

ADVERTISEMENT
•
GO AD FREE

<u>NASA</u>

Workers at NASA Told to 'Drop Everything' to Scrub Mentions of Indigenous People, Women from Its Websites

SAMANTHA COLE

• FEB 4, 2025 AT 9:50 AM

"This is a drop everything and reprioritize your day request," a directive "per NASA HQ direction" stated.

PHOTO BY BENJAMIN RECINOS / UNSPLASH

NASA personnel were told to "drop everything" to scrub public sites of mentions of DEI, indigenous people, environmental justice, and women in leadership, according to a directive obtained by 404 Media.

The directive, sent on January 22 and obtained by 404 Media, states:

"Per NASA HQ direction, we are required to scrub mentions of the following terms from our public sites by 5pm ET today. This is a drop everything and reprioritize your day request. Note that the list below is the list that exists this morning, but it may grow as the day goes on.

- DEIA
- Diversity (in context of DEIA)
- Equity (" ")
- Inclusion (" ")
- Accessibility (" ")
- MSI
- Minority Serving Institution
- Indigenous People
- EEJ
- EJ
- Environmental Justice

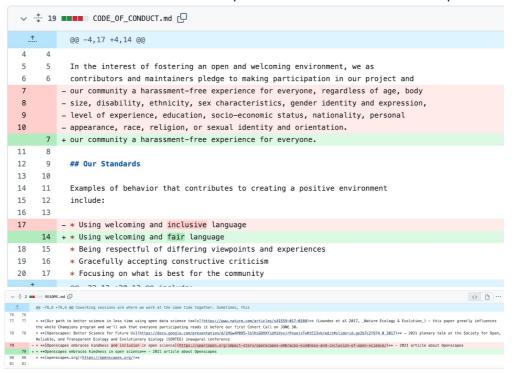
- Underrepresented groups/people
- Anything specifically targeting women (women in leadership, etc.)"

?

Do you have anything to share related to this story, NASA or SpaceX? We would love to hear from you. Using a non-work device, you can message me securely on Signal at sam.404. Otherwise, send me an email at sam@404media.co.

By now, Trump's war on "DEI" is well documented. But the directive shows the specific words that some agencies were asked to delete, providing a clearer picture of how agencies have been asked to scrub information. A NASA employee told 404 Media "we were absolutely required to scrub all DEI related or DEI adjacent topics and terms from all external websites by 5pm the 22nd, which was a drop everything and get it done task." 404 Media granted the employee anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Many of these changes are visible on publicly-available NASA Github repositories, where NASA pages have been edited to change, for example "inclusive" to "fair." "Inclusion" has also been deleted from promotional materials about competitions.



These changes are a result of President Donald Trump's executive order "Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing." Civil servants across the federal government have had to divert their attention from normal operations to attempt to comply with Trump's gender- and diversity-obsessed orders the last few weeks, including <u>Social Security Administration sites</u> removing information about sex designations, the Department of Labor sites about discrimination at work, <u>CDC websites</u>, and informational videos <u>about the use of pronouns</u>. The NASA Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity website was taken offline, too.

Github repositories have been a <u>public view of many of these removals.</u>

<u>In an email to staff</u> after Trump's DEI order, NASA acting administrator Janet Petro—

the first woman to hold the position since its founding 67 years ago—wrote that diversity programs "divided Americans by race, wasted taxpayer dollars, and resulted in shameful discrimination," and accused "some in government" of attempting to somehow sneak in diversity and inclusion efforts.

As Inc. pointed out, NASA is not an exceptionally "diverse" workplace: A 2024 report from the NASA Office of Inspector General said that despite diversity efforts, NASA "made little progress in increasing the representation of women and minorities in its civilian workforce or leadership ranks. Specifically, over the past decade NASA's overall workforce demographics have stayed roughly the same." At the same time, astronaut selection, which involves sorting through thousands of highly qualified candidates, has in the recent past (and during Trump's first term) attempted to represent what Americans actually look like and the backgrounds they come from, including women and people of color.

When Petro took on the role to lead NASA, she wrote on LinkedIn that she would remain "steadfast in our commitment to NASA's mission and core values." In 2021, when she was the director of Kennedy Space Center, she spoke at length in an interview about the value of diversity, saying "our commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility has been paramount to mission success." In that interview, she went on to reflect on how "committed" she was to making paths for women and minorities in her field: "Since the beginning of my professional journey, I have been in the minority of the organization I belonged to—whether it was flying helicopters in the Army or working as a mechanical engineer or program manager in a commercial aerospace company," she said. "I often found myself either the only female, or only one of a couple. There weren't many minorities either. [...] I am, therefore, profoundly committed to promoting opportunities for growth for all. A big part of this is ensuring an environment where everyone feels included, has a voice and feels safe to express their opinions."

Jason Koebler contributed reporting to this piece.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sam Cole is writing from the far reaches of the internet, about sexuality, the adult industry, online culture, and AI. She's the author of How Sex Changed the Internet and the Internet Changed Sex.

MORE FROM SAMANTHA COLE

MORE LIKE THIS

to Push AI on the Government

404 Media has obtained audio of a meeting held by Thomas Shedd, a Musk-associate who is now heading a team of government coders. In the call one employee pushed back and said one of the planned moves is an "illegal task."

JASON KOEBLER ,

JOSEPH COX ,

EMANUEL MAIBERG .

FEB 4, 2025

Here's a PDF Version of the CIA Guide to Sabotaging Fascism

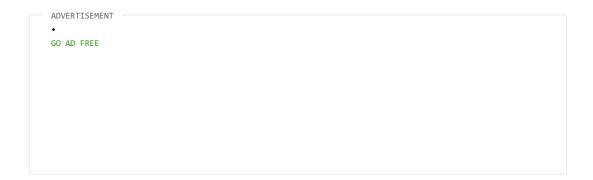
A 404 Media reader made a PDF version of the World War II-era manual that's going viral right now.

JASON KOEBLER
• FEB 4, 2025

Al-Generated Slop Is Already In Your Public Library

Librarians say that taxpayers are already paying for low quality Al-generated ebooks in public libraries.

EMANUEL MAIBERG
• FEB 4, 2025



Unparalleled access to hidden worlds both online and IRL.

404 Media is a new independent media company founded by technology journalists Jason Koebler, Emanuel Maiberg, Samantha Cole, and Joseph Cox.

Maiberg, Samantha Cole, and Joseph Cox.	
About	
<u>RSS</u>	
Support/FAQ	
<u>Podcast</u>	
FOIA Forum Archive	
<u>Merch</u>	
<u>Advertise</u>	
<u>Thanks</u>	
<u>Privacy</u>	
Twitter Bluesky Mastodon Instagram TikTok Facebook RSS	
Join the newsletter to get the latest updates.	
Your email	



© 2025 404 MEDIA. PUBLISHED WITH GHOST.