



**An Bille um Chiapadh, Cumarsáid Dhochrach agus Cionta Gaolmhara (Leasú),
2026**

**Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences (Amendment) Bill
2026**

Mar a tionscnaíodh

As initiated



**AN BILLE UM CHIAPADH, CUMARSÁID DHOCHRACH AGUS CIONTA
GAOLMHARA (LEASÚ), 2026
HARASSMENT, HARMFUL COMMUNICATIONS AND RELATED OFFENCES
(AMENDMENT) BILL 2026**

Mar a tionscnaíodh

As initiated

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ACT REFERRED TO

Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020 (No. 32)



**AN BILLE UM CHIAPADH, CUMARSÁID DHOCHRACH AGUS CIONTA
GAOLMHARA (LEASÚ), 2026
HARASSMENT, HARMFUL COMMUNICATIONS AND RELATED OFFENCES
(AMENDMENT) BILL 2026**

Bill

5

entitled

An Act to amend the Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020 to prohibit the creation of non-consensual intimate or harmful imagery; and to increase the timeframe under which summary proceedings for an offence may be instituted.

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Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows:

Definition

1. In this Act, “Principal Act” means the Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020.

Amendment of section 1 of Principal Act

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2. Section 1 of the Principal Act is amended—

- (a) by the insertion of the following definition:

“ ‘generate’ means the creation of an image, document or video through the use of artificial intelligence (including generative AI) or any other means;”,

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and

- (b) the substitution of the following definition for the definition of “intimate image”:

“ ‘intimate image’, in relation to a person, means any visual representation (including any accompanying or connected sound or document) made by any means including any photographic, film, video, artificial intelligence or digital representation—

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- (a) of what is, or purports to be the person’s genitals, buttocks or anal region and, in the case of a female, her breasts,

- (b) of the underwear covering the person’s genitals, buttocks or anal region and, in the case of a female, her breasts,

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- (c) in which the person is nude, or

(d) in which the person is engaged in sexual activity;”.

Amendment of section 3 of Principal Act

3. Section 3 of the Principal Act is amended—

(a) in subsection (1), by the substitution of the following paragraph for paragraph (a):

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“(a) he or she records, distributes, publishes or generates, using artificial intelligence or other methods an intimate image of another person without that other person’s consent, and”,

and

(b) in subsection (3), by the substitution of the following for subsection (3):

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“(3) A person who is guilty of an offence under this section is liable—

(a) on summary conviction to a class A fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months, or both, or

(b) on conviction on indictment to a fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or both.”.

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Amendment of section 4 of Principal Act

4. Section 4 of the Principal Act is amended by the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (3):

“(3) A person who is guilty of an offence under this section is liable—

(a) on summary conviction to a class A fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months, or both, or

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(b) on conviction on indictment to a fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or both.”.

Amendment of section 7 of Principal Act

5. Section 7 of the Principal Act is amended by the substitution of “five years” for “two years”.

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Short title and commencement

6. (1) This Act may be cited as the Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences (Amendment) Act 2026.

(2) This Act shall come into operation on such day or days as the Minister may appoint by order or orders either generally or with reference to any particular purpose or provision and different days may be so appointed for different purposes or different provisions.

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An Bille um Chiapadh, Cumarsáid
Dhochrach agus Cionta Gaolmhara (Leasú),
2026

BILLE

(mar a tionscnaíodh)

dá ngairtear

Acht do leasú an Achta um Chiapadh, Cumarsáid
Dhochrach agus Cionta Gaolmhara, 2020 chun
toirmeasc a chur le híomháineachas neamh-
chomhthoiliúil dlúthphearsanta nó dochrach a
chruthú; agus d'fhadú an chreata ama ina
bhféadfar imeachtaí achoimre i leith ciona a
thionscnamh.

Na Teachtaí Máire Uí Dhaimhín agus Maitiú Ó
Cárthaigh a thug isteach,
27 Eanáir, 2026

Harassment, Harmful Communications and
Related Offences (Amendment) Bill 2026

BILL

(as initiated)

entitled

An Act to amend the Harassment, Harmful
Communications and Related Offences Act
2020 to prohibit the creation of non-consensual
intimate or harmful imagery; and to increase the
timeframe under which summary proceedings
for an offence may be instituted.

Introduced by Deputies Máire Devine and Matt
Carthy,
27th January, 2026

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
ARNA FHOILSIÚ AG OIFIG AN tSOLÁTHAIR
Le ceannach díreach ó
FOILSEACHÁIN RIALTAIS,
BÓTHAR BHAILE UÍ BHEOLÁIN, CILL MHAIGHNEANN,
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 8, D08 XAO6.
Teil: 046 942 3100
r-phost: publications@opw.ie
nó trí aon díoltóir leabhar.

DUBLIN
PUBLISHED BY THE STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased from
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS,
MOUNTSHANNON ROAD, KILMAINHAM,
DUBLIN, D08 XAO6.
Tel: 046 942 3100
Email: publications@opw.ie
or through any bookseller.

€0.76

