GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

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Niue Makes History As First Pacific Nation To Outlaw 'Deepfake' Intimate Images In Landmark Cyber Protection Law

Alofi, Niue – 28 October 2026 - The Niue Assembly on Wednesday, 28 October, passed ground-breaking legislation to modernise the nation's criminal laws and protect its citizens from image-based abuse, cyberbullying, and the malicious use of artificial intelligence.

With the passage of the Niue Act (Voyeurism, Intimate Images and Harmful Electronic Communications) Amendment Act 2026, Niue becomes the first jurisdiction among Pacific Island countries to officially outlaw the creation and distribution of so-called 'deepfake' intimate images.

The Honourable Richie Mautama, Minister responsible for the Niue Police, heralded the passage of the Act as a vital step in safeguarding the dignity and well-being of the Niuean people in a fast-moving digital landscape.

"Technology has fundamentally transformed how we communicate and interact, bringing enormous benefits but also creating new avenues for harassment and the invasion of privacy," said Minister Mautama when introducing the new law. "In a small and closely connected community like Niue, the impacts of online abuse are particularly devastating. This legislation ensures that as technology evolves especially with the rise of artificial intelligence, our protections evolve with it."

The comprehensive new legislation specifically addresses contemporary digital threats by:

- Criminalising Deepfakes and Image-Based Abuse: Making it an offence to create or distribute intimate visual images using digital manipulation or generative AI without consent.
- Modernising Voyeurism Offences: Expanding the law to penalize the covert recording and distribution of images of individuals engaged in private acts.
- Updating Child Protection: Ensuring that laws against child abuse material explicitly cover digitally altered and AI-generated content.
- Tackling Cyberbullying: Introducing criminal offences for sending or posting harmful electronic communications intended to cause serious emotional distress.

Beyond criminal penalties, the Act introduces a robust civil remedy regime for people who are subjected to harmful electronic communications. This empowers affected individuals to apply to the High Court for urgent relief, including content take-down orders, cease-and-desist mandates, and the disclosure of anonymous authors. This dual approach ensures victims can not only seek justice but also obtain timely redress to quickly remove harmful content from the internet.

The passage of this historic Act marks a significant milestone for Niue, positioning the nation as a regional leader in cybersecurity, digital safety, and the proactive regulation of artificial intelligence.

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