

Google refuses to remove 'gay music' video

17th March, 2016



Google Kenya has said it would not remove a music video from its YouTube site. The Kenyan government asked Google to take the video offline because it showed gay couples, gay pride marchers, and images of openly gay Kenyan public figures. The video also shows different scenes of what it is like to be gay in Kenya. It was made by a band called Art Attack. It is a remake of the song 'Same Love' by Macklemore and Ryan Lewis. Kenya's government said the video was bad for society. It said it would punish anyone it caught who distributed the video. Kenya's government says homosexuality is an "unnatural offence". Kenyan homosexuals can be put in prison for up to 14 years.

Kenya's attempts at trying to ban the video have made it very popular around the world. It has now been viewed over 140,000 times. The video shows images of anti-gay protests in Nairobi last year, and two young women kissing on a bench in a forest. Kenyan regulators first tried to ban the video in late February. A government spokesman said: "We have written to Google to remove the video from their platforms. We expect they will do it within one week from now." Google replied: "We review government removal requests when notified through the correct legal processes and in keeping with our company philosophy on transparency and freedom of expression."

Sources: qz.com / GayTimes.co.uk / VenturesAfrica.com

Writing

People should be allowed to put any video on YouTube. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Google / music video / government / gay couples / song / band / bad for society / attempts / popular / viewed / protests / spokesman / platforms / requests / freedom

True / False

- Kenya's government asked Google to remove a YouTube video. T / F
- The video did not show any scenes of gay couples. T / F
- The video contained an original song called 'Same Love'. T / F
- Homosexuals in Kenya can get up to 14 years in prison. T / F
- The video has now been viewed over one million times. T / F
- Kenya's government first tried to ban the video last year. T / F
- Kenya's government expects the video to be gone within a week. T / F
- Google said it must act in keeping with freedom of expression. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. remove | a. gave out |
| 2. gay | b. looked at |
| 3. band | c. jail |
| 4. distributed | d. believe |
| 5. prison | e. group |
| 6. attempts | f. take away |
| 7. viewed | g. inside |
| 8. expect | h. homosexual |
| 9. within | i. beliefs |
| 10. philosophy | j. efforts |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think about YouTube?
- Why does the Kenyan government want the video removed?
- What do you think of the video?
- How is life for homosexuals in your country?
- Why do people dislike homosexuals?
- What needs to happen for homosexual people to achieve equality?
- What laws in your country discriminate against homosexuals?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. it would not remove a | a. one week |
| 2. gay | b. prison |
| 3. scenes of what it is like to | c. gay protests |
| 4. it would punish anyone it caught who | d. couples |
| 5. be put in | e. 140,000 times |
| 6. very popular | f. be gay in Kenya |
| 7. viewed over | g. music video |
| 8. anti- | h. expression |
| 9. We expect they will do it within | i. around the world |
| 10. freedom of | j. distributed the video |

Discussion – Student B

- Have you ever joined a gay pride march?
- What will trying to ban the video do for Kenya's image?
- What do you think is the number one issue for gay rights groups?
- What does the leader of your country say about gay rights?
- Why do you think some people are afraid of gay people?
- What will gay rights be like in 50 years from now?
- What should Google do about the video?
- What questions would you like to ask the band Art Attack?

Spelling

- take the video elnofif
- openly gay Kenyan public ugesrfi
- The video also shows different nesesc
- bad for syitcoe
- it would pnushi anyone it caught
- be put in rnpois for up to 14 years
- Kenya's astetptm at trying to ban the video
- very uaplorp around the world
- wevdei over 140,000 times
- remove the video from their rsompalft
- removal tuseqesr
- freedom of exoprniess

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. h	3. e	4. a	5. c
6. j	7. b	8. d	9. g	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Music videos

You think music videos are the best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their videos. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): English grammar videos, pet videos or vlogs.

Role B – English grammar videos

You think English grammar videos are the best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their videos. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): music videos, pet videos or vlogs.

Role C – Pet videos

You think pet videos are the best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their videos. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): English grammar videos, music videos or vlogs.

Role D – Vlogs

You think vlogs are the best videos. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their videos. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): English grammar videos, pet videos or music videos.

Speaking – YouTube

Rank these with your partner. Put the best videos at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| • music videos | • how-to videos |
| • English grammar videos | • pet videos |
| • sports videos | • news videos |
| • vlogs | • funny videos |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.