



Fighting CSAM.

Don't ignore it,
Report it!

INHOPE

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Samantha Woolfe

Global Partnerships and Network Expansion Lead

01

Background and INHOPE

What is INHOPE?

- Network of Hotlines combatting online Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), currently consisting of 45 hotlines in 42 countries (plus IWF portal countries)
- 20 years in operation supported by the European Commission, Google, Facebook, Twitter, Microsoft and other global and smaller industry players.
- INHOPE's Hotlines provide the public with a way to anonymously report illegal content online with a focus on CSAM



A hotline is...

- An **organisation operating on a national basis** that allows anonymous **reporting of suspected illegal** Internet material including CSAM
- Each report is assessed by the hotline
- If classified as illegal, law enforcement and/or internet service providers are advised **for notice and takedown** (removal of access **NOT** deletion)
- Reported via the **ICCAM system** – more about this later



Background

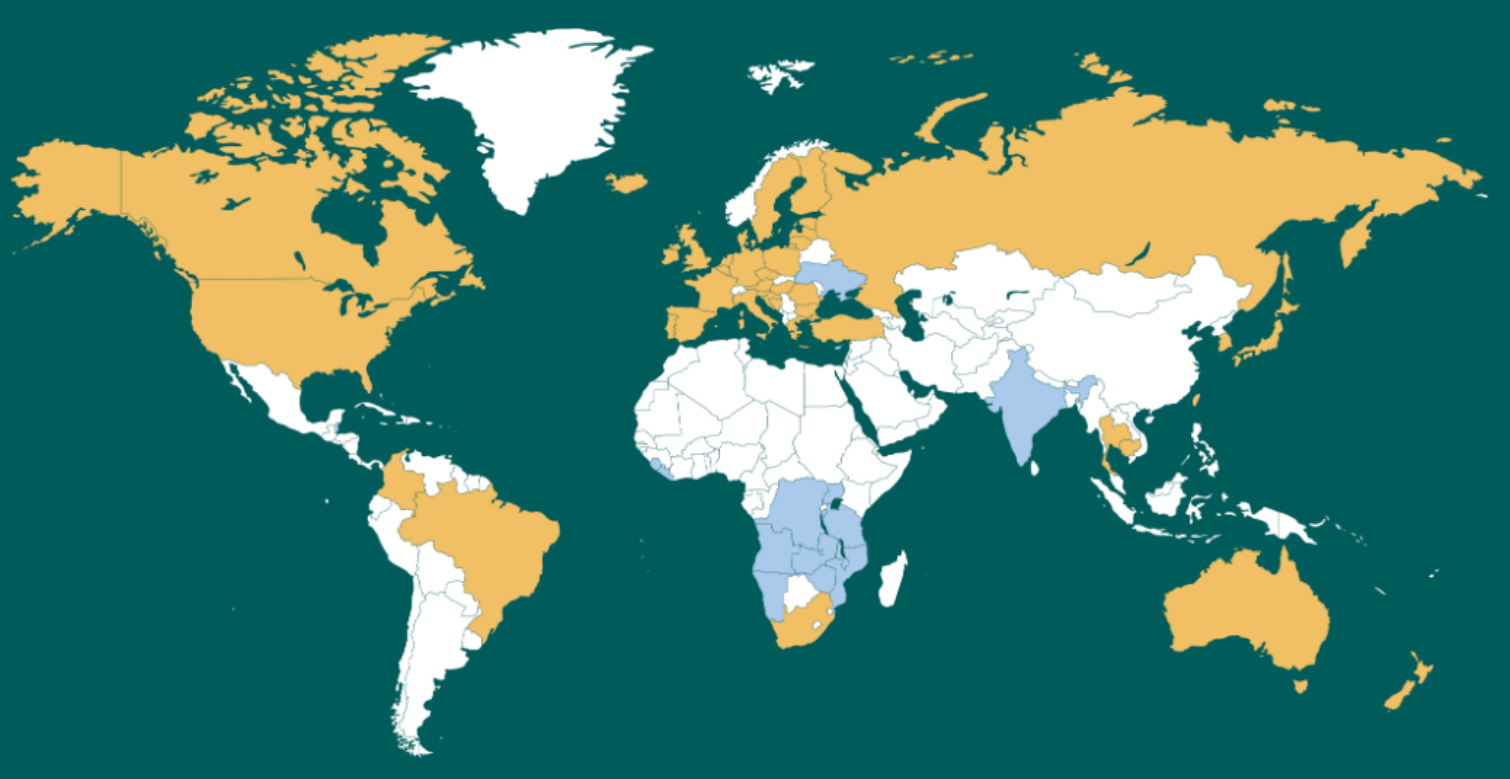
- Today the scale is phenomenal – collaborative effort is needed
- No-one knew the consequences
- First Hotlines / Tiplines saw trends in the 90s in Europe & USA
- Informal groupings to share knowledge
- 1999 Association formed by 6 hotlines = INHOPE
- Network formed to exchange reports and get funding – capture data shared within the EU and now globally
- It's only got worse as computers have become smaller than a room, pc, then laptops, then phones... world also became small..

Why?

- Consequences of CSAM devastating for victims
 - Prevent revictimisation, victim is not alone
 - Remove online CSAM
- Contribute to the rescue of victims
- Less pressure on the police – scarce resources
- Work toward the objective of making the Internet a safer space
- Raise standards and create a movement of advocacy against child sexual abuse
- VISION = An internet free of CSAM
- World free of CSAM..


If you find CSAM: Don't ignore it - Report it

Go to: www.inhope.org





INHOPE

Find your hotline

Country 

Report it!

 INHOPE member hotlines  Reporting portals

Hello Hotline,

I was on the internet and saw a website

<http://www.europol.eu>

On the first page there were pictures – I think they may be illegal, but I am scared of telling the police in case they think I am a paedophile – please do something about this.....

Regards – Anonymous Citizen

A hotline is...

Structure: Run by NGO's / Government / ISP Associations + Hybrids

What is a report?

The value of the international network

We provide training and support for our hotline analysts and national law enforcement

- CSAM is **transnational**, crosses borders, jurisdictions – thus policies and actions aimed at mitigating risks relating to CSAM demand international collaboration
- Network that provides possibility to **exchange reports legally**
- BPPs, training, support and hotlines support each other, buddy systems, change legislation
- **ICCAM system** – allows for instant exchange of reports when hosted in other countries (often multiple)
- **Faster action / response**
- **Speed:** Get the content removed fast (NTD)
- **Speed:** Get evidence preserved so police can investigate

A close-up photograph of a person's face, focusing on the eye and cheek area. The image is partially obscured by a solid light blue rectangular overlay that covers the left and center portions of the frame. The visible parts of the face show skin texture and some hair.

02

Context: Hong Kong

Hong Kong numbers

Current population = approx 7,496,981million in mid 2020.

NCMEC's CyberTipline received 16.9 million reports of suspected child sexual exploitation received by the CyberTipline in 2019.

- 7114 came from Hong Kong

2018 - 66 reports through ICCAM CSAM

2019 – 258 reports through ICCAM

2020 - ???

Good infrastructure can lead to hosting

4th highest average internet connection speed in 2018

Current situation in Hong Kong

INHOPE does not have a hotline in Hong Kong at the moment. This means that there is no guarantee that CSAM which is hosted in Hong Kong gets removed from the internet. It also means that the police are shouldering alone the potential reports from 8 million people.

45 INHOPE Hotlines insert urls into ICCAM of illegal images and videos that are NOT hosted in their own countries. This information is sent to the Hotline in the country where the content is hosted and consequently the relevant provider is informed to remove the image/video from the internet.

Since INHOPE does not have a Hotline in Hong Kong the information of these reports does not reach the Hong Kong authorities, nor the relevant ISPs.

So Child Sexual Abuse images and videos hosted in Hong Kong remain online.

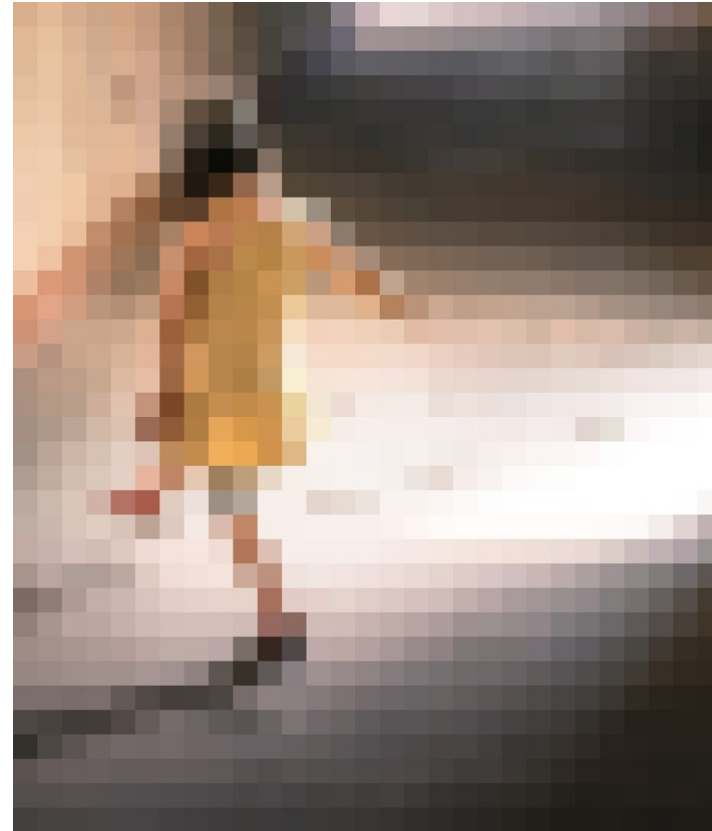
03

CSAM trends during COVID

- **April 8, 2020**

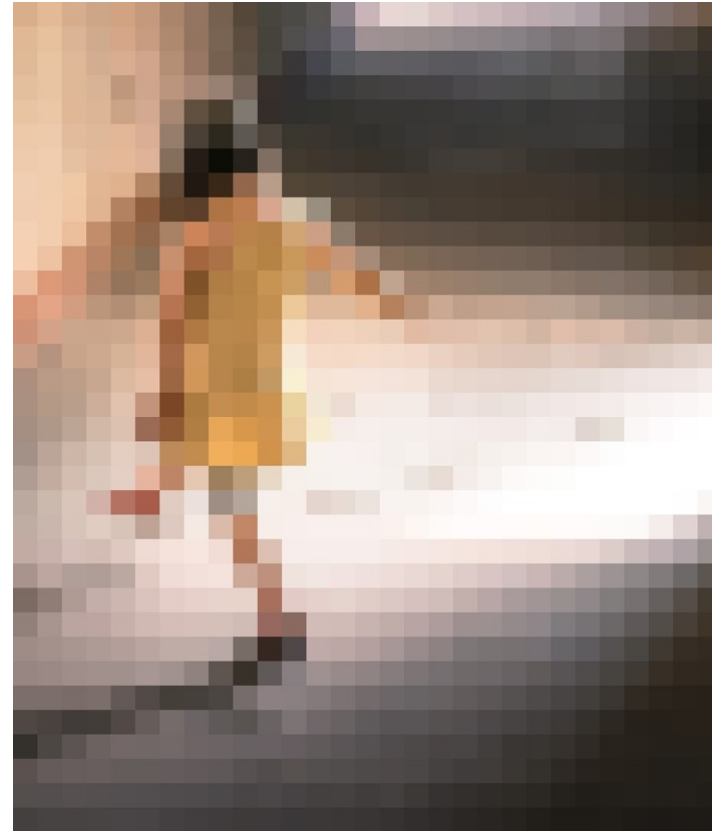
“They must do more to detect and stop harmful activity against children online, including grooming and the creation and distribution of child sexual abuse images and videos.”

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION



CSAM trends in the context of the pandemic

- To understand and mitigate risk we need to understand trends and context
- COVID19 pandemic has made situation worse.
- Europol and INTERPOL Reports
 - online CSAM in the EU has increased and it's one of the top cybercrime threats as a result of the lockdown measures put in place during the COVID19 pandemic.



Main CSAM indicators showing an increase:

- number of attempts to access online CSAM
- activity on P2P networks
- the number of reports from the public to NGOs hotlines, helplines, law enforcement and others
- the volume of new posts on online forums dedicated to child sexual abuse
- activity on dark web forums

Europol and Interpol report key findings

- Significant increases in activity relating to child sexual abuse and exploitation on:
 - **surface web and dark web** during the COVID-19 lockdown period.
- Travel restrictions and other measures during the pandemic have prevented offenders from travelling so they have shifted their focus to the exchange of CSAM online.
- An increase in the number of offenders exchanging CSAM online during lockdown may have an impact on and stimulate demand for this type of material online beyond the lockdown.

Findings continued

- Revictimisation - increases in detection and reporting of CSAM during lockdown indicate the higher level of re-victimisation through the distribution of images and videos depicting them.
- SGC - Society, including law enforcement, needs to focus on the self-generation of CSAM to ensure that children are protected from this type of exposure to harm. The increased circulation of CSAM during the COVID-19 pandemic will also increase the need for law enforcement to identify the victims depicted in it.
- **Raising awareness and resilience** - We need to continue promoting preventive and educational initiatives in a coordinated and structural manner across Europe and globally.

VICTIM CONTEXT

Victim

Confinement measures increase the amount of time children spend online for educational, entertainment and social purposes

- alternative ways of socialising unaware of associated risks
- victims of domestic CSEA may be in lockdown with the offender – in the family
- boredom may lead to increased risk-taking, including an increase in the taking and sharing of self-generated material
- the circulation of viral content leads to continuous revictimisation.

OFFENDER CONTEXT

Offender

- Offenders who usually operate online are likely to increase the amount of time they spend online.
- Offenders continue to adapt and change their online environments to avoid police detection and to target platforms based on popularity with children.
- Transnational child sex offenders are facing significant travel restrictions and may transition their offending to an online environment.
- Economic hardship from COVID19 might lead to an increase in CSEA material traded and produced for payment in the future – commercial CSAM.

Location

- The online environment in itself has not changed and CSEA offences continue to take place across multiple channels and platforms.
- The emergence of virtual learning environments has led to a new types of livestreaming offences which might increase anyway due to lockdown and the offender's inability to travel.

There is no silver bullet. It really takes a village to raise a child but also to raise this whole generation safely, today more important than ever, we must work together. We must keep moving forward because the criminals are advancing daily. We must collaborate nationally and globally. We must continue to raise awareness and raise the bar in all countries to protect children. We must communicate with our children and each other. We must remove the taboo from this subject, while removing the supply of CSAM while also tackling prevention with offenders. There is a lot to do!



**Thanks for
listening.**

samantha.woolfe@inhope.org

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