

INHOPE collaboration with OCHRÁŇ MA, Slovakia

INHOPE

February 27, 2023

To whom It May Concern,

This letter shows support to OCHRÁŇ MA to operate a reporting hotline for child sexual abuse material (CSAM) online in Slovakia. OCHRÁŇ MA and INHOPE have joined forces to create an INHOPE hotline in Slovakia with the aim of removing CSAM online in Slovakia and throughout the world.

What is INHOPE and what is a hotline?

INHOPE is a network of hotlines combatting online Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM). The network currently consists of 50 hotlines in 46 countries. INHOPE has been operating for 22 years and its work is supported financially by the European Commission, the internet industry, and its members through a membership fee. INHOPE's hotlines provide the public with a way to anonymously report illegal content online with a focus on CSAM. INHOPE's vision is an internet free of CSAM and our mission is to support the hotlines in doing so.

Hotline analysts are trained by INHOPE staff and INTERPOL's Criminal Intelligence Officers. We train analysts to review CSAM. Analysts are not (and should not be) police officers. However, every hotline works closely with their national police. Each report of suspected CSAM that the hotline receives from the public is reviewed by analysts who classify the illegality of the material. If illegal, the report is shared with the national Law Enforcement Agency (police), and the relevant internet service provider who then receives a notice and takedown order. See INHOPE's complete [guide on Notice and Takedown by clicking here](#).

Collaboration between hotlines and national LEAs

The importance of a hotline in every country is that the hotline adds value for national Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs). This means that the hotline processes all reports and sends only the illegal reports to the national LEA. This saves time for LEA so that they can spend time on investigation, instead of processing all incoming reports. The hotline also serves as the body to send requests to hosting providers to remove the illegal material from their platforms. You can find more information in our [Annual Report 2021](#).

INHOPE is a membership organisation with a [Code of Practice](#) and [Articles of Association](#). Our members must adhere to high quality standards and best practices. The following activities must have been undertaken by a potential hotline prior to any application for an organisation to become an INHOPE member:

- The hotline needs to show it is well-organised and self-sustainable. The hotline needs to put membership fees into its budget. INHOPE supports local organisations with membership fees at the start of their membership. Being an INHOPE member hotline signifies that the organisation plays an active role in raising the issue of online CSAM in their country and take active part in INHOPE's Annual General Meeting and task groups on relevant topics.
- INHOPE must conduct a Quality Assurance review of the hotline prior to their membership application. During the review, INHOPE evaluates operational, technical, security, and staff welfare practices, and after a thorough review, hotlines are

provided with key requirements and recommendations to improve the operation of the hotline. If there are open requirements following the review, they have to be fulfilled prior to acceptance of the new member by the INHOPE network.

- The applying potential hotline needs to be responsive to all INHOPE requests.
- The applying potential hotline needs to have a Memorandum of Understanding with national police, proof of charitable *or business status* in the country they are in, a web-reporting form in place to which the public can submit a URL of suspected CSAM. INHOPE supports new hotlines with a ready-made web-reporting tool [Report Box](#).
- The applying potential hotline must be permitted by law to input CSAM URLs into ICCAM (as per the Memorandum of Understanding with the police).
- Hotline analysts must undergo Core INHOPE Training and INTERPOL ICCAM training to be accepted into INHOPE's membership (*see ICCAM description below*).

ICCAM

INHOPE's hotlines use a secure platform called ICCAM to facilitate the exchange of CSAM reports between hotlines in different countries. ICCAM's servers are located at INTERPOL's headquarters and all illegal material from ICCAM is shared with the Crimes Against Children unit at INTERPOL for insertion to the International Child Sexual Exploitation Database (ICSE) of INTERPOL.

ICCAM is used to collect, exchange, and classify reports of child sexual abuse material. Images and videos are classified in ICCAM as baseline (internationally illegal according to INTERPOL criteria) or nationally illegal (illegal only in the country where the images and videos are hosted). Once an analyst inserts an image or video into ICCAM that is either baseline or nationally illegal, the system sends the URL of that image/video to the hotline in the country where the content is hosted. Consequently, the analyst of the hotline in the hosting country will inform the national Law Enforcement Agency and the relevant hosting provider (hosting the illegal content) so that the image and/or video is removed from the internet. This means that the image/video will be removed at source (where it is hosted) and will no longer be available for viewing worldwide (not only in a specific country).

Most importantly, what does a hotline mean for a country?

Ultimately, having a hotline means the following: 1) country ownership and providing a reporting mechanism to its citizens, 2) being part of a stronger, global, and national response against CSAM online and cybercrime, 3) stakeholder responsibility and a national response, 4) saving police time, and 5) preventing revictimisation.

Should you need any further supporting documentation or have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

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