OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2025 Hate Crime Report.
For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/austria

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

2025

Summary

Austria regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Implemented in 2021, Austria's new hate crime recording system represents a good practice in the region. The Austrian Ministry of the Interior is also a member of the civil society network "Hate Crime Kontern", which strengthens hate crime co-ordination and victim support, and co-operates directly with civil society organizations. Hate crime statistics collected by the Ministry are published online each year.

In January 2023, Austria implemented ODIHR's Diagnostic Workshop to Assess National Structures and Services for Hate Crime Victim Support.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Austria's continued efforts to improve its hate crime recording and data collection mechanism, including by aligning the hate crime recording system used by the police and the judiciary. ODIHR observes that Austria would benefit from raising awareness among and building the capacity of criminal justice officials, including prosecutors and judges, to address hate crimes.

Official Data

Police records represent the number of offences recorded as hate crimes; a total number of 6,751 cases were registered, some of which involved more than one bias motivation. The above police-recorded hate crime figure includes offences that fall outside of the OSCE definition of hate crime. These include cases defined as "right-wing extremism" under the Prohibition Act, so-called "honour crimes", and incitement to hatred, discrimination and violence. Prosecution and sentencing figures are based on the same recording methodology as police-recorded figures. However, as the "hate crime" coding can only be applied to the whole proceeding, as opposed to individual prosecuted/sentenced offences, they may include some non-hate crime offences. Prosecution figures exclude 2,486 cases prosecuted under the Prohibition Act (§§ 3a-3h VerbotsG) and 372 cases of so-called "honour crimes" (§§ 111, 113, 115, and 116 StGB). Sentencing figures exclude 130 cases sentenced under the Prohibition Act (§§ 3a-3h VerbotsG) and 15 cases of "honour crimes" (§§ 111, 113, 115, and 116 StGB). All the excluded cases fall outside the OSCE hate crime definition.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2025	6,751	4,746	336

Police data by bias motivation

The number of police-recorded cases provided in the charts below refers to the number of bias motives and not the number of offences. This is why the numbers below do not match the total number of police-recorded cases in the table above. A total of 7,327 bias motives were originally recorded by the police. Of those, 4,009 bias motives were excluded from ODIHR's report as they fall outside the OSCE hate crime definition (namely, crimes motivated by bias based on world view), as were bias motives associated with "right-wing extremism" crimes under the Prohibition Act, "honour crimes", and incitement to hatred, discrimination and violence.



Racist and xenophobic



Anti-LGBTI



Unspecified

This category includes 98 hate crimes committed with a bias based on social status and 107 hate crimes with a bias based on age. This category might include motives for which the legal basis falls outside the OSCE hate crime definition.



Anti-Muslim



Anti-Christian



Anti-Semitic



Gender-based



Disability

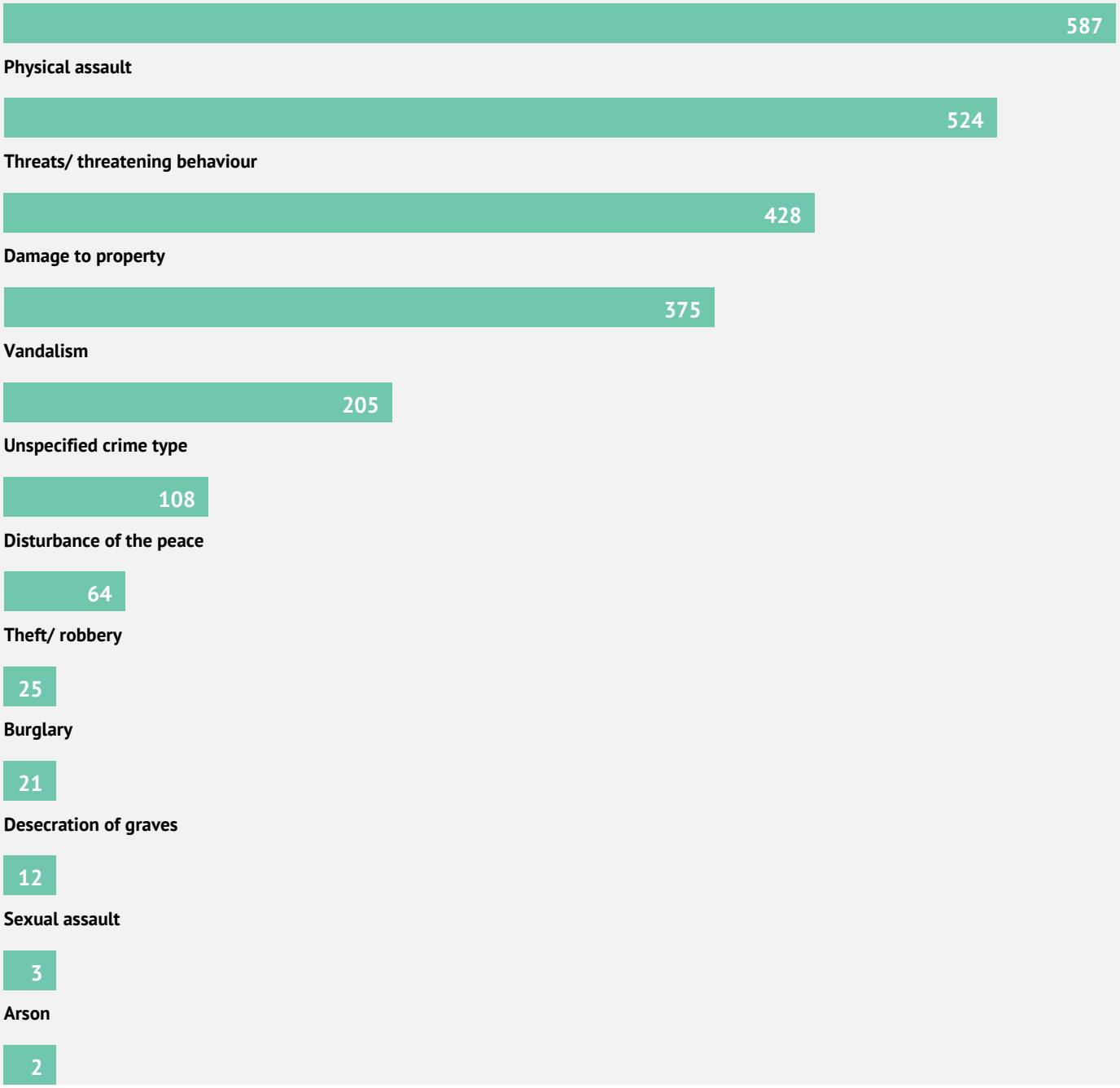


Other hate crime based on religion or belief

This category includes motives registered as "Other" within the "religion" category in the Austrian Ministry of Interior's data recording system. A further 10 recorded bias motives were excluded from this category as the legal basis for their recording falls outside the OSCE hate crime definition.

Police data by type of crime

The number of police-recorded cases provided in the charts below refers to the number of bias motives and not the number of offences. This is why the numbers below do not match the total number of police-recorded cases in the table above. A total of 7,327 bias motives were originally recorded by the police. Of those, 4,009 bias motives were excluded from ODIHR's report as they fall outside the OSCE hate crime definition (namely, crimes motivated by bias based on world view), as were bias motives associated with "right-wing extremism" crimes under the Prohibition Act, "honour crimes", and incitement to hatred, discrimination and violence.



Attacks against places of worship



National Developments

As of 8 April 2025, hate crime identifiers set by police officers are automatically transferred from the police database to the judicial databases. Accompanying these technical changes, on 9 May 2025, a new decree was issued to judicial authorities, including information on the background, legal basis, technical steps and training opportunities in relation to (the recording of) bias-motivated offences. The decree also describes the new bias motive categories in detail, and includes practical examples. Judicial decision-making bodies are now also required to set or review the respective identifiers.

On 1 October 2025, the Ministry of Justice-published Court Assistance Regulation Ordinance entered into force. The Ordinance tightens the qualification standards for court assistance, reorganizes the classification of victim groups according to the special protection needs of victims (Section 66a (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure), and reorganizes the training courses for psychosocial court assistants. The training begins with a five-day general basic training course lasting five days, followed by a four-day specialized basic training course, and culminating with a two-day specialized additional training course. The specialized additional training is especially targeted at providers of psychosocial court assistance for adult female and male victims of hate crimes.

In 2025, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior co-developed the first outline of the National Action Plan on Hate Crime, which aims to address the significant rise in bias-motivated crimes and introduce preventive measures.

Between October 2023 and November 2025, the Ministry of the Interior together with the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) conducted a quantitative and qualitative study of police-recorded and unreported crime, as well as an analysis of possible preventive measures against hate crime and hate speech. Between September 2024 and April 2025, the Ministry worked with international experts to develop guidelines to support national authorities in planning, implementing and evaluating public campaigns against hate and incitement and promoting greater social cohesion.

Incidents reported by civil society

For 2025, ODIHR received reports of hate incidents in Austria from the following civil society organizations:

- Anti-Discrimination Office Styria
- Croatian Civil Society Coalition
- Documentation and Counselling Center Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim Racism (Dokustelle Austria)
- European Association of Jehovah's Witnesses
- International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF)
- Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe (OIDAC)
- ZARA - Civil Courage and Anti-Racism Work

To learn more about these organizations, visit the Contributors page.

Individual incidents submitted by CSOs have been analysed by ODIHR. Those that are broadly considered to be hate crimes within the OSCE definition (criminal offence committed with a bias motive) are listed in the tables below according to the bias motivation category. Some incidents involved multiple biases and may be listed in multiple categories.

ODIHR's insights

For 2025, ODIHR received reports of 121 hate incidents that took place in Austria targeting a total of 115 victims in the following bias motivation categories: anti-Christian, anti-LGBTI, anti-Muslim, anti-Roma, anti-Semitic, gender-based and racist and xenophobic hate incidents. In addition, approximately 10 per cent of incidents involved multiple biases, such as racist and xenophobic *and* anti-Muslim, and racist and xenophobic *and* anti-LGBTI.

Half of the incidents reported to ODIHR involved racist and xenophobic bias, including 23 physical assaults targeting a total of 40 victims due to their ethnicity, skin colour or language spoken. One quarter of incidents involved an anti-Muslim bias, including a significant number of physical assaults targeting hijab-wearing Muslim women in public spaces. In addition, a large number of incidents involving neo-Nazi, anti-Muslim and racist graffiti were reported.

ODIHR noted a few incidents in which law enforcement officers deployed excessive force while using racist or xenophobic insults while on duty. ODIHR received one report of a homicide targeting an Iranian man who was punched, choked and shot dead by his neighbour, who had expressed xenophobic hostility towards the victim and owned items bearing Nazi symbols.

ODIHR also observed a significant number of anti-Christian incidents, mostly attacks against property but also two physical assaults resulting in serious injuries against parish workers at Catholic churches.

It should be noted that ODIHR did **not** receive any reporting on Austria relating to disability and other religion or belief hate incidents, and received a low level of reporting related to anti-Roma, anti-Semitic and gender-based hate incidents. This indicates potential gaps in the information reported here.
Please note that incidents reported here are based on voluntary civil society submissions and as such do not reflect the actual number of incidents or the most targeted communities in Austria.

To address under-reporting, ODIHR encourages any civil society organizations or groups that monitor hate incidents to report these to ODIHR at hatecrimereport@odihr.pl.

To export an Excel sheet with summaries of all incidents from Austria click here.

View civil society incidents for Austria, 2025