



# ***Annual Report 2011***



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### Imprint

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## PREFACE

Dear friends and supporters of Stopline

Dear readers

The Internet is subject to a constant change. Especially the so-called Web 2.0 enables users from all over the world to participate more actively on the Internet. Making Internet surfing safer has been Stopline's task since 1998. Thus, we have been fighting child pornography and National Socialist offences on the Internet for more than thirteen years now. Since the start of Stopline we have processed more than 30,000 reports on illegal material, with an upward tendency.

In 2011, Stopline registered about 3,500 incoming reports. While these were significantly less reports than in 2010 (5000 reports), the long-term average shows a continuous upward trend. The number of reports that are actually classified as illegal by the Stopline is declining. However, this does not necessarily mean that the Internet has become "safer". While a user is now less likely to come across illegal contents incidentally, this can also be due to the fact that forbidden contents are more and more moved to private newsgroups.

At this point it should also be mentioned that in the entire year 2011 only one single case was localized on an Austrian server. All other reports concerned content that were hosted abroad. The legal situation in Austria regarding child pornography and National Socialist offences is unambiguous, and the cooperation between the executive and Stopline works very well. Also the cooperation with INHOPE hotlines in partner countries is particularly pleasing. 95% of all incoming reports in 2011 concerned a partner country, which enabled a fast processing of these cases.

However, Stopline would not work without the numerous attentive users that prove their social responsibility by reporting illegal web content and, thus, contribute to making the internet "cleaner". Carry on the good work!

We would also like to thank our financial supporters – the Safer Internet Programme of the EU and nic.at, the registry for .at-domains.

Last but not least, I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to my hardworking colleagues. Without them Stopline would not be as efficient as it is.

A good cooperation with the Austrian ISPs within the ISPA allows for an instant removal of illegal contents on the Internet, although they often appear again at different places. The increased presence of Stopline in the media and on the Internet could lead to a further reduction of illegal contents. With this in mind, I would like to appeal to you as a user: Please place a link to [www.stopline.at](http://www.stopline.at) on your website or publish the Stopline logo. But first of all: Do not look away! Report online content if you feel that they might be violating a law. This way we can all take part in making the Internet a bit safer.

Dr. Barbara Schloßbauer  
Project Manager and Chairwoman of the Stopline Advisory Board



## OVERVIEW OF STOPLINE

Stopline is the online contact point for people who come across the following illegal content on the Internet:

- Child pornography
- National Socialist Offences

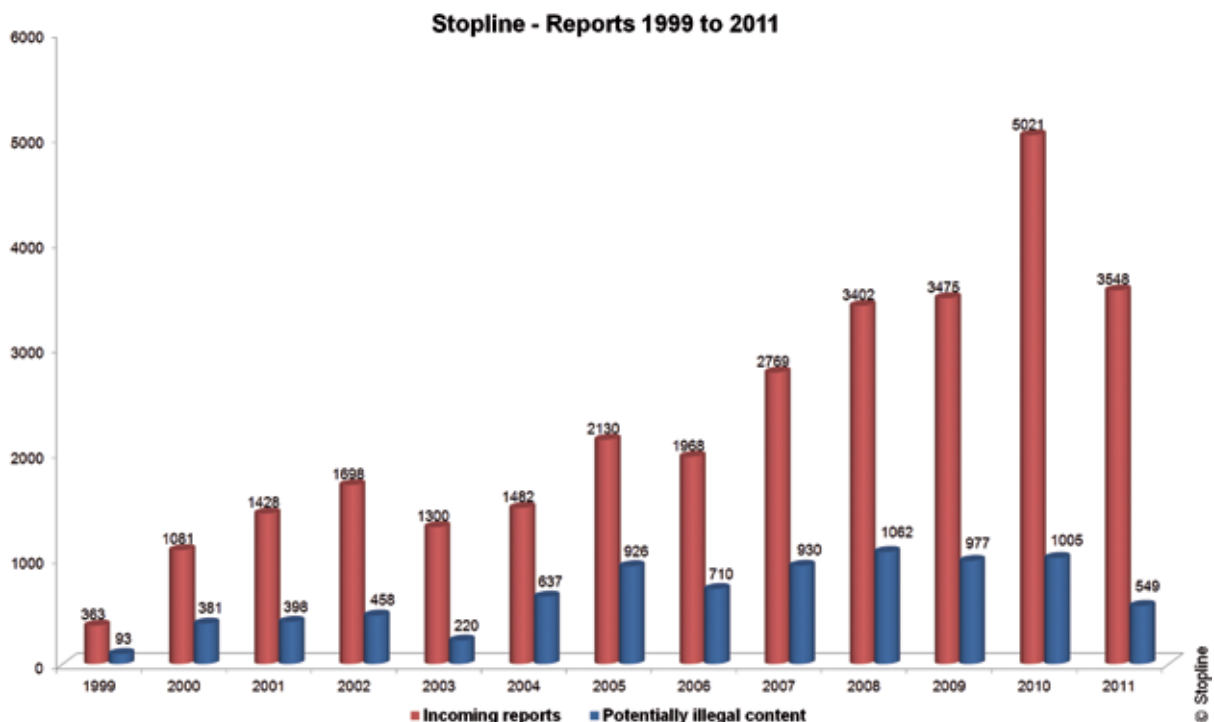
Stopline's main task is the removal of this illegal content from the Internet, especially with regard to publications in Austria.

Stopline was founded in 1998. It is operated as a commitment of the Austrian Internet service providers by the ISPA (see page 15), the association of Internet Service Providers Austria ([www.ispa.at](http://www.ispa.at)). Its foundation dates back to an incident in 1997, when child-pornographic material was found on the server of an Austrian ISP, which was uploaded by a customer.



Since its foundation, Stopline has been recognised and authorised by the public authorities. It closely cooperates with the Federal Ministry of the Interior<sup>1</sup> and with the Internet service providers by means of the ISPA. For a successful international approach, Stopline is also a member of the worldwide hotline network INHOPE.

In the 13 years since its foundation, Stopline has processed more than 29,000 reports. With more than 3500 reports, the year 2011 attained a similar number of incoming reports as in 2009. Some 16 percent of the incoming reports were actually classified as illegal, whereas the remaining reports were not subject to criminal law.



*Since the foundation of Stopline in 1998, the total number of incoming reports has been 30,000. With slightly more than 3500 reports, there was a decrease compared to the year 2010. However, the long-term development still shows an increase. The percentage of content that were actually classified as illegal has been decreasing within the past seven years.*

<sup>1</sup> Bundeskriminalamt – Report Office Child pornography and Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz und Terrorismusbekämpfung – Report Office National Socialist Offences

## THIS IS HOW STOPLINE WORKS

The following section describes Stopline's main field of activity – the processing of reports. It must be noted that the Stopline staff members do not actively search for illegal content on the Internet. They only deal with online content that has been reported to Stopline by attentive Internet users or partner hotlines within the international network of hotlines (INHOPE, see page 17), respectively.

### WHAT CAN BE REPORTED?

Stopline processes reports on

- Child pornography according to §207a of the Austrian penal code
- National Socialist Offences according to the National Socialist prohibition law and others

Please find detailed legal information about these offences on pages 6f.

Reports about other issues that are not directly within Stopline's responsibility are also accepted. However, they are not analysed but forwarded to the responsible authorities.

According to its agreement with the Austrian law enforcement agencies, Stopline processes reports on the following online services:

- WWW – i.e. World Wide Web
- Newsgroups
- E-groups

Reports on file-sharing programs, chat rooms or e-mail will be forwarded to the police anonymously on request.

### HOW CAN A REPORT BE MADE

Details on illegal online content can be forwarded (anonymously on request) to Stopline

- via web form at [www.stopline.at](http://www.stopline.at)
- or by sending an e-mail to [report@stopline.at](mailto:report@stopline.at)

#### IMPORTANT:

- ⇒ **websites:** precise URL;
- ⇒ **file-sharing programs:** precise specification of author, date, subject and/or search term;
- ⇒ **newsgroups:** detailed description of the posting, especially name of the newsgroup, news server, author, date and subject of the posting.

### BE CAREFUL – Don't send images!

It is explicitly recommended not to send any images, as this might be an illegal action itself. In order to process the report, Stopline only requires detailed information about the suspicious material.

The screenshot shows the Stopline web form. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: 'About us', 'Report', 'Partner', 'Service', 'News', and a 'Report your issue' button. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'Newsgroups', 'File to report', 'Image/Video', and 'Report Privately'. The main content area is titled 'Report: World Wide Web'. It includes a text box for the URL, a note about providing a precise URL, and a section for 'Nature of suspect content' with radio buttons for 'Child Pornography', 'National Socialist Offence', and 'Other'. There is also a section for 'Source (if URL is not available)' and a 'Short Description / Comment' text box. At the bottom, there is a field for 'e-mail address (if desired)' and a 'Submit' button. The footer contains logos for various partner organizations like ICP, ISPA, NIC, and others.

### INCOMING REPORTS

Stopline receives about 300 reports per month on child pornography, National Socialist Offences and other content, which are processed by staff within one working day. The majority of reports (78 percent) are classified by the sender of the report as "child pornography".

### PROCESSING OF REPORTS

Successfully locating the content depends on the quality of the report. The more precise the description, the faster and more efficiently the report can be investigated.



## ILLEGAL CONTENT

Next, the Stopline staff judge whether the reported content is actually illegal according to the criteria of Austrian law. In the case of illegal material, Stopline traces the host provider, i.e. the ISP or server via which the illegal content is actually published on the web.

### ILLEGAL CONTENT IN AUSTRIA

If the content is published via an Austrian Internet service provider (ISP), the following measures are taken immediately:

#### Information to the law enforcement agencies: preservation of evidence

Stopline immediately contacts the Austrian law enforcement agencies, informing them about the illegal content in order to enable the preservation of evidence.

#### Information to the ISP: removal of content

In order to actually delete the illegal content, Stopline contacts the ISP and asks them to remove the content from the Internet, so it is no longer available to Internet users.

Stopline does not delete or censor illegal content, they just advise the ISPs which steps should be taken. It is the decision of the ISP how they react to this information. However, Austrian ISPs are aware of their responsibility, which means that illegal content is immediately removed from the web.

#### IMPORTANT:

In 2011, only one website with illegal content was reported to Stopline which was hosted in Austria.

### ILLEGAL CONTENT INTERNATIONALLY

If the illegal material is hosted on a foreign server, the following steps are taken:

#### Information to the law enforcement agencies

Again, the local authorities are informed.

#### Information to INHOPE partner hotline

At the same time, Stopline forwards the information to foreign INHOPE partner hotlines (see page 17) as long as such a hotline exists in the respective country. In turn, the partner hotline takes the proper measures and informs the relevant authority and ISP in their country.

This procedure minimizes the bureaucratic effort between international law enforcement agencies, and experienced local hotlines can use their good contacts to remove the illegal content from the Internet as quickly as possible.



## WHAT IS CHILD PORNOGRAPHY?

Not everything that looks like child pornography at first glance can actually be regarded as a criminal offence. With regard to activities of the Stopline, child pornography is usually defined as images showing minors involved in sexual activity. Persons under the age of 18 are minors. Pornographic material is usually presented in the form of photographs or videos.

### Child pornography:

- ⇒ Minor, i.e. under the age of 18?
- ⇒ Sexual acts?
- ⇒ Focus on genitals?

Other images like drawings, paintings, comics or montages are grey areas. In these cases it is not instantly possible to verify the authenticity of the images. The decisive factor is that the viewer must have the impression that sexual activity with minors is actually taking place. Text describing sexual activity with children is not criminal in terms of child pornography but possibly with regard to other legal regulations.

According to § 207a StGB (Austrian Penal Code), child pornography is defined by sexual activity with or by focussing on the genitals of minors. Thus, neutral photos of nudist beaches, for instance, are not subject to child pornography.

If an image is defined as child pornography, any activity in connection with this is illegal: i.e. wilful access to such material on the Internet, producing, offering, acquiring, providing, showing, possessing or other kinds of sharing child pornography, also import, transport and export.

It must also be pointed out that these images represent elements of an offence that is liable to prosecution only by the police and by the public prosecutor's office. Thus, it must be implicitly advised against selective Internet investigations by users. Even if the user's intentions are good, like making a report to Stopline, they might incur a penalty.

### IN AUSTRIA THE OFFENCE OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY IS DEFINED IN § 207A OF THE PENAL CODE (STGB).

#### Wording of the law only available in German:

§ 207a StGB - Pornografische Darstellungen Minderjähriger

(1) Wer eine pornografische Darstellung einer minderjährigen Person (Abs. 4)

1. herstellt oder
  2. einem anderen anbietet, verschafft, überlässt, vorführt oder sonst zugänglich macht,
- ist mit Freiheitsstrafe bis zu drei Jahren zu bestrafen.

(2) Mit Freiheitsstrafe von sechs Monaten bis zu fünf Jahren ist zu bestrafen, wer eine pornografische Darstellung einer minderjährigen Person (Abs. 4) zum Zweck der Verbreitung herstellt, einführt, befördert oder ausführt oder eine Tat nach Abs. 1 gewerbsmäßig begeht. Mit Freiheitsstrafe von einem bis zu zehn Jahren ist zu bestrafen, wer die Tat als Mitglied einer kriminellen Vereinigung oder so begeht, dass sie einen besonders schweren Nachteil der minderjährigen Person zur Folge hat; ebenso ist zu bestrafen, wer eine pornografische Darstellung einer minderjährigen Person (Abs. 4) unter Anwendung schwerer Gewalt herstellt oder bei der Herstellung das Leben der dargestellten minderjährigen Person vorsätzlich oder grob fahrlässig gefährdet.

3) Wer sich eine pornografische Darstellung einer mündigen minderjährigen Person (Abs. 4 Z 3 und 4) verschafft oder eine solche besitzt, ist mit Freiheitsstrafe bis zu einem Jahr zu bestrafen. Mit Freiheitsstrafe bis zu zwei Jahren ist zu bestrafen, wer sich eine pornografische Darstellung einer unmündigen Person (Abs. 4) verschafft oder eine solche besitzt.

(3a) Nach Abs. 3 wird auch bestraft, wer im Internet wissentlich auf eine pornografische Darstellung Minderjähriger zugreift.

(4) Pornografische Darstellungen Minderjähriger sind

1. wirklichkeitsnahe Abbildungen einer geschlechtlichen Handlung an einer unmündigen Person oder einer unmündigen Person an sich selbst, an einer anderen Person oder mit einem Tier,
2. wirklichkeitsnahe Abbildungen eines Geschehens mit einer unmündigen Person, dessen Betrachtung nach den Umständen den Eindruck vermittelt, dass es sich dabei um eine geschlechtliche Handlung an der unmündigen Person oder der unmündigen Person an sich selbst, an einer anderen Person oder mit einem Tier handelt,
3. wirklichkeitsnahe Abbildungen
  - a) einer geschlechtlichen Handlung im Sinne der Z 1 oder eines Geschehens im Sinne der Z 2, jedoch mit mündigen Minderjährigen, oder
  - b) der Genitalien oder der Schamgegend Minderjähriger, soweit es sich um reißerisch verzerrte, auf sich selbst reduzierte und von anderen Lebensäußerungen losgelöste Abbildungen handelt, die der sexuellen Erregung des Betrachters dienen;
4. bildliche Darstellungen, deren Betrachtung - zufolge Veränderung einer Abbildung oder ohne Verwendung einer solchen - nach den Umständen den Eindruck vermittelt, es handle sich um eine Abbildung nach den Z 1 bis 3.

(5) Nach Abs. 1 Z 1 und Abs. 3 ist nicht zu bestrafen, wer 1. eine pornografische Darstellung einer mündigen minderjährigen Person mit deren Einwilligung und zu deren eigenem Gebrauch herstellt oder besitzt oder 2. eine pornografische Darstellung einer unmündigen minderjährigen Person nach Abs. 4 Z 4 zu seinem eigenen Gebrauch herstellt oder besitzt, sofern mit der Tat keine Gefahr der Verbreitung der Darstellung verbunden ist.

## WHAT ARE NATIONAL SOCIALIST OFFENCES?

In Austria, the denial of Nazi crimes as well as the dissemination and glorification of National Socialist ideology are punishable offences. Regarding the fight against National Socialist offences, the legal regulations below are applied.

Both regulations clearly point out that discussing the ideology of an illegal organisation in an objective, critical or historical way is legal, but not the approval of its ideas.

### NATIONAL SOCIALIST OFFENCES:

- ⇒ Glorification of Nazi ideology
- ⇒ Forbidden insignia/uniforms
- ⇒ Denial of Nazi crimes

### Problem: Different international legislation

In contrast to the Austrian legal situation, other countries, like Great Britain or the USA, protect such activities to a certain extent by applying the right of freedom of opinion and speech. Thus, it is quite difficult to remove websites that are hosted in one of these countries.

### Regarding the fight against national socialist offences, the following legal regulations are applied in Austria - Wording of the law only available in German:

#### VERBOTSGESETZ

(Verfassungsgesetz vom 8.5.1945 über das Verbot der NSDAP)

§1 Die NSDAP, ihre Wehrverbände (SS, SA, NSKK, NSFK), ihre Gliederungen und angeschlossenen Verbände sowie alle nationalsozialistischen Organisationen und Einrichtungen überhaupt sind aufgelöst; ihre Neubildung ist verboten. ...

§3 Es ist jedermann untersagt, sich, sei es auch außerhalb dieser Organisationen, für die NSDAP oder ihre Ziele irgendwie zu betätigen.

§3a Einer gerichtlich strafbaren Handlung macht sich schuldig und wird mit Freiheitsstrafe von zehn bis zu zwanzig Jahren, bei besonderer Gefährlichkeit des Täters oder der Bestätigung auch mit lebenslanger Freiheitsstrafe bestraft

1. wer versucht, eine gesetzlich aufgelöste nationalsozialistische Organisation aufrechtzuerhalten oder wiederherzustellen oder mit einer solchen Organisation oder einer in ihrem Namen handelnden Person in Verbindung zu treten; als nationalsozialistisch Organisationen (§1) gelten: die NSDAP, die SS, die SA, das NSKK; das NSFK, der NS-Soldatenring, der NS-Offiziersbund, alle sonstigen Gliederungen der NSDAP und die ihr angeschlossenen Verbände, sowie jede andere nationalsozialistische Organisation.

2. wer eine Verbindung gründet, deren Zweck es ist, durch Betätigung ihrer Mitglieder im nationalsozialistischen Sinn die Selbständigkeit und Unabhängigkeit der Republik Österreich zu untergraben oder die öffentliche Ruhe und den Wiederaufbau Österreichs zu stören, oder wer sich in einer Verbindung dieser Art führend betätigt.

3. wer den Ausbau einer der in der Z 1 und der Z 2 bezeichneten Organisation und Verbindung durch Anwerbung von Mitgliedern, Bereitstellung von Geldmitteln oder in ähnlicher Weise fördert, die Mitglieder einer solchen Organisation oder Verbindung mit Kampfmitteln, Verkehrsmitteln oder Einrichtungen der Nachrichtenübermittlung ausrustet oder in ähnlicher Weise die Tätigkeit einer solchen Organisation oder Verbindung ermöglicht oder unterstützt.

4. wer für eine solche Organisation oder Verbindung Kampfmittel, Verkehrsmittel oder Einrichtungen zur Nachrichtenübermittlung herstellt, sich verschafft oder bereithält.

§3d Wer öffentlich oder vor mehreren Leuten, in Druckwerken, verbreiteten Schriften oder bildlichen Darstellungen zu einer der nach §1 oder §3 verbotenen Handlung auffordert, aneifert oder zu verleiten sucht, insbesondere zu diesem Zweck die Ziele der NSDAP, ihre Einrichtungen oder Maßnahmen verherrlicht oder anpreist, wird ... bestraft.

§3g Wer sich auf andere als die in den §§ 3a bis 3f bezeichnete Weise im nationalsozialistischen Sinne betätigt, wird sofern die Tat nicht nach einer anderen Bestimmung strenger strafbar ist, mit Freiheitsstrafe von einem bis zehn Jahren, bei besonderer Gefährlichkeit des Täters oder Betätigung bis zu 20 Jahren bestraft.

§3h ...wird auch bestraft, wer in einem Druckwerk, im Rundfunk oder in einem anderen Medium oder sonst öffentlich auf eine Weise, dass es vielen Menschen zugänglich ist, den nationalsozialistischen Völkermord oder andere NS-Verbrechen gegen die Menschlichkeit leugnet, gröblich verharmlost, gutheißt oder zu rechtfertigen sucht.

#### ABZEICHENGESETZ

(Bundesgesetz vom 5.4.1960, mit dem bestimmte Abzeichen verboten werden)

§1 (1) Abzeichen, Uniformen oder Uniformteile einer in Österreich verbotenen Organisation dürfen öffentlich weder getragen noch zur Schau gestellt, dargestellt oder verbreitet werden. Als Abzeichen sind auch Embleme, Symbole und Kennzeichen anzusehen.

§2 (1) Die Verbote des §1 finden, wenn nicht das Ideengut einer verbotenen Organisation gutgeheißen oder propagiert wird, keine Anwendung auf Druckwerke, bildliche Darstellungen, Aufführungen von Bühnen- und Filmwerken sowie Ausstellungen, bei denen Ausstellungsstücke, die unter §1 fallen, keine wesentlichen Bestandteile der Ausstellung darstellen. (2) Auf sonstige Ausstellungen finden die Verbote des §1 dann keine Anwendung, wenn sich die Ausstellung und deren Zweckbestimmung eindeutig gegen das Ideengut der betreffenden verbotenen Organisation richtet.

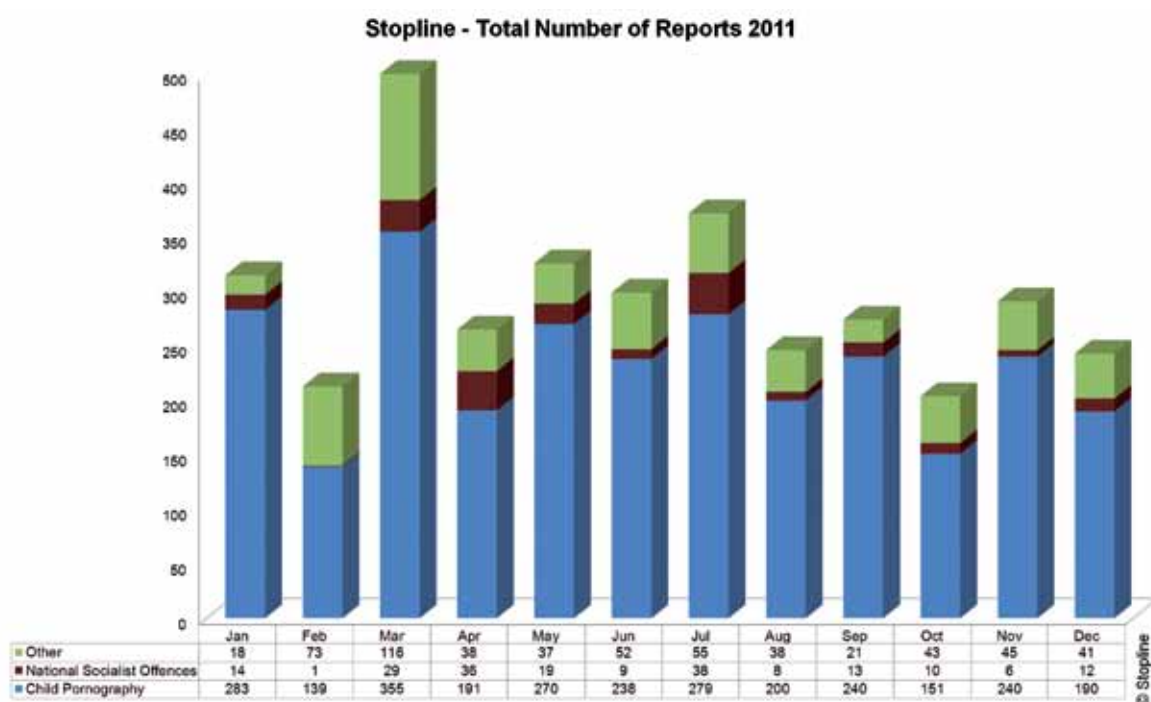


## THE YEAR 2011 IN NUMBERS

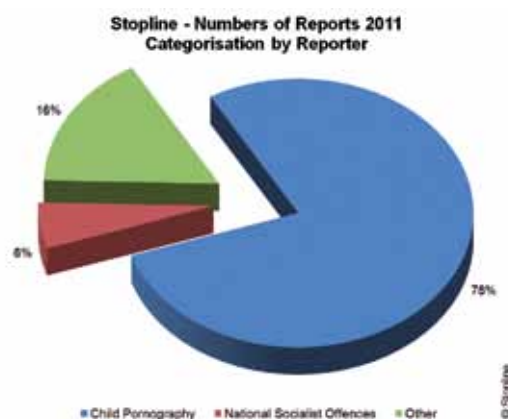
In 2011, Stopline received more than 3500 reports, which is a slight decrease compared to the previous year. Of these incoming reports, 508 were classified as actually illegal with regard to child pornography and 41 regarding National Socialist offences, respectively.

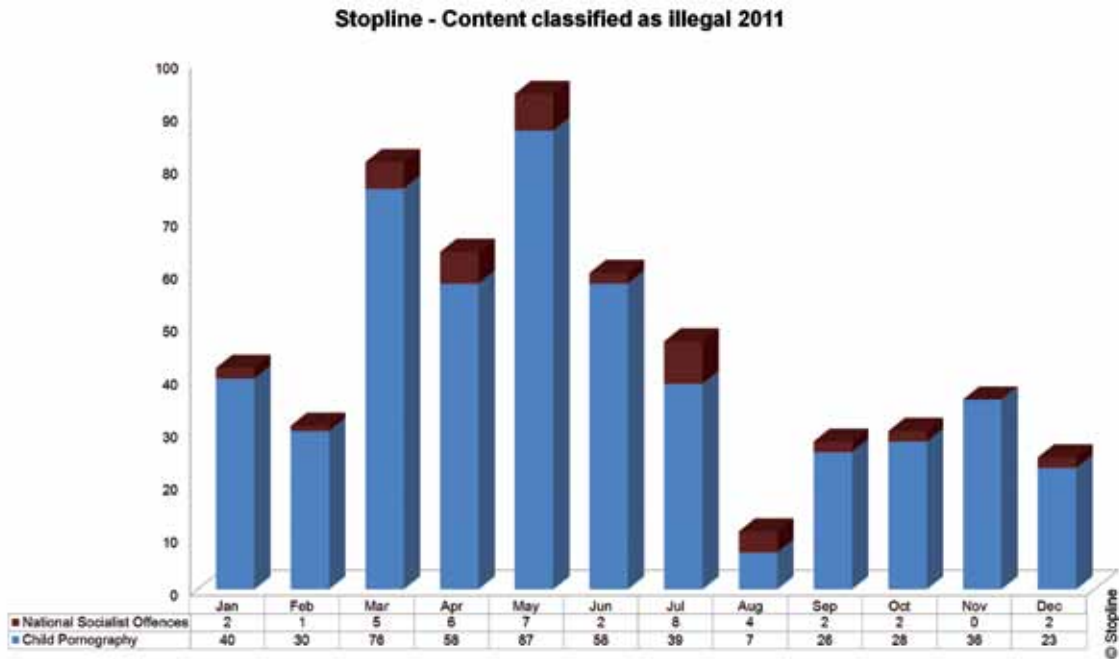
As illegal content are mainly hosted abroad, the international cooperation is essentially important. In 2011, about 95 percent of all content defined as illegal were forwarded to an INHOPE partner hotline (currently 41 report hotlines in 36 countries). The most frequent countries hosting the reported content are the USA and the Netherlands as well as Germany and Canada.

Merely 5 percent of the content classified as illegal by Stopline were hosted in countries without a partner hotline. In these cases, the Federal Police Agency or the Federal Agency for State Protection and Counter Terrorism take the appropriate measures by cooperating internationally via Interpol.

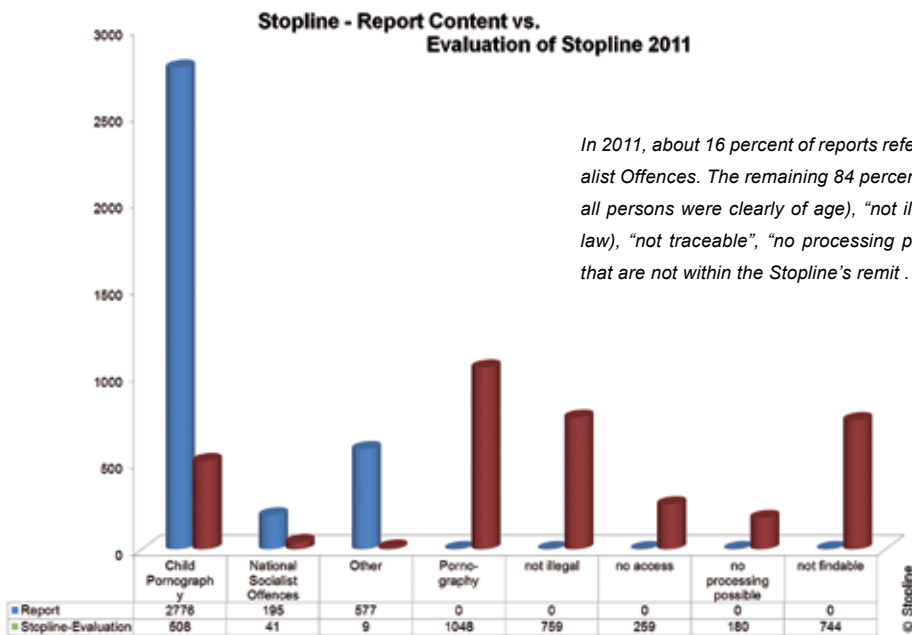
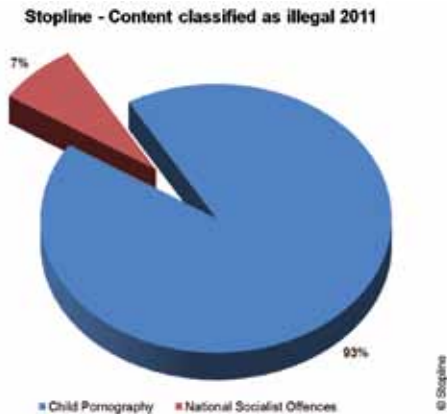


Most of the reports were classified by the users as child pornography (78 percent), about 6 percent were classified as National Socialist Offences, and about 16 percent of reports included other topics.

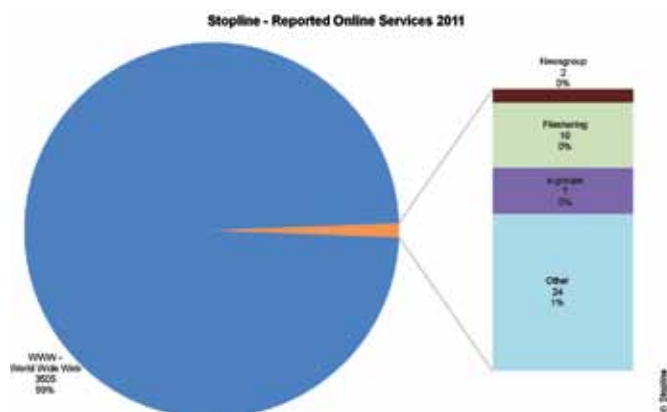




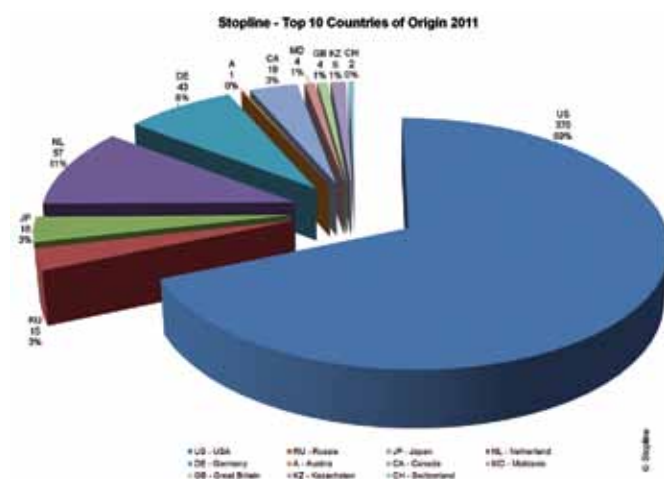
In 2011, Stopline staff found illegal content in almost 16 percent of cases. This is a clear decline compared to the years 2009 (28 percent) and 2010 (20 percent), and is mostly due to the increased number of reports.



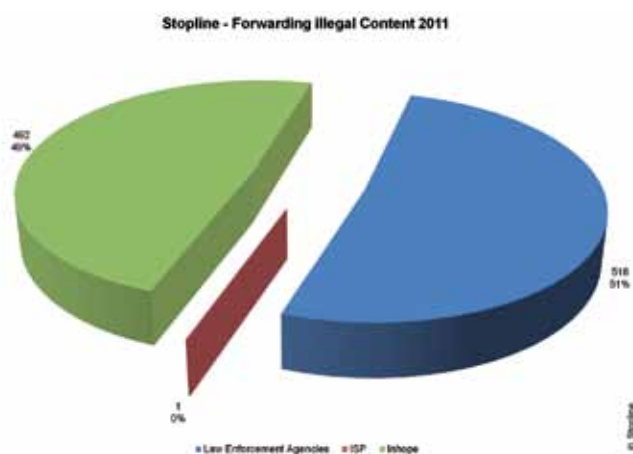
In 2011, about 16 percent of reports referred to child pornography or National Socialist Offences. The remaining 84 percent turned out to be "legal pornography" (i.e. all persons were clearly of age), "not illegal" (i.e. the pictures did not violate any law), "not traceable", "no processing possible" and "other", which include topics that are not within the Stopline's remit.



Websites of the World Wide Web were the most common subject in the users' reports to Stopline in 2011. The number of reported newsgroups, file-sharing programs and e-groups is rapidly decreasing.



In 2011, only on website with illegal content hosted in Austria was reported to the Stopline. Also in 2011, the probable countries of origin of the possibly illegal content reported to Stopline were mostly the USA, followed by the Netherlands, Germany and Canada. However, supposedly illegal content can also be found on host-servers located in countries like Japan, Russia and Kazakhstan.



There were 518 reports about supposedly illegal content in 2011 that Stopline actually forwarded to the Federal Police Agency and the Federal Agency for State Protection. In order to combat this illegal content efficiently, 492 of these reports were also forwarded to responsible foreign INHOPE partner hotlines. As only one website with probable illegal content was found in Austria, Stopline contact the local ISP and the content was deleted immediately.

## THE MOST IMPORTANT NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

Reports received by Stopline in 2011 and number classified as illegal – by content:

	number	classified as illegal	classified as illegal in percent
Child pornography	2776	508	18,3 %
National Socialist Offences	195	41	21 %
Others	577	0	0 %
Total number of reports received	3548	549	15,5 %

Reports received by Stopline in 2011 and number classified as illegal – by online services:

	number	classified as illegal	classified as illegal in percent
World Wide Web	3505	542	15,5 %
Filesharing programs	10	2	20 %
Newsgroups	2	0	0 %
e-groups	7	5	71,4 %
Others	24	0	0 %
Total number of incoming reports	3548	549	15,5 %

Five most frequent countries of origin in 2011:

USA	370	67,4 %
Netherlands	57	10,4 %
Germany	43	7,8 %
Canada	19	3,5 %
Japan	18	3,3 %
Russia	15	2,7 %
Austria	1	0,2 %
Others	26	4,7 %

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2011

### STOPLINE-WEBSITE

In 2011 Stopline updated its website and added new sections and content.



[www.stopline.at](http://www.stopline.at)



### FOLDER

The Stopline folder provides the interested Internet user with an overview of the activities of Stopline. The folder can be requested or downloaded as a pdf-file from the [www.stopline.at](http://www.stopline.at) website.

### SAFERINTERNET DAY 2011

On 8 February 2011, the European Safer Internet Day took place for the 5th time.

It is the annual highlight of the activities of the national information and coordination offices for a safe use of the Internet and of the Safer Internet Network of the EU (Insa-fe). The event took place under the patronage of the EU Commissioner Neelie Kroes.

Under the EU-wide motto "It's more than a game, it's your life!", the Safer Internet action month of February 2011 was focussed on information in schools.

Further information: [www.saferinternet.at/sid2011/](http://www.saferinternet.at/sid2011/)





## STOPLINE 2011 IN THE MEDIA

In 2011, Stopline was again mentioned in the press. Here are a few examples:



**Sources:**  
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 krone.at, 9.3.2011  
 Salzburger Nachrichten, 21.5.2011  
 derstandard.at, 6.4.2011  
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news.orf.at, 26.4.2011  
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 futurezone.at, 19.1.2011  
 Kurier, 20.1.2011  
 www.relevant.at, 26.4.2011



## THE STRUCTURE OF STOPLINE

### ISPA – CARRIER OF STOPLINE

The ISPA – Internet Service Providers Austria – is the umbrella organisation of the Austrian Internet sector and represents their interests in national and international matters. It was founded as a registered association in the year 1997 and currently has about 200 members from areas like access, service, hosting, and content providing.



The ISPA regards itself as a lobby group and mouthpiece of the Austrian Internet industry towards the government, public authorities and other institutions, and it promotes the communication of the market participants among themselves. Its intention is to create the optimum economical and legal conditions for the development of the Internet.

Furthermore, since 1998 the ISPA has committed itself to the fight against child pornography and National Socialist Offences on the Internet by founding the Stopline within a work group, which is still represented by the Stopline Advisory Board, and by stipulating the ISPA Code of Conduct.

[www.ispa.at](http://www.ispa.at)

### STOPLINE ADVISORY BOARD

The Stopline Advisory Board is a communication platform for experts from the economy, Internet industry and public authorities. Experts like lawyers, university professors and IT security experts contribute additional know-how. The Stopline Advisory Board promotes the co-operation between different organisations in their fight against illegal content on the Internet and the exchange of knowledge, thus ensuring the best possible mutual support.



### MEMBERS OF STOPLINE ADVISORY BOARD 2011:

- Andreas Wildberger - ISPA Secretary General
- Romana Cravos - ISPA
- Wolfgang Schwabl - A1 Telekom Austria AG
- Ewald Ebner - Federal Office of Criminal Investigation
- Sibylle Geißler - Federal Agency for State Protection and Counter Terrorism
- Gabriele Schmölzer - University of Graz
- Michael Pilz - Lawyer
- Christian Reiser - Security expert
- Richard Wein – CEO of nic.at
- Thomas Grünwald - Senior Prosecutor, Federal Ministry of Justice
- Harald Gremel - Federal Office of Criminal Investigation
- Bernhard Jungwirth - Saferinternet.at
- Barbara Schloßbauer - nic.at jurist, Chairwoman of the Stopline Advisory Board

## STOPLINE – NATIONAL COOPERATION

Stopline's success is also due to its competent and reliable partners, who come together at regular meetings in order to exchange information and opinions.

### THE AUSTRIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Stopline has been cooperating for many years with the responsible departments in the Ministry of the Interior.

#### Hotline for child pornography on the Internet – Federal Office of Criminal Investigation

The Federal Office of Criminal Investigation operates the police Hotline for child pornography and child sex tourism. Stopline and the executive closely cooperate and use their regular meetings to exchange experience and information in their fight against illegal content on the Internet.



#### Hotline for National Socialist Offences – Federal Agency for State Protection and Counter Terrorism

This Hotline is located at the Federal Agency for State Protection and Counter Terrorism. Regular meetings in this subject area allow for successful cooperation and a continued exchange of experience.



[www.bmi.gv.at/meldestellen](http://www.bmi.gv.at/meldestellen)

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### SAFER INTERNET CENTER AUSTRIA

In order to raise awareness about the dangers of the Internet, Stopline also forms a successful cooperative team with



**Saferinternet.at:** the national information and coordination center for safe Internet use especially supports children, youths, parents and teachers in using the Internet safely.

[www.saferinternet.at](http://www.saferinternet.at)



**Rat auf Draht:** the successful phone support of ORF (Austrian broadcasting station) and the emergency number for children, youths and their responsible adults is available 24/7 in Austria via the abbreviated toll-free number "147".

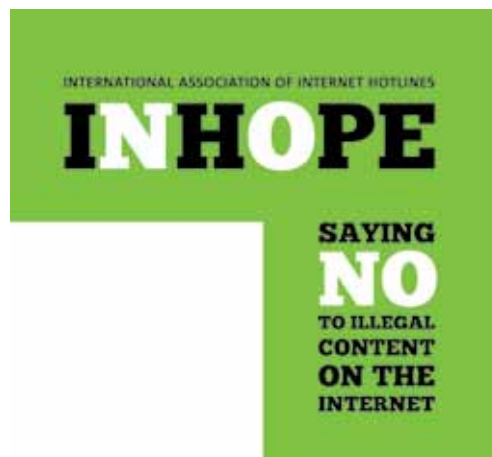
[www.rataufdraht.at](http://www.rataufdraht.at)

## STOPLINE – INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

### STOPLINE – MEMBER OF INHOPE

INHOPE (International Association of Internet Hotlines) is the worldwide union of Internet hotlines within Europe but also in the USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, South Korea, South Africa and Taiwan. By the end of 2010, INHOPE consisted of 39 member report offices in 34 countries. Stopline is one of the founding members of INHOPE and has taken an active role in its development ever since.

The common goal of the INHOPE members is to ban child pornography from the Internet as fast and efficiently as possible and to protect young people from harmful and illegal use of the Internet.



The regular INHOPE meetings facilitate serve the comprehensive exchange of information about the daily operation of the hotline. One of the most significant aspects is the cross-national investigation of illegal content. In doing so, the relevant hotlines try to localise the supposedly illegal content and forward this information to the proper hotline in that country. This hotline, in turn, has shorter and less bureaucratic contacts to the local authorities, which can initiate their proceedings immediately. This way it is possible to investigate reports, especially about child pornographic content, that are hosted on foreign servers in a fast, efficient and successful way.

From about 550 reports in the year 2011 that actually concerned illegal contents, Stopline has forwarded approximately 500 reports to partner hotlines.

[www.inhope.org](http://www.inhope.org)

## STOPLINE – FINANCIAL SUPPORT

### EU - SAFER INTERNET PROGRAMME

With this programme the EU greatly contributes to the fight against illegal and harmful content on the Internet and, enables the funding of activities for a common approach within the European Union.

The basic aim of the project is the promotion of safe use of the Internet and new online technologies, as well as the fight against illegal and unwanted Internet content. Apart from the hotlines, this programme also concentrates on the information and training of parents, educators and children. International cooperation is a vital part of all its fields of activity.

Stopline is also financially supported by this EU programme.

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/sip/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/sip/index_en.htm)



This project is funded under the Safer Internet plus programme, a multiannual Community Programme on promoting safer use of the Internet and new online technologies.

<http://ec.europa.eu/saferinternet>

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### NIC.AT INTERNET VERWALTUNGS- UND BETRIEBSGESELLSCHAFT M.B.H.

nic.at, the registry for domains below .at, has given financial support to Stopline for many years now. As the safe use of the Internet is of great concern to them, nic.at also supports the Austrian CERT, the Computer Emergency Response Team.



[www.nic.at](http://www.nic.at)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### DOES STOPLINE GIVE FEEDBACK ON A REPORT?

In agreement with the Austrian law enforcement agencies, Stopline does not inform the sender of a report whether illegal contents were actually found. General statements are problematic, as Internet content may change within a short time. Therefore, Stopline could run the risk of classifying content as “not illegal” that turn out to become illegal content later.

Moreover, Stopline is not informed about further measures of the police, which means that no information can be given about further actions against illegal websites that are hosted abroad.

### WHY IS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IMPORTANT?

Due to the lack of borders in the WWW and other online services, only international cooperation can guarantee the most efficient approach against illegal content. Therefore, Stopline has been actively taking part in the international network of Internet hotlines INHOPE (see page 17) for many years and is also a founding member of this organisation.

### HOW MANY WEBSITES ARE REMOVED BY THE ISP AFTER A REPORT TO STOPLINE?

All websites reported to Stopline that contain child pornography or National Socialist Offences and are hosted in Austria are removed. If such websites are hosted abroad, Stopline immediately informs the partner hotline in the respective countries as well as the Austrian law enforcement agencies in order to take the proper measures.

### HOW MANY PERSONS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED BECAUSE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF STOPLINE?

The activities of Stopline only target the publication of child pornographic and National Socialist content on the Internet. Tracking down the producers or consumers of such content exclusively lies within the remit of the law enforcement authorities.

### WHY DO REMOVED WEBSITES OFTEN APPEAR ONLINE AGAIN WITHIN A SHORT TIME?

An ISP who was informed by Stopline can only disable access to the content of a certain address. However, in many cases the same content is made available again by the actual operators at a new address.

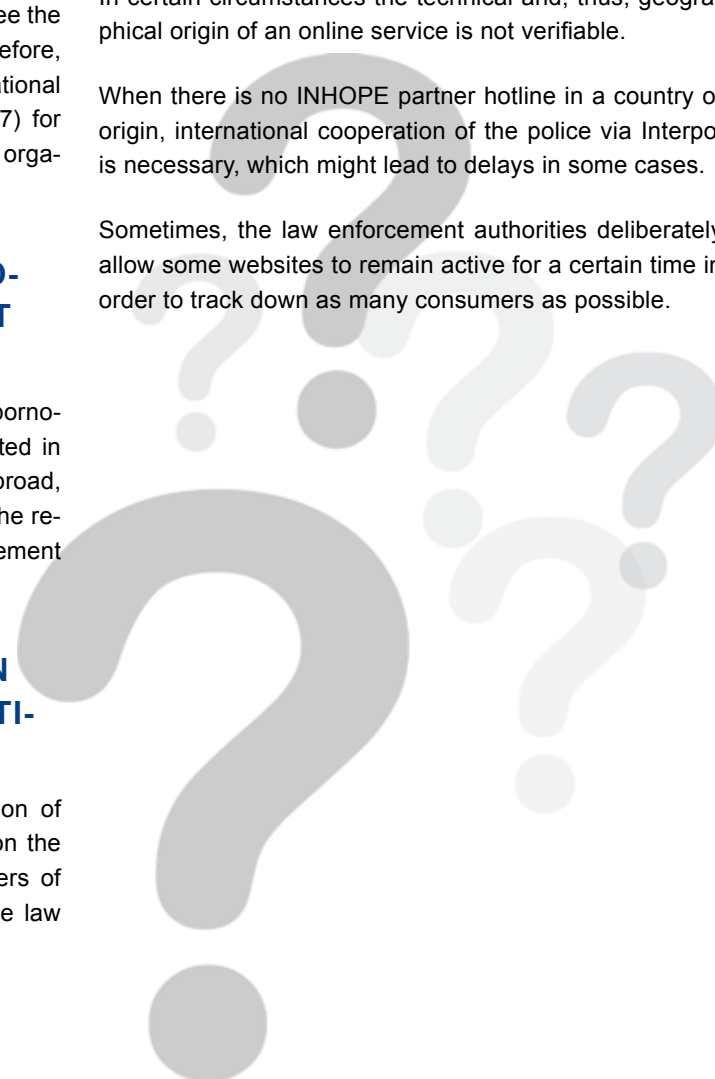
### WHY AREN'T ALL WEBSITES DELETED IMMEDIATELY AFTER A REPORT TO A HOTLINE?

Unfortunately, in some cases it is not possible to access content that is hosted abroad, for example because the offences are not liable to prosecution in this particular country. This is often the case with National Socialist Offences and, sometimes, with child pornography too.

In certain circumstances the technical and, thus, geographical origin of an online service is not verifiable.

When there is no INHOPE partner hotline in a country of origin, international cooperation of the police via Interpol is necessary, which might lead to delays in some cases.

Sometimes, the law enforcement authorities deliberately allow some websites to remain active for a certain time in order to track down as many consumers as possible.



## **DON'T LOOK AWAY!**

Child pornography is not a trivial offence –  
it shows the actual sexual abuse of a child!

The glorification of the Nazi era or the use  
of forbidden insignia is liable to prosecution!



## **SET AN EXAMPLE!**

- ⇒ Report online content if you feel that they may violate the law.
- ⇒ Put a link on your website to [www.stopleveline.at](http://www.stopleveline.at).
- ⇒ Order the Stopleveline brochure for free.
- ⇒ Publish the Stopleveline logo.

## **YOUR SUPPORT IS IMPORTANT!**





**[www.stopleveline.at](http://www.stopleveline.at)**  
**[office@stopleveline.at](mailto:office@stopleveline.at)**

For further questions and suggestions please contact us: [office@stopleveline.at](mailto:office@stopleveline.at)

