

Taiwan amends three laws on sexual harassment after recent #MeToo wave

By Huizhong Wu
The Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Taiwan has amended three laws governing sexual harassment in a special session of the legislature, after a wave of #MeToo accusations hit the island.

The changes approved in July include higher penalties and longer periods for victims to come forward and report an incident to authorities. The changes are an attempt to address issues raised by recent accusations of sexual violence in Taiwan.

Taiwan has three laws governing sexual harassment: one for the workplace, one for schools, and one that covers spheres outside those two domains.

Under the workplace law, employers can now be fined up to 1 million New Taiwan Dollars (\$31,680) if they fail to address sexual harassment complaints. Employers are also required to report cases to the local division of their labor department.

The education law explicitly makes it illegal for educators to have a romantic relationship with students under the age of 18. Further, principals and teachers who fail to report to the Ministry of Education a sexual harassment allegation within 24 hours can be fined.

Legislators also extended the penalty for sexual harassment to three years in jail under the Sexual Harassment Prevention Act, and raised the heaviest fine to 600,000 New Taiwan dollars (\$19,000).

Taiwan's #MeToo movement was reignited in May when a young woman who worked for the ruling Democratic Progressive Party accused film director



Hsueh Chao-hui of groping her and making unwanted sexual advances.

Chen Chien-jou, who identified herself publicly while making the accusation, wrote that she did not just want to let it go, quoting a line from a Taiwanese TV show

called “Wavemakers.” More accusations of sexual harassment followed from other Taiwanese women against politicians, before spreading to other areas including entertainment, music, and schools.

The new amendments also plug certain

Australian senate committee recommends government ban on TikTok be extended to WeChat

By Rod McGuirk
The Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia — An Australian senate committee has recommended a ban on the Chinese-owned video-sharing app TikTok from federal government devices be extended to China's most popular social media platform, WeChat.

The Committee on Foreign Interference through Social Media also recommended in a report that social media giants such as Facebook and Twitter should become more transparent or be fined.

Committee chair James Paterson said

the report's recommendations would make Australia a more difficult target for the serious foreign interference risks that the nation faced.

“It tackles both the problems posed by authoritarian-headquartered social media platforms like TikTok and WeChat and western-headquartered social media platforms being weaponized by the actions of authoritarian governments including Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter,” Paterson told reporters.

The committee was established last year to examine uses of social media that undermine Australia's democracy and values,

#MeToo TAIWAN. In this image made from June 2, 2023 video provided by the Democratic Progressive Party, Hsu Li-ming, secretary general of the Democratic Progressive Party, second left, leads other members to bow at a news conference offering an apology to victims who say they were sexually harassed as well as the public, in Taipei, Taiwan. Taiwan is facing a long-delayed reckoning with sexual harassment and sexual violence. People have recently stepped forward with accusations, one after the other, leading to criminal investigations, resignations at different levels of government, and a society-wide discussion of the unspoken rules that govern gender norms in society. (Democratic Progressive Party via AP)

loopholes, such as requiring small businesses and companies with fewer than 30 people but more than 10 to set up mechanisms for reporting sexual harassment. Small businesses were previously exempt from such a requirement.

More than 90% of businesses in Taiwan have 30 people or fewer, said Chen Wan-hui, a legislator in the Taiwan People's Party.

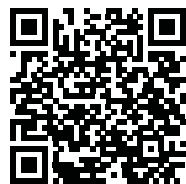
including the spread of misinformation and disinformation.

The committee found that China and other authoritarian regimes continue to pose an unacceptable risk to democracies through targeted online disinformation campaigns that leverage social media platforms to skew public debate and undermine trust in institutions.

The committee was particularly concerned by ByteDance-owned TikTok and Tencent-owned WeChat, which is popular with the Chinese diaspora in Australia, because they were run by Chinese authorities.

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- AUGUST 7**
Mobile Showers
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
4244 SE 91st Ave, Portland
- AUGUST 10**
Street Roots
9-10:30 a.m.
211 NW Davis St, Portland
- Mobile Showers**
11-2 p.m.
247 SE 82nd Ave, Portland
- AUGUST 12**
Neighborhood Health Center
Community Resource Fair
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
155 N 1st Ave, Hillsboro
- AUGUST 14**
Clark Center (for residents only)
9-11 a.m.
1437 SE MLK Blvd, Portland
- Doreen's Place (for residents only)**
12-2 p.m.
610 NW Broadway St, Portland
- AUGUST 15**
Union Gospel Mission
2-3 p.m.
3 NW 3rd Ave, Portland
- AUGUST 21**
Mobile Showers
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
4244 SE 91st Ave, Portland
- AUGUST 24**
Street Roots
9-10:30 a.m.
211 NW Davis St, Portland

- Mobile Showers**
11-2 p.m.
247 SE 82nd Ave, Portland
- AUGUST 26**
Love Your Neighbor
12-2 p.m.
526 SE Grand Ave, Portland
- AUGUST 28**
Doreen's Place (for residents only)
12-2 p.m.
610 NW Broadway St, Portland
- AUGUST 29**
Union Gospel Mission
2-3 p.m.
3 NW 3rd Ave, Portland
- SEPTEMBER 5**
Resource Center
9-11 a.m.
650 NW Irving St, Portland
- River District Navigation Center**
(for residents only)
11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
1111 NW Naito Pkwy, Portland
- Jean's Place (for residents only)**
1:30-3:30 p.m.
18 NE 11th Ave, Portland

