

Statement for Indian Press



On 18 April 2017, the Government of India issued an order in relation to 'measures to curb online child sexual abuse material (CSAM)' in which they require all Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in India to adopt and implement the IWF URL List to prevent the distribution and transmission of online CSAM into India. This is to come into force on or before 31 July 2017.

The IWF URL is a dynamic list of live URLs (individual web pages) that contain online child sexual abuse imagery. At any time, our URL list consists of 1,000-5,000 URLs. One URL can contain from 1 or thousands of images and videos of child sexual abuse. The list is manually checked and updated twice a day, and downloaded by over 65 companies every evening. Google and Microsoft deploy it across the globe. To maintain its security, access to the IWF URL list is strictly controlled by a licencing agreement.

The IWF team are the global experts at tackling child sexual abuse images and videos on the internet, wherever they are hosted in the world. We offer a safe and anonymous place for anyone to report these images and videos. Through the support of our international Members, our collaboration with 52 hotlines in 45 countries, and our engagement with law enforcement and other global partners, we excel at finding and removing these images.

The IWF is a not for profit registered NGO, funded by the internet industry as a self-regulatory body. Our 132 Members include some of the largest companies in the world including Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google, Microsoft and Yahoo. We provide our Members with a range of technical services which are deployed across the globe to stop the upload, hosting, viewing and distribution of online CSAM.

The IWF will charge a fee to deploy the list in India to cover the costs of implementation. We are currently in negotiation with Indian partners to provide the most cost effective solution for industry in India. This includes looking at blocking access at gateway points as this would reduce the cost.

Susie Hargreaves, CEO of the IWF said:

"We must never forget that every single image shows a real child who has been sexually abused. Every single time someone views that image, that child is revictimized. The Indian ISPs have a responsibility to protect their customers from accessing this terrible material. We applaud both the Government and the Indian ISPs for taking the initiative and doing the right thing."

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Notes to editors:

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What we do:

We make the internet a safer place. We help victims of child sexual abuse worldwide by identifying and removing online images and videos of their abuse. We search for child sexual abuse images and videos and offer a place for the public to report them anonymously. We then have them removed. We're a not for profit organisation and are supported by the global internet industry and the European Commission.

For more information please visit www.iwf.org.uk.

The IWF is part of the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#), working with [Childnet International](#) and the [South West Grid for Learning](#) to promote the safe and responsible use of technology.

We help countries without anywhere to report images and videos of child sexual abuse. We provide a reporting button which feeds directly to our expert analysts in the UK, who assess the reports and remove the content. They are known as our [International Reporting Portals](#). The IWF Portal enables to provide a reporting service for your citizens to report images and videos of child sexual abuse when they spot it on the internet without you having to set up a hotline.

We implemented the [Indian Reporting Portal](#) in 2016 in collaboration with Aarambh India.

See more about our work and how we fight CSAM in our 2016 annual report at:

<https://annualreport.iwf.org.uk/>

