

Fourth Journalist Accuses Russian Deputy Slutsky of Sexual Harassment

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State Duma deputy Leonid Slutsky **Stanislav Krasilnikov / TASS**

A fourth journalist in Russia has stepped forward to accuse State Duma deputy Leonid Slutsky of sexual harassment in a rare public outing reminiscent of the global #MeToo movement.

Slutsky threatened to sue an independent Russian outlet after it cited at least three anonymous female correspondents who accused him of sexual harassment in the Duma.

Related article: [Russian Lawmaker Wants Female Journalists Barred From State Duma After Sexual Harassment Complaints](#)

Yekaterina Kotrikadze, the deputy editor-in-chief of the international Russian-language channel RTVI, became the first journalist to openly accuse Slutsky in a live [broadcast](#) on Tuesday.

Kotrikadze said that the lawmaker had locked her inside his office before attempting to touch

and kiss her prior to an interview in 2011.

“I broke loose and ran away,” she said, adding that she kept silent after the incident for fear of repercussions.

Kotrikadze alleged that sexual harassment toward female journalists is widespread across various government institutions in Russia, but noted that victims “never speak of it out loud.”

“We understand there’s no point in this, you only risk incurring insults and accusations of lying,” the deputy editor said.

RTVI editor-in-chief and general producer Alexei Pivovarov expressed support for Kotrikadze and called on Slutsky’s other accusers to come forward publicly.

Following the accusations, Slutsky’s Duma colleague Oksana Pushkina [pledged](#) on Tuesday to introduce a bill criminalizing sexual harassment that has been stuck in committee since 2003.

Related article: [Russian Deputy Vows to Criminalize Sexual Harassment After Duma Scandal](#)

Another Duma deputy said that he backed administrative punishment for harassment “if it worries Russian women.”

“[But] criminal liability is probably too steep a punishment,” Deputy Mikhail Yemelyanov [told](#) the state-run RIA Novosti news agency on Tuesday.

Tamara Pletnyova, the head of the Duma Family, Women and Children Committee, disputed the need for sexual harassment legislation.

“We’re not in America or Europe. Why do we have to copy everything? A woman, if she doesn’t want to, won’t be harassed,” she [told](#) the [Gazeta.ru](#) news website on Tuesday.

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