Uber receives 3,000 sexual assault reports in US

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Source: https://punchng.com/uber-receives-3000-sexual-assault-reports-in-us/

Ride-hailing firm, Uber Technologies Inc, said it received over 3,000 reports of sexual assault related to its 1.3 billion rides in the United States last year, in a report aimed at ensuring drivers and the public it was serious about safety.  
  
The figure represents a 16 per cent fall in the rate of incidents from the previous year in the five most serious categories of sexual assault reported, Uber said in its first biennial US Safety Report.  
  
According to the News Agency of Nigeria, the firm also said reports of assaults on passengers overlooked risks for drivers as riders accounted for roughly half of the accused.  
  
The 84-page report comes almost two weeks after Uber said it would appeal the loss of its license to carry passengers in London over a “pattern of failures” on safety and security.  
  
Uber, which in the past has faced criticism over safety on its platform and has been repeatedly hit with lawsuits over driver misconduct, last year committed to releasing a safety report in a sign of a cultural turnaround under its new CEO.  
  
The firm, which operates in 70 countries, said the report showed its commitment to transparency to improve accountability and safety industry-wide. It said it would use what it learned producing the report for its “next steps” in other places.  
  
“I suspect many people will be surprised at how rare these incidents are; others will understandably think they’re still too common.  
  
“Some people will appreciate how much we’ve done on safety; others will say we have more work to do. They will all be right,” tweeted Uber Chief Executive Officer Dara Khosrowshahi.  
  
In the report, Uber said 99.9 per cent of its 2.3 billion US trips in 2017 and 2018 ended without safety incidents.  
  
It said it received 235 reports of “non-consensual sexual penetration” last year and 280 of “attempted non-consensual sexual penetration” – nearly all filed by women.  
  
The remaining assault reports included incidents of unwanted kissing or touching of body parts.  
  
It also detailed 10 fatal physical assaults in 2017 and nine in 2018 – eight victims were riders, seven were drivers using Uber’s app and four were third parties such as bystanders.