



Pelastakaa Lapset - Rädda Barnen
Save the Children

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE ONLINE

Save the Children Finland has a hotline service, the Finnish Hotline, where anyone can report:

- if a child's nude image has been distributed online
- if a child has been groomed for sexual purposes online
- if they come across material depicting child sexual abuse (CSAM) online
- if a child has been trafficked for sexual purposes online in Finland or abroad

Even a suspicion of illegal activity is enough to report it. It is possible to send a report anonymously. The Finnish Hotline receives thousands of reports yearly.

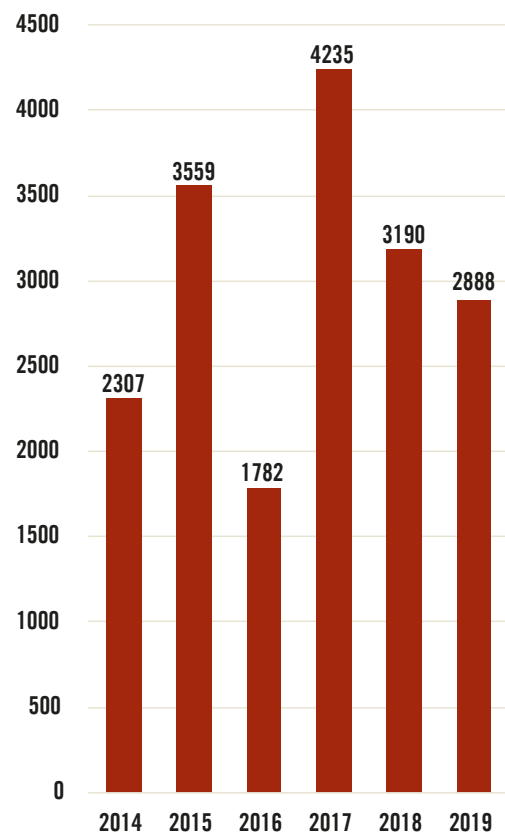
The Finnish Hotline was established in 2002. It is part of a wider SCF Child Protection and Finnish Hotline function, that works to prevent child sexual abuse. Through training, advocacy, and safety skill education, it increases the awareness of children and youth, professionals working with them, and their guardians on children's rights to protection particularly in digital media.



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



Number of reports received by
the Finnish Hotline during years
2014–2019



HOW DOES THE FINNISH HOTLINE WORK?

1



"This is against children's rights."

2



The Finnish Hotline receives **a report** on material suspected to be illegal

3



A Finnish Hotline analyst **checks** each report and **analyses** its content.

4



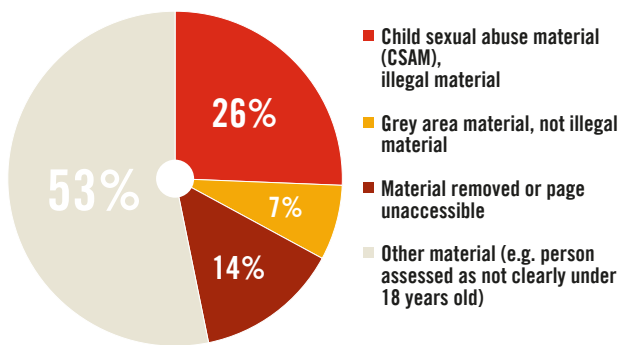
Information on material assessed as illegal is forwarded to the **INHOPE hotline** in the country where the material is hosted. The material is processed by the country's own INHOPE hotline and the information is transmitted to the local authorities. Through the INHOPE network of hotlines, the information is also transmitted to Interpol.

Information on all material assessed as illegal is also forwarded to the Finnish National Bureau of Investigation. The internet service providers (ISP) are informed of the illegal activity.

Authorities and ISPs take necessary action to remove the illegal material from the internet.

EACH REPORT MATTERS - FINNISH HOTLINE STATISTICS FROM 2019

Content of the reports (N=2,888)



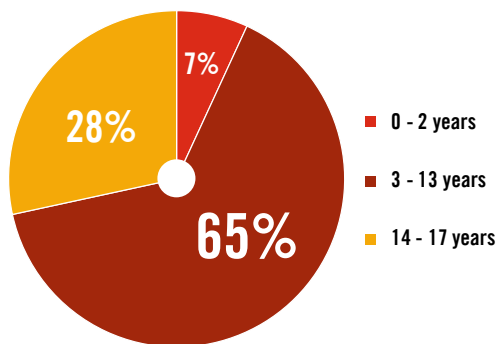
In 2019, the Finnish Hotline received in total **2,888 reports**. Each report can contain a single image or video or up to hundreds of images or videos.

Of all the reports received by the Finnish Hotline, 26 % contained illegal child sexual abuse material (CSAM). Slightly over half of all reports contained material categorized as “other” – for example images or videos, where the person could not be clearly assessed as under 18 years old.

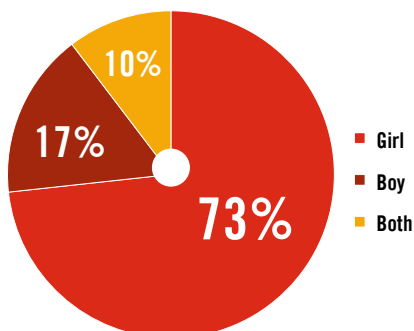
According to the assessment of Finnish Hotline analysts, in the majority of images and videos assessed as illegal (72%), the victim was under 14 years old. In slightly under one tenth of the images and videos, the child was under three years old.

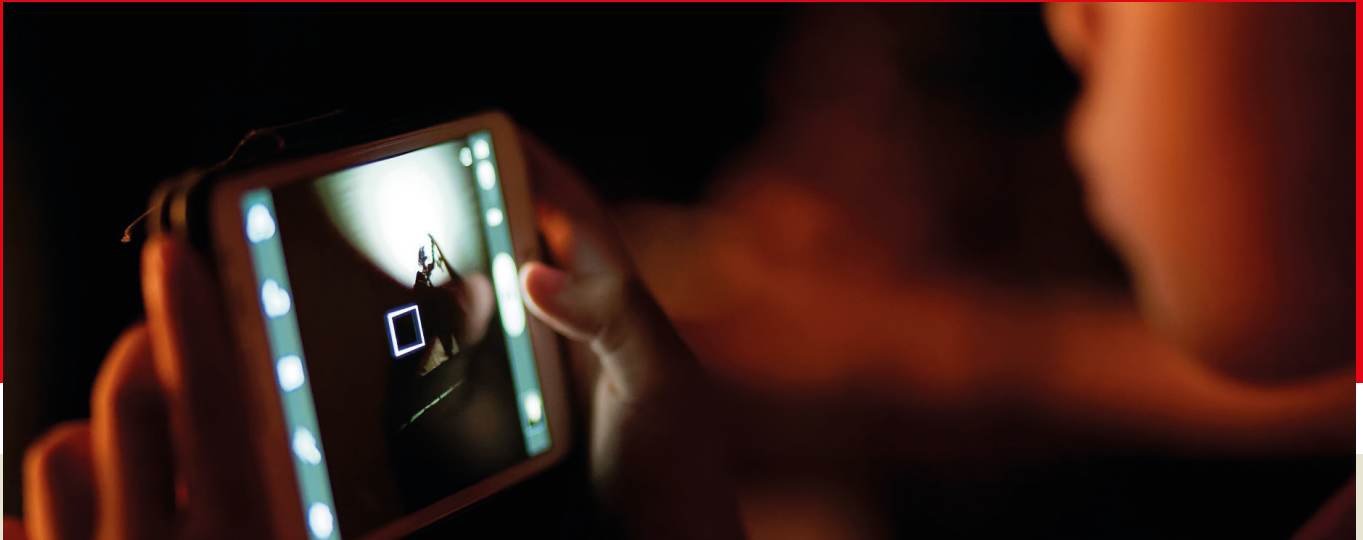
Of the images and videos assessed as illegal, nearly three fourths witnessed the sexual abuse of girls and one fifth the sexual abuse of boys.

Child sexual abuse material categorised by age (n=568, N=738)



Child sexual abuse material categorised by sex (n=551, N=738)





NO ONE CAN PROTECT CHILDREN ALONE

Digital media has created a new environment, where persons with a sexual interest in children can operate. Through digital media, it is easier and faster to share images, produce new child sexual abuse material, and approach children to groom them for sexual purposes. Responding to these challenges requires wide and multidisciplinary cooperation that has the rights of the child at its core.

Cooperation in Finland

The SCF Child Protection and Finnish Hotline function cooperates closely with the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI). Information on all material and activity assessed as illegal is forwarded to the NBI for further actions.

The SCF Child Protection and Finnish Hotline function is part of the Finnish Safer Internet Centre (FISIC) network, which goal is to create a better and safer internet for children. In Finland, the Safer Internet activities are conducted by the National Audiovisual Institute, Save the Children Finland, and the Mannerheim League for Child Welfare. Additionally, the SCF Child Protection and Finnish Hotline function cooperates with multiple other stakeholders in Finland.

International cooperation

Save the Children Finland is the national representative of ECPAT in Finland, and the SCF Child Protection and Finnish Hotline function is part of the International Association of Internet Hotlines, INHOPE network.

ECPAT is a network which goal is to end child sexual exploitation. The network has 119 member organisations in 102 countries. ECPAT's work includes, among others, advocating for the rights of the child and raising awareness on child sexual exploitation.

INHOPE's goal is to have child sexual abuse material removed fast from the internet. Material assessed as illegal by a hotline is forwarded to the country where the material is hosted via INHOPE's ICCAM system. Through ICCAM, the material is also transmitted to Interpol. The INHOPE network has 46 hotlines in 42 countries.

The SCF Child Protection and Finnish Hotline function also cooperates with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection within Project Arachnid. Project Arachnid uses some of the newest technology to detect child sexual abuse material online. The Finnish Hotline analysts assess illegal child sexual abuse material within Project Arachnid, and thereby contribute to the fast removal of the illegal material from the internet.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INTERNET HOTLINES

INHOPE



CANADIAN CENTRE for CHILD PROTECTION®
Helping families. Protecting children.