

REPORT CENTRE

against
Child Sexual Abuse Material
and National Socialism



ANNUAL REPORT
2018

www.stopleveline.at

CONTENTS:

Stopline report centre	3
How Stopline works	3
Key details at a glance	4
Profile of reports in 2018	5
Origin of illegal content in 2018	6
Safer Internet Centre Austria	7
National partners	7
International partners	7

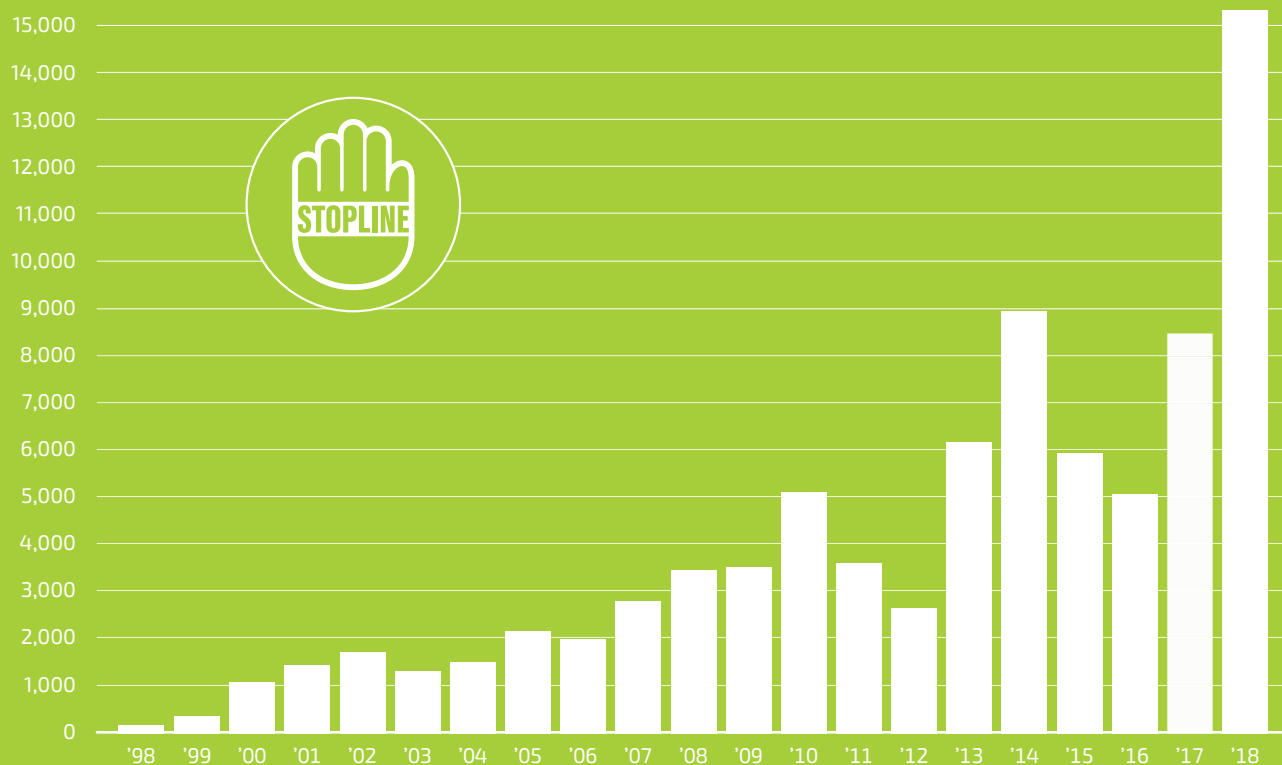
Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

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



Reports received

More than 20 years Stopline



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.

How can you report?

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

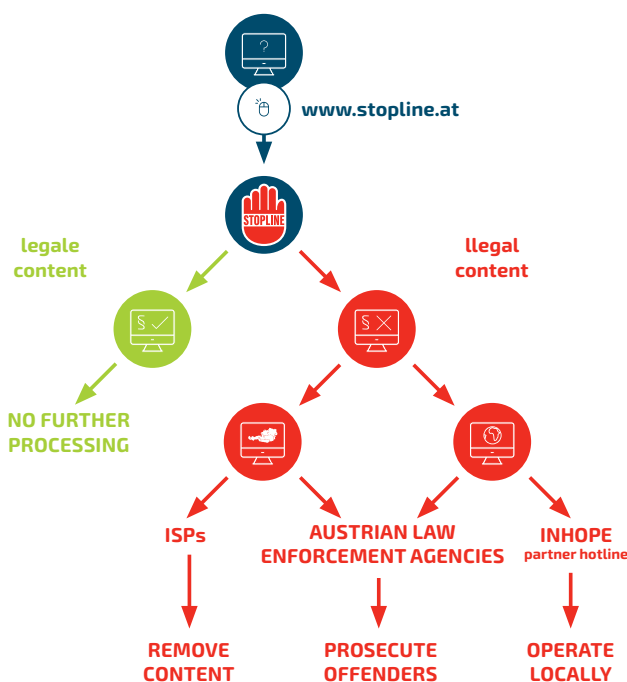
- using the online form at www.stopline.at
- or by sending an e-mail to office@stopline.at

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

20 years of Stopline

Stopline marked its 20th anniversary in 2018 and took this milestone as an opportunity to join the international community's effort to eliminate the use of the phrase "child pornography" as far as possible. 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

Number of reports goes through the roof

Following a very busy year for reports in 2017, the total number received rose sharply again in 2018. Stopline received 15,194 reports in 2018 – the largest number in its history. This represents almost double the number received a year earlier (2017: 8,333 reports), and about three times the total recorded in 2016 (4,980).

More than 1,000 reports per month on average

June and August 2018 were the two single busiest months for Stopline ever, with the reporting centre receiving 3,072 and 2,592 reports respectively. The monthly average for the year as a whole was 1,266. For the first time since records began, the number of reports received by Stopline exceeded 1,000 in seven months of a single year.

Significant rise in the number of actionable reports

In absolute terms, 2,867 reports were actionable. This means that 19 percent of all reports made to Stopline in 2018 involved content subsequently categorised by the hotline as illegal. This was 1,045 more than the previous high recorded in 2017. In absolute terms, the number of such reports has more than tripled over the past three years (2016: 644 reports, 2017: 1,759 reports).

99.2 % child sexual abuse material

The majority of illegal material (99.2 percent or 2,844 reports) related to depictions of sexual abuse of minors, while Stopline categorised the remaining 0.8 percent or 23 instances as National Socialist in character. While this was similar to the previous year, the share accounted for by sexual abuse material increased once again (2017: 92 percent sexual abuse material, 8 percent National Socialism).

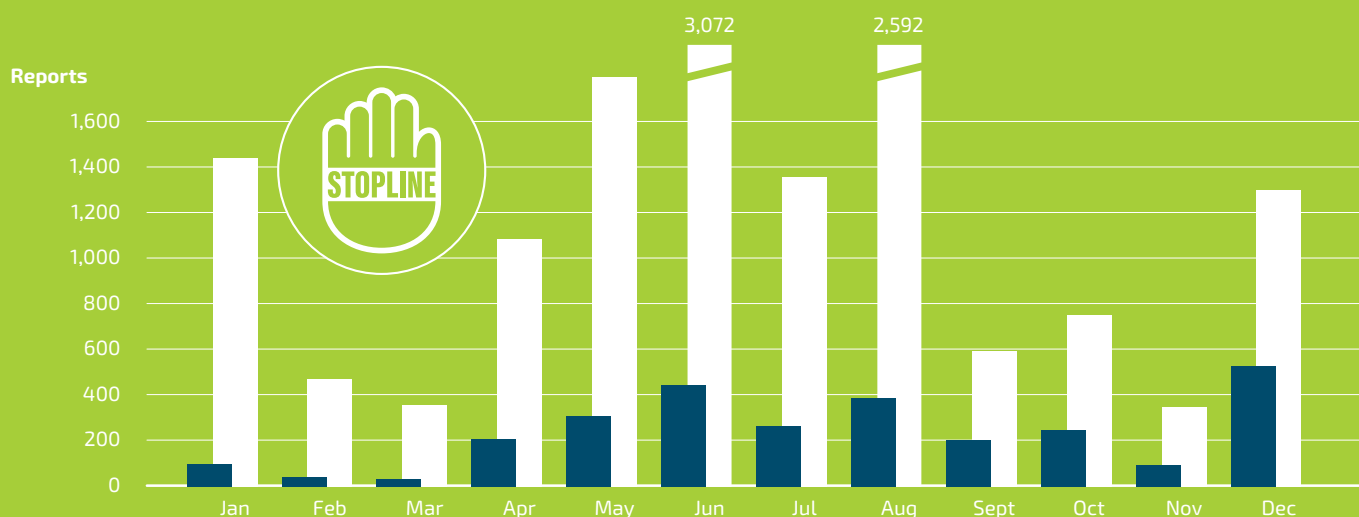
Austria still unattractive as a location for hosting illegal content

Austria remains unattractive as a hosting location for illegal content. In 2018, 21 cases of illegally hosted content were recorded in Austria – less than 1 percent of all content processed and found to be illegal by Stopline. Of this amount, one case related to National Socialism and 20 to child sexual abuse material. Thanks to Stopline's good working relations with Austrian providers, this content was immediately removed from the internet.

Quality of reports improving

One highly encouraging development is that the quality of reports is improving all the time, as confirmed by the figures on page five, which show Stopline's categorisation of reports. Only 2 percent (2017: 5 percent) of reports received related to areas that fall outside Stopline's remit.

Reports received vs actionable reports in 2018

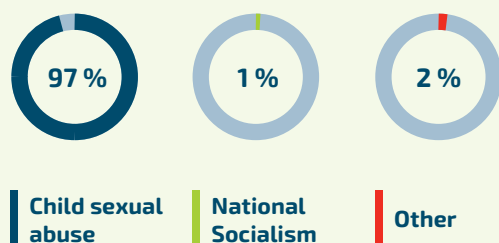




PROFILE OF REPORTS IN 2018

Categorisation of reports by reporters in 2018

On average, Stopline logged over 1,200 reports a month in 2018. 97 percent (14,682) of the 15,194 reports received in the year were defined by the reporter as showing sexual abuse material. Just under 1 percent (174 reports) were flagged as pertaining to National Socialism. In the remainder of cases (Other), the reporters did not clearly attribute content to one category or the other. Compared with a year earlier, there was an increase in reports of sexual abuse material (up 5 percent) and a slight decrease in National Socialist content (down 2 percent).



Categorisation of reports by Stopline in 2018

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

In 37 percent of cases, content was deemed to be legal pornography in which the persons depicted could be verified as being of legal age. In 11 percent of cases, after evaluating whether the reported content should be categorised as child sexual abuse material or (re) engaging with National Socialism, Stopline came to the



conclusion that while perhaps appearing illegal to lay-people, the reported material was not in contravention of section 207a of the Austrian Criminal Code or the National Socialism Prohibition Act 1947 (Verbotsgesetz), the Abzeichengesetz outlawing National Socialist regalia and symbols, or other related legislation.

The "Other outcome" category refers to either content that is deemed harmless from a legal point of view, or areas such as online fraud which, while being potentially actionable, are outside the scope of Stopline's operations.

In many cases, content is inaccessible due to access restrictions (e.g. passwords), or the reports cannot be followed up ("Not able to process") or "Not found" because content has already been removed.

Overview of reports received vs actionable reports in 2018

In 2018 Stopline categorised 2,867 of the 15,194 reports it received – 19 percent – as actionable (2017: 22 percent). In 99.2 percent of cases the illegal content 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	14,682	2,844
National Socialism	174	23
Other	338	-
Total	15,194	2,867

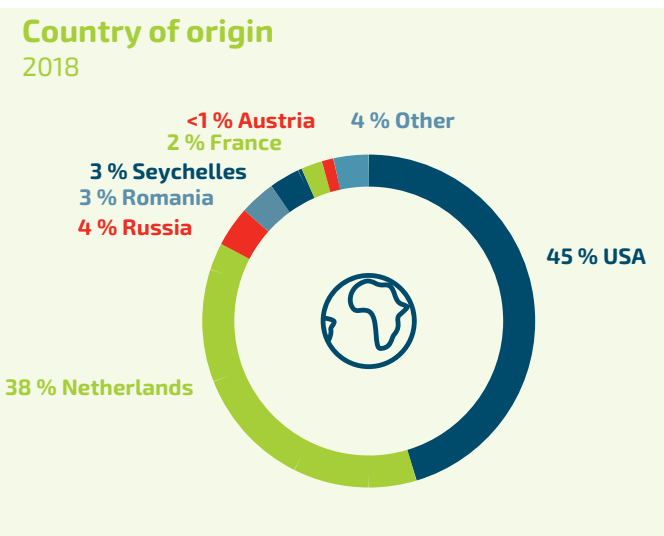
Reports received by Stopline / categorised as actionable – by online service:

	Received	Actionable
World wide web	14,867	2,862
Social media	282	1
YouTube	9	0
TOR network	17	4
File sharing	2	0
Other	17	0
Total	15,194	2,867

ORIGIN OF ILLEGAL CONTENT IN 2018

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 hosting location of illegal material for years. There was a sharp increase in the amount of illegal content hosted on servers in the Netherlands (from 12 to 38 percent) and the Seychelles in 2018. Gratifyingly, as a country of origin, Romania’s share of the total dropped from 11 percent to 3 percent, and with less than 1 percent Austria was once again unattractive as a hosting location for illegal content in 2018.



International partnerships

Virtually all of the reports categorised as actionable by Stopline in 2018 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 Seychelles – there are INHOPE partner hotlines in all of the leading countries of origin (see graphic) relating to reports received by Stopline in 2018. As a result, in large part 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)	2,090
Austrian providers	21
INHOPE partner hotlines	2,055



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 6th February in 2018 themed „Create, connect and share respect: A better internet starts with you!“.



Web: www.ispa.at

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

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 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

www.stopline.at

Publication details:

Concept and editorial: Simone Binder,
Monika Pink-Rank, Carmen Ploner,
Barbara Schloßbauer

Photos: Linearicons, shutterstock

Place of publication:

Salzburg, 2019

Graphic design: designkraft.at



Financed by:



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