

FIGHTING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

#EUvsChildSexualAbuse | 11 May 2022



Child Sexual Abuse is a real and growing danger

The sexual abuse of children can take multiple forms. **Offline** abuses include engaging in sexual activities or sexually exploiting a child. Exploitation and abuse can also take place **online**, for example via live streaming, or by viewing or distributing online child sexual abuse images and videos.

The detection and reporting of child sexual abuse material is key to **prevent and stop** abuse in real life. It is also an important tool to **assist victims** as it can be used to prevent material from reappearing and forcing the victims to experience trauma again.

REPORTS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE ON THE INTERNET GLOBALLY

1998

more than **3,000**

2008

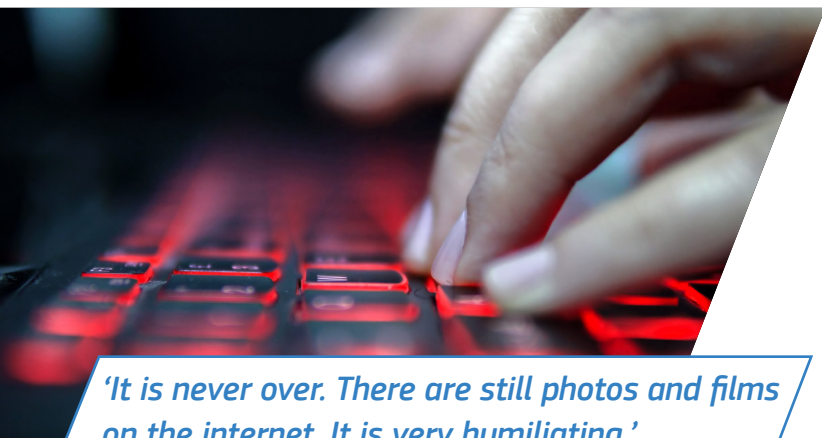
100,000

2014

more than **1 million**

2020

21,7 million reports and
over **65 million images**
and videos discovered



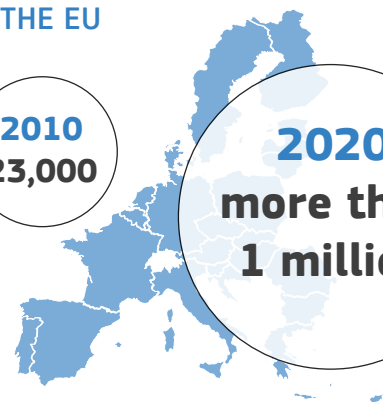
*'It is never over. There are still photos and films
on the internet. It is very humiliating.'*

Child sexual abuse survivor from Germany

REPORTS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE EU

2010
23,000

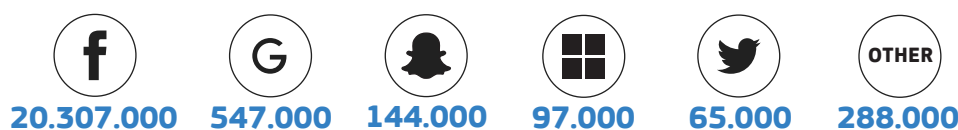
2020
**more than
1 million**



Clear, effective and legally binding rules needed

- Over 60% of child sexual abuse material worldwide is hosted on EU servers
- EU Member states are among the global top ten hosting countries
- In 2019 and 2020, 95% of all reports globally come from one single service provider¹
- Voluntary reporting is susceptible to changes in companies' policies

BREAKDOWN OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY ONLINE SERVICE PROVIDERS GLOBALLY IN 2020¹



¹National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, 2020 Reports by Electronic Service Providers

A new proposal to protect children in the EU and worldwide

OBLIGATIONS FOR COMPANIES

Companies offering services in the EU are required to detect, report and remove child sexual abuse material online irrespective of their place of establishment, while ensuring that the fundamental rights of users are protected.

STRONG SAFEGUARDS

Service providers are required to use the least intrusive measures. Any necessary review will take place on an anonymous basis, and it is possible to take steps to identify users only in case potential online child sexual abuse is detected. The technology used would not be able to extract any other information than what strictly necessary to detect the abuse.

CREATING COORDINATING AUTHORITIES

Member States designate national authorities to ensure the consistent application of the Regulation. They are independent bodies and required to perform their tasks in an impartial manner. Detection orders are issued by courts or independent national authorities.

An EU centre to prevent and counter child sexual abuse

- A hub of expertise in the EU for operational support
- Maintains a database of indicators (hashes/AI classifiers) to enable the detection of child sexual abuse
- Receives reports of potential online child abuse, assess them, and transmit them to Europol and law enforcement.
- Supports Member States in prevention and assistance to victims facilitating the exchange of best practices
- Cooperates with partners outside of the EU, given the global nature of these crimes

Child sexual abuse is illegal. It is not permitted offline and it must not be disseminated online.