

## FACTSHEET ON THE PROTECTION FROM HARASSMENT ACT 2014

### What the Act is about

- Defines harassment.
- Provides a range of self-help measures, civil remedies and criminal sanctions to protect against harassment and related anti-social behaviour.
- Includes illustrations that describe situations of sexual harassment, cyber-bullying and bullying of children, for greater clarity.

### The Act strengthens existing laws

- Sections 13A to 13D of the Miscellaneous Offences (Public Order and Nuisance) Act (Cap 184) **presently** criminalise harassment and the threat or provocation of violence and are within the new Act. In addition:
  - The same standards of what constitutes harassment will now apply online.
  - Harassment acts committed outside Singapore will now be an offence where there is sufficient nexus with the victim in Singapore.
- Section 13D of the Miscellaneous Offences (Public Order and Nuisance) Act (Cap 184) **presently** protects public servants from harassment that they encounter when exercising their duties as public servants.
  - The new Act extends this protection to public service workers i.e. workers who deliver essential public services, such as public healthcare workers and public transport workers.
- Penalties will be increased to reflect the seriousness of the harassing conduct, and enhanced penalties will be provided for repeat offenders.

### What's new

- Stalking will become an offence.
- Aside from damages which victims can sue for today, a victim of harassment will also be able to apply to the Courts for Protection Orders against harassers, requiring the harasser to desist from doing anything as specified in the order.
- Where the harassment involves the publication of offending material about the victim, the Court may also give a Protection Order that requires the harasser or a third party (such as the website administrator or publisher) to remove the offending material.

- Where the circumstances warrant urgent action, the Court can grant an Expedited Protection Order.
- Where a false statement of fact about a person has been published, the Court can direct a notification to be published which alerts readers that the facts are false and brings attention to the true facts.

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