The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

BDSM-Style Graduation Video Divides Russians

May 28, 2019



YouTube

A controversial high school celebration in which students dressed in revealing outfits has divided Russian society over questions of morality and freedom of expression.

Police issued fines and a headmistress submitted her resignation in the Far East city of Vladivostok after video of the would-be graduates celebrating the last days of school in leather shorts, suspenders and rabbit masks spread online. Russian news outlets dubbed the celebration, presumably because of the students' suggestive costumes, a "BDSM party."

Embed:

The 11th-graders later apologized for the "foolish act," the state-run RIA Novosti news agency quoted the headmistress as saying Monday.

The controversial video split Russian society between those who lauded the students for their

boldness and those who criticized them as symbols of the nation's moral decline.

"Why's everyone so butthurt?" wrote Artyom Samsonov, a communist member of the Primorye region legislative assembly, in support of both the children and the headmistress.

Popular sports journalist and YouTube star Yury Dud sent "respect" to the "free boys and girls in the video," while former presidential candidate Ksenia Sobchak asked "What's the big deal?" in response to critics.

Meanwhile, Russia's Science and Higher Education Ministry condemned the so-called BDSM party and the notorious nationalist businessman German Sterligov called for the children to face the death penalty.

"I'm a Christian, and that's why I think they deserve death," he said on a panel show on state television.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/05/28/bdsm-style-graduation-video-divides-russians-a65776