

# REPORT CENTRE

against  
Child Sexual Abuse Material  
and National Socialism



ANNUAL REPORT  
2019

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

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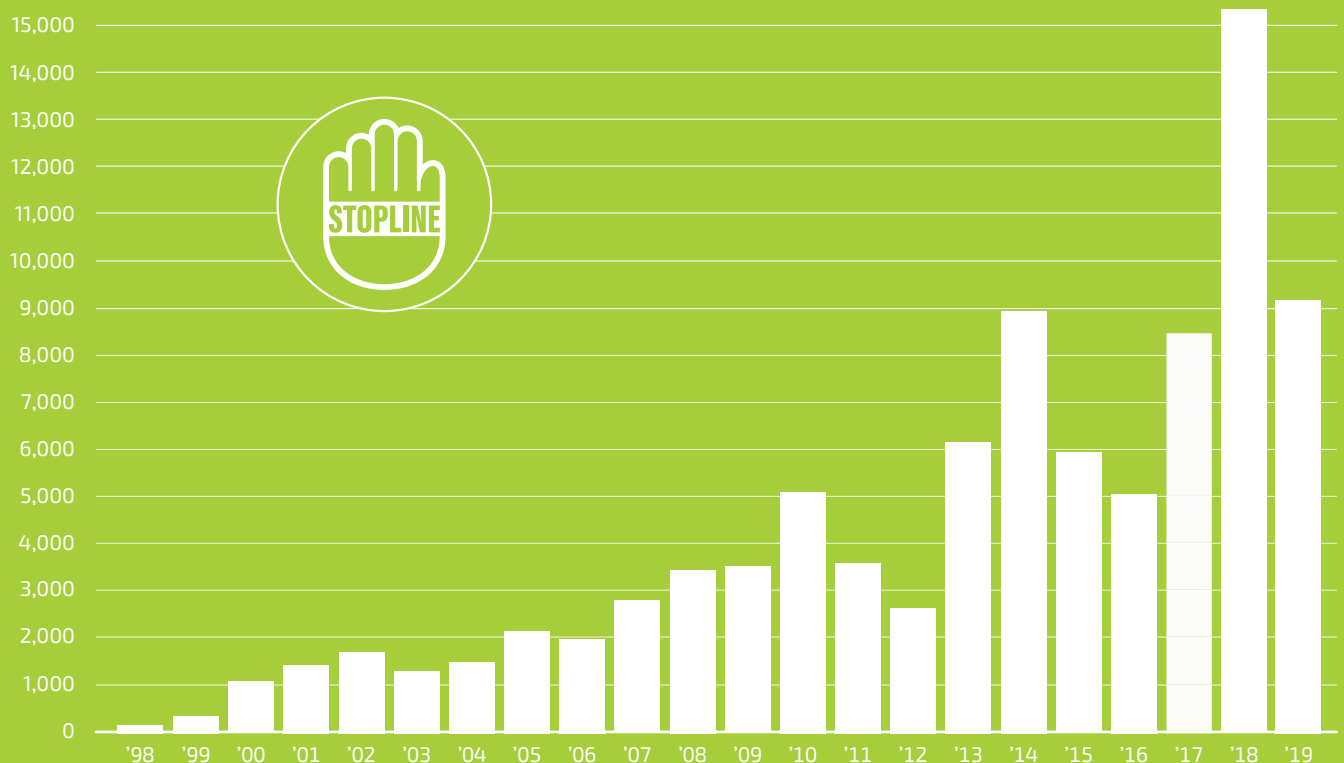
### Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

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



## Reports received

More than 20 years Stopline: 1998 - 2019



## 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.

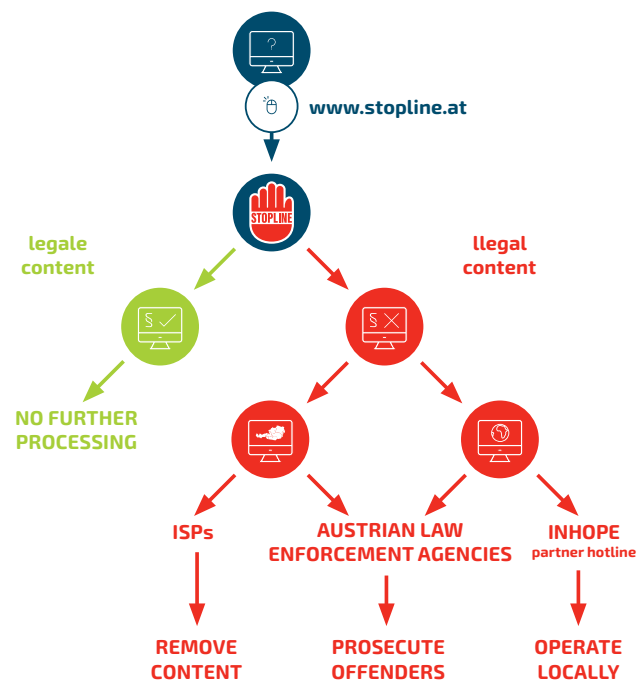
### How can you report?

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

- using the online form at [www.stopline.at](http://www.stopline.at)
- or by sending an e-mail to [office@stopline.at](mailto:office@stopline.at)

\* The full German-language text of the Criminal code can be found at [www.ris.bka.gv.at](http://www.ris.bka.gv.at).

### 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

### Reports above average

After the extremely high number of reports received in 2018, the total number decreased significantly in 2019. A total of 9,106 reports were submitted to Stopline - this corresponds to a decrease of 40 % compared to the previous year (2018: 15,194 reports), but is still significantly higher than the long-term average.

### 30 percent actionable reports

The percentage of reports actually classified as actionable - i.e. child sexual abuse material or National Socialist content - continued to increase as in previous years. In absolute numbers, 2,697 reports were actionable. In percentage terms, this means that almost one third (30 %) of all reported content was categorised as illegal by Stopline in 2019. Thus, the previous percentage peak of the previous year (2018: 19 %) was clearly exceeded. Also, in absolute terms, the number of illegal reports has increased enormously in recent years (2016: 701 reports, 2017: 1,822 reports, 2018: 2,867).

### More illegal content relating to National Socialist engagement

In 2019, there was a significant shift in the distribution of material classified as illegal. While in 2017 and 2018 more than 97 % of the material concerned depictions of sexual abuse of minors, the situation changed in 2019. The majority of illegal content, namely 68 % (6,167 reports), still concerned child sexual abuse content, but the percentage of National Socialist content increased from 1 % in 2018 to 17 % in 2019 (1,526 reports).

### Austria as an unattractive hosting location for illegal content

One positive aspect is that the amount of illegal content hosted in Austria has once again decreased. In 2019, a total of three cases of child sexual abuse material were recorded, and not a single case of National Socialist engagement. This corresponds to 0.1 % of all illegal content that was processed by Stopline in 2019. With the help of the relevant providers, the respective material could be removed from the internet quickly. Stopline is proud that Austria has been an unattractive hosting location for illegal contents for years, due to excellent cooperation with the Austrian providers.

## Reports received vs actionable reports in 2019

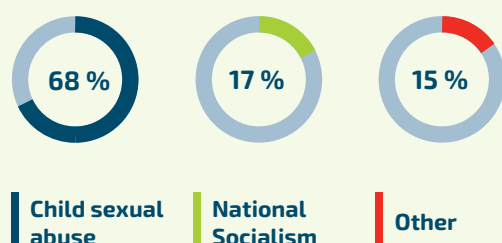




## PROFILE OF REPORTS IN 2019

### Categorisation of reports by reporters in 2019

On average, 750 reports per month were notified to Stopline in 2019. This is a decrease compared to the record year of 2018, when more than 1,000 examples of content were reported per month, but is again at the upper end of the average for recent years. The reporters defined 68 % (6,167 reports) of the total of 9,106 reports as sexual abuse of minors. Almost 17 % (1,526 reports) were categorised as National Socialist content. In the remaining 15 % (1,413 reports under „Other“), users drew attention to content which they could not clearly identify.

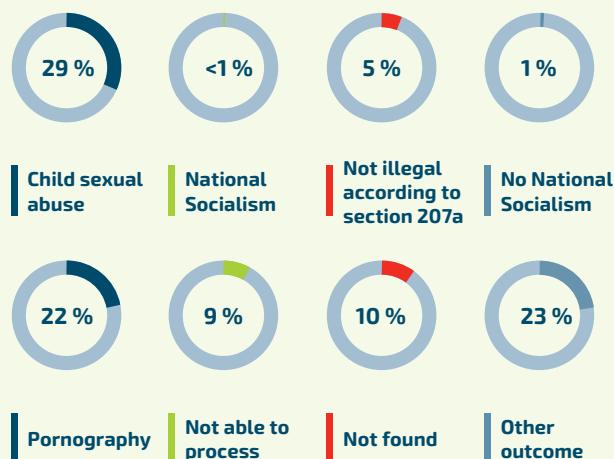


### Categorisation of reports by Stopline in 2019

Stopline examines all incoming reports and determines whether the content should be categorised as illegal.

About one third, almost 30 % of the reported content, could be classified as illegal. In a direct comparison, Stopline classified about 43 % of the content reported as child sexual abuse material, and about 2 % of the content reported as National Socialist material.

22 % of the reports were pornography depicting persons of legal age. In 6 % of the cases regarding child



sexual abuse material or National Socialist content, 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), the Abzeichengesetz outlawing National Socialist regalia and symbols, or other related legislation.

Of the remaining 42 % of content, either it could not be processed (e.g. incorrectly transmitted data), the contents could not be found (e.g. access barriers due to passwords or removed content), or it fell under the category „Other outcome“, which are either legally harmless or concern topics that could theoretically be illegal, but are beyond Stopline's responsibility - such as online fraud.

### Reports received vs actionable reports in 2019

In the year 2019, Stopline classified 2,697 of the 9,106 reports received, almost 30 %, as illegal (2018: 19 %). This is the highest percentage of actionable reports in Stopline's existence. 99 % of the illegal material contained sexual abuse of minors, and 1 % of the illegal material contained contents regarding National Socialist activity.

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

	Received	Actionable
Child sexual abuse	6,167	2,670
National Socialism	1,526	27
Other	1,413	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,106</b>	<b>2,697</b>

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

	Received	Actionable
World wide web	8,690	2,636
Social media	227	11
YouTube	17	0
TOR network	133	50
File sharing	2	0
Other	37	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,106</b>	<b>2,697</b>

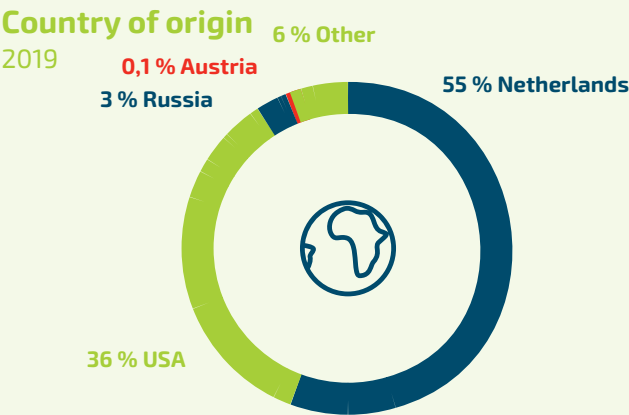


ORIGIN OF ILLEGAL CONTENT IN 2019

Most common hosting locations

Illegal content is often hosted where unbureaucratic and cheap IT infrastructure (server, web space, connectivity) is available, or where the legal situation allows the publication of such content. However, this does not mean that the illegal material, especially the depiction of sexual abuse of minors, was also produced in these countries; it is merely the place where the content was published on the internet. With regard to the content reported to Stopline, the USA has been the leading hosting country for illegal material in recent years. However, in 2019, the Netherlands reached a new record level due to an unfortunate increase from 38 % in 2018 to 55 % in 2019, and has pushed the USA into second place.

It is pleasing that, compared to the previous year, illegally hosted content has been significantly reduced in many countries, including Russia, Romania, the Seychelles and France. Austria was also able to improve once again: With less than 0.1 % of illegal content (3 cases) in 2019, Austria has again reduced its attractiveness as a hosting location.



International partnerships

Almost all reports that were classified as illegal by Stopline were hosted on foreign servers. This shows the importance of international cooperation to remove illegal content from the internet. Therefore, one of Stopline’s primary activities is to immediately inform its partner hotlines in the respective host countries.

On a positive note, INHOPE partner-hotlines are established in most of the countries of origin for which Stopline received a report in 2019. Therefore, Stopline was able to directly inform a competent hotline in almost 90 % of all cases of child sexual abuse material hosted abroad.

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)	2,421
Austrian providers	3
INHOPE partner hotlines	2,289



## 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](http://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 5<sup>th</sup> February in 2019 themed „Together for a better internet“.



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

**Saferinternet.at**

Das Internet sicher nutzen!

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



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

## NATIONALE PARTNER

### 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](http://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](http://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 beginning.

Web: [www.nic.at](http://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 47 members in 42 countries worldwide at the end of 2019.

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

### Stopleveline info material

is available for download at [www.stopleveline.at](http://www.stopleveline.at)

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

### Stopleveline at events

The Stopleveline experts talk about the work they do at their report centre at various events. Interested in a Stopleveline talk? Write to us at [office@stopleveline.at](mailto:office@stopleveline.at) and let us know about the event you are planning.

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