

A terminology note

Words matter.

What are we talking about?



Just images and videos? Wrong.

Child sexual abuse material is the permanent recording of the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child and depicts actual crime scenes. Real children are being abused on camera and film and there is nothing virtual about their suffering.

DO NOT CROSS DO NOT CROSS

Every picture/ video of CSAM might have the clue that will rescue a child.

Don't click away, if you see it, don't ignore it, report it to our reporting hotlines and help us make a difference.

www.inhope.org/report

Article 2(c) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography describes child pornography as “any representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or representation of the sexual parts of a child, the dominant characteristics of which is depiction for a sexual purpose”.

While the term *child pornography*¹ is still widely used, especially in the context of legislation, INHOPE, its members and its partners refer to child sexual abuse material, often abbreviated as (CSAM) Child Sexual Abuse Material, to describe the phenomenon.

The latter term is believed to more accurately reflect the seriousness and the very nature of the content as well as challenge any notion that such acts might be carried out pursuant to the consent of the child.

¹ For internationally agreed concepts, definitions and principles, please refer to sections 03021 and 030221 of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) issued by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/crime/ICCS/ICCS_final-2015-March12_FINAL.pdf