

REPORT CENTRE

against
Child Sexual Abuse Material
and National Socialism



www.stopleveline.at

CONTENTS:

Reports to Stopline4

Processing by Stopline6

Child sexual abuse material on the internet 8

National Socialism on the internet14

Stopline partner.20

Contact24

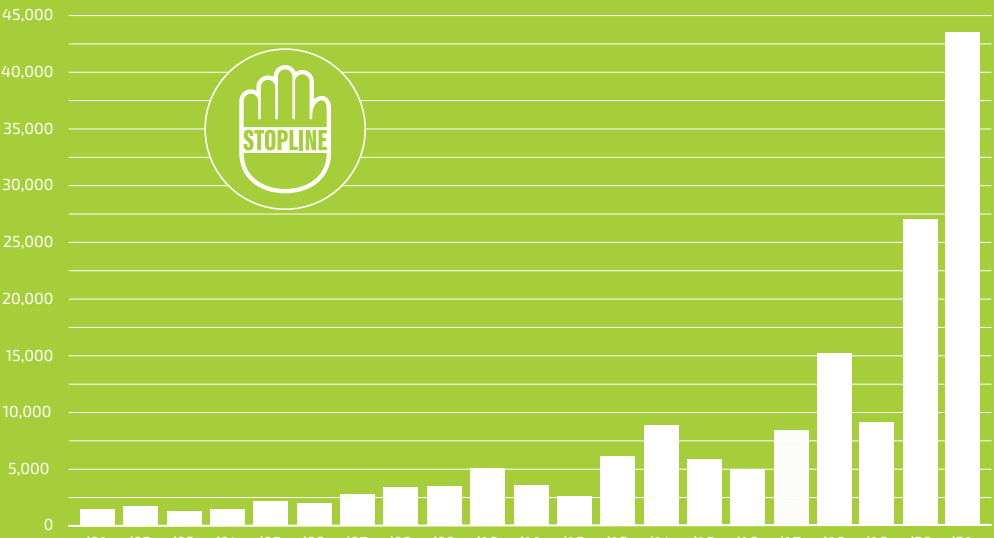
Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

Mehr Information über Stopline, die Österreichische
Meldestelle gegen sexuelle Missbrauchsdarstellungen
Minderjähriger und nationalsozialistische
Wiederbetätigung im Internet, finden Sie hier:
www.stopline.at



Reports received

Satistics of the last 20 years Stopline: 2001 - 2021





COMBATING CHILD ABUSE MATERIAL AND NATIONAL SOCIALISM ON THE INTERNET

Stopline is an online reporting centre for people who encounter child sexual abuse material and evidence of endorsement of National Socialism on the internet. Stopline's overarching goal is to bring about their rapid removal from the internet with a minimum of bureaucracy, above all if they are hosted in Austria. The hotline was set up in 1998 by the Internet Service Providers Austrian (ISPA) association. In the 23 years it has been active, Stopline has processed more than 160,000 reports. In an average of 25 % of cases, the material reported is in fact illegal, the vast majority of which is hosted on foreign servers.

Mutual success thanks to vigilant users and strong partnerships

The rapid pace of change in the world of IT and communications technology, and the proliferation of new digital services on the internet, pose an ongoing challenge when it comes to identifying illegal content. Stopline employees are prohibited from actively searching for illegal material on their own initiative. As a result, Stopline's success is primarily down to a large number of vigilant internet users and its strong networks and partnerships at home and abroad.

Stopline has worked in close cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry for the Interior and domestic internet service providers from the outset. To successfully combat illegal internet content at an international level, Stopline is part of the global INHOPE hotline network.

20 years of Stopline

Stopline marked its 20th anniversary in 2018 and is taking this milestone as an opportunity to join the international community's work to eliminate use of the phrase "child pornography". The former Report Centre Against Child Pornography and National Socialism on the Internet is now called the Austrian Report Centre against Child Sexual Abuse Material and National Socialism on the Internet. Experts who work with the young people affected confirm that the term "child pornography" downplays the seriousness of the depictions of sexual abuse, violence and coercion.

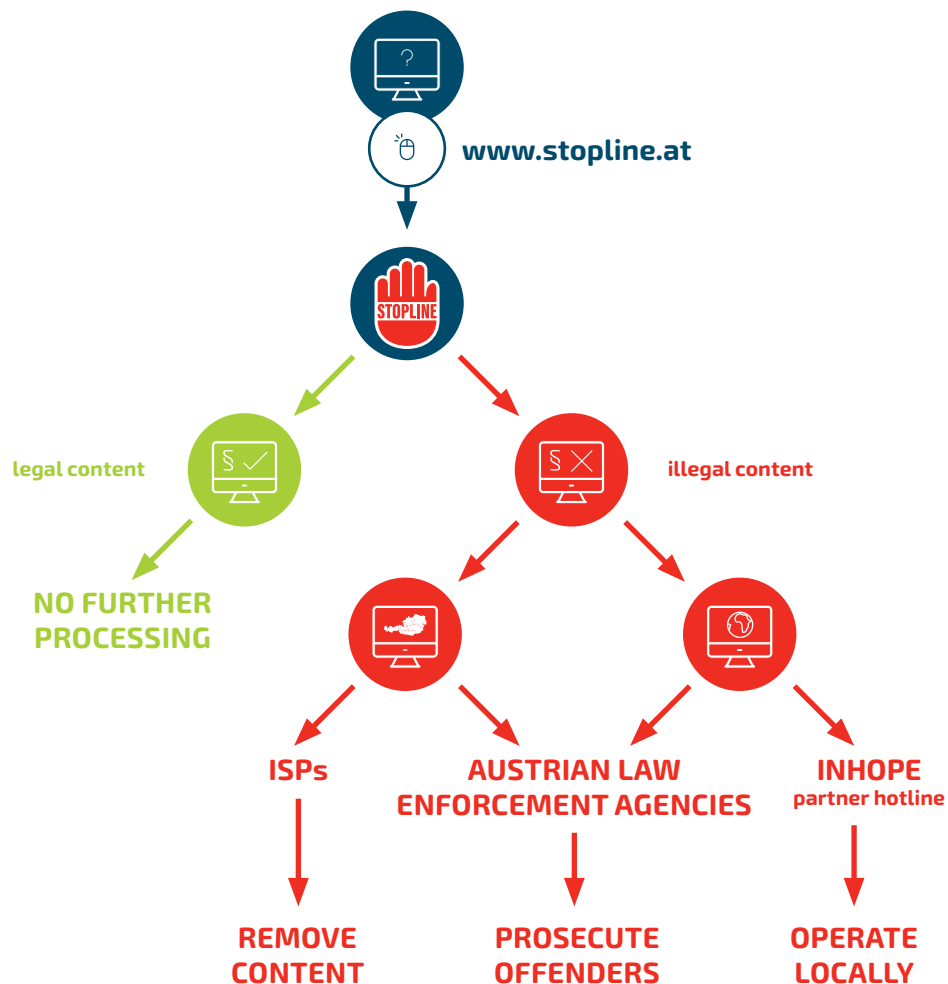
»It is only possible to effectively combat a global problem if all of the stakeholders know each other and work closely with one another. And it is down to a combination of this network and the rapid responses of our partners and providers that Austria is such an unattractive location for the dissemination of illegal content.«



Dr. Barbara Schloßbauer
Stopline project manager

STOPLINE

HOW IT WORKS:



IMPORTANT!

If you suspect that you have found illegal material or have information regarding such content you should report it to Stopline immediately. However, you should not take any other action. Do not do any detective work on your own initiative! Do not actively set off in search of illegal content and

do not send any images to Stopline – this also applies to screenshots. This could be interpreted as an illegal act in itself.

All it takes for Stopline to follow up a report is an accurate as possible indication of the source of the suspicious material.





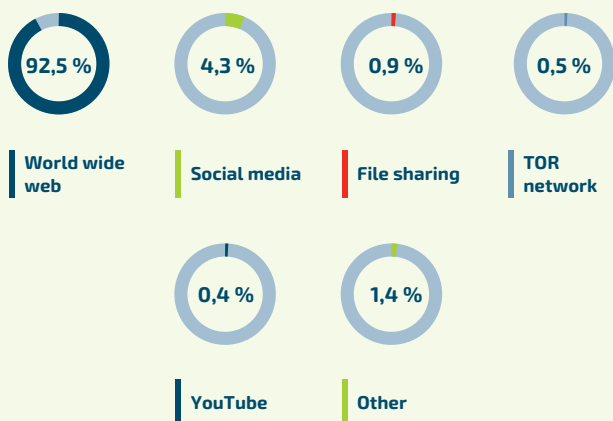
MAKE A REPORT: SIMPLE AND ANONYMOUS

What can you report to Stopline?

The internet is the most important medium for distributing information of our time. But it is also a way to disseminate illegal content, which is just as liable for prosecution as it would be offline. Stopline's activities are focused on two very serious criminal offences covered by Austrian law: **child sexual abuse material** and **endorsement of National Socialism**. No matter where you encounter illegal content on the internet, do not hesitate to report it to Stopline.

Reports (by source)

Classified by Stopline



Ø during the past 10 years

How can you report?

You can report illegal content directly via www.stopline.at or by sending an email to office@stopline.at.

What information does Stopline require?

To help us to process your report as effectively as possible please send the following information to Stopline, depending on the source:

- **Websites, e-groups and FTP servers**
→ the exact URL
- **Filesharing programmes**
→ Author, date, subject and/or search terms
- **Newsgroups**
→ Description of posting; specific name of newsgroup, news server, sender, date and subject of posting
- **Social media**
→ URL or name of social media platform, name of author (for comments, postings...) and date

If you know the passwords for accessing the content, please notify us of them. The more precisely you describe the source, the faster Stopline can get to work investigating the report. Reports are acted on within one working day.

HOW STOPLINE PROCESSES YOUR REPORT

Every tip we receive from internet users counts

For each report Stopline checks whether the reported material meets the definition of child sexual abuse material or National Socialist content.

Illegal content: the authorities are immediately notified

As soon as Stopline categorises content as illegal, it notifies the relevant law enforcement agency in Austria. Investigating child sexual abuse material falls under the remit of the Federal Criminal Police Office (BK), while the Federal Office for Protection of the Constitution and Counterterrorism (BVT) is responsible for investigating National Socialism. They are also responsible for any further measures.

Illegal content in Austria: cooperation with providers

When it comes to processing illegal content, the country of origin of the provider plays a decisive role. If the content is hosted by an Austrian internet service provider, Stopline contacts the host provider, asking them to remove the content from the internet so that it can no longer be accessed online. Stopline does not delete or censor any allegedly illegal material itself. Instead, it gives providers recommendations on how to proceed if any is discovered.

Data protection and anonymity

Stopline respects the right to privacy of the person making the report, which is why it is possible to do so anonymously. No data relating to the person making the report is attached to the record. Any data that is voluntarily submitted by the sender is kept strictly confidential and not shared with any third parties.



Reports received
Classified by Stopline



Ø during the past 10 years

International network – close cooperation on international abuse cases

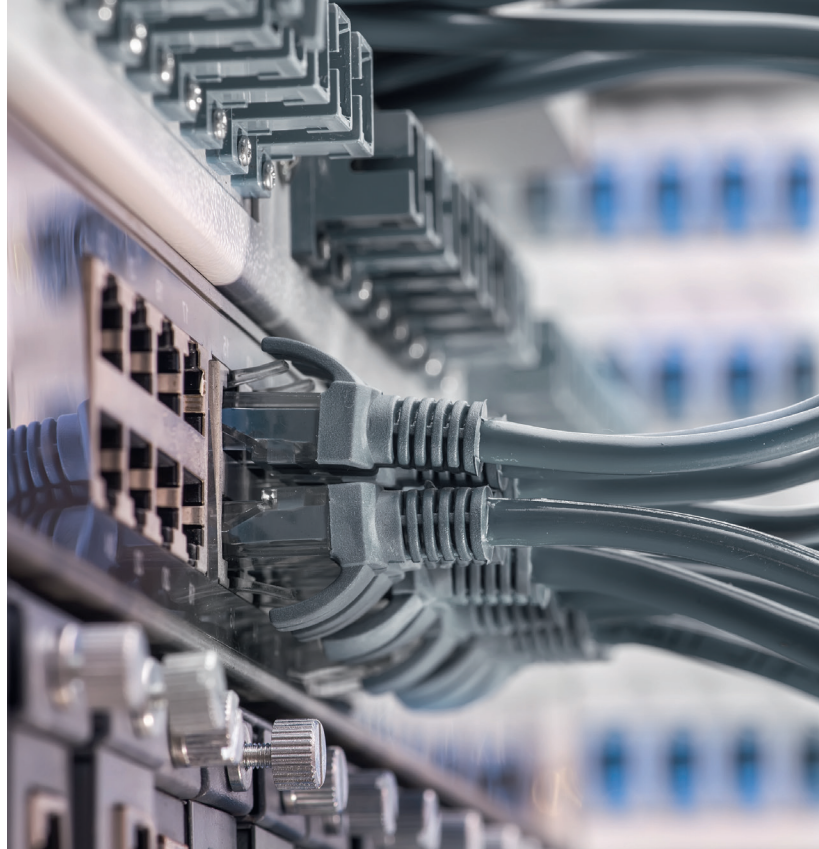
The vast majority of reports of child sexual abuse material subsequently categorised as actionable by Stopline is hosted on foreign servers. As a result, being part of a strong, international network with non-bureaucratic, direct access to overseas counterparts is essential for effectively combating illegal content.

Network of international partner hotlines

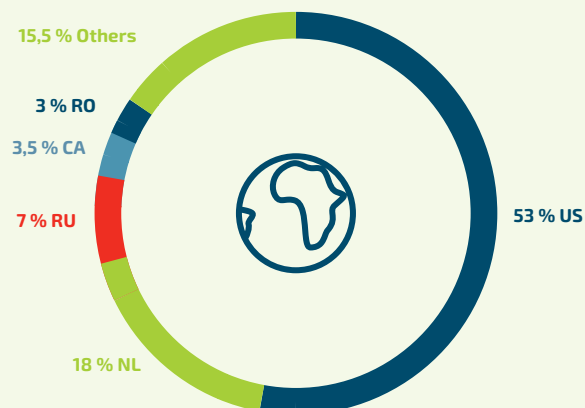
The INHOPE international network of internet hotlines comprises more than 45 partner hotlines who cooperate with each other to remove illegal content from the internet. If the country concerned has its own hotline, it launches its reporting procedures as soon as it is contacted by Stopline and notifies the relevant authorities and/or the provider concerned. Thanks to their experience and good contacts in their home countries, the partner hotlines are able to have banned content removed quickly. And even if the illegal material is hosted on a foreign server, Stopline also reports the content to Austrian prosecutors in addition to its foreign counterpart.

Most common countries of origin

Illegal content is often hosted in places where IT services and equipment are cheap (servers, web space, connectivity) and there are few bureaucratic hurdles to overcome when purchasing them, or where the legal framework permits publication of content that would be illegal elsewhere. In a breakdown of illegal content reported to Stopline, the USA has topped the rankings for years. It should be noted that Austria is unattractive as a hosting location for illegal content. (Status 2018)



Country of origin



Ø during the past 10 years

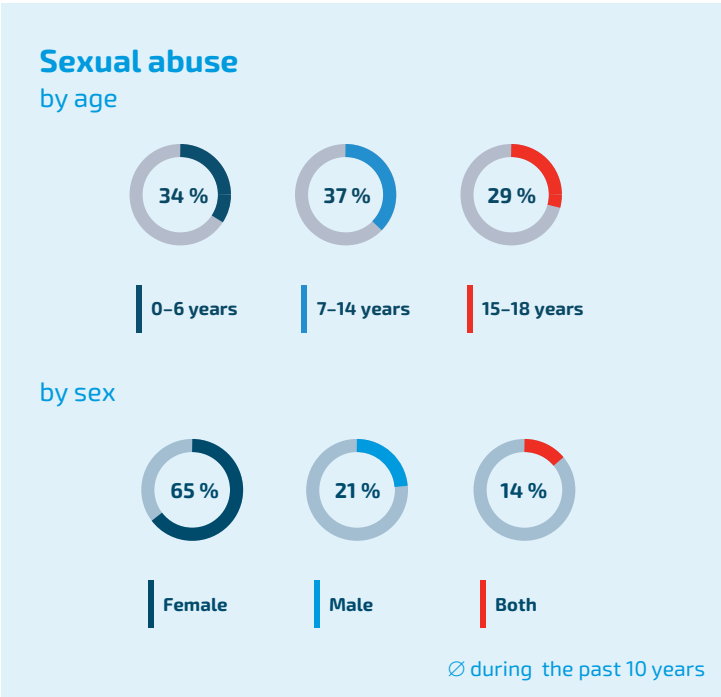


CHILD SEXUAL
ABUSE MATERIAL
ON THE INTERNET



COMBATING SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS

Unfortunately child sexual abuse material and the exploitation of children on the internet is widespread and is part of a large-scale illegal industry. **In Austria, possessing and knowingly accessing sexual abuse material, inter alia, online are punishable by criminal law.** Pornographic representations of minors (pursuant to section 207a Austrian Criminal Code [StGB]) refers to images of sexual acts or pictures with a focus of the genitals of persons under the age of 18.



Format of illegal content

Sexual abuse material depicting minors can in principle take the form of photographs, films and the like. The scope of content ranges from depictions of naked children to images of serious sexual violence. One grey area is depictions such as drawings, paintings, comics and photo montages in which it is not immediately apparent whether the images are real or not. In such cases, the decisive factor is whether the images gives the beholder the impression that a sexual act involving a minor is in fact taking place. What is not punishable under section 207a, but could be deemed illegal under other legislation, are texts that describe sexual acts involving children.

Since 1 January 2012 **grooming** (initiating sexual contact with minors via the internet) and watching performances involving the sexual abuse of minors (live, via webcam) have been criminal offences.

Another important change to the Austrian Criminal Code regards sexting. Consensual **sexting** (i.e. a person over the age of 14 sending or forwarding erotic images of their own body) has not been a punishable offence since 1 January 2016 (see section 207a para. 5). It is, however, still an offence if images of this nature are produced under duress or transmitted to a third party.



What is punishable by law?

If a picture shows child sexual abuse imagery, any action relating to it is forbidden: knowingly accessing, producing, offering, procuring (for self or others), transmitting, showing, owning or otherwise making available – also importing, promoting or exporting.

If you are unsure as to whether the images are illegal, please report it anyway. Upon receiving a report, the Stopline team assesses the content to establish whether it

- shows a minor,
- depicts sexual acts or
- is focused on the genitals.



Important: make sure you do not unwittingly break the law!

Child sexual abuse material is illegal and punishable by law, and can only be investigated by the police and public prosecutor's office. Stopline strongly advises users not to conduct targeted searches on the internet on their own initiative. Please note simply loading a page results in its content being automatically stored on your hard drive (usually in a directory for temporary internet files). Anyone acting with even the best of intentions could be unwittingly committing an offence.

LEGAL BASIS PURSUANT TO SECTION 207A AUSTRIAN CRIMINAL CODE – PORNOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATIONS OF MINORS*

(1) Any person who

1. produces or
2. offers, provides, relinquishes, displays or makes available to another a pornographic image of a minor (para. 4) is liable to imprisonment of up to three years.

(2) Any person who produces, imports, transfers or exports a pornographic image of a minor (para. 4) for the purposes of distribution or who commits the offence under para. 1 commercially is liable to imprisonment for six months to three years. Any person who commits the offence as a member of a criminal association or in a manner that is particularly detrimental for the minor is liable to imprisonment for one to 10 years; the same penalty applies to any person who produces a pornographic image of a minor (para. 4) by using serious violence or who intentionally or grossly negligently (section 6 para. 3) endangers the life of the minor in the production process.

(3) Any person who procures or possesses a pornographic image of a minor of or over the age of 14 (para 4. subparas. 3 and 4) is liable to imprisonment for up to one year or a fine not exceeding 720 penalty units. Any person who procures or possesses a pornographic image of a person under the age of 14 (para. 4) is liable to imprisonment for up to two years.

(3a) Any person who knowingly accesses a pornographic image of a minor on the internet is also liable under para. 3.

(4) Pornographic images of a minor are

1. realistic images of sexual acts committed on a person under the age of 14, or committed by a person under the age of 14 on himself, herself, another person or on an animal;

2. realistic images of an incident involving a person under the age of 14, the viewing of which creates, in the circumstances, the impression that it involves sexual acts committed on a person under the age of 14, or a person under the age of 14 on himself, herself, another person or on an animal;

3. realistic images of

- a) sexual acts within the meaning of subpara. 1 or incidents within the meaning of subpara. 2 involving a minor of or above the age of 14 or

- b) the genitalia or pubic area of a minor, insofar they are sensationalised or distorted, reduced depictions removed from other manifestations of life, serving the sexual arousal of the viewer.

4. illustrations, the viewing of which – through modification of an image or without the use of an image – creates in the circumstances the impression they are depictions under subparas 1 to 3.

(5) A person is not liable under paras. 1 and 3. if the person

1. produces or possesses a pornographic image of a minor of or above the age of 14 that was produced with the consent of and for use by the minor of or above the age of 14;

2. produces or possesses a pornographic image under para. 4 subpara. 4 of a minor of or above the age of 14, insofar as the offence does not involve any risk of distribution of the image;

(6) Further, a person is not liable if the person

1. in cases of para. 1, para. 2 first case and para 3. a minor of or above the age of 14 produces or possesses a pornographic image of himself or herself or who offers, provides, relinquishes, displays or otherwise makes such an image available to others or
2. is a minor of or above the age of 14 who possesses a pornographic image of himself or herself.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INTERNET HOTLINES

INHOPE

INHOPE – ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL REPORT CENTRES FOR ILLEGAL MATERIAL ON THE INTERNET

INHOPE (International Association of Internet Hotlines) is the association of international report centres for illegal material on the internet. The joint aim of the around 45 INHOPE hotlines, now in operation in some 40 countries worldwide, is to remove child sexual abuse material from the internet and protect young people from any damaging and illegal uses of the internet. The INHOPE foundation is an organisation that helps set up new hotlines, particularly in developing countries and emerging economies so that it can continue to build its global network. By exchanging information quickly and securely among themselves, INHOPE partners have helped to bring down numerous child pornography rings.

With only a few exceptions (e.g. Ukraine, China and Vietnam), INHOPE hotlines are in operation in the countries at the root of the most Stoplevel reports (see graphic on page 7).

The advantages of INHOPE membership for Stoplevel

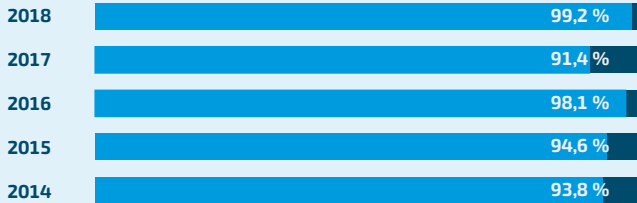
Learning from other organisations' experiences and working together to improve overall efficiency – this is what makes INHOPE such a valuable platform for its members. New hotlines in particular benefit from the years of practical experience built up by established report centres such as Stoplevel. And, in turn, Stoplevel can put its expertise in the global fight against child sexual abuse material to good use worldwide and make the most of the technologies it co-develops with its partners.

The INHOPE project is co-financed by the EU.
See www.inhope.org for further information.



INHOPE

Forwarding reports to partner hotlines



»In almost 100 percent of the cases reported to Stoplevel the server hosting the illegal material is located abroad. By maintaining constant contact and working closely together, in more than 90 percent of cases we are able to notify the corresponding member of the INHOPE network directly.«

Dr. Barbara Schloßbauer
Stoplevel project manager



NATIONAL SOCIALISM ON THE INTERNET

WHAT ACTS ARE PUNISHABLE BY LAW?

Endorsement of National Socialist activities or ideologies takes many forms. However, not every racist or inflammatory statement automatically qualifies as approving National Socialist ideology. **In Austria, denial of National Socialist crimes and the dissemination or glorification of National Socialist content is punishable by law.** This includes acts such as distributing speeches by National Socialist functionaries, making heroic depictions of the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP), Schutzstaffel (SS) or Sturmabteilung (SA), founding National Socialist societies, recruiting members for such organisations or simply being involved in them in any way.

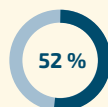
When it comes to combating National Socialist content on the internet the statutory provisions of the 1947 Prohibition Act and the 1960 Insignia Act are used as the primary basis for criminal proceedings. Both sets of provisions clearly state that critical appraisal of the National Socialist past is not banned, but approval of such activities, measures and ideas is.



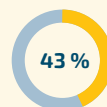


NATIONAL SOCIALISM

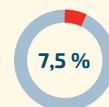
Type of offence



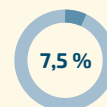
Insignia /
banner



Text



Music



Others

Ø during the past 10 years

1947 Prohibition Act and 1960 Insignia Act as a basis

If you are unsure as to whether the content you have seen is illegal National Socialist material, please report it anyway.

The Stopline team investigates content (texts, images, music, videos) to see whether it

- denies Nazi crimes,
- glorifies National Socialist ideology or
- depicts prohibited insignias or uniforms.

When making a report, giving as detailed as possible a description of the content's location helps Stopline act quickly (see page 5). However, it is only possible to initiate counter-measures in Germany and Austria. In other countries (e.g. the USA) there is no legal basis for action as such activities are protected under freedom of speech laws.

LEGAL BASIS

Insignia Act 1960 (excerpt)*

(Federal Law of 5 April 1960 prohibiting certain insignia)

Section 1 (1) Insignia, uniforms or parts of uniforms of any organization prohibited in Austria are not to be worn in public nor displayed, represented or disseminated. Emblems, symbols and characteristics are also to be considered as insignia.

Section 2 (1) The prohibition of Section 1 applies neither to printed works, graphic representation, theatrical performances and movies, nor to exhibitions in which the items on show falling in Section 1 are not a substantial element on the exhibition if the printed works graphic representation, theatrical performances and movies and exhibitions do not approve or disseminate the ideology of a banned organization.

(2) The prohibition of Section 1 do not apply in case of any exhibition with a goal clearly aiming against the ideology of the prohibited organization concerned.

National Socialism Prohibition Act 1947 (excerpt)*

(Constitutional law of 8 May 1945 on the prohibition of the National Socialist German Workers' Party [NSDAP])

Section 1. The NSDAP, its paramilitary groups [Wehrverbände] (SS, SA, NSKK, NSFK), its subgroups and affiliated associations, as well as all National Socialist organisations and institutions in general have been dissolved and their re-establishment is forbidden. [...]

Section 3. Every person is forbidden to act in any way, even outside these organisations, for the NSDAP or its objectives.

Section 3a. The following persons will become guilty [...]

1. whoever tries to maintain or re-establish a National Socialist organisation which was legally dissolved or to establish contact with such an organisation or a person acting on its behalf; the following are considered National Socialist organisations (Section 1): the NSDAP, SS, SA, NSKK, NSFK, the NS Soldiers' Ring, the NS Officers' Association, all other groupings of the NSDAP and its affiliated associations as well as any other National Socialist organisations;
2. whoever founds an association that seeks to make its members act in the spirit of National Socialism with a view to undermining the self-determination and independence of the Republic of Austria or to disturbing public peace and the reconstruction of Austria or whoever plays a leading role in an association of this kind;
3. [...]
4. whoever produces, obtains or makes available weapons, means of transportation or telecommunications systems for such an organisation or association.
[...]

Section 3d. Whoever requests, instigates or seeks to induce others through publications, documents distributed or illustrations in public or in the presence of several persons to perform forbidden acts in accordance with Section 1 or Section 3, and who, to this end, in particular glorifies or extols the objectives of the NSDAP, its institutions or actions, shall, [...] be punished [...].
[...]

Section 3h. [...] anybody who denies, grossly minimises, approves or seeks to justify the National Socialist genocide or any other National Socialist crimes against humanity in a publication, a broadcasting medium or any other medium publicly and in any other manner accessible to a large number of people will also be punished.
[...]

* The full German-language text of the Criminal code can be found at www.ris.bka.gv.at

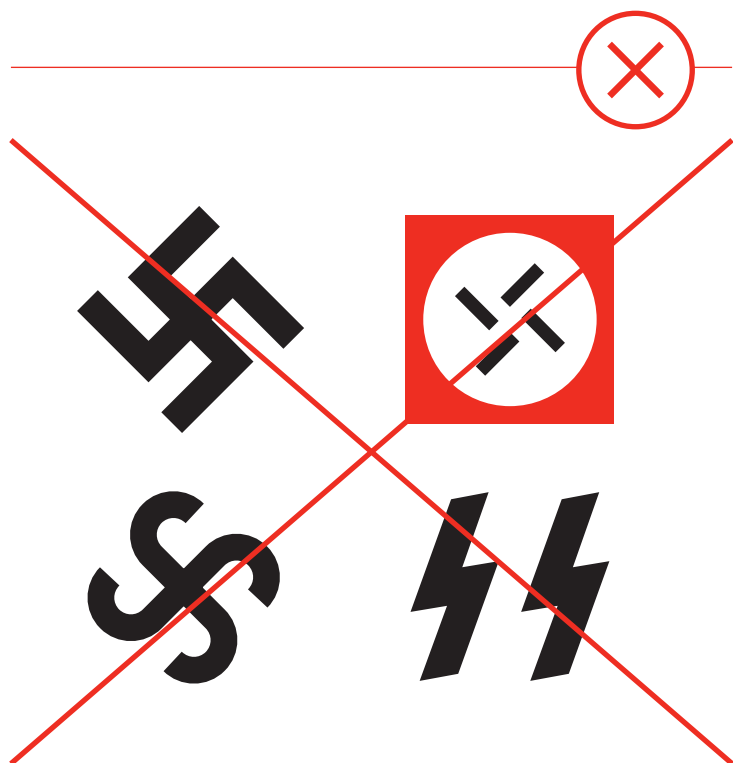


PROHIBITED SYMBOLS AND SIGNS

In Austria, the Swastika and the double lightning bolts of the SS, as well as National Socialist emblems, symbols and characteristics are prohibited. Each symbol has to be appraised individually as many occupy a legal grey zone.

Critical appraisal is permitted!

The use of National Socialist images and texts is not prohibited if it is clear from the context that they are being used in opposition to National Socialism and its ideology. Examples include a Swastika with a line through it or held above a bin.





STOPLINE AND ITS PARTNERS



STOPLINE AND ITS PARTNERS – STRONGER TOGETHER

Stopline owes much of its effectiveness to its professional and reliable partners, as well as its financial backers. Without the network and strong partnerships, its more than 20 year success story would simply not have been possible.



ISPA - Internet Service Providers Austria

ISPA is the umbrella association of the internet service providers in Austria. Its goal is to promote the internet in Austria and support the interests and priorities of its around 200 members from the access, services, hosting and content sectors. ISPA is the mouthpiece of the Austrian internet services industry in dialogue with the government, authorities and other institutions, associations and committees, and promotes communication between individual participants in the market.

Web: www.ispa.at

FINANCIAL BACKING FROM THE EU AND NIC.AT

Stopline receives financial backing from the European Union under its Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Telecom/Safer Internet programme and from nic.at, the Austrian registry for the .at domains.



Co-financed by the Connecting Europe Facility of the European Union

Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) – Safer Internet for Children

The first Safer Internet programme was set up in 1999 to support projects and events and the self-regulation of the industry, and to promote international cooperation. Its specific goal is to support the Safer Internet Centres (SICs) in all EU member states, building on its collaboration with the EU core platform and its services.



nic.at GmbH

nic.at GmbH is the official registry for all domains with the .at, .co.at and .or.at endings. Safe use of the internet is one of nic.at's core priorities, which is why it has provided financial support for Stopline from the outset. It also operates the Austrian CERT – Computer Emergency Response Team.

Web: www.nic.at

SAFER INTERNET CENTRE AUSTRIA

Together with Saferinternet.at, Rat auf Draht and ISPA, Stopline makes up Safer Internet Centre Austria, which is the Austrian partner in the European Union's Internet Network, an organisation dedicated to raising awareness of safe use of the internet. Its activities focus on providing information and consultation services regarding the use of digital media.

Saferinternet.at

Das Internet sicher nutzen!

Saferinternet.at – using the internet safely!

Saferinternet.at advises internet users – specifically children, adolescents, parents and teachers – on how to use the internet, smartphones and computer games safely. It provides countless tips and pointers on how best to deal with the risks involved. Saferinternet.at also draws attention to the positive aspects of life online.

Web: www.saferinternet.at



Rat auf Draht – telephone hotline for children, teenagers, parents, carers and concerned adults

Rat auf Draht is a counselling service for children, teenagers and concerned adults staffed by a team of experts. Children and teenagers can use the free and anonymous 147 hotline to get answers to their questions at any time of day or night, seven days a week.

Web: www.rataufdraht.at





COOPERATION WITH AUSTRIAN PROSECUTORS

Stoplevel works hand in hand with prosecutors' report centres at a national level. Responsibility for prosecuting cases involving sexual abuse of minors and National Socialism on the internet falls to two different bodies:

.BK  REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH
BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR INNERE
BUNDESKRIMINALAMT

Child pornography and child sex tourism report centre

The Federal Criminal Police Office (BK) operates the Police Report Centre for Child Pornography and Child Sex Tourism on the Internet.

Web: www.bmi.gv.at/meldestellen/

E-mail: meldestelle@interpol.at

.BVT  REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH
BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR INNERES
BUNDESAMT FÜR VERFASSUNGSSCHUTZ UND TERRORISMUSBEKÄMPFUNG

Report Center for National Socialism

The Report Centre for National Socialism is part of the Federal Office for Protection of the Constitution and Counterterrorism (BVT).

Web: www.bmi.gv.at/meldestellen/

E-mail: ns-meldestelle@bvt.gv.at

Stopline info material

is available for download at www.stopline.at

A print version of our brochure is also available to order.

Stopline at events

The Stopline experts talk about the work they do at their report centre at various events. Interested in a Stopline talk? Write to us at office@stopline and let us know about the event you are planning.

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office@stopline.at

www.stopline.at

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