets involved should respond. Pick all that apply. General population, 14-mkt avg. Data on the top row is a net of codes 1-5. For the full question text, please refer to the appendix.

### BUSINESS SEEN AS HAVING POWER TO INFLUENCE GEOPOLITICS

Percent who say

If business devoted significant time and effort into addressing each issue, it could have a positive impact on...



**2022 Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report: The Geopolitical Business.** BUS\_BEST. Which of the following most accurately characterizes, in your mind, the best-case scenario for the impact business could have in solving each of the following problems or challenges if it devoted a significant amount of its resources and attention to addressing it? 5-point scale; codes 3-4, small/moderately positive impact; code 5, game-changing impact. Question asked of half of the sample. General population, 14-mkt avg. \*Attribute not asked in China and is showing a 13-mkt avg. For the full question text, please refer to the appendix.



#### **BUSINESS EXPECTED TO** DRAW A LINE IN THE SAND

#### Majority in 13 of 14 markets

Which do you agree with more?

Global 14

Businesses have a moral responsibility to set limits on what is acceptable and pull out of countries that operate beyond them

Because all countries engage in immoral behavior, such behavior is not a viable criterion for whether it is acceptable to do business in a particular country

#### Majority in 10 of 14 markets

Which do you agree with more?

Global 14

Businesses that fail to condemn and punish a country's behavior express implicit approval of that behavior

Businesses that condemn a country's behavior are guilty of imposing their own sense of morality on a culture they may not understand

### THE GEOPOLITICAL CEO

### CEOS EXPECTED TO LEAD— NOT WAIT FOR GOVERNMENT TO ACT

Percent who agree

CEOs should proactively curtail business activities in countries that...

...commit human rights
abuses rather than waiting for
government to impose sanctions

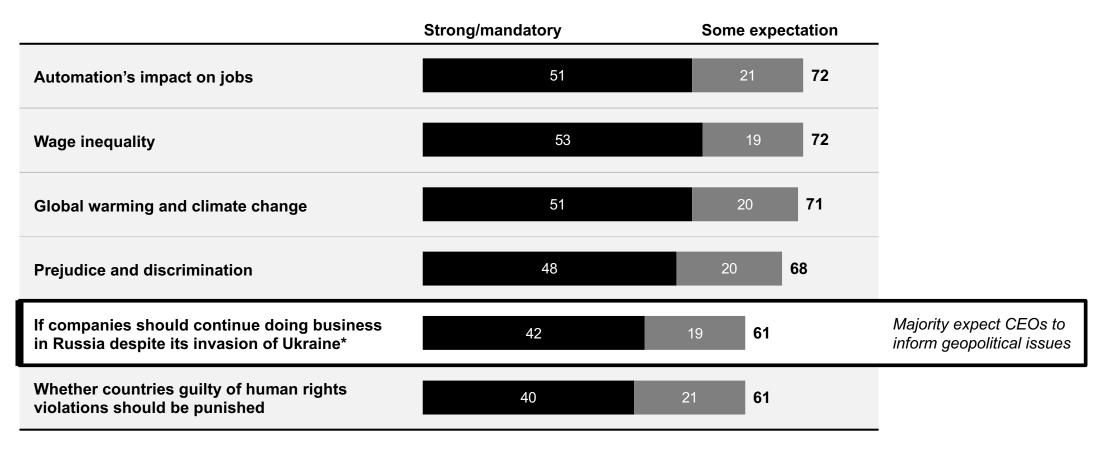
...threaten our national security rather than waiting for government to impose sanctions

64%

62%

### CEOS EXPECTED TO SHAPE POLICY ON SOCIETAL AND GEOPOLITICAL ISSUES

Percent who expect CEOs to inform and shape conversations and policy debates about each issue

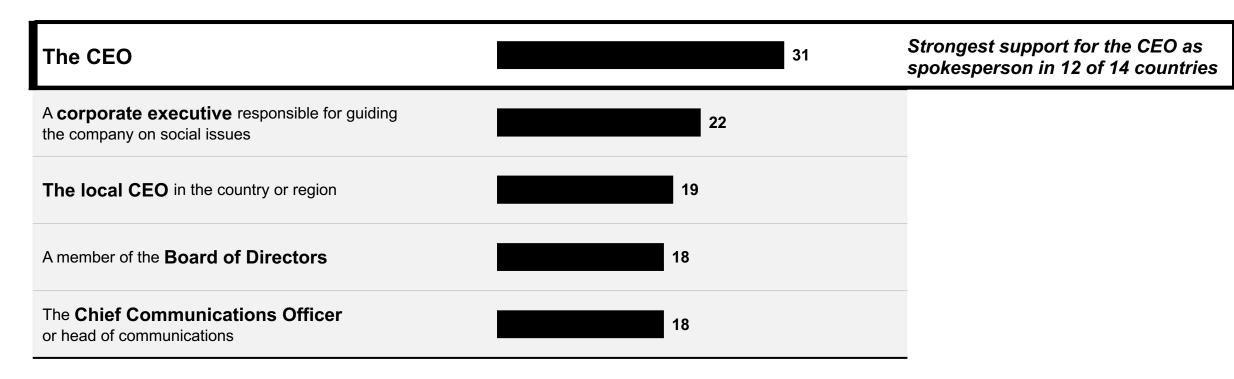


**2022 Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report: The Geopolitical Business.** CEO\_RSP. For each of the following topics, please indicate to what degree corporate CEOs should be held responsible for directly helping to inform and shape ongoing conversations and policy debates. 5-point scale; top 2 box, strong/mandatory; code 3, some expectation. Question asked of half of the sample. General population, 13-mkt avg. \* Attribute not asked in China. For the full question text, please refer to the appendix.

### CEO MUST BE FRONTLINE COMMUNICATOR ON SOCIAL AND GEOPOLITICAL ISSUES

Percent who say

A company should use the following spokesperson to communicate its response to a contentious social or geopolitical issue



**2022** Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report: The Geopolitical Business. DRV\_FOR. If a company wants to communicate credibly and effectively to you about its stand on a contentious social or geopolitical issue, and what actions it is planning to take to address that issue, who should they use to deliver their message? Pick all that apply. Question asked of half of the sample. General population, 14-mkt avg. For the full question text, please refer to the appendix.

### GEOPOLITICS AND THE STAKES FOR BUSINESS

1

Geopolitics is here to stay

Geopolitics now front and center for CEOs, with a prominent place on the business agenda

2

Societal issues at the fore

Business must continue to prioritize societal issues and close the income-based trust divide

3

Economic growth and financial stability still the core remit

Business must mitigate against impact of economic downturn on society

4

CEOs must lead from the front

CEOs expected to be the face of company policies and actions on geopolitics





#### 2022 Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report

### **Business and Racial Justice in America**

Fieldwork: April 19 – April 25, 2022

#### Fieldwork for other data cited:

April 2021: collected between April 19 and 26, 2021

May 2022\*: collected between May 17 and 20, 2022, the week following the May 14 Tops grocery store shooting in Buffalo. NY

\*Note: the sample sizes collected in May vary from those in the rest of this report.

#### Margin of error:

- U.S. total margin of error: +/- 2.2% (n=2,000)
- Ethnicity-specific data margin of error: Non-Hispanic White +/-2.7% (n=1,283); Black, Hispanic, and Asian +/- 4.4% (n=500)

#### **U.S. Online Survey**

- 2,000 general population respondents
- All data is nationally representative based on age, region, gender, ethnicity
- Racial and ethnic segments

White n=1,283

Black n=500

Hispanic n=500

Asian\*\* n=500

All racial and ethnic segments are nationally representative based on age, region and gender

#### **Demographic Composition**

Northeast	19%	Male	49%	Republican	28%
Midwest	23%	Female	51%	Democrat	44%
South	36%			Ind./Third-party	23%
West	22%	18-34	29%		
		35-54	34%		
		55+	37%		

<sup>\*\*</sup>Asian includes Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders

## EMPLOYERS FAIL TO HEED GROWING CALL FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

#### 2020 - 2022:

### AMERICA IN A STATE OF CONSTANT ELEVATED ANXIETY OVER RACISM

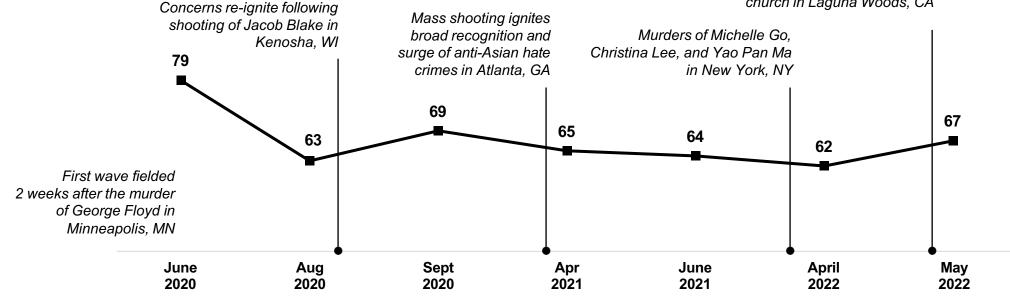
Percent who say

I am **concerned** about systemic racism and racial injustice in this country

U.S. general population

Racially-motivated mass shooting at Tops grocery store in Buffalo, NY

Shooting at Taiwanese church in Laguna Woods, CA



#### **MAY 2022:**

### RACISM FEARS SURGE ACROSS COMMUNITIES FOLLOWING RACIALLY-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

Percent who say

#### May 14, 2022

Mass shooting at Tops grocery store in Buffalo, NY

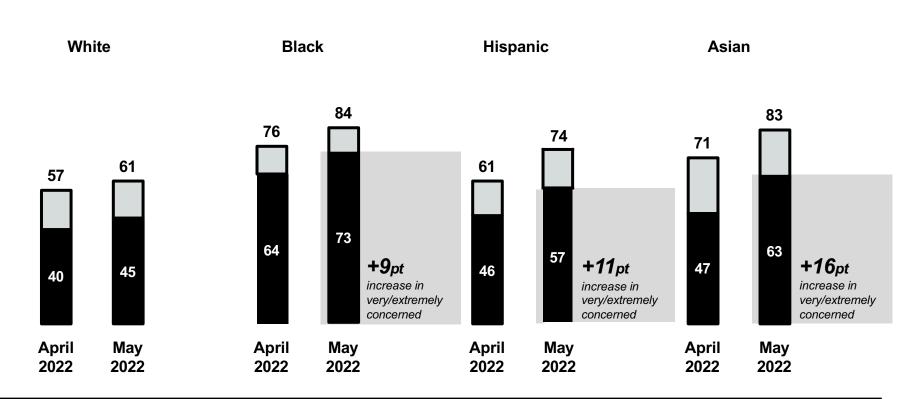
#### May 15, 2022

Shooting at Taiwanese church in Laguna Woods, CA

I am **concerned** about systemic racism and racial injustice in this country

Percent who are concerned

Percent who are very/extremely concerned



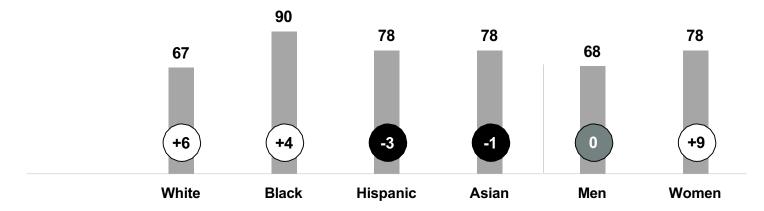
### RECOGNITION OF RACIAL INJUSTICE GROWS ACROSS DEMOGRAPHICS

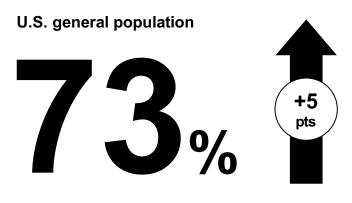
Change, Apr 2021 to Apr 2022

Percent who say

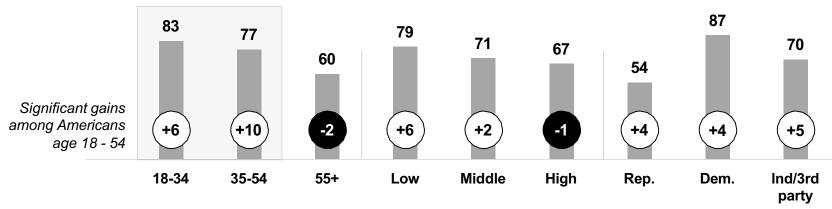
I believe systemic racism and racial injustice exist in this country

Communities | Gender









### MAJORITY OF AMERICANS AGES 18 TO 54 NOW IN THE FIGHT FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Percent who say they have done each in response to racism in this country

#### I have advocated or acted against racism

#### **Advocates only**

Supported product boycotts

Posted anti-racist content

Signed petitions to support anti-racist initiatives

"Liked" or reposted anti-racist content

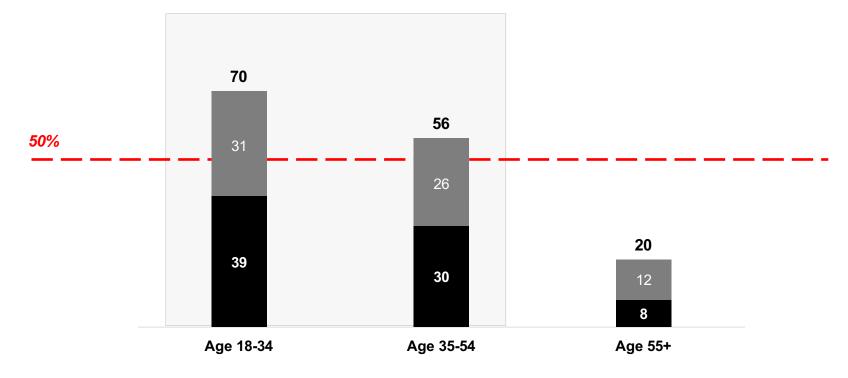
#### **Activists**

Attended public protests

Communicated with political or business leaders

Campaigned for political candidates

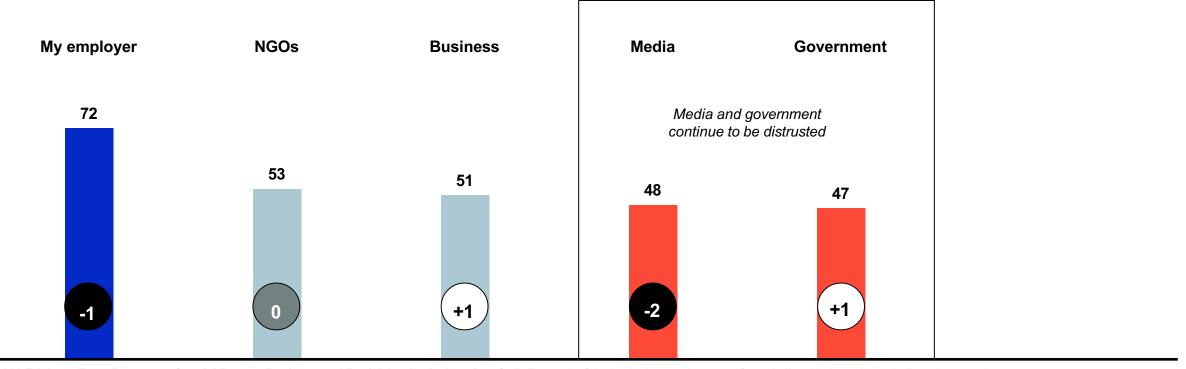
Volunteered with organizations fighting racism



### MY EMPLOYER REMAINS ONLY INSTITUTION TRUSTED ON RACISM RESPONSE

Among those who believe racism exists, percent who trust each to do what is right when it comes to responding to systemic racism and racial injustice in this country





**2022 Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report: Business and Racial Justice in America.** Q7A. For each of the institutions and groups of people listed below, please indicate how much you trust them to do what is right when it comes to responding to the problem of systemic racism and racial injustice in this country. 9-point scale; top 4 box, trust. General population, U.S. "My employer" only shown to those who are an employee of an organization (Q43/1). Data is filtered to be among those who say they personally believe that systemic racism and racial injustice exists in this country today (Q7/1).

### RACIAL JUSTICE AT WORK: EMPLOYEES RAISE THE STAKES

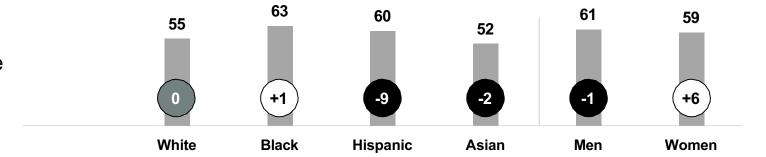
### EMPLOYEES CHOOSE OR LEAVE JOBS OVER THEIR EMPLOYER'S RACISM RESPONSE

Change, Apr 2021 to Apr 2022

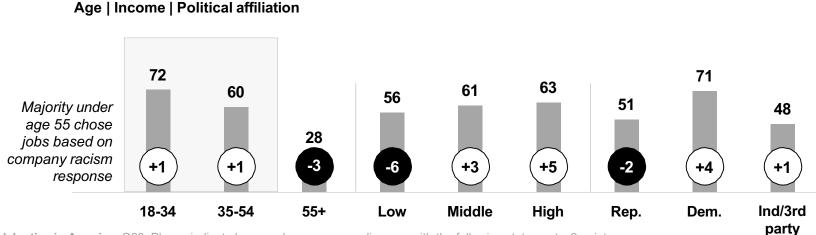
Percent of employees who agree

Communities | Gender

I would not work for an organization that fails to speak out against racial injustice, or I have left a job in the last year because the organization has failed to address racism







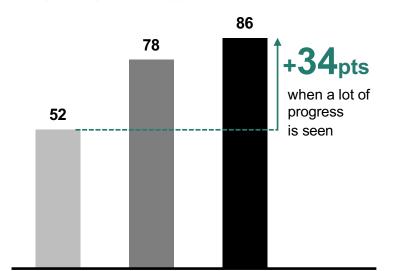
### MORE EMPLOYEE LOYALTY, ADVOCACY, AND COMMITMENT WITH MEANINGFUL PROGRESS ON RACIAL JUSTICE

Percent of employees who agree with each statement, across amount of progress seen

How much meaningful progress has your employer made addressing racism and racial inequities in the workplace?

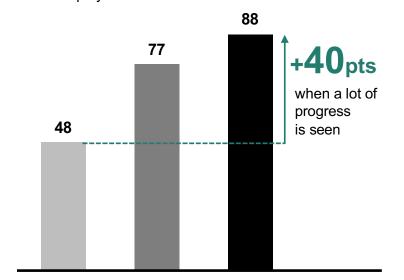


### LOYALTY I want to stay working for my employer for many years



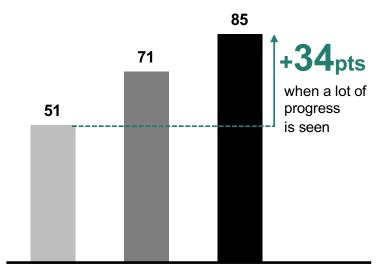
#### EMPLOYER ADVOCACY I would recommend my employer

as an employer to others



#### COMMITMENT

I do more than what is expected to help my employer succeed



**2022 Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report: Business and Racial Justice in America.** EMP\_ENG. Thinking about your current employer, to what extent do you agree with the following statements? 9-point scale; top 4 box, agree. Question asked of those who are an employee of an organization (Q43/1). "Loyalty" is attribute 1; "Advocacy" is attribute 3; "Commitment" is an average of attributes 4-6. General population, U.S., among those who see a lot progress (WORK PROG/1), some progress (WORK PROG/2) or no progress (WORK PROG/3-4).

### EMPLOYERS FAIL TO LIVE UP TO THEIR PROMISES

### LESS THAN 1 IN 4 EMPLOYEES REPORT A WORKPLACE FREE OF RACISM

Percent of employees who say this is true of their organization

	U.S. employees		White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
My work environment is free of microaggressions		24	23	23	24	25
We are free of racist traditions/people		23	22	22	25	20

### LESS THAN 1 IN 4 EMPLOYEES REPORT A REPRESENTATIVE WORKPLACE

Percent of employees who say this is true of their organization

	U.S. employees	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
Our <b>workforce</b> is racially representative	23	24	22	22	29
Mid-level <b>managers</b> are racially representative	19	18	20	19	17
We have diverse <b>suppliers</b>	19	14	22	27	22
Our <b>executive leadership</b> team is racially representative	16	15	17	18	13
Our <b>Board of Directors</b> is racially representative	14	10	14	16	11

**2022 Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report: Business and Racial Justice in America.** IDEAL\_WRKPL. Which of the following, if any, are true of the organization you work for? Question asked of those who are an employee of an organization (Q43/1). General population, U.S., and among Non-Hispanic White, Black, Hispanic and Asian populations. For the full question text, please refer to the appendix.

### ONLY 1 IN 4 CAN COUNT ON THEIR EMPLOYER FOR EQUITY AND INCLUSION

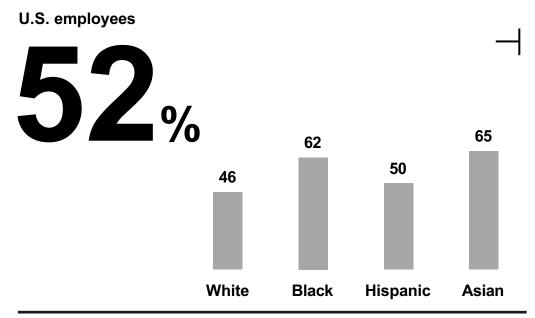
Percent of employees who say this is true of their organization

	U.S. employees	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
Pay equity across employees	25	25	25	29	21
Programs for <b>career development</b> of racially diverse employees	21	18	22	25	19
Community initiatives that serve the needs of all racial and ethnic communities	20	20	19	21	19
Employee assistance programs for diverse employees	19	19	18	19	18

### LACK OF DEI LEADERSHIP IMPEDES EMPLOYER PROGRESS ON RACISM

Percent of employees who say

I do not see my company making much progress addressing racism and racial inequity in the workplace



Among those that don't see much progress, top 5 reasons why (shown in rank order)

No one is tasked with leading DEI initiatives

Too many employees worry DEI initiatives would exclude them

Executives do not prioritize eliminating racial inequities

Executives do not see racism as a problem

No one has called for DEI

**2022 Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report: Business and Racial Justice in America.** WORK\_PROG. Do you feel that the organization you work for is making meaningful progress when it comes to addressing racism and racial inequities in your workplace? 5-point scale; codes 2-4; not much or any progress. Question asked to those who are an employee of an organization (Q43/1). General population, U.S., and among Non-Hispanic White, Black, Hispanic and Asian populations. WHY\_NO\_ACT. You said that you are not seeing any or much meaningful progress from the organization you work for when it comes to addressing racism and racial inequities. Why do you feel your organization is not making much or any progress? Pick all that apply. Question asked to those who are not seeing a lot of meaningful progress (WORK\_PROG/2-4). General population, U.S. Data on the right is in rank order, showing the top 5, with ties broken by nearest decimal place. "None of the above" is excluded from the ranking. For the full question text, please refer to the appendix.

#### HEAD OF DEI LACKS CREDIBILITY; NO SINGLE VOICE TRUSTED

- 0 +

Change, Apr 2021 to Apr 2022

Percent of employees who say

I **trust each to tell me the truth** about racism, diversity, equity and inclusion within my organization

Highest agreement among each community

	U.S. employees		White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
I do not trust anyone in the organization	+3	26	28	26	26	32
My racially diverse co-workers	+1	28	26	33	28	33
My direct boss/supervisor	(-1)	27	27	22	28	24
Head of HR	+1	24	24	22	24	21
The CEO	+2	24	27	19	23	15
Racially diverse executives	0	20	20	21	20	14
Head of DEI	<b>(-3)</b> 18		19	20	16	19

**2022 Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report: Business and Racial Justice in America.** VOICES. Which of the following people do you trust to tell you the truth about racism, diversity, equity and inclusion matters within the organization you work for? Pick all that apply. Question asked of those who are an employee of an organization (Q43/1). General population, U.S., and among Non-Hispanic White, Black, Hispanic and Asian populations.

### ONLY 4 IN 10 AGREE DEI INITIATIVES BENEFIT ALL EMPLOYEES

Percent who say each group benefits from workplace diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives

	U.S. general population	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
All employees	38	39	40	37	48
Black employees	21	20	23	20	17
Hispanic employees	14	12	13	20	11
Asian employees	12	11	10	11	14
White employees	9	9	12	10	7
No one. I do not feel anyone benefits	19	22	15	13	15

# RACISMAT WORK: AN URGENT NEED FOR LEADERSHIP AND ACTION

### THE FIGHT FOR RACIAL JUSTICE: COMPANIES MUST KEEP THE PROMISES THEY'VE MADE

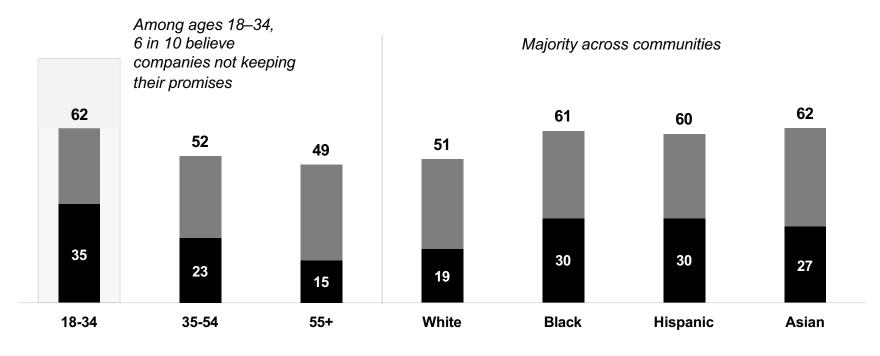
Percent who say

I believe companies are not living up to the promises they have made to address racism within their organization and the country

Companies are doing mediocre

Companies are failing/doing poorly

#### Age | Communities



#### **GET EDUCATED AND LEAD DEI EFFORTS**

Percent who say

#### I expect CEOs to do something in

response to systemic racism and racial injustice

#### Top 5 actions CEOs expected to take:

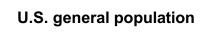
Institute a policy of zero tolerance of racism

Educate themselves on issues that impact communities

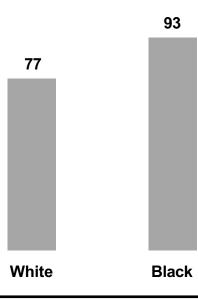
Ensure their workforce at all levels is representative of the country as a whole

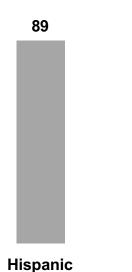
Ensure there is diversity on the company's board

Foster the career growth of Black, Hispanic and Asian employees



82%







#### **EQUITY AMONG URGENT ISSUES FOR CEOS TO ADDRESS**

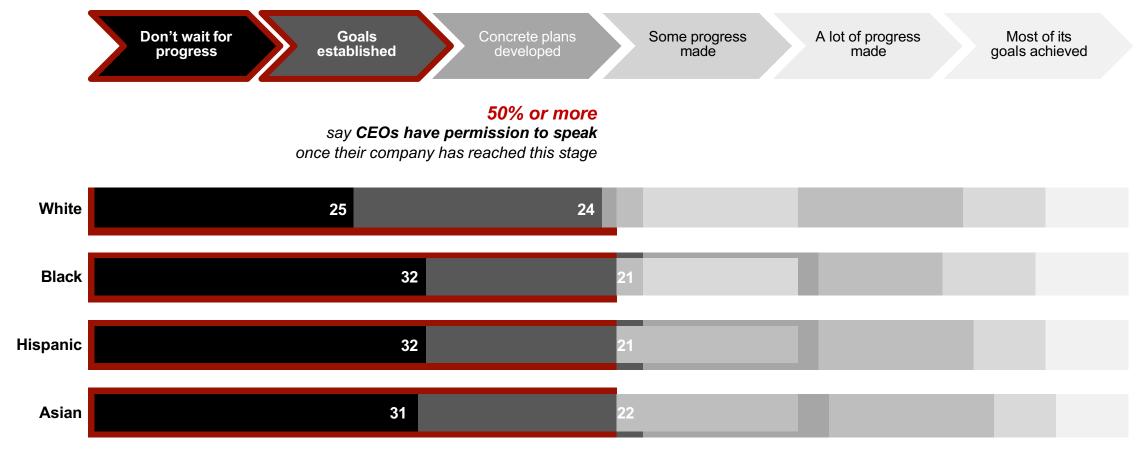
Percent who **expect CEOs to inform and shape conversations and policy debates** about each issue

	Strong/ mandatory	Some expectation	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
Wage inequality	45	67	66	76	71	75
Technology and automation's impact on jobs	38	63	61	70	66	69
Prejudice and discrimination	41	62	57	73	69	71
Global warming and climate change	40	61	56	68	66	69
Whether companies should continue doing business in Russia		61	59	63	62	70
Systemic racism and racial injustice	41	60	56	76	66	68
Gender inequality	38	59	54	70	69	69
Immigration	31	54	49	63	64	53
LGBTQIA+ rights	32	53	49	66	58	60

**2022 Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report: Business and Racial Justice in America.** CEO\_RSP. For each of the following topics, please indicate to what degree corporate CEOs should be held responsible for directly helping to inform and shape ongoing conversations and policy debates. 5-point scale; top 2 box, strong/mandatory; code 3, some expectation. Question asked of half of the sample. General population, U.S., and among Non-Hispanic White, Black, Hispanic and Asian populations.

#### **CEOS: DON'T WAIT FOR PROGRESS TO TAKE A STAND**

Percent who say: **Before a CEO speaks out on racism, how far along** should their own company be in achieving racial equity and diversity goals?



**2022** Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report: Business and Racial Justice in America. HOU\_ORD. Before a CEO speaks out on the issue of racism in this country, how far along should their organization be in achieving its own racial equity- and diversity-related goals? U.S., among Non-Hispanic White, Black, Hispanic and Asian populations. Data is rebased to exclude those that said, "a CEO should NOT publicly speak out on this issue...".

### BUSINESS AND THE FIGHT FOR RACIAL JUSTICE: FROM WORDS TO MEANINGFUL ACTION

1

#### **Action earns trust**

The majority of Americans under age 55 will support or avoid companies and employers based on their racism response and culture of inclusion.

2

### **Empower and embed DEI across operations**

Employers must set clear DEI commitments, allocate resources, and provide support, access and visibility to DEI leaders. 3

### CEOs must show personal commitment

The CEO must set the tone and demonstrate a personal commitment to get educated about systemic racism, and to create accountability and action.

4

### Drive structural and cultural change

Go beyond the words to show measurable progress on representation, create an inclusive workplace culture and enforce zero tolerance of discrimination.