Boy and Girl Lover Forums on the Internet

Playing down and supporting the sexual abuse of children

(December 2009)

The sexual abuse of children on the Internet is not limited to child pornographic content or depictions of minors in sexually suggestive poses; it already starts with exchanging fantasies about abusing children which is very typical for boy and girl lover forums.

Whenever child pornography is concerned jugendschutz.net forwards the report to the German Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA). Here, identifying the perpetrator has priority. However, in the legal grey area bordering on child abuse jugendschutz.net focuses on own research and takes action. After a successful campaign against websites containing depictions of minors in sexually suggestive poses last year, jugendschutz.net now carried out systematic research of the boy and girl lover scene on the Internet.

jugendschutz.net sorted out 44 relevant websites in the surrounding of the pedophile scene in Germany and abroad and checked these for illegal content and potential counter measures.

Platforms for exchanging and discussing sexual child abuse

jugendschutz.net examined various forums ranging from professional information taking a critical look at pedosexuality to content with absolutely illegal depictions. Some forums operate in a legal grey area with no criteria for assessment under media law so far: Pseudoscientific forums pointing out alleged studies and scientific evidence to justify pedosexual preferences or forums trivializing and promoting the sexual relationship between adults and children. So-called boy or girl lovers use the forums to report about their contacts and their real "relationships".

The evaluation of the forums led to the following results:

Boy and Girl Lovers present themselves as "good pedophiles"
The forum subscribers do not think of their affinity as morally reprehensible; they rather see it as a "sexual preference". They present themselves as "good pedophiles" being non-violent and far away from any kind of abuse. Boy and girl lovers want sexuality between adults and children to be acceptable to society. They typically say:

- "Pedophiles aren't monsters."
- "Society thinks pedophiles are really bad people. But we're not."

Focus of fantasies on 5- to 12-year-olds

Most of the users frequenting boy and girl lover forums experience a preference for prepubescent children aged 5 to 12 years. However, what is actually crucial is not the real age but the physical development of the child. In all the forums assessed surveys on the favourite age were very characteristic, regularly going along with asking for the favourite practices. Here some quotes:

- "I fancy girls from the age of six; don't often see such cuties."
- "Tits are disgusting!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! No matter which size, no matter which age. PRE PUBESCENT RULES, nothing else matters."
- "Fuck an 8-year-old girl in the ass."

Children as ‘willing’ sex partners

Forum members speak of children as sexually available. They even assume that children are interested in sexual relationships with adults and therefore consider these as completely normal. Children are depicted as equal partners and not as victims; for instance, forum members regularly argue that girls see it as a "game", that they have "fun" or love to make "sexual experiments". They call for the acceptance of pedophilia as a sexual orientation and the legalization of possessing child pornography.

Pictures of children whet the appetite of pedophiles

Boy and girl lover forums regularly serve as a platform for exchanging or trading pictures of children mostly posing in clothes. There is a big demand for such photos; they are exciting and stimulating and arousing for people with a certain deviant interest. And, it is not just a matter of looking at these photos; many boy and girl lovers post comments talking about their fantasies and playing down the sexual abuse, e.g.
"A pedo with no pics every day keeps the sun away. I've got 20,000 such wonderful pictures."

"This boy gives you wet dreams."

"This little one really turns me on, she's mine. And old enough to have fun with."

**FORUMS TO CONFIRM AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER**

Through the Internet subscribers of boy and girl lover forums are connected worldwide; they communicate their experiences and give advice on living out their pedosexual preference and getting away with it. Inexperienced users are paired up with a mentor ("big brother") who explains how to use the forum and helps out in any way. For instance, they discuss the best way to discreetly approach children or entice them to engage in sexual actions.

"How do I make my boy take a bath with me?"

"Hi Frido, welcome, my name is Volta and I am your big brother. Contact me whenever you've got a problem; and if you need someone to talk, I'm always there for you. Just send a personal message or an email any time. Best wishes, Volta, your big brother."

**TRYING TO EXEMPT FROM PROSECUTION**

Almost all forums recommend the use of technical means like encryption or anonymizers to hide their identity and stay away from police. Boy and girl lovers are exhorted to be very careful when disclosing personal data. Some examples:

"It's safer to carry out your boy lover activities in an encrypted area on your hard drive."

"Specifically in boy lover forums you find police and anti-pedophile activists eavesdropping on conversations. That's why you should always watch out what you say if you make a point of remaining anonymous."

"Never think your postings will be forgotten after a few months."

"Just grope the boy the first day you meet him."

**Legal assessment and potential actions**

A large number of boy and girl lover forums operate in the legal grey area before crossing the line to sexual child abuse; only few clearly break the laws. Forum operators and users are well aware of this and consciously create their content and postings to stop well short of being legally assailable. Therefore, jugendschutz.net focused on measures directed towards clear breaches of the laws, e.g. dissemination of child pornography or depictions of minors in sexually suggestive poses.

In all instances glorifying sexual abuse jugendschutz.net contacted the providers in Germany and abroad, referred to their terms of service and asked them to shut down the forums; eight reacted accordingly.

jugendschutz.net forwarded 23 cases to partner hotlines in the USA, Russia, Netherlands, France and Italy for further actions, i.e. transmission to police or own analysis, with no significant success so far.

**A decided stand against the trivialization of sexual abuse**

Playing down sexual child abuse, confirming pedosexual orientations and talking about pedophile activities has to be objected to. Boy and girl lover forums picture adults and children engaging in sexual acts as a natural and normal sexual behaviour. They cater primarily to adults and, similar to pictures of minors in sexually suggestive poses, they are a first step to the sexual abuse of children.

Empirical evidence has shown that there is only a fine line between fantasy and real abuse. In 2008, an operator of a German girl lover forum with a criminal record of child abuse, was sentenced to六年 imprisonment with subsequent preventive detention for the sexual abuse of an 8-year old boy. A similar case occurred in the USA: In 2009, a child porn ring was smashed and it turned out that it was closely linked to a boy lover forum. jugendschutz.net had reported this forum to the US partner hotline three years before.

jugendschutz.net's approach to investigate boy and girl lover forums and to take action shows first signs of success. However, there is still a lot to do in this field. jugendschutz.net will work on establishing reliable criteria for a better legal assessment of forums in the grey area and appropriate counter measures. jugendschutz.net will also discuss boy and girl lover forums within INHOPE and deepen cooperation with partner hotlines in this field.

**About Jugendschutz.net**

jugendschutz.net demands the observance of youth protection on the Internet and takes care that problematic content is quickly modified, deleted or made inaccessible to children and youngsters. The German Youth Ministries founded jugendschutz.net in 1997 as the central organization for the protection of minors on the Internet. Since 2003, jugendschutz.net is assigned to the Commission for the Protection of Minors in the Media (KJM) in order to achieve a consistent control of broadcasting and Internet.