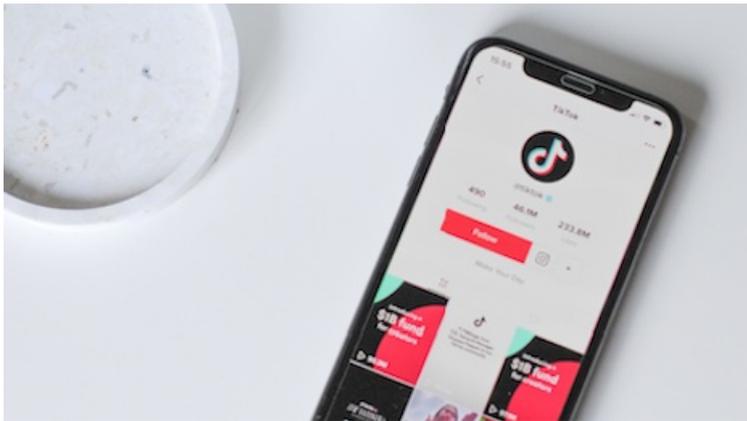


SOFTWARE AND TECHNOLOGY

TikTok facing lawsuit from moderators citing psychological trauma

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As platforms like TikTok grow in momentous popularity, many wonder how employees of such companies are supported, and whether or not they are left to fend for themselves. Image credit: Unsplash

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Former moderators of short-form video sharing platform TikTok are suing the company, citing harrowing work experiences.

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TikTok, which boasts an average of 1 billion monthly users, has recently welcomed a massive influx of luxury brands that are attempting to reach younger consumers. The new lawsuit against the company shines a light on the darker side of social media, however, as well as the ways that companies fail to protect and support their employees.

Drawing the line

As platforms like TikTok grow in momentous popularity, many wonder how employees of such companies are supported, and whether or not they are left to fend for themselves.

The lawsuit is an obvious and notable black eye for the successful platform which has recently seen a great deal of luxury activity, with brands including Louis Vuitton, Dior, Gucci and others holding accounts that boast more than 1 million followers.



The lawsuit claims that both former moderators worked 12-hour days reviewing distressing content including "child sexual abuse, rape, torture, bestiality, beheadings, suicide and murder." Image credit: Getty

Ms. Velez joins another former TikTok moderator, Reece Young, in filing a federal lawsuit against TikTok and its parent company ByteDance.

The two individuals are seeking class-action status, which would permit other TikTok content moderators who also experienced similar negative instances to join the lawsuit.

The lawsuit claims that both former moderators worked 12-hour days reviewing distressing content including "child sexual abuse, rape, torture, bestiality, beheadings, suicide and murder."

This is not the only piece of unfortunate news TikTok has recently faced.

Earlier this month, TikTok was accused of having negative effects on the mental health of kids, teens and young adults by several U.S. states.

Leading the investigation is a bipartisan coalition of attorneys general from California, Florida, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, Tennessee and Vermont. According to a statement from the Massachusetts attorney general's office, the investigation will look into the harm TikTok may cause to young people and what the platform knew about this harm ([see story](#)).

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