

Five NY1 anchorwomen file lawsuit alleging age discrimination

[dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7158973/Five-NY1-anchorwomen-file-lawsuit-alleging-age-discrimination.html](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7158973/Five-NY1-anchorwomen-file-lawsuit-alleging-age-discrimination.html)

Five women, including 61-year-old Roma Torre, are suing the company that owns NY1 because they claim they have been cast aside to make room for younger women and men

Five experienced anchorwomen at a New York news channel are suing their company because they claim they have been cast aside to make room for younger women and men.

Amanda Farinacci, Vivian Lee, Roma Torre, Jeanine Ramirez and Kristen Shaughnessy - who all work for local news channel NY1 - filed the age and gender discrimination lawsuit on Wednesday in Manhattan federal court.



They are suing NY1's parent company Charter Communications who took control of the news channel back in 2016.

The women, who have worked at NY1 for more than 100 years collectively, say their 'blossoming careers have wilted' ever since Charter took ownership of the channel.

They say their on-air time has been dramatically reduced, anchoring opportunities have disappeared, prime reporting roles have been taken away and promotional efforts have vanished.

The lawsuit says that the opportunities taken from them have been given to younger women and men with 'substantially less experience'.

Jeanine Ramirez, 49; Vivian Lee, 44; Kristen Shaughnessy, 50; Amanda Farinacci, 40, (left to right) and Roma Torre - who all work for local news channel NY1 - filed the age and gender discrimination lawsuit on Wednesday in Manhattan federal court

Torre, 61; Shaughnessy, 50; Ramirez, 49; Farinacci, 40; and Lee, 44, have accused the company of seemingly grooming 'literal replacements'.

The lawsuit includes a side-by-side photo comparison showing the similarities in appearances and ethnic backgrounds between the seasoned anchorwomen and younger women hired by NY1 in recent years.

The photo graphic shows Bree Driscoll, Angi Gonzalez, Lydia Hu and Shannan Ferry.

The lawsuit claims that while Shaughnessy is being marginalized, Driscoll has been given a daytime daily anchor position. When Ramirez needs someone to fill her Sunday night anchor role, the first person allegedly asked is Gonzalez.

Hu has recently been asking to fill the 5am breaking news reporting shift, which is a role Lee has filled for many years. Ferry has also received many of the fill-in anchor slots that once belonged to Farinacci, according to the suit.

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Lee has been a reporter for 17 years and is currently a NY1 anchor. She claims she was told by a NY1 talent review coach that she didn't have to change anything about her delivery but she was demoted to a reporter role this year

Shaughnessy, who has been an anchor at NY1 since 1995, says she was the primary weekday morning fill-in anchor but those opportunities vanished following the merger

Torre, who was NY1's first on-air hire in 1992, is a news anchor, theater critic and two-time Emmy winner. She claims she lost four hours of daily airtime to a younger woman and man.

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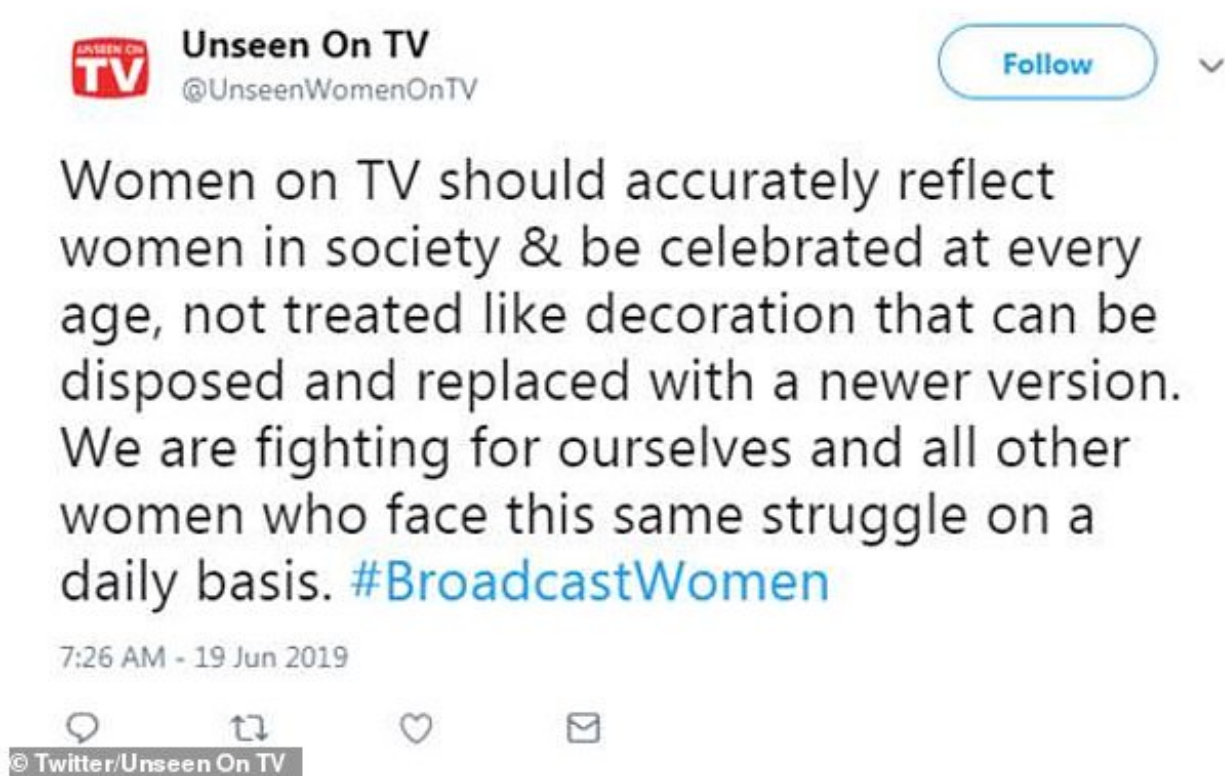


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Farinacci won produced an award-winning documentary on New York's storm recovery program. She claims she wasn't offered a moderator role for a live town event hall about her own reporting because it went to a man instead.

The five women say they have complained to management and HR about the alleged mistreatment multiple times but their complaints have not been taken seriously or have been ignored.

They say their complaints has led to retaliation and further mistreatment.



The women started a Twitter campaign - Unseen On TV - to coincide with the lawsuit being filed.

'Women on TV should accurately reflect women in society & be celebrated at every age, not treated like decoration that can be disposed and replaced with a newer version. We are fighting for ourselves and all other women who face this same struggle on a daily basis,' the first tweet read.

A Charter spokeswoman says the company takes the allegations seriously but has found no merit to them.

The spokeswoman - Maureen Huff - says NY1 is a 'respectful and fair workplace' and works to ensure its employees are valued and empowered.

Douglas H. Wigdor, one of the attorneys working on behalf of the women, said: "New Yorkers deserve to have the most talented journalists deliver the news.

'Sadly, after dedicating over 100 years of award-winning journalism to NY1, our five clients have clearly been told that their careers are over, as NY1 seems to believe that younger faces, when it comes to women, are a "better look" for the bottom line.

'We will hold NY1 accountable for their blatant ageist and sexist views and intend to send a message across all media that this epidemic of discrimination toward older women must come to an end. We are confident that New Yorkers will rally behind our clients knowing that merit and ability are how people ought to be judged.'

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages and a return to the positions the women occupied before Charter took control of NY1 in 2016.