OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2020 Hate Crime Report.
For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/armenia

For more information about ODIHR's Hate Crime Report, visit: hatecrime.osce.org/our-methodology

1 2020

Summary

Armenia regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Armenia implemented ODIHR's programmes on Prosecutors and Hate Crime Training (PAHCT) and Training Against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) in 2021 and 2022, respectively.

In 2023, amendments to hate crime provisions in the Criminal Code of Armenia were developed within the framework of a parliamentary initiative in coordination with civil society. The amendments came into force in 2024.

The Government of Armenia has adopted an Action Plan stemming from the National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights (2023-2025). The Plan contains a number of measures to counter hate crimes. Action 4.7 provides for the development of guidelines for investigating cases of hate crime, hate speech, and discrimination for the police, investigative agencies, and the prosecutor's office.

Hate crime data collection in Armenia
Support for hate crime victims in Armenia
Hate crime capacity building in Armenia
Armenia's hate crime legislation

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Armenia's efforts to build the capacities of police, investigators and prosecutors in responding to hate crimes, namely through ODIHR's TAHCLE and PAHCT training programmes, and for adopting a more progressive hate crime legislation. However, based on the available information, it observes that the law enforcement agencies of Armenia do not record the bias motivations behind hate crimes. In addition, ODIHR observes that Armenia would benefit from strengthening, collaboration with, and facilitating the work of civil society, on hate crimes, including on victim support.

Official Data

Police records presented here were collected by the Police Information Centre and included 17 offences of "Public calls for violence, public justification or propaganda of violence", additional five cases of incitement to hatred which have been excluded as they do not fall under the OSCE definition of hate crime. The prosecutorial records represent criminal cases initiated by the prosecution and include the information of the database of the Police Information Centre, as well as the number of cases registered by the Military Police; five additional criminal cases of incitement to hatred under this category were reported but are not presented here as they fall outside of the OSCE definition of hate crime.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2020	19	164	1

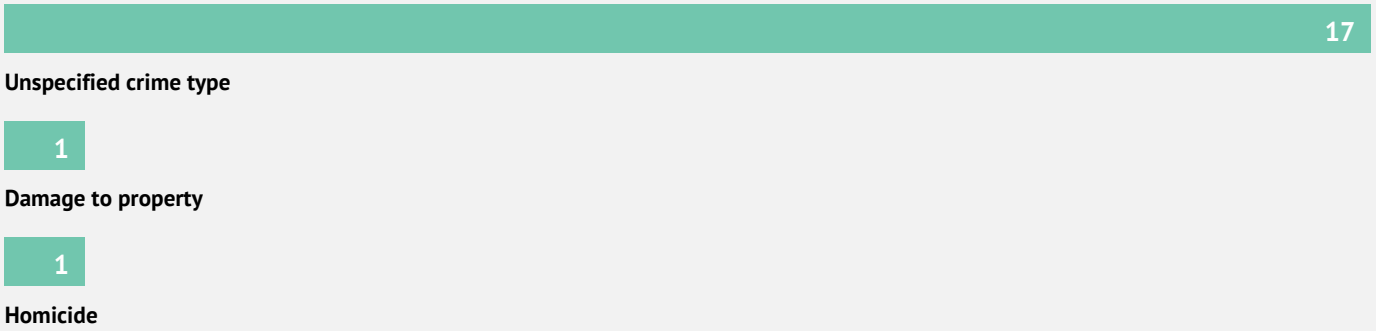
Police data by bias motivation

19

Unspecified

The category "other" consists of offences of "Public calls for violence, public justification or propaganda of violence" (Article 226 point 2 of the Criminal Code) which may include cases of hate speech falling outside of the OSCE definition of hate crime.

Police data by type of crime



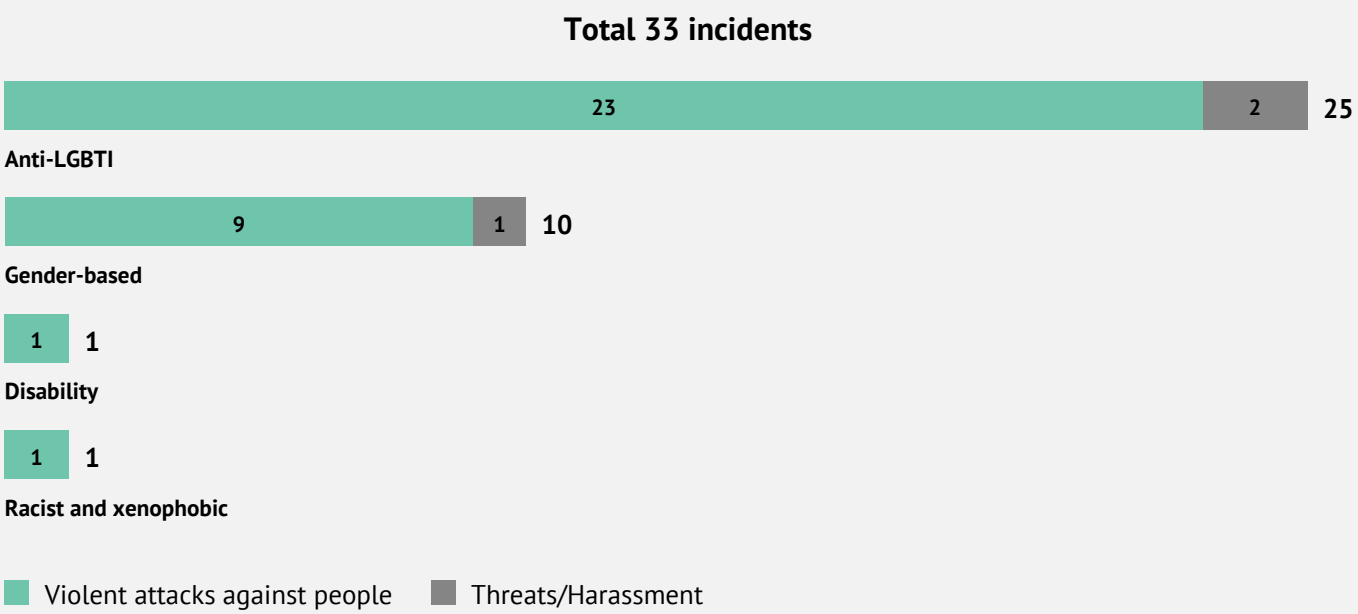
National Developments

The authorities continued to work on the new Criminal Code, which was adopted by the **Parliament of the Republic of Armenia** on 5 May 2021 and will enter into force in July 2022. The new Criminal Code includes amended hate crime provisions, namely extended list of protected characteristics under the general penalty enhancement provision (*Aggravating circumstances for liability and punishment* under the new Article 71), as well as extended lists of protected characteristics under the specific penalty enhancement provisions under a number of substantive offences.

In 2020, negotiations continued regarding the implementation of ODIHR's TAHCLE and PAHCT training programmes in Armenia. The efforts culminated in 2021 by signing two memoranda of understanding, on TAHCLE (concluded between **Police of the Republic of Armenia** and ODIHR) and PAHCT (concluded between the **Academy of Justice, Office of the Prosecutor General**, and the **Investigative Committee of the Republic of Armenia**), respectively.

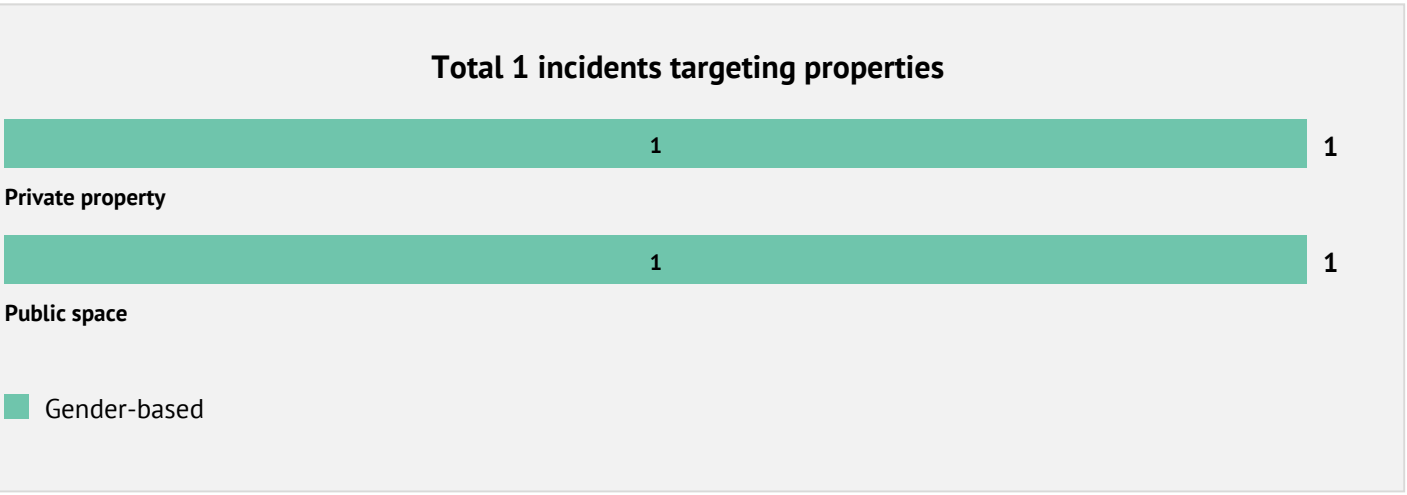
Furthermore, the **Ministry of Justice** collaborated with the Council of Europe in the framework of Council of Europe's Project "*Strengthening the access to justice through non-judicial redress mechanisms for victims of discrimination, hate crime and hate speech in Eastern Partnership countries*". The objective of the project is, among others, to assist relevant national institutions to develop their procedures and tools on collecting disaggregated data collection on discrimination, hate crime and hate speech, in order to better prevent these phenomena and improve recording and reporting. Two meetings with the participation of the key stakeholders, including civil society organizations, were held in 2019 and 2020 and a report entitled "Armenia's hate crime, hate speech and discrimination data collection system: Recommendations for improvement and for adopting a joint approach and national situational analysis", accessible here, was produced in September 2020.

Incidents reported by civil society



Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

Targeted properties



View civil society incidents for Armenia, 2020