OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2021 Hate Crime Report.
For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/belgium

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

1 2021

Summary

Belgium regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Recent initiatives to improve hate crime identification, recording, and data collection have been implemented through ODIHR's Information Against Hate Crimes Toolkit (INFAHCT) programme. In particular, Belgium has implemented the programme's recommendations on the operational practice of police, prosecutors, and equality bodies.

Crime victimization surveys and research are frequently conducted in Belgium. "Safe.brussels", the Brussels public service responsible for crime prevention and security within the Brussels-Capital Region, conducts surveys on the perception of security and crime victimization among the general public every two years.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Belgium's efforts to improve its hate crime recording mechanism. Based on the available information, ODIHR observes that Belgium's hate crime recording and statistics do not sufficiently distinguish hate crimes from other crimes. In addition, ODIHR observes that Belgium would benefit from reviewing the existing legal framework in order to ensure that bias motivations can be effectively acknowledged and appropriate penalties can be imposed on the perpetrators.

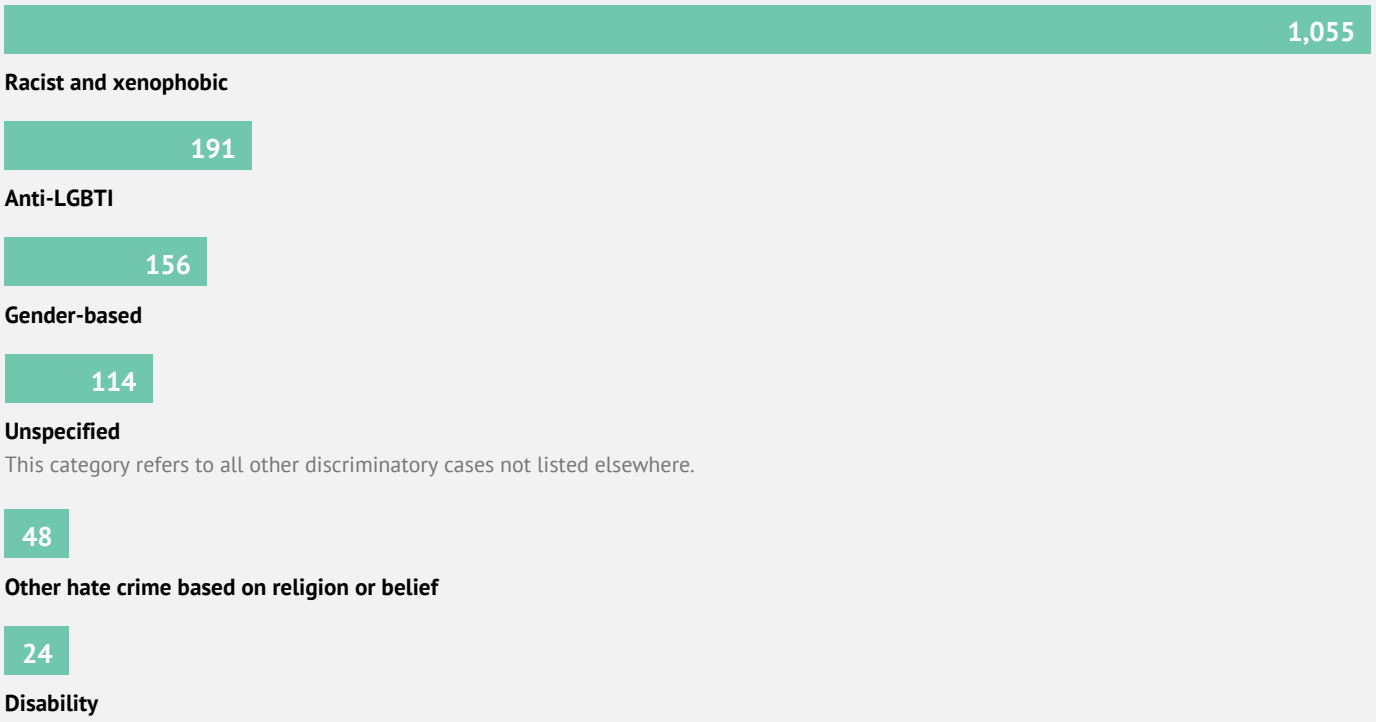
Official Data

In addition to hate crimes, the numbers reported here also include other types of "discrimination" incidents, which can fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime. Some cases may have been registered several times by the police, such as when there was more than one victim, whereas the prosecution register such cases only once.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2021	1,591	1,357	not available

Police data by bias motivation

The numbers below represent all incidents recorded by the police and sent to the criminal prosecutor's office.



Police data by type of crime

The numbers below represent all incidents recorded by the police and sent to the criminal prosecutor's office.

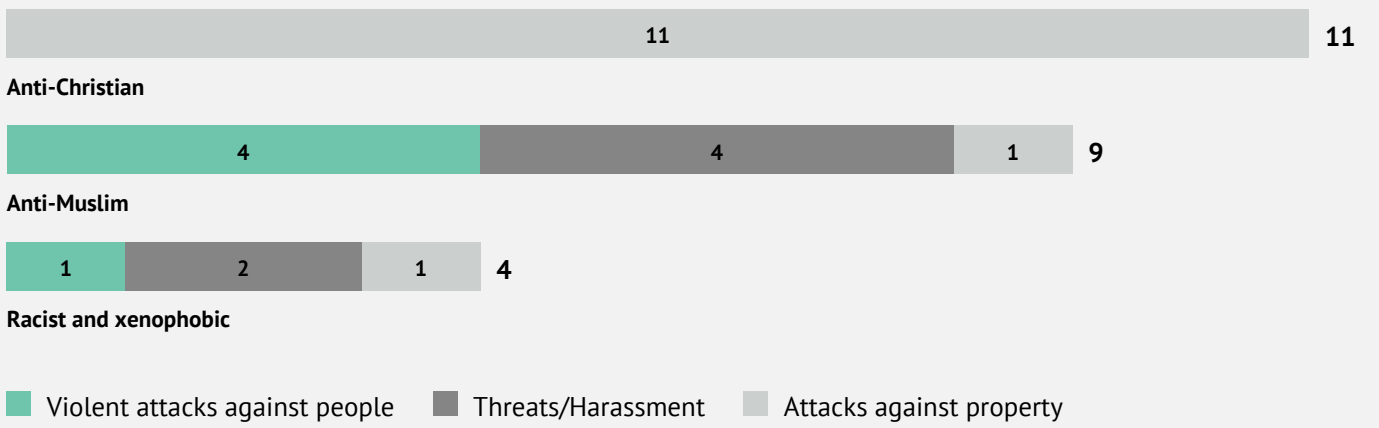


Unspecified crime type

National Developments

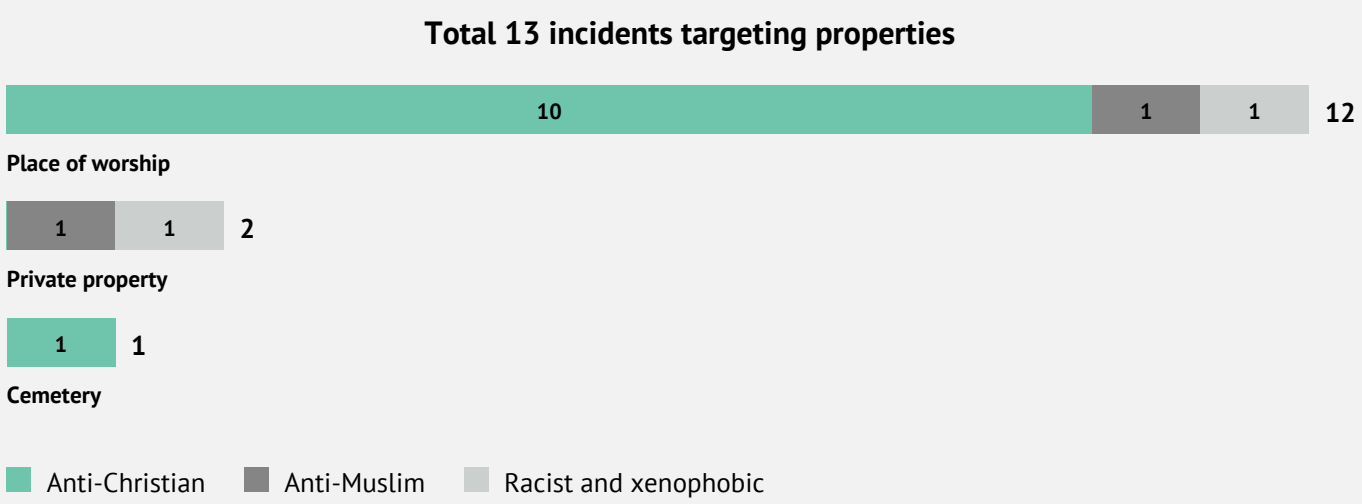
This category refers to all other discriminatory cases not listed elsewhere.

Incidents reported by civil society

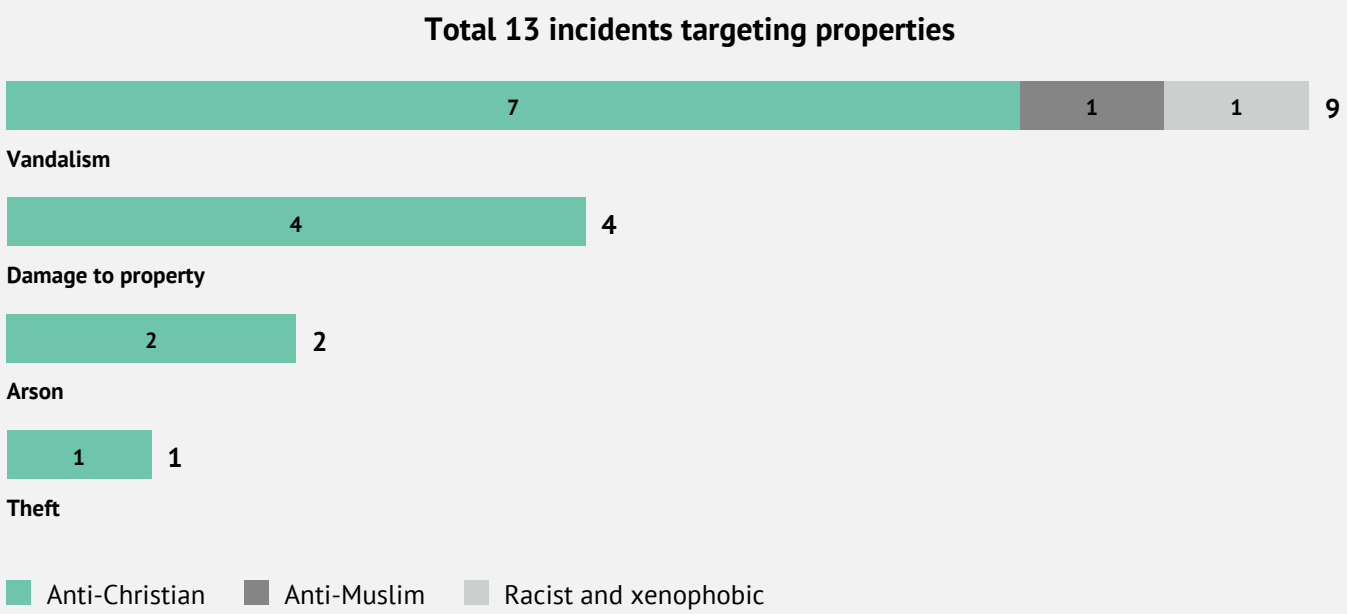


Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Belgium, 2021