

China's top ride-hailing company introduced a 'curfew' for women

Didi Chuxing earlier this week announced it would resume its controversial **carpooling** service, Hitch, for the first time since taking it offline last year following the killings of two female passengers. **In a bid to** improve passenger safety, it said it would only let women book rides until 8:00 p.m., while men could use the platform until 11:00 p.m.

carpooling 共乘制; 拼车

in a bid to 为了

Following a huge backlash on Chinese social media, the company has backpedaled fast. Didi said on Friday that the earlier cutoff would now apply to all customers regardless of gender.

As of Friday morning, the hashtag "#WomenCan'tTakeDidiAfter8PM" was trending on Chinese social network Weibo, generating over a thousand posts on the Twitter-like service.

"Crazy, " one user wrote. "That's total discrimination, and it says this is for the sake of females' safety." "Men committed crimes, but they put a **curfew** on women instead of on men, " said another user.

curfew 宵禁

The company spokesperson said Friday that its 8:00 p.m. cutoff for women was because its data showed that "sex-related complaints, predominantly from women users" are 45% higher between then and 11:00 p.m.

Feng Lai, a professor of public relations at Shanghai Normal University, said Didi probably had good intentions but should have anticipated the public outcry.

"Please bear with us as we continue to explore different ways of making your rides safer, " the spokesperson said. "User safety is our number one priority and we will closely monitor the Hitch service during this trial period and beyond."