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SOCIAL ISSUES 1 MONTH AGO

# "It's All A Scam": Woman Applies To 76 Jobs In 8 Weeks And Receives Zero Responses, Starts A Debate Online

Interview With Author

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Ieva Gailiūtė and Justinas Keturka

On paper, job hunting seems simple enough. You put together a resume, craft the cover letter, and just like that, you land an interview. Done, right? Well, anyone who has ever gone through the process will tell you it's just the tip of the iceberg. The whole job search thing is a frustrating, crushing, and seriously nerve-wracking experience. But one thing that's even more annoying is sending out dozens of applications and rarely getting any response — even a rejection letter — from potential employers.

One woman, who was laid off from her job, knows this. A few weeks ago, TikToker [@kayleyalissa](#) shared her frustrations over sending out 76 job applications in 8 weeks — and receiving zero requests for an interview. In her [viral video](#), with more than 1.4 million views, Kayley revealed she has struggled to find work ever since May.

"Y'all cannot tell me that companies are struggling because they don't have any workers when you're not hiring anyone," she said, sparking a conversation about the hiring process on the platform. People immediately started typing their opinions, reactions, and advice in the comments. Read on to find out how Kayley's story unfolded, and be sure to weigh in on the matter below.

## Recently, TikToker Kayley went viral after sharing how her 76 job applications received no responses to interview

[@kayleyalissa](#) i need a job [#unemployed](#) [#laidoff](#) 🎵 original sound – Meemaw Slayley



Image credits: [kayleyalissa](#)

I have been off work for 9 weeks. I was laid off in May, my company downsized and eliminated my position. I was completely blindsided by that. I took literally one week off to be sad about my life, and then I started putting in applications.

In these last 8 weeks since I've been putting applications, I've put in 76 applications for local work, remote work, a lot of marketing, digital, social, you know, where my strengths lie, where I know I'm very good at my job. 76 applications and I've not had one interview, I've not had any interest whatsoever.

Y'all cannot tell me that companies are struggling because they don't have any workers when you're not hiring anyone. I don't know what to do at this point. I have the most, like, beautiful, elaborate resume. I have like, a really detailed resume. I have a beautiful cover letter, and like, it's all a scam.

Image credits: [kayleyalissa](#)

**As more people participated in the discussion, she posted another video showing her resume**

[@kayleyalissa](#) Replying to [@monirainbows](#) [#unemployed](#) [#unemployment](#) [#laidoff](#) 🎵 original sound – [Meemaw Slayley](#)





Image credits: [kayleyalissa](#)

In a follow-up video, Kayley said the response has been truly overwhelming, and she thanked all her followers for caring about her. The TikToker received dozens of messages from people offering advice to help her in this wild job hunt. While some tips users have suggested clarified a few aspects of the hiring process, the woman mentioned that all the things people said she should or shouldn't be doing started to make her head spin.

**Bored Panda** managed to get in touch with Kayley, and she was kind enough to have a little chat with us. When asked what inspired her to spark this discussion on the platform, she told us the idea for her clip came simply out of frustration. "I didn't know what I was doing wrong, and it was so hard to hear people say, 'Well, no one wants to work.' I want to work. I've been putting in meaningful applications, trying to get someone's attention, but with zero outcomes."

By sharing her video on TikTok, Kayley hoped to find at least one person who would understand her struggle. But as it turns out, her content was relevant to hundreds. "This video has helped me so much. Even though I look a bit haggard and unhinged, this video connected me with new friends, new workplace connections," she said, mentioning how TikToker [Jerry Lee](#), co-founder of a career consulting firm [Wonsulting](#), helped her fix her resume.

Apparently, the original resume she had shared with her followers was too creative. "I spent so much time designing it so that I could stand out in a crowd. What I didn't know is that the AI computer programs couldn't read it, and they automatically deny anything with a photo!"

"So, literally, no one was even seeing my resume," Kayley explained and said that's why she had no calls. "A lot of the comments assume I am underqualified or that I was lying. A lot of the comments think 76 in 8 weeks is far too little. But it's simply that no one was even viewing my resume."



Image credits: [kayleyalissa](#)

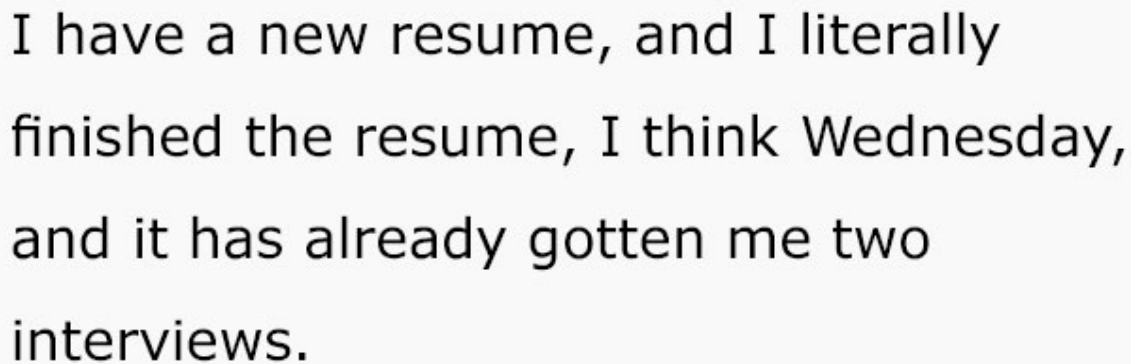
**Later on, Jerry Lee, co-founder of a career consulting firm, offered some help and fixed up Kayley's resume**

[@jerryjlee](#) #stitch with [@Slayley](#) 🎵 original sound – Jerry Lee | Wonsulting 💡



## You can watch Kayley's reaction, as well as an update on her job search, right below

@kayleyalissa #stitch with @jerryjhlee huge thank you jerry!!! #unemployed #laidoff 🎵 Love You So – The King Khan & BBQ Show



I have a new resume, and I literally finished the resume, I think Wednesday, and it has already gotten me two interviews.

Image credits: [kayleyalissa](#)

Kayley was eager to share some updates on her job hunting situation. "Since updating my resume, I've already had 4 interviews! Two of the companies I've moved on to the second round of interviews! I am so thankful to Jerry Lee and everyone on TikTok that gave me pointers on how to market myself to today's workforce," she said.

Lastly, she wanted to forward a message to those who declare that "no one wants to work": you might be missing what's happening right in front of your eyes. See, the Great Resignation is still going strong, inspiring workers to voluntarily leave their positions in search of better opportunities. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 4.3 million people quit their jobs in May. If you're wondering about the reasons they felt pushed over the edge, a Pew Research Center survey found that low pay, lack of opportunities for advancement, and feeling disrespected at work were their top motivations to quit. Moreover, those who left and found a new position were more likely than not to say their current employment has better pay, more opportunities, more work-life balance, and flexibility.

"People want to work, but at a livable wage," Kayley added. "A lot of the 'labor shortage' can be accredited to big companies not offering a living wage or benefits. To the people looking for work: keep going. You've got this. You are enough, and you are worthy to take up space in your job field. It's okay to be picky about where you want to spend 40 hours a week, and it's okay to say no. Something good is coming," she concluded.

## TikTokers jumped to the comment section to share advice and their own experiences about navigating the job market



monirainbows



796

Rumor is to simplify your resume. If you seem to good or better than what they are looking for you won't get a call. They want people who are just ok



kbelleoleta90



1448

be aware as scams. I've had 2 companies send me checks for almost 10k to use as "office set up" for remote jobs.



lexawooo



4953

no but for real tho it took me five months to find a job 😊



lexi\_jay\_17



3420

this frustrated me as well, when I was looking for a new job, I applied to at least 30 jobs, not 1 callback, email, or interview.





mirandalynn0822



2352

my bf had been freaking out on me daily for "not trying harder" to get a better paying job.



suftru16



1857

All of these comments are like "you alone can fix climate change." It's not her resume, her salary request, etc. These companies are still getting...



thesimplelifewithlindsey



1247

My husband was out of work for a year. Even started applying at grocery stores as a bagger. Finally he found something in his field, but lower pay.



moduff.\_



144

I feel ya sis! I'm in the same position. And what's with having an interview and no call to say yes/no? They ghost you 🙄



jsmnxoxo



106

Getting an interview and then getting ghosted only to then respond to my email "we've closed that position.. good luck in your search" 😊



lwmmom37



94

I see help wanted signs everywhere but then they won't even call u after u apply.. I've seen so many people having this same issue..



chocolatedmedley4



3154

No one is actually hiring, just posting job openings. I've been going through this for 8+ months.



richielee714



1935

"Every where is hiring" Okay, BUT THEY AREN'T HIRING PEOPLE!!!!



miss\_molly35



1271

same. In fact, I get immediate responses of "after careful consideration we've decided to move forward with another" after SECONDS of me sending it.



cas\_cindy



411

Age discrimination I'm not sure how old you are but when I reached 50 nobody wanted to hire me.



ptlifestyle



256

Imagine how unmotivated us new grads feel 350+ applications sent and not one 🥲🥲🥲



nicolemorris2008



940

Honey, I've put in over 450 in the last 4 months. 🙄 It's interesting to see no one hire a qualified candidate, but yet they are hurting for employees

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## Ieva Gailiūtė

Writer, BoredPanda staff

Ieva is a writer at Bored Panda who graduated in Scandinavian studies from Vilnius University. After learning the Swedish language and getting completely lost in the world of Scandinavian mythology, she figured out that translating and writing is what she's passionate about. When not writing, Ieva enjoys making jewelry, going on hikes, reading and drinking coffee.

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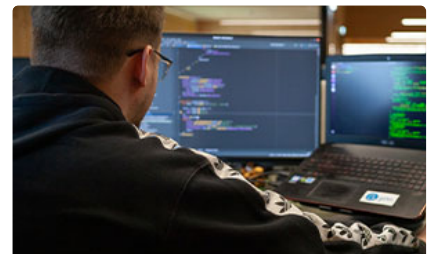
Justinas Keturka

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Mindaugas Balčiauskas

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**Ray Heap** 1 month ago

Give me a call when you are over 55, have sent out 1400 applications with only four answers and one: „sorry, the position had been filled“ then forgets to disconnect the line and you hear: „would be a good fit but at that age...!“

↑ 38 ↓ Reply



**NsG** 1 month ago

Because at that age you know your worth and won't accept the sh1tty entry level salary they want to pay you. That's the problem. At 55 you still have at least a decade of your working life left (probably more given rising pension ages), so it's not like they can reasonably think they'll "waste" time training you only to have you retire before you've provided any value to the company, but it's a weird cultural sticking point. There's also the ego of managers unsure how to manage people older than them - where and how does respect work here (rhetorical!) - or even, and far more yukky, at 55 you're just not pretty enough to work any more, at least nowhere customer facing! (/heavy sarcasm).

↑ 31 ↓ Reply

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**Ozacoter** 1 month ago (edited)

When I was a migrant in Belgium i applied for a crazy ammount of jobs. From jobs related to my career to "basic jobs" like walking dogs or basic gardening. In the two years I was looking for work I got two interviews and 1 contract that had no sick leave or paid holidays. And then people say that "they dont want to work or integrate ".

↑ 18 ↓ Reply



Wim Cossement 3 weeks ago (edited)

I live in Belgium too. I cannot work full time anymore because of my back and have 17 years of experience in IT and even took courses for a year to retrain myself as a C# programmer and sent out over 40 applications in a few months and most were very enthusiastic so I was always invited for an interview or some sort of videochat but when I had to explain why I hadn't been working for the last 4 years because of my health all of them didn't want me any more, even when they were getting a tax deduction on my pay from the state to compensate for the hours I wasn't there. F\*\*k those assholes, they just want perfect candidates while they're anything but perfect themselves as a company or people... But I guess nobody wants to work any more...

↑ 0 ↓ Reply

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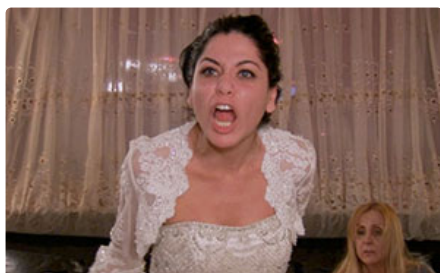
rspanther 1 month ago

I was 51 and it took me almost a year of looking before I was hired where I am now. I applied to 95 jobs, I had 4 in person interviews, a working interview and a phone interview. I was applying for jobs in my field, shipping and receiving, forklift certified, paint manufacturing and in the end I ended up working in warehouse just to be bringing in money. It was getting ghosted all the time that the most disheartening thing about job hunting.

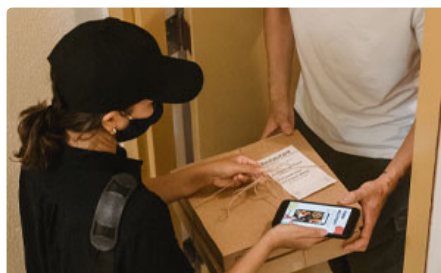
↑ 16 ↓ Reply

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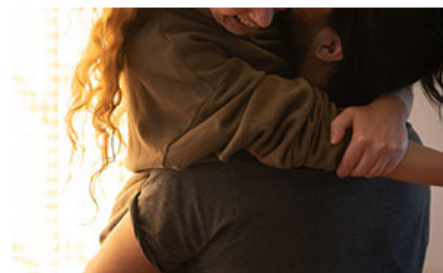
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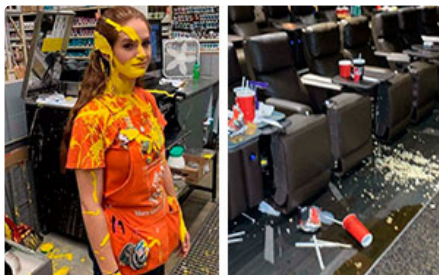
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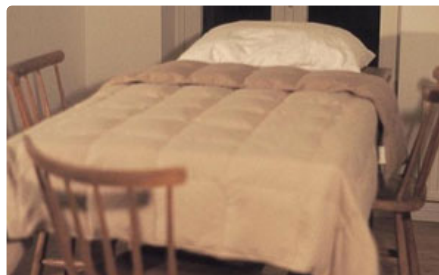
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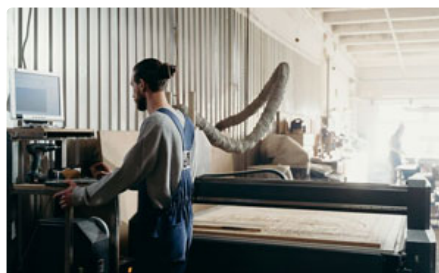
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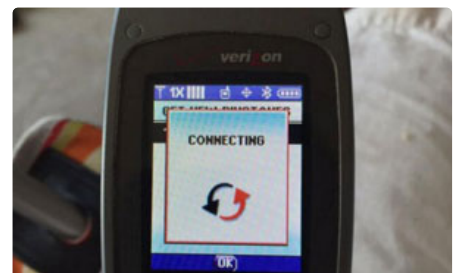
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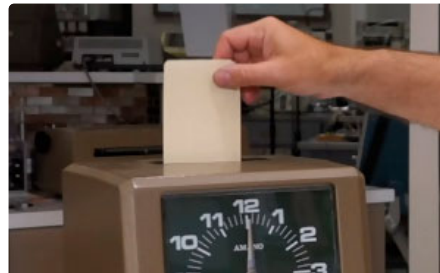
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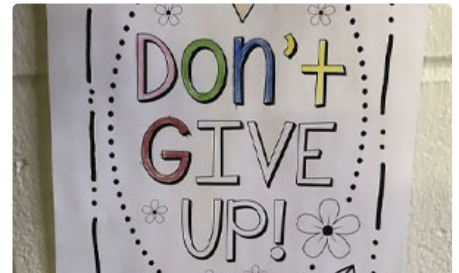
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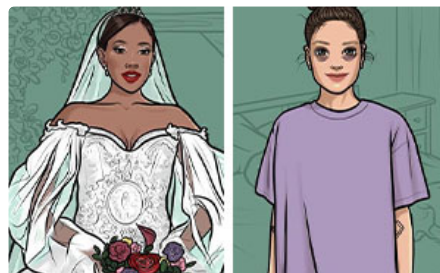
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