

SAVE THE INTERNET: OPPOSE IRELAND'S SOPA

SOPA is the name of a piece of US legislation, the Stop Online Piracy Act, recently proposed in the US. It caused an Internet-wide outcry due to its far-reaching implications; way beyond simply closing access to outlaw file sharing websites, it would have enabled law enforcement to block access to entire internet domains due to infringing material posted on a single blog or webpage.

A similar proposal is about to become law in Ireland. And while 7 million Americans contacted their representatives to say No to SOPA in the US, Irish citizens will not get that chance because the new law in Ireland is not being voted on in the Oireachtas. Instead, the law is being enacted by ministerial order. This new law will give music and movie companies the legal leverage to force Irish ISPs like UPC, Eircom and mobile networks to block access to sites suspected of having copyrighted material on them. It also means judges can order ISPs to block access to sites like YouTube, Facebook and Twitter where an individual user from anywhere in the world has shared infringing material.

- If this is passed, sites like YouTube, Twitter, Facebook and other **popular sites may be blocked in Ireland.** These sites depend on user-created content. With one injunction based on one bad link from one person, all of Ireland could lose access to a news site, social network, video sharing or any other kind of site.
- Site owners faced with one of Minister Sherlock's injunctions will have **no legal recourse without a €30,000+ legal warchest.** The new law mandates no warning process, no mediation and no appeals process outside the High Court. Smaller sites including individual blogs, podcasts and independent news sources who don't have the money to mount the costly legal campaign needed to defend themselves will automatically lose out to corporate interests with deep pockets.
- This statute is about to become law with **no vote in the Oireachtas.** Instead, Minister Sherlock has stated that he intends to issue a ministerial order. This law affects all 4.3 million people in Ireland; something so fundamental should properly be debated and legislated by our elected representatives.
- This legislation is **bad for the Irish economy.** It jeopardises the fundamental operation of our largest tech employers including Facebook and Google, is hostile to investment and relocation, and stifles our technology startups.

Sign the petition

@ <http://stopsopaireland.com/>

to Protect the internet in Ireland.

#occupydamestreet

you can make the difference

#OccupyDameStreet is a people's movement, which stands in solidarity with and is inspired by over 1,400 (Occupytogether.org 15/10/11) sister occupations in the evolving global movement initiated by the people of Iceland, Greece, Spain, and the Arab Spring. We use tactics of non-violence akin to scenes of peaceful resistance in Tahrir Square and Wall Street. This is a diverse people's initiative, unaffiliated with any political parties. We are the 99%. We stand together against political and economic corruption. We stand for equality and social justice. This is a "leaderless resistance movement" with people of many nationalities, backgrounds, genders and political persuasions.

We say to the people of Ireland, if you have ever looked for an opportunity to engage in realistic change, this is a platform. Now is the time when the spirit of the revolt is spreading to other major cities and financial districts around the world. It is the duty of everyone to stand together against the endless greed and corruption on which our financial system is based.

We reject the complete control of the European Central Bank (ECB) in dictating our economic policy. Our demand is that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) stay out of our affairs. We do not want their influence or control. Our demand is that the private bank debt that has been socialised and burdened upon the population of the country who had nothing to do with it be lifted. We will not pay and let our children and their children pay for this crisis that private banks and bondholders have caused. It is their problem, not ours. Our demand is that the oil and gas reserves off our coast that were criminally handed away to private corporations be returned to sovereign control. Our demand is for real, participatory democracy - where the people's interests come first, where the people decide what happens.

We do not claim to have a complete list of solutions. We believe, however, that the process is just beginning. The more participation we can build the more power our decisions will carry. We invite any person to join us, but we ask that they leave their political party behind.

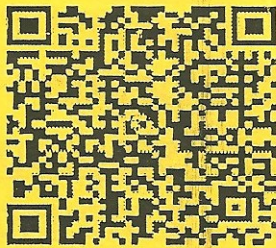
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