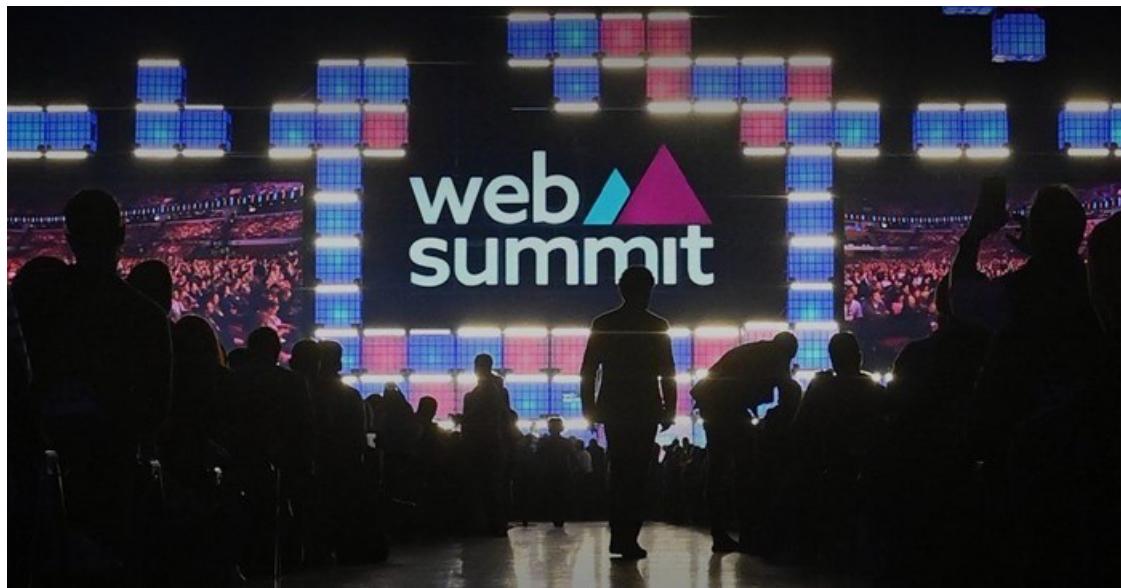


# Web Summit faces mass withdrawals over CEO's remarks

By [Lindsey Schutters](#)

23 Oct 2023

Web Summit, one of the world's major tech conferences, is facing a mass exodus of US delegates. The reason? Controversial comments made by the event's CEO and cofounder, Paddy Cosgrave, about the Israel-Hamas conflict.



Cosgrave's criticism of Western support for Israel following attacks by Hamas has sparked a backlash of epic proportions. The fallout has led to a boycott of the event by several high-profile companies and speakers.



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Among those who have withdrawn their participation are tech giants Intel, Siemens, Google, Meta (formerly Facebook), Amazon Web Services, and Stripe. Notable speakers such as Y Combinator CEO Garry Tan and Sequoia Capital investor Ravi Gupta have also cancelled their appearances.

Marketing and economics professor, author (*The Algebra of Happiness*) and cohost of the *Pivot* podcast Scott Galloway also withdrew from his appearance at the conference, saying in a [recent episode](#) that "the thinly veiled antisemitism" in the media needs to be addressed.

It is worth noting that Galloway is a self-proclaimed atheist, but he is of Jewish descent with family in Israel.

Despite Cosgrave's attempts to retract his comments and issue an apology, the boycott has continued to gain momentum. [Cosgrave subsequently announced his resignation](#) as the leader of Web Summit.

The event is still scheduled to take place.

## ABOUT LINDSEY SCHUTTERS

Lindsey is the editor for ICT, Construction&Engineering and Energy&Mining at Bizcommunity

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