

by ALASTAIR REID

GOOGLE employees around the world walked out of their offices in protest yesterday after claims of sexual harassment, gender inequality and systemic racism at the tech giant.

The global walkout followed allegations of sexual misconduct made against senior executives. Organisers said the accusations, published in The New York Times, were the most high-profile examples of 'thousands' of similar cases across the company.

'As Google workers, we were disgusted by the details of the recent New York Times article, which provided the latest example of a culture of complicity, dismissiveness, and support for perpetrators in the face of sexual harassment, misconduct, and abuse of power,' organisers stated. 'Sadly, this is part of a long-standing pattern, one further amplified by systemic racism.'

Sundar Pichai, Google's chief executive, said: 'Employees have raised constructive ideas for how we can improve our policies and our processes. We are taking in all their feedback so we can turn these ideas into action.'

Hundreds of employees in London, Dublin, Zurich, Singapore and Tokyo walked out, demanding an end to pay inequality, more accountability in cases of harassment and better representation for workers. Richard DeVaul,

a director at a unit of Google's parent company, Alphabet, left the company on Tuesday after he was accused of sexually harassing a female job applicant.

Android creator Andy Rubin left Google in 2014 with a \$90million (£70million) golden parachute.

He was one of three executives The New York Times accused Google of protecting and supporting after being accused of sexual misconduct.

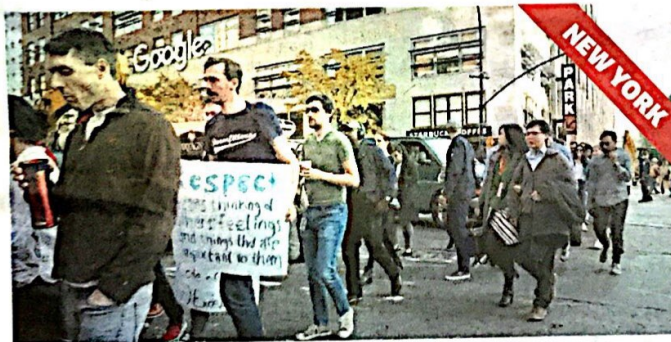
'For every story in The New York Times, there are thousands more, at every level of the company. Most have not been told,' organisers said.

Mike Clancy, general secretary of tech workers' union Prospect, said: 'Sexual harassment is a serious problem in too many work places, including in the tech sector. The events in Google highlight the frustration many workers feel about their lack of voice in how many tech companies are run.'



#MeGoo

GOOGLE STAFF STAGE GLOBAL WALKOUT OVER SEXISM AND RACISM



Walkout: Google staff accuse their company of a culture of complicity that supports perpetrators of sex abuse, racism and gender bias
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