



Home (<https://www.nst.com.my>) > Opinion (<https://www.nst.com.my/opinion>) > Letters (<https://www.nst.com.my/opinion/letters>)

3 minute read

Should we have voluntary censorship code for Netflix?



Netflix broadcasts original programmes without censorship. FILE PIC

By DR MD ZAHIDUL ISLAM (/authors/dr-md-zahidul-islam) - February 12, 2019 @ 12:38am

NETFLIX allows customers to watch television shows, movies, documentaries on Internet-connected devices, such as tablets, computers, mobile phones and smart TVs.

What is worrying is that Netflix is broadcasting original programmes without censorship.

Malaysia has the Film Censorship Act 2002 to protect people from the negative influence that can result from watching uncensored films.

The Censorship Board censors obscene content according to guidelines on security and public order, religion, socio-culture, decorum and morality.

But the Film Censorship Act does not apply to the online movie streaming service.

The board's relevance and effectiveness are under scrutiny.

If it censors films deemed not suitable for Malaysian viewers, it will not matter because viewers can watch them on Netflix or other movie sites.

In April last year, India's Information and Broadcasting Ministry set up a committee to frame regulations for online media websites, including digital broadcasting, like entertainment.

To avoid a tussle with the Indian government, online movie streaming players like Netflix, Hotstar and Reliance Jio may soon sign up for a voluntary censorship code.

Perhaps Malaysia should consider a similar move.

DR MD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

Civil Law Department, Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah of Laws, International Islamic University Malaysia

617 reads

RELATED STORIES



(/world/2019/01/446433/netflix-censorship-risks-helping-saudi-crackdown-amnesty)

Netflix censorship risks helping Saudi crackdown: Amnesty
(/world/2019/01/446433/netflix-censorship-risks-helping-saudi-crackdown-amnesty)



(/news/2016/01/124510/indonesia-telecoms-firm-blocks-netflix-over-local-laws-censorship)

Indonesia telecoms firm blocks Netflix over local laws, censorship
(/news/2016/01/124510/indonesia-telecoms-firm-blocks-netflix-over-local-laws-censorship)

Have clear guidelines on dress code for public (/news/2015/09/have-clear-guidelines-dress-code-public)

RECOMMENDED

Education Ministry to work with Wisma Putra to check on Malaysian students in Townsville
(https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2019/02/457597/education-ministry-work-wisma-putra-check-malaysian-students-townsville?utm_source=nst&utm_campaign=recsys&utm_medium=recsys)

Mum: It broke my heart to see her body (https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2019/02/459078/mum-it-broke-my-heart-see-her-body?utm_source=nst&utm_campaign=recsys&utm_medium=recsys)

3 foreigners nabbed for killing turtles in Pulau Ligitan (https://www.nst.com.my/news/crime-courts/2019/02/457765/3-foreigners-nabbed-killing-turtles-pulau-ligitan?utm_source=nst&utm_campaign=recsys&utm_medium=recsys)

Brunei drivers have 52,000 unpaid outstanding summonses in Sarawak (https://www.nst.com.my/news/crime-courts/2019/02/457771/brunei-drivers-have-52000-unpaid-outstanding-summonses-sarawak?utm_source=nst&utm_campaign=recsys&utm_medium=recsys)

Two kidnappers killed in shootout with police in Cheras (https://www.nst.com.my/news/crime-courts/2019/02/459415/two-kidnappers-killed-shootout-police-cheras?utm_source=nst&utm_campaign=recsys&utm_medium=recsys)

Will the trial really start on Tuesday? (https://www.nst.com.my/news/crime-courts/2019/02/459075/will-trial-really-start-tuesday?utm_source=nst&utm_campaign=recsys&utm_medium=recsys)

BaZi buzz: Tech is on fire! (https://www.nst.com.my/lifestyle/bots/2019/02/457558/bazi-buzz-tech-fire?utm_source=nst&utm_campaign=recsys&utm_medium=recsys)

PJ City change team's logo following Man City's 'complaint' (https://www.nst.com.my/sports/football/2019/02/459450/pj-city-change-teams-logo-following-man-citys-complaint?utm_source=nst&utm_campaign=recsys&utm_medium=recsys)

Don't compare my case with Hadi's: Guan Eng (https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2019/02/457530/dont-compare-my-case-hadis-guan-eng?utm_source=nst&utm_campaign=recsys&utm_medium=recsys)

Muhsin lodges second report over Marzuki's academic qualification (https://www.nst.com.my/news/crime-courts/2019/02/458131/muhsin-lodges-second-report-over-marzukis-academic-qualification?utm_source=nst&utm_campaign=recsys&utm_medium=recsys)

PROMOTED STORIES



Meet the Life-Changing Health Watch Taking Our Country by Storm
simplediscountfinder.com
([https://cltrk.co/o/health-watch/a/5/?i=healthwatch-palm&t=Meet+the+Life-Changing+Health+Watch+Taking+Our+Country+by+Storm&utm_source=cltrk&utm_medium=tech-tw&utm_campaign=ob&utm_content=1&utm_term=1&utm_id=1&utm_pid=\\$publisher_id&utm_scid=\\$section_id&utm_cw=004aaf749af24fa25d10daa2c4907c11751&utm_obOrigUrl=true](https://cltrk.co/o/health-watch/a/5/?i=healthwatch-palm&t=Meet+the+Life-Changing+Health+Watch+Taking+Our+Country+by+Storm&utm_source=cltrk&utm_medium=tech-tw&utm_campaign=ob&utm_content=1&utm_term=1&utm_id=1&utm_pid=$publisher_id&utm_scid=$section_id&utm_cw=004aaf749af24fa25d10daa2c4907c11751&utm_obOrigUrl=true))



This Military Smartwatch Is The Best Gift Idea for Men In Malaysia
techdiscountfinder.com
([https://cltrk.co/o/t-watch/a/5/?i=twatch-water&t=This+Military+Smartwatch+Is+The+Best+Gift+Idea+for+Men+In+Malaysia&utm_source=cltrk&utm_medium=tech-tw&utm_campaign=ob&utm_content=1&utm_term=1&utm_id=1&utm_pid=\\$publisher_id&utm_scid=\\$section_id&utm_cw=004aaf749af24fa25d10daa2c4907c11751&utm_obOrigUrl=true](https://cltrk.co/o/t-watch/a/5/?i=twatch-water&t=This+Military+Smartwatch+Is+The+Best+Gift+Idea+for+Men+In+Malaysia&utm_source=cltrk&utm_medium=tech-tw&utm_campaign=ob&utm_content=1&utm_term=1&utm_id=1&utm_pid=$publisher_id&utm_scid=$section_id&utm_cw=004aaf749af24fa25d10daa2c4907c11751&utm_obOrigUrl=true))



This Cheap Drone Is Selling Like Crazy In Malaysia Now, Check It Out
simplediscountfinder.com
([https://cltrk.co/o/drone/a/5/?i=drone-cheap&t=This+Cheap+Drone+Is+Selling+Like+Crazy+In+Malaysia+Now+Check+It+Out&utm_source=cltrk&utm_medium=tech-tw&utm_campaign=ob&utm_content=1&utm_term=1&utm_id=1&utm_pid=\\$publisher_id&utm_scid=\\$section_id&utm_cw=004aaf749af24fa25d10daa2c4907c11751&utm_obOrigUrl=true](https://cltrk.co/o/drone/a/5/?i=drone-cheap&t=This+Cheap+Drone+Is+Selling+Like+Crazy+In+Malaysia+Now+Check+It+Out&utm_source=cltrk&utm_medium=tech-tw&utm_campaign=ob&utm_content=1&utm_term=1&utm_id=1&utm_pid=$publisher_id&utm_scid=$section_id&utm_cw=004aaf749af24fa25d10daa2c4907c11751&utm_obOrigUrl=true))

Recommended by

MOST READ TODAY

- 1 Horror as missing girl found dead with internal organs removed (/news/nation/2019/02/458910/horror-missing-girl-found-dead-internal-organs-removed)
- 2 Indonesia police apologise for using snake in Papua interrogation (/world/2019/02/459211/indonesia-police-apologise-using-snake-papua-interrogation)
- 3 #Showbiz: Move over EXO and BlackPink! BTS' Jimin is first Korean artiste to hit 100mil streams on SoundCloud (/lifestyle/groove/2019/02/459223/showbiz-move-over-exo-and-blackpink-bts-jimin-first-korean-artiste)
- 4 Should we have voluntary censorship code for Netflix? (/opinion/letters/2019/02/459317/should-we-have-voluntary-censorship-code-netflix)
- 5 #Showbiz: BTS' Jungkook moved to tears at recent Grammys 2019 (/lifestyle/groove/2019/02/459502/showbiz-bts-jungkook-moved-tears-recent-grammys-2019)
- 6 Males outnumber females by one million in Malaysia; birth rate falling (/news/nation/2019/02/459558/males-outnumber-females-one-million-malaysia-birth-rate-falling)
- 7 Indonesian man follows Google Maps directions, drives off cliff (/world/2019/02/459632/indonesian-man-follows-google-maps-directions-drives-cliff)
- 8 Dog dragged behind pickup truck was going to be abandoned (/news/nation/2019/02/459638/dog-dragged-behind-pickup-truck-was-going-be-abandoned)

9 Parts of Jalan TAR to be closed effective March 15 (/news/nation/2019/02/459658/parts-jalan-tar-be-closed-effective-march-15)

10 Adib's inquest - In truth we must trust (/opinion/leaders/2019/02/459664/adibs-inquest-truth-we-must-trust)



FLY TO OVER 45 DESTINATIONS

ALL-IN FARE FROM **RM 49***

NEWS (/NEWS)

- > Crime & Courts (/news/crime-courts)
- > Exclusive (/news/exclusive)
- > Govt / Public Policy (/news/government-public-policy)
- > Nation (/news/nation)
- > Politics (/news/politics)

OPINION (/OPINION)

- > Columnist (/opinion/columnist)
- > Letters (/opinion/letters)
- > Leaders (/opinion/leaders)

SUBSCRIBE (HTTP://DIGITAL.NSTP.COM.MY/NST/INCLUDES/SHOP/LIST_PRODUCTS.JSP?

TESTATA=NSTNEWS&ID=NSTNEWS&UTM_SOURCE=SUBSCRIPTION&UTM_MEDIUM=KLIK&UTM_TERM=HM&UTM_CAMPAIGN=NSTNEWS)

DISCLAIMER (/DISCLAIMER)

PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION ACT (/PRIVACY)

CONTACT (/CONTACT)

LIFESTYLE (/LIFESTYLE)

- > Sunday Vibes (/lifestyle/sunday-vibes)
- > Bots (/lifestyle/bots)
- > Heal (/lifestyle/heal)
- > Flair (/lifestyle/flair)
- > Jom! (/lifestyle/jom)
- > Pulse (/lifestyle/pulse)
- > Groove (/lifestyle/groove)

MULTIMEDIA (/PHOTOS)

- > Photos (/photos)
- > Videos (/videos)
- > Infographics (/infographics)

SPORTS (/SPORTS)

- > Football (/sports/football)
- > Badminton (/sports/badminton)
- > MMA (/sports/mma)
- > MotorSport (/sports/motor-sports)
- > Tennis (/sports/tennis)
- > Golf (/sports/golf)
- > Others (/sports/others)

BUSINESS TIMES (/BUSINESS)

- PROPERTY (/PROPERTY)
- EDUCATION (/EDUCATION)
- ACTIONLINE (/ACTIONLINE)
- CARS BIKES TRUCKS (/CBT)
- WORLD (/WORLD)
- VOUCHERS (HTTP://VOUCHERS.NST.COM.MY)

GET MOBILE APP



(https://itunes.apple.com/my/app/nst-digital/id527144475?mt=8)

(https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.nstp.nst)