**Homosexuality Lesson Plan: Warm-up**

1. Have you ever been involved in a rally, protest, or parade?
2. What does the term “lobbying” mean? What are some powerful lobby groups in your country?
3. Does your city or town have a gay community? Would you say your city is gay-friendly?
4. Are there any well-known gay people in your country, for example, politicians, actors, or athletes?

**Gay Parade in Moscow Crushed By Police (**May 20th, 2011)

Gay-rights **activists** have tried to hold a parade in Moscow for the sixth year **in a row**. But dozens of people were arrested after the activists **clashed** with counter-protesters. Russian officials have **detained** three global gay rights leaders, and dozens of others, after they tried to hold an **unauthorized** rally near the Kremlin.

Police say a small crowd of marchers, some waving rainbow flags and others carrying signs that read, “Russia is not Iran,” was attacked by an ultra-Orthodox group who had successfully **lobbied** the Moscow city government to ban the event.

The leader of Russia’s Orthodox Union, Leonid Simonovich, said people should not be allowed to hold a gay pride parade. He said God once burned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, and if something like homosexuality was **condoned** in Russia, God would burn down Moscow as well. He referred to the Russian capital as a “holy” city.

Witnesses say police **aggressively** arrested the marchers, protesters, and members of the ultra-nationalist group before putting them in police vans.

Many rights activists had hoped they would be able to hold a gay-rights parade after former Mayor Yuri Luzhkov was fired. Luzhkov had **likened** homosexuality to the devil. Russia **decriminalized** homosexuality in 1993, but homophobic attitudes remain. In October, the European Court of Human Rights **fined** Russia for banning homosexual parades in Moscow.

Officials say most of the detained people have been released. [232 words]

[Original: http://www.voanews.com/english/news/usa/Dozens-Detained-at-Gay-Rally-in-Moscow-122796049.html]

**Homosexuality ESL Lesson Plan: Comprehension Questions**

1. **True or False**: This is not the first time a gay rally has been stopped in Moscow.
2. According to the article, who was responsible for getting the rally banned?
3. **True or False**: Leonid Simonovich is a global gay rights leader.
4. Why did many activists hope a parade would be successful this year?
5. **True or False**: Homosexuality is still a crime in Russia.

**Match** the words with their meaning as used in the article.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| activist  clash (verb)  detain (verb)  unauthorized  lobby (verb)  condone (verb)  aggressively  liken (verb)  decriminalize (verb)  fine (verb) | try to persuade, influence  compare  fight, do battle  arrest, capture  unofficial, illegal, not permitted  accept, allow  to make someone pay money as punishment  forcefully, violently  a person working for political or social change  make legal |

**Master the language:** Connect the below ideas to make a sentence.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| government crush uprising | e.g. The government tried to crush the uprising. |
| activists / clashed |  |
| police / detain |  |
| unauthorized / area |  |
| lobby / church |  |
| condone / violence |  |
| drive / aggressively |  |
| Life / liken / journey |  |
| decriminalize / marijuana |  |
| fine / $500 |  |

**Idiom Focus:** *in a row*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Meaning:** | in a series, or set, without interruption; consecutively |
| **Example:** | The football team won six games in a row.  Police shot at protestors for the second night in a row. |

**Read** and **complete** the below sentences where necessary.

I have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for three nights in a row.

I don’t like to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for more than two days in a row.

**Homosexuality ESL Lesson Plan: Discussion Questions**

1. Are there certain jobs that tend to be dominated by gay people? If so, why is that?
2. **Sigmund Freud** believed that all people have homosexual tendencies. In other words, everyone is gay to a degree. What do you think of this idea?
3. What might be the pros and cons of being raised by same-sex parents?