

“I first saw Olivia when she was about three. She was a little girl with big green eyes and golden-brown hair. She was photographed and filmed in a domestic setting. Sadly, it may well have been her home and she was with someone she trusted. Olivia was in the hands of someone who should have looked after her, nurtured her. He betrayed her trust and in the most hideous way possible. Olivia should have been playing with toys enjoying an innocent childhood. Instead, she was subjected to appalling sexual abuse over a number of years.

I’ve seen Olivia grow up through cruel images and videos, suffering hideous abuse. She was repeatedly raped and sexually tortured.

**The abuser made sure his face wasn’t seen and he distorted any image that would expose the crime scene.**

It’s highly likely that it was this man, her abuser, who first shared the images of Olivia’s suffering. Other offenders may have followed his lead and done the same. It’s also likely that some have profited financially from sharing this abuse. The suffering of children like Olivia is frequently a commercial crime. And for us, anyone who subsequently shared or paid to view this heinous material contributed to Olivia’s torment.

The police rescued Olivia in 2013—she was eight years old at that time—five years after the abuse first began. Her physical abuse ended and the man who stole her childhood was imprisoned. But those images are still in circulation and heartless offenders continue to share and probably profit from Olivia’s misery.

We see Olivia every day—five years after she was rescued. To show exactly what ‘repeat victimisation’ means, we counted the number of times we saw Olivia’s image online during a three-month period. We saw her at least 347 times. On average, that’s five times each and every working day.

In three out of five times she was being raped, or sexually tortured. Some of her images were found on commercial sites. This means that in these cases, the site operator was profiting from this child’s abuse.

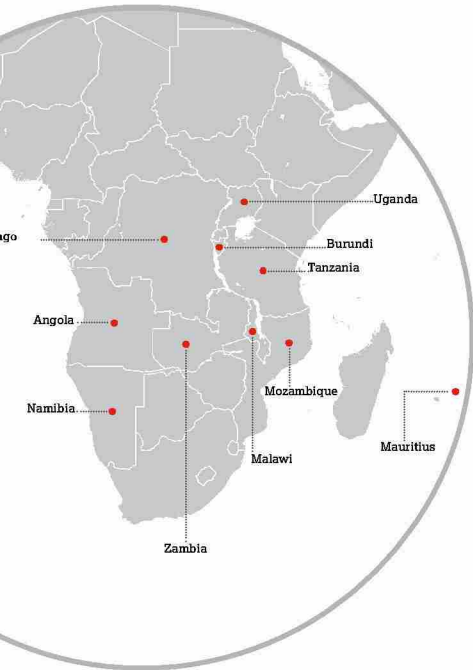
We simply don’t know if Olivia was aware that images of her abuse were being shared online. If she was, it’s difficult to imagine how traumatic that knowledge must be, particularly for someone so young.

However, we do know, from talking to adults who have suffered re-victimisation, that it’s a mental torture that can blight lives and have an impact on their ability to leave the abuse in the past. Knowing an image of your suffering is being shared or sold online is hard enough. But for survivors, fearing that they could be identified, or even recognised as an adult is terrifying.”

**Olivia is now a young teenager. But we still see her as a child. Every day.**

*We pieced together Olivia’s story over a three-month period by collecting and recording data every time we saw her. Names and some details have been changed to protect identities.*

Where is child sexual abuse imagery hosted?



Continent hosting of all child sexual abuse URLs	No of reports 2018	%
Europe (inc Russia & Turkey)	82,803	79%
North America	16,986	16%
Asia	4,961	5%
Africa	1	<1%
South America	28	<1%
Australasia	183	<1%
Hidden services*	85	<1%
Total	105,047	

\*Hidden services, see page 34

IWF services in 2018

URL List: 100,682 unique URLs and an average of 6,046 URLs per day.

Hash List: 345,961 individual images.

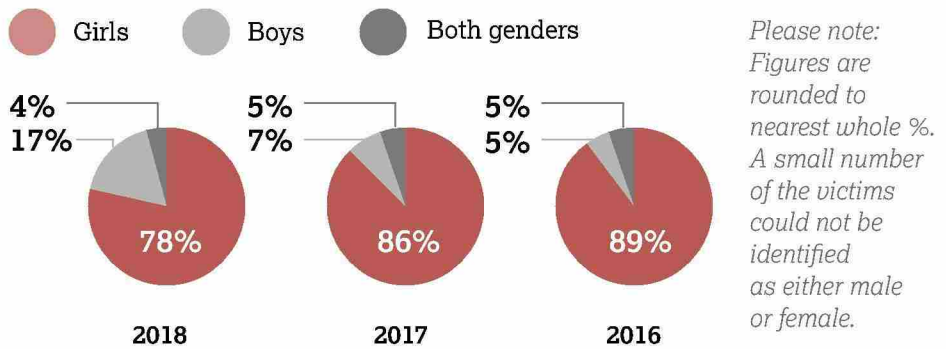
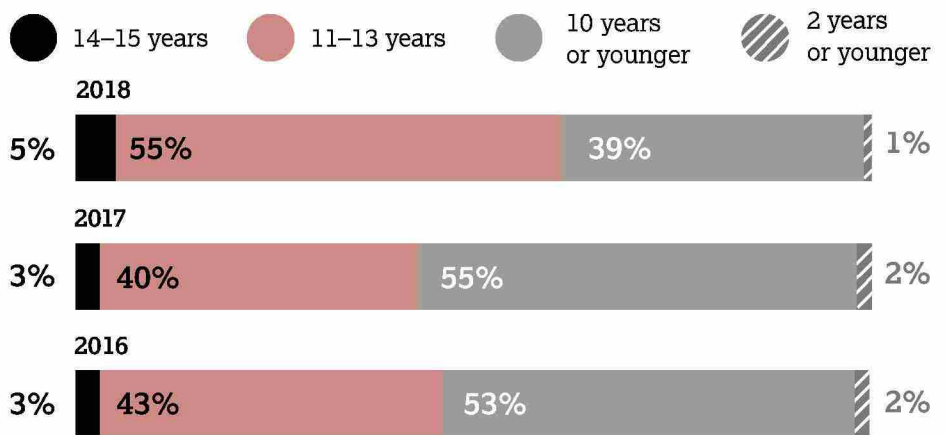
Top 5 countries	2018 data	% of total for 2018
Netherlands	48,900	47%
United States	12,818	12%
Russian Federation	11,877	11%
Slovak Republic	11,004	11%
France	6,607	6%

# All child sexual abuse URLs analysed by the IWF

Since 2014 we have seen a gradual drop in the percentage of children we assess as being aged 10 or younger. However, where we do see child sexual abuse imagery of younger children, it is more likely to show the most severe forms of abuse, including rape and sexual torture.

**In 2018, 35% of the imagery showing children appearing to be aged 10 or younger was assessed as being Category A, compared to 16% of the imagery showing children aged 11–17.**

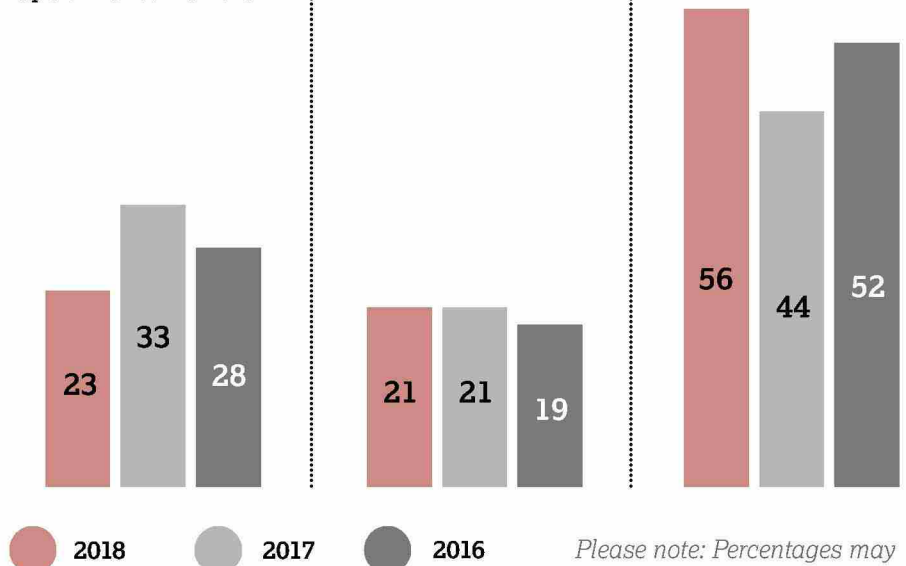
We increasingly see more imagery of 11–15 year olds in what is termed ‘self-produced’ content created using webcams and then shared online. This can have serious repercussions for young people and we take this trend very seriously. We have looked into this before and the latest trends are explored in more detail further on.



**Category A:**  
% showing sexual activity between adults and children including rape or sexual torture

**Category B:**  
% of images involving non-penetrative sexual activity

**Category C:**  
% of indecent images of children not falling within category A or B

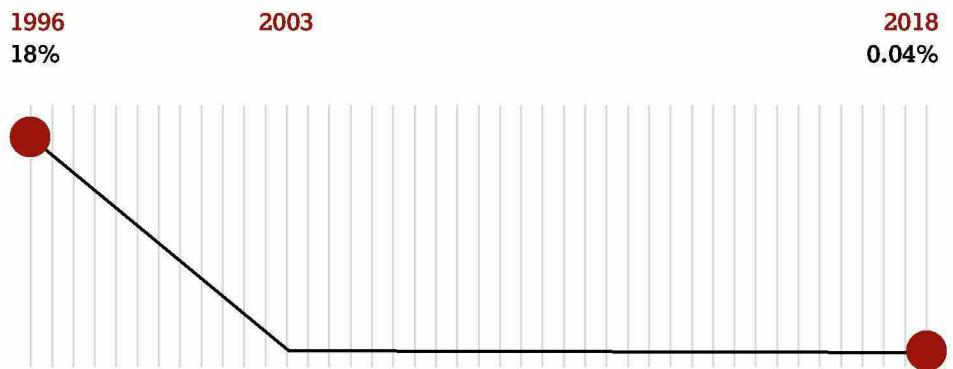


*Please note: Percentages may contain a small variable due to URLs linking to child sexual abuse websites.*

## UK hosting of child sexual abuse imagery

The UK hosts a small volume of online child sexual abuse content. When we started in 1996, the UK hosted 18% of the global total—in 2018 this figure was just 0.04%.

- In 2018, 41 URLs displaying child sexual abuse imagery were hosted in the UK, a decrease of 85% from 274 URLs in 2017.
- 31 takedown notices were sent to hosters of these 41 URLs. We might send one notice for several webpages and content may have already been removed by the time we get authorisation from the police.



## UK child sexual abuse content removal in minutes

In partnership with the online industry, we work quickly to push for the removal of child sexual abuse content hosted in the UK. The ‘take down’ time-clock ticks from the moment we issue a takedown notice to the hosting company, to the time the content is removed.

Although the URL numbers are relatively small compared to the global problem, it’s important the UK remains a hostile place for criminals to host this content.

14 companies’ services in the UK were abused to host child sexual abuse images or videos during 2018. We issued takedown notices to companies, whether they are our Members or not.

- 12 companies who were abused were not IWF Members.
- 2 companies were IWF Members.

