

## Uber Faces Sexism Lawsuit

International

Sexism is rife at Uber according to two former employees, who have brought lawsuits against the company.

Unfair pay and workplace discrimination are among the issues raised against the firm in complaints filed with courts in California.

Both were part of Uber's reliability engineering team, the same area as a previous whistleblower, who raised issues earlier this year.

The women have claimed their male colleagues ranked them by their attractiveness.

Susan Fowler, one of the plaintiffs, wrote a blog alleging that her accusations of sexual harassment were brushed aside and that a sexist culture was allowed to flourish.

Her claims led to an investigation which ultimately led to the



[ABOVE] Uber HO, San Francisco and [LEFT] Susan Fowler



departure of CEO Travis Kalanick. Staff members are said to have clauses in their contracts intended to stop them from being able to sue Uber, but

the challenge appears to sidestep the contractual restrictions.

Uber tries to ensure that legal disputes go to arbitration, which often end positively for the company.

A clause in the contracts also requires employees to waive their right to participate in class-action

lawsuits – effectively stopping them from banding together to claim widespread discrimination.

Uber claims it has removed arbitration clauses from contracts and has been reviewing and adjusting salaries.

Separately, a San Antonio-based Uber driver has been accused of raping an unconscious female passenger after taking her to his home.

The man, who has been charged with one count of sexual assault, is said to have picked up a young woman from a downtown San Antonio.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Superhighway Fears Raised

Eyewitnesses have raised concerns about the layout of a cycle superhighway after the death of a pedestrian close to Ludgate Circus.

The victim was struck by a van just before rush hour on Friday, October 20, close to the junction of Fleet Street and New Bridge Street.

Bystanders highlighted a number of issues in the busy area, including the cycle lane and the lack of pedestrian crossings, which they said caused a number of accidents.

It was claimed that pedestrians often risk crossing in dangerous areas without taking account of cyclists and multiple sets of traffic lights changing at once.

One worker said "Yesterday a pedestrian was nearly hit by a cyclist. She was on her phone. She waited on almost identically the same spot. The cyclist had to swerve around her."

London Ambulance Service confirmed a man died at the scene.

## Charity Boxing Night was a Knockout

By Frances Wyhowska

Around 300 cab drivers, friends and family turned out to watch 22 courageous cabbies slugging it out for charity.

The evening was charged with excitement as every participant, one or two of whom were aged 60 plus, provided the audience with an evening of thrills and enormous enjoyment.

The event took place at Carney's Community Centre in Battersea in aid of the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans. The whole evening had a real feel-good factor and digging deep was definitely the theme, whether it was into wallets for the auction



(which raised over £1,000), or hitherto unexplored reserves of energy and commitment as the drivers battled it out in the ring.

The organisers are grateful to the sponsors: TaxiApp, cab:app, MyTaxi, Ubiquitous, Cabbies Accountants, CabVision, the LCDC and above all to the drivers, the boxers, their coach Michael Herring and the referee Mark Reigate.

Thank you all for everything you did to make the evening an unqualified success.

■ For information about the charity or how to volunteer visit the website [taxicharity.org](http://taxicharity.org)



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