# Generation Z reacts to Emmanuel Macron and Brigitte’s unconventional romance after viral Hanoi video



Members of Generation Z have been left astonished after learning about the unconventional romance of French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte, particularly in light of a recently viral video depicting a seemingly playful interaction. The footage, captured as they arrived in Hanoi, Vietnam, shows Brigitte appearing to push his face away, igniting widespread speculation and reaction online.

This moment appears to have shocked many viewers, with numerous reactions surfacing on social media platforms. One user expressed disbelief, commenting, “I just read the comments and found out that they were teacher and student, and that [they met] when he was 15?!” Others voiced concerns about the significant age gap of 24 years and the dynamics that stemmed from their teacher-student relationship. “Not just the age gap. More than that the fact that she was his teacher when he was just a kid is disturbing,” noted another user, highlighting the complexities surrounding their love story.

Their relationship began at Lycée La Providence in Amiens, where Brigitte, a 39-year-old teacher, met Macron, who was only 15 at the time. As part of their school curriculum, they collaborated on a production of "The Art of Comedy," which helped forge the bond that would blossom into a romantic relationship. Brigitte was previously married with three children, one of whom was in the same class as Macron. Their emerging romance caused a local scandal, prompting Macron’s parents to send him to a different school in Paris. However, their love endured, leading to their marriage in 2007, after Brigitte had divorced her husband.

In the wake of the viral video, Macron's office soon clarified that the interaction was harmless, describing it as a lighthearted exchange between the couple. A close associate labelled it a "couple's harmless squabble", urging the public not to overreact. Following the incident, Macron himself downplayed the moment, stating, “It’s nothing,” emphasising that it was merely a bickering or joking session between them. He also remarked on the dangers of misinformation in the digital age, drawing parallels to distortions of earlier moments he experienced, including a misrepresented video from Ukraine.

The incident underscores how public figures’ private interactions can be subject to scrutiny and misinterpretation, especially when circulated in the frenzied realms of social media. It raises concerns over how relationships—even those initiated in unconventional circumstances—are analysed and perceived, particularly in today's hyper-connected world where context can easily be lost.

Macron’s visit to Vietnam marks a significant diplomatic endeavour, as it is the first by a French president in nearly a decade. The trip aims to strengthen ties with Vietnam against the backdrop of shifting global alliances, which have seen increased pressures in trade relations with the United States. Macron's agenda not only aims to bolster economic partnerships, with multiple agreements expected to be signed, but also to reinforce France's strategic presence in its former colonies, a topic of interest as the geopolitical landscape continues to evolve.

As the Macrons navigate both their personal and public lives, the blend of their extraordinary love story and the broader implications of their actions reflects the complexities of modern leadership and personal relationships in the limelight.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14750909/gen-z-emmanuel-macron-met-wife-france-shoving-video.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://time.com/7288678/macron-wife-brigitte-plane-shove/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14750909/gen-z-emmanuel-macron-met-wife-france-shoving-video.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://apnews.com/article/82dbcd00d45b6a7718e855a9f4414a26)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/elysee-plays-down-apparent-shove-macron-wife-vietnam-2025-05-26/), [[6]](https://elpais.com/internacional/2025-05-26/el-eliseo-desmiente-que-macron-fuera-abofeteado-por-su-mujer-tras-aterrizar-en-vietnam.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://time.com/7288678/macron-wife-brigitte-plane-shove/), [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/france-vietnam-set-sign-dozens-deals-macron-visits-hanoi-2025-05-26/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[3]](https://apnews.com/article/82dbcd00d45b6a7718e855a9f4414a26), [[6]](https://elpais.com/internacional/2025-05-26/el-eliseo-desmiente-que-macron-fuera-abofeteado-por-su-mujer-tras-aterrizar-en-vietnam.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14750909/gen-z-emmanuel-macron-met-wife-france-shoving-video.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/elysee-plays-down-apparent-shove-macron-wife-vietnam-2025-05-26/> - During a visit to Vietnam, French President Emmanuel Macron dismissed an incident where his wife, Brigitte Macron, appeared to push him in the face upon disembarking from a presidential plane. The video, which caused a stir online, showed Brigitte briefly obscured before the couple descended the stairs together, with Macron stating the moment was a lighthearted exchange between them. He criticised the tendency of online content to be misrepresented, citing a recent incident in Ukraine where a video suggested he was handling drugs, which he clarified was a tissue. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/elysee-plays-down-apparent-shove-macron-wife-vietnam-2025-05-26/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://apnews.com/article/82dbcd00d45b6a7718e855a9f4414a26> - During a visit to Vietnam, a video showing French President Emmanuel Macron playfully pushed by his wife, Brigitte, as they exited their plane sparked widespread media attention and speculation in France. In the footage, Brigitte is seen using both hands to push Macron’s face, prompting varied interpretations, including questions of whether it was a slap or a harmless squabble. President Macron later clarified that the moment was a private, light-hearted exchange between the couple and criticised the overreaction as an example of misinformation amplified in the social media age. His office described the scene as a "moment of complicity" amidst the stress before starting their Southeast Asia tour. Brigitte Macron, formerly his high school teacher and a mother of three, has been married to Macron since 2007 after a long-standing relationship that began in his school years. The incident highlights how public figures' personal moments can be misconstrued and widely debated, especially in the digital age. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/82dbcd00d45b6a7718e855a9f4414a26?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://time.com/7288678/macron-wife-brigitte-plane-shove/> - A viral video capturing what appeared to be Brigitte Macron pushing President Emmanuel Macron on the face as they disembarked a plane in Vietnam has sparked public debate and media speculation in France. The moment, which showed the President recoiling slightly before smiling and waving, led to headlines questioning whether it was a slap or a playful interaction. The President and his office quickly clarified that it was a lighthearted and affectionate exchange during a private moment of decompression, urging the public to avoid overinterpretation. Macron also criticised the tendency for false narratives online, referencing a previous disinformation incident involving him. The article further recounts the couple's high-profile relationship, which began when Emmanuel was a 15-year-old student and Brigitte his teacher. Despite early controversy, the couple married in 2007. As First Lady, Brigitte Macron plays a significant role in public welfare sectors and cultural representation, focusing on causes such as child protection, education, and anti-cyberbullying efforts. ([time.com](https://time.com/7288678/macron-wife-brigitte-plane-shove/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/france-vietnam-set-sign-dozens-deals-macron-visits-hanoi-2025-05-26/> - During President Emmanuel Macron's first formal visit to Vietnam, France and Vietnam signed 14 agreements encompassing aviation, defense, space, and healthcare sectors. A key highlight was a deal for 20 Airbus A330neo aircraft for VietJet, reinforcing Airbus's dominant 86% market share in Vietnam's aviation sector. Additional pacts included cooperation on nuclear energy, railways, Sanofi vaccines, and the satellite partnership between Airbus Defence and Space and Vietnam. Macron emphasised enhanced defense collaboration, particularly in cybersecurity and anti-terrorism, alongside supporting Vietnam's rights in South China Sea maritime issues. The visit comes amid tensions with the U.S., whose tariff threats pressure Vietnam to increase American imports, such as potentially purchasing 250 Boeing jets. French and EU officials expressed concerns that Vietnam’s concessions to the U.S. might harm European trade interests. This visit, the first by a French president in nearly a decade, marks an attempt to bolster France's strategic presence in its former colony, which continues to deepen diplomatic ties since elevating their relationship last year. Macron's tour also includes visits to Indonesia and Singapore. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/france-vietnam-set-sign-dozens-deals-macron-visits-hanoi-2025-05-26/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://elpais.com/internacional/2025-05-26/el-eliseo-desmiente-que-macron-fuera-abofeteado-por-su-mujer-tras-aterrizar-en-vietnam.html> - El presidente francés, Emmanuel Macron, ha desmentido haber sido abofeteado por su esposa, Brigitte Macron, tras aterrizar en Hanói, Vietnam, al inicio de su gira asiática. Un video difundido por Associated Press muestra un instante en el que las manos de Brigitte parecen impactar el rostro de Macron mientras aún están dentro del avión. La escena generó una ola de especulaciones y críticas en redes sociales, lo que llevó inicialmente al Elíseo a calificar las imágenes como falsas y posiblemente generadas mediante inteligencia artificial vinculada a cuentas "rusas". Sin embargo, al confirmarse la autenticidad del video, el entorno presidencial explicó que se trató de un momento de complicidad y broma entre la pareja. Posteriormente, Macron aclaró que estaban relajándose y bromeando, y que no hubo agresión alguna, pidiendo calmar los ánimos frente a diversas teorías conspirativas que han surgido en torno a su figura en las últimas semanas. También hizo referencia al reciente episodio durante su viaje a Kiev, donde se malinterpretó la imagen de un trozo de papel como una posible bolsa de cocaína. ([elpais.com](https://elpais.com/internacional/2025-05-26/el-eliseo-desmiente-que-macron-fuera-abofeteado-por-su-mujer-tras-aterrizar-en-vietnam.html?utm_source=openai))