

PRIVATIZATION RED FLAGS

There are often several warning signs that indicate a service may be shifted from public to private ownership or delivery

REPORTS & REVIEWS

Governments will sometimes conduct or commission reports or efficiency reviews that can be used to promote privatization. Be mindful of the motivations behind these publications.

UNDERFUNDING

When services don't receive the funding they need, it's easier for the government to point to privatization as a possible solution. People become dissatisfied with the quality of service they're receiving, and private companies offer an alternative.

CONSULTANTS

Large consulting firms work closely with private corporations and often stand to profit from privatization. If a government or employer is working closely with corporate consultants, it could be a sign that public services are at risk.

RESTRUCTURING

Restructuring can be a way for governments to begin the process of privatization. Watch out for job cuts or positions going unfilled, which may indicate that private contractors may be hired to complete work that was previously public.

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PRIVATIZATION BY STEALTH

Privatization comes in many different forms. Keep an eye out for the different ways services may be privatized, including public-private partnerships (P3s), contracting out, applying user fees or privatizing small portions of a service over time.

CONSERVATIVE FISCAL POLICY

Watch out for governments looking to decrease spending and cut taxes. In these cases, privatization is sometimes proposed as a quick way to balance the budget. In reality, privatization often comes with hidden or indirect costs that don't actually end up saving money.



REPORT PRIVATIZATION RUMOURS

If you suspect your workplace may be at risk of being privatized, you can fill out a reporting form on the Anti-Privatization Committee webpage.