

REPORT CENTRE

against
Child Sexual Abuse Material
and National Socialism



ANNUAL REPORT
2017

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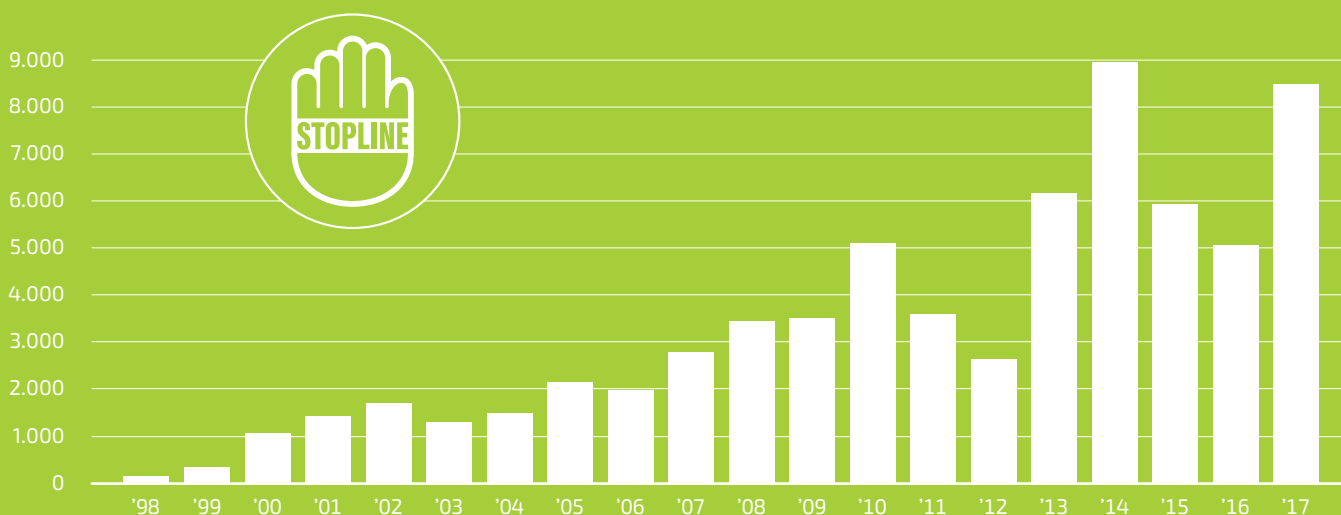
Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

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



20th anniversary Stopline

Reports received



STOPLINE REPORT CENTRE

Stopline is the online reporting centre for people who encounter child sexual abuse material and National Socialist content on the internet. Stopline's overarching goal is to work with hosts to remove illegal content, with a particular focus on material published in Austria.

Stopline was established in 1998 and is an officially authorised and recognised report centre. It works in close cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry for the Interior and domestic internet service providers. To help it successfully combat illegal internet content at an international level, Stopline is part of the global INHOPE hotline network.

HOW STOPLINE WORKS

Stopline employees do not actively seek out illegal material, instead they focus on processing incoming reports. The reports are submitted by vigilant internet users and partner hotlines belonging to the international INHOPE network.

Which content can you report?

Stopline is responsible for processing reports regarding:

- Child sexual abuse material pursuant to section 207a Austrian Criminal Code (Strafgesetzbuch, StGB) and
- National Socialism in accordance with the National Socialism Prohibition Act 1947 (Verbotsgesetz) and the 1960 Austrian Abzeichengesetz* which prohibits National Socialist regalia and symbols.

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

How can you report?

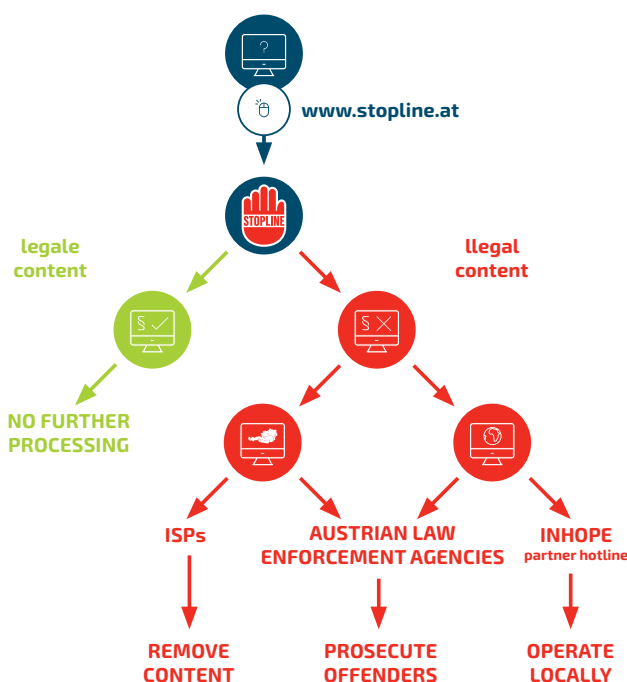
You can notify Stopline of illegal content online – anonymously if you wish – in the following ways:

- using the online form at www.stopline.at
- or by sending an e-mail to office@stopline.at

20 years of Stopline

Stopline marks 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.

HOW IT WORKS:



IMPORTANT!

You must not actively embark on a search for illegal content and do not send any images to Stopline! 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.

KEY DETAILS AT A GLANCE

Sharp increase in number of reports

Stopline received 8,333 reports in 2017 – the second largest number in the reporting centre’s history. The 8,000 mark had only been passed once before, in 2014 when it received 8,792 reports. Compared with the previous year (2016: 4,980 reports), this represents an increase of 60 percent.

Biggest months for reports in Stopline history

September and December 2017 were the two single busiest months for Stopline ever, when the organisation received 2,483 and 1,276 reports, respectively. Prior to that, Stopline had never had to process more than 1,000 reports in a month.

More actionable reports received than ever before

In absolute numbers, 1,822 required further action. This is another record high since the reporting centre was founded, passing the previous record of 1,552 from 2013 by 270. In percentage terms this means that 22 percent of all reports made to Stopline in 2017 involved content that the hotline categorised as against the law. Which, in turn, was 6 percent more than a year earlier.

97 percent child sexual abuse material

The majority of illegal material (97 percent or 1,759 reports) related to depictions of sexual abuse of minors, while the remaining 3 percent or 63 instance were categorised as National Socialist in character by Stopline. The ratio is clearly shifting to reflect a greater proportion of child sexual abuse material compared to a year earlier (92 percent child sexual abuse material, 8 percent National Socialism). In absolute terms, the number of reports in 2017 (1,759) was almost three times as many as in 2016 (644).

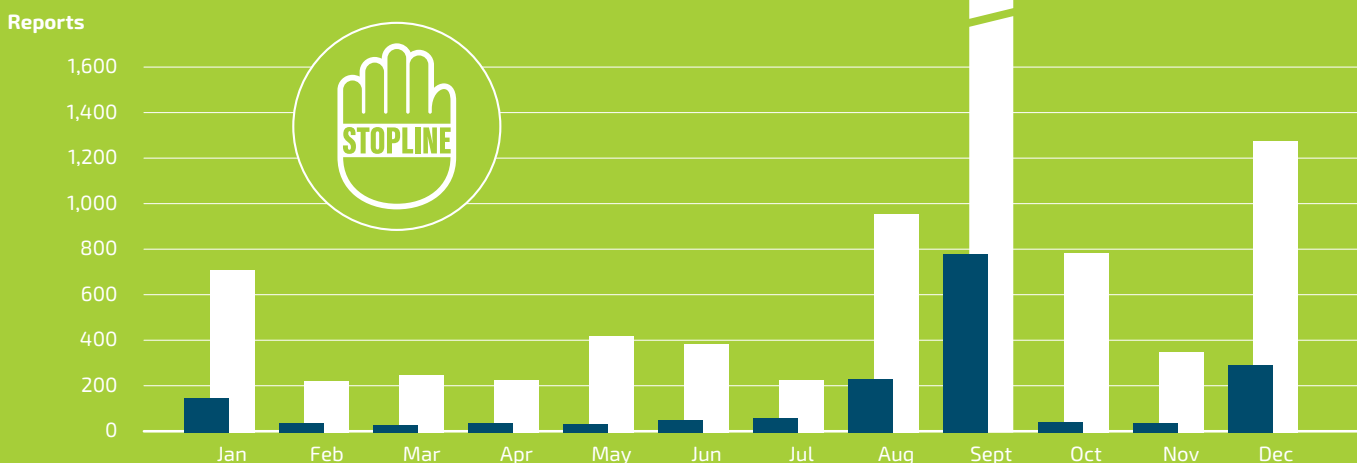
No child sexual abuse material hosted in Austria for the first time since 2010

As in 2016, only one example of illegal material was hosted in Austria in 2017. The National Socialist content was quickly removed from the internet with the full support of the provider affected. This situation underscores Austria’s unattractiveness as a hosting location for illegal content.

Quality of reports on the rise

The quality of the reports received by Stopline is increasing all the time. Only 5 percent (2016: 10 percent) relate to areas that fall outside Stopline’s remit.

Reports received vs actionable reports in 2017

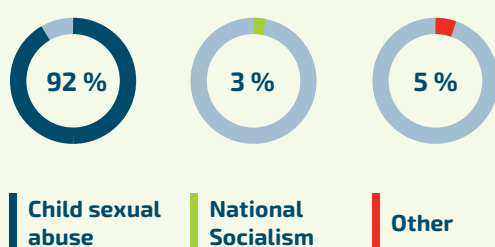




PROFILE OF REPORTS IN 2017

Categorisation of reports by reporters in 2017

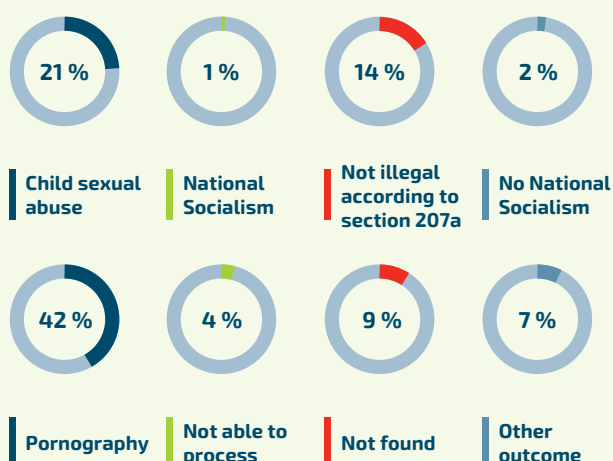
On average, Stopline received just under 700 reports a month in 2017. 92 percent of the 8,333 reports received in the year were defined by the reporter as showing sexual abuse material. Almost 300 reports (3 percent) pertained to National Socialism. In the remainder of cases (other), the reporters did not clearly attribute it to one category or the other.



Categorisation of reports by Stopline in 2017

Stopline checks all of the reports it receives to determine whether the content can be categorised as illegal.

In 42 percent of cases, it was a question of legal pornography in which the persons depicted could be verified as being of legal age. In 16 percent of cases, after evaluating whether the reported content should be categorised as child sexual abuse material or endorsement of National Socialism, Stopline came to the conclusion that while perhaps appearing illegal to laypeople, the reported material was not in contravention of section 207a of the Austrian Criminal Code or the National Socialism Prohibition Act 1947 (Verbotsgesetz) or the 1960 Abzeichengesetz outlawing National Socialist regalia and symbols.



Overview of reports received vs actionable reports in 2017

In 2017 Stopline categorised 1,822 of the 8,333 reports it received – 22 percent – as actionable (2016: 14 percent). In 97 percent of cases it involved child sexual abuse material, with the remainder accounted for by National Socialist content.

Reports received by Stopline / categorised as actionable – by content:

	Received	Actionable
Child sexual abuse	7,636	1,759
National Socialism	291	63
Other	406	-
Total	8,333	1,822

Reports received by Stopline / categorised as actionable – by online service:

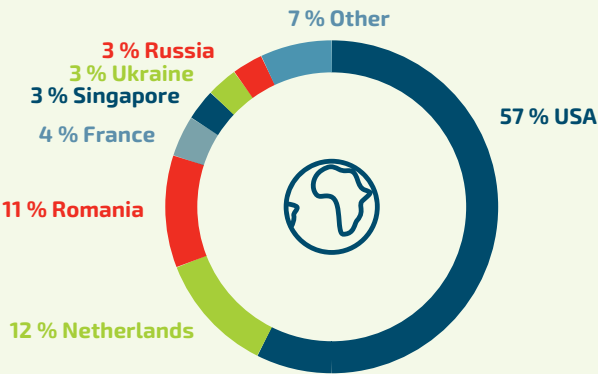
	Received	Actionable
World wide web	8,051	1,802
Social media	232	15
YouTube	30	5
TOR network	3	0
File sharing	1	0
Other	16	0
Total	8,333	1,822

ORIGIN OF ILLEGAL CONTENT IN 2017

Most common hosting locations

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 . When it comes to the amount of illegal content reported to Stopline, the USA has topped the rankings for years. In 2017 Ukraine and Singapore became increasingly high profile. It should be noted that Austria was once again unattractive as a hosting location for illegal content in 2017.

Country of origin
2017



International partnerships

Virtually all of the reports categorised as actionable by Stopline in 2017 involved content hosted on foreign servers. This underlines the importance of international partnerships for removing illegal content from the internet. One of Stopline’s most important activities is to immediately notify its partner hotlines in the country in which the content is hosted.

With only few exceptions – such as Singapore and Ukraine – there are INHOPE partner hotlines in all of the leading countries of origin (see graphic) relating to reports received by Stopline in 2017. As a result, in 90 percent of cases Stopline was able to report child sexual abuse material hosted abroad directly to a hotline set up for precisely that purpose.

National partnerships

And even if the illegal material is hosted on a foreign server, Stopline also reports the content to Austrian prosecutors.

If the content is hosted by an Austrian internet service provider, Stopline notifies the relevant executive agencies . To ensure immediate reaction, Stopline has been working closely with the government departments at the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs for many years: the Report Centre for Child Pornography and Child Sex Tourism on the Internet at the Federal Criminal Police Office (BK) and the Report Centre for National Socialism at the Federal Office for Protection of the Constitution and Counterterrorism (BVT).

Stopline also subsequently 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. It is down to the provider to decide how to react. In Austria, all of the providers are highly aware of their responsibilities, meaning that any illegal content is rapidly removed from the internet.

Content categorised by Stopline as illegal was forwarded to:

	Reports
Executive agencies (BK and BVT)	1,102
Austrian providers	1
INHOPE partner hotlines	1,607



SAFER INTERNET CENTRE AUSTRIA

Together with Saferinternet.at, 147 Rat auf Draht and ISPA, Stopline makes up Safer Internet Centre Austria, which is the Austrian partner in the European Union's Internet Network (www.betterinternetforkids.eu), which provides a range of measures designed to raise awareness of safe internet use.

A highlight of the Safer Internet Centre Austria's activities is the annual Safer Internet Day, which took place on 7 February in 2017.

Saferinternet.at

Das Internet sicher nutzen!

Web: www.saferinternet.at



Web: www.rataufdraht.at

NATIONAL PARTNERS

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/meldestelle

Report Centre 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/meldestelle

ISPA - Internet Service Providers Austria



ISPA is the umbrella organisation of the Austrian internet industry.

Web: www.ispa.at

nic.at GmbH



nic.at is the registry for .at, .co.at and .or.at domains and has provided financial support to Stopline since the agency's inception.

Web: www.nic.at

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INTERNET HOTLINES

INHOPE

Report centres worldwide cooperate quickly, efficiently and with minimal bureaucracy via the INHOPE global hotline network. INHOPE was founded in 1999 as an international association and had around 50 members in 40 countries worldwide at the end of 2017.

Web: www.inhope.org

INHOPE
Foundation

The INHOPE foundation is an organisation that helps set up new hotlines, particularly in developing countries and emerging economies. It currently has seven members.

Web: www.inhopefoundation.org

Stopline info material

is available for download at www.stopline.at

A print version of our leaflet 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.at and let us know about the event you are planning.

Owner and publisher:

Stopline

c/o nic.at GmbH

Jakob-Haringer-Straße 8/V

5020 Salzburg · Austria

office@stopline.at

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Publication details:

Concept and editorial: Simone Binder,

Monika Pink-Rank, Carmen Ploner,

Barbara Schloßbauer

Photos: Linearicons, istockphoto.de: *monsitj*

Place of publication:

Salzburg, 2018

Graphic design: designkraft.at



Financed by:



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