Hate Aid

How do I document hate speech on Instagram?

To legally document hate speech, you must take a screenshot of the hate text. Screenshots serve as **evidence**. They document **where, when, who wrote what**.

In addition to the comment, a legally secure screenshot must contain the complete date (DD.MM.YYYY) and time of the reported content as well as the (user) name of the alleged perpetrator. In addition, the context in which the comment was posted must be visible.

On most Windows computers, the key combination **Alt + Print + Ctrl** works here. For Apple, **Cmd + Shift + 3** is the key combination. Detailed instructions on how to take a screenshot can be found, for example, here for Mac, here for Windows und here for Linux. It also makes sense to take another screenshot **to record the date and time** when the hate comment was recorded. The easiest way to do this is with the **Atomshot** browser plug-in. If the program does not work for you, it is also enough to have the time and date on your screen. You can read here about how to download Atomshot. A tutorial on how to use Atomshot can be found here. Important: Atomshot only works in the Chrome browser.

It may happen that the screenshot disappears in the clipboard. In this case you have to paste the screenshot directly into a Word document using Ctrl + V or Cmd + V. Close all windows that you do not want to be visible on the screenshot.

Step 1: Save context

The best way to document a hate text is to place it directly below the post to which it refers. It must be clear whom the hate comment is directed at and that it is not, for example, responding to one of the other comments within the discussion.

This works on Instagram by first clicking on the respective post and then bringing the comment that is to be screened to the top of the comment line. **To do this, click on the date on which the comment was posted.** Now you can create a screenshot in which the comment is placed directly under the initial comment or under the image description of the post.

Source: Instagram

For private messages, too, it is important to be clear about the context that triggered the hate message. This can be, for example, a public post or comment.

Step 2: Save date and time

On Instagram, instead of the exact date, you can usually find a time (e.g. „5 weeks"). However, if you **hover your mouse over this time information**, a small box appears with the actual date. This is absolutely necessary to make sure that the screenshot is legally secure.

For comments on Instagram, it is not possible to display the exact time.

Source: Instagram

Step 3: Content of the comment

The **content of the comment** must also be copied and saved independently from the screenshot already created. The comment must be pasted into the reporting form in **text format**.

Step 4: Save the perpetrator's profile

On Instagram, users have accounts which must also be backed up: username, URL of the perpetrator's profile and a screenshot of the profile. There may also be other clues to the identity of the perpetrator in the posts.

Step 5: Fill in the reporting form

All collected evidence must be entered into our reporting form.