

Victim-blaming outcry as Japan pop star says sorry after alleged assault by fans

Japan's **harsh** treatment of its female **celebrities** has again come under scrutiny.

harsh 严酷的

celebrities 名人

Social media users and TV commentators have joined the **barrage** of criticism targeting AKS, a music management agency, after Maho Yamaguchi, a singer with NGT48, went public this month with **allegations** she had been assaulted by two **obsessive** fans at the end of last year. The **furor** intensified when Yamaguchi bowed deeply and apologized to fans for “causing trouble”.

barrage 弹幕; 密集攻击

allegation 指控; 主张

obsessive 着迷的; 执迷不悟的

furor 勃然大怒

Yamaguchi's case has highlighted the poor treatment of young women and girls by Japan's pop industry, particularly the **insistence** that they appear morally **unimpeachable**.

insistence 坚持; 要求

unimpeachable 无懈可击的

Performers are subject to strict rules imposed by their management agencies, including, in many cases, a ban on having boyfriends to maintain the impression among their largely male—and, on occasion, dangerously obsessive—fan base that they are romantically available.

Twitter user @katbeee said Yamaguchi's experience highlighted the widespread mistreatment of women in Japan's idol industry. “These are as serious as the abuses committed in the Western entertainment industry,” she said, adding that the industry was **rife with** “power **harassment**, sexual exploitation, emotional and psychological abuse and overwork”.

rife with 充斥着

harassment 骚扰

AKS eventually apologized for its handling of the issue. The firm also admitted that a fellow NGT48 member had given the men Yamaguchi's address and told them when she might return home.

NGT48 has cancelled three upcoming concerts in which Yamaguchi was to perform, according to Japanese media.