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ACTS SUPPLEMENT

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The following Act was passed by Parliament on 13th March 2014 and assented to by the President on 11th April 2014:—

PROTECTION FROM HARASSMENT ACT 2014

(No. 17 of 2014)

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REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

No. 17 of 2014.

I assent.

ⓁS

TONY TAN KENG YAM,
President.
11th April 2014.

An Act to protect persons against harassment and unlawful stalking and to create offences, and provide civil remedies related thereto or in relation to false statements of fact, and to make consequential amendments to other written laws.

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

PART I
PRELIMINARY

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Protection from Harassment Act 2014 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“communication” means any words, image, message, expression, symbol or other representation, that can be heard, seen or otherwise perceived by any person;

“offending communication”, in relation to any contravention of a provision under this Act, means any communication or statement made in contravention of that provision;

“publish”, in relation to a communication or statement, means to make the communication or statement available in any form such that the communication or statement is or can be heard, seen or otherwise perceived by the public in Singapore or any section of the public in Singapore, and includes cause to be published;

“respondent”, in relation to an action under section 11 or an application for an order under section 12 or 13, in respect of a contravention of a provision of this Act, means the person alleged to have contravened that provision for the purposes of that action or application.

PART II
OFFENCES

Intentionally causing harassment, alarm or distress

3.—(1) No person shall, with intent to cause harassment, alarm or distress to another person, by any means —

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- (a) use any threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour;
or
- (b) make any threatening, abusive or insulting communication,
thereby causing that other person or any other person (each referred to
for the purposes of this section as the victim) harassment, alarm or
distress.
- (2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an
offence and, subject to section 8, shall be liable on conviction to a fine
not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding
6 months or to both.
- (3) In any proceedings for an offence under subsection (2), it is a
defence for the accused person to prove that his conduct was
reasonable.

Illustrations

- (a) X and Y are co-workers. At the workplace, X loudly and graphically
describes to the other co-workers X's desire for a sexual relationship with Y in an
insulting manner. X knows that Y is within earshot and intends to cause Y distress.
Y is distressed. X is guilty of an offence under this section.
- (b) X writes a letter containing threatening words towards Y intending to send
the letter to Y to cause him alarm. X decides not to send the letter and throws it
away. Y finds the letter and is alarmed. X is not guilty of an offence under this
section as he had no reason to believe that the letter would be seen by Y.

Harassment, alarm or distress

4.—(1) No person shall by any means —

- (a) use any threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour;
or
- (b) make any threatening, abusive or insulting communication,
which is heard, seen or otherwise perceived by any person (referred to
for the purposes of this section as the victim) likely to be caused
harassment, alarm or distress.
- (2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an
offence and, subject to section 8, shall be liable on conviction to a fine
not exceeding \$5,000.