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/bulgaria

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

1 2020

Summary

Bulgaria regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Bulgaria implemented ODIHR's Training Against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) programme from 2012 until 2017. Bulgaria also took part in ODIHR's project on "Building a Comprehensive Criminal Justice Response to Hate Crime", helping to develop a joint training programme for police and prosecutors that was piloted in the country. Bulgaria has also made efforts to improve hate crime identification, recording and data collection systems through ODIHR's Information Against Hate Crimes Toolkit (INFAHCT) programme. ODIHR completed a review of Bulgaria's hate crime legislation in 2018.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Bulgaria's efforts to build the capacities of police in responding to hate crime. However, based on the available information, it observes that the law enforcement agencies of Bulgaria have not recorded the bias motivations behind. hate crimes. In addition, ODIHR observes that Bulgaria would benefit from reviewing its existing legal framework in order to ensure that bias motivation can be effectively acknowledged and appropriate penalties can be imposed on the perpetrators.

Official Data

The numbers recorded by the police refer to cases registered under substantive offences, some of which are hate speech provisions, and specific penalty enhancements in the Bulgarian Criminal Code. However, most (706) of the offences under the latter category include crimes committed out of "hooligan motives", which fall outside of the OSCE's hate crime definition. The number of sentencing judgments refers also include discrimination-based offences which fall outside the OSCE's hate crime definition.

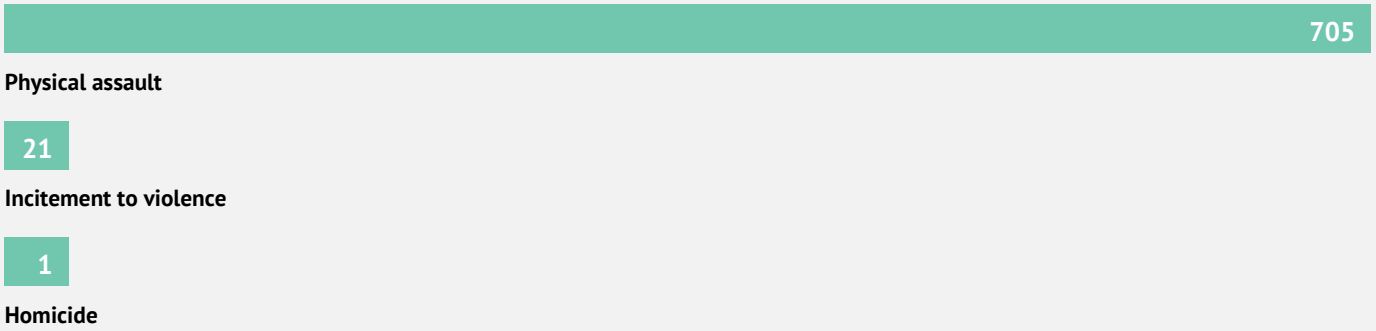
Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2020	727	353	289

Police data by bias motivation

727

Hate crime against other groups

Police data by type of crime

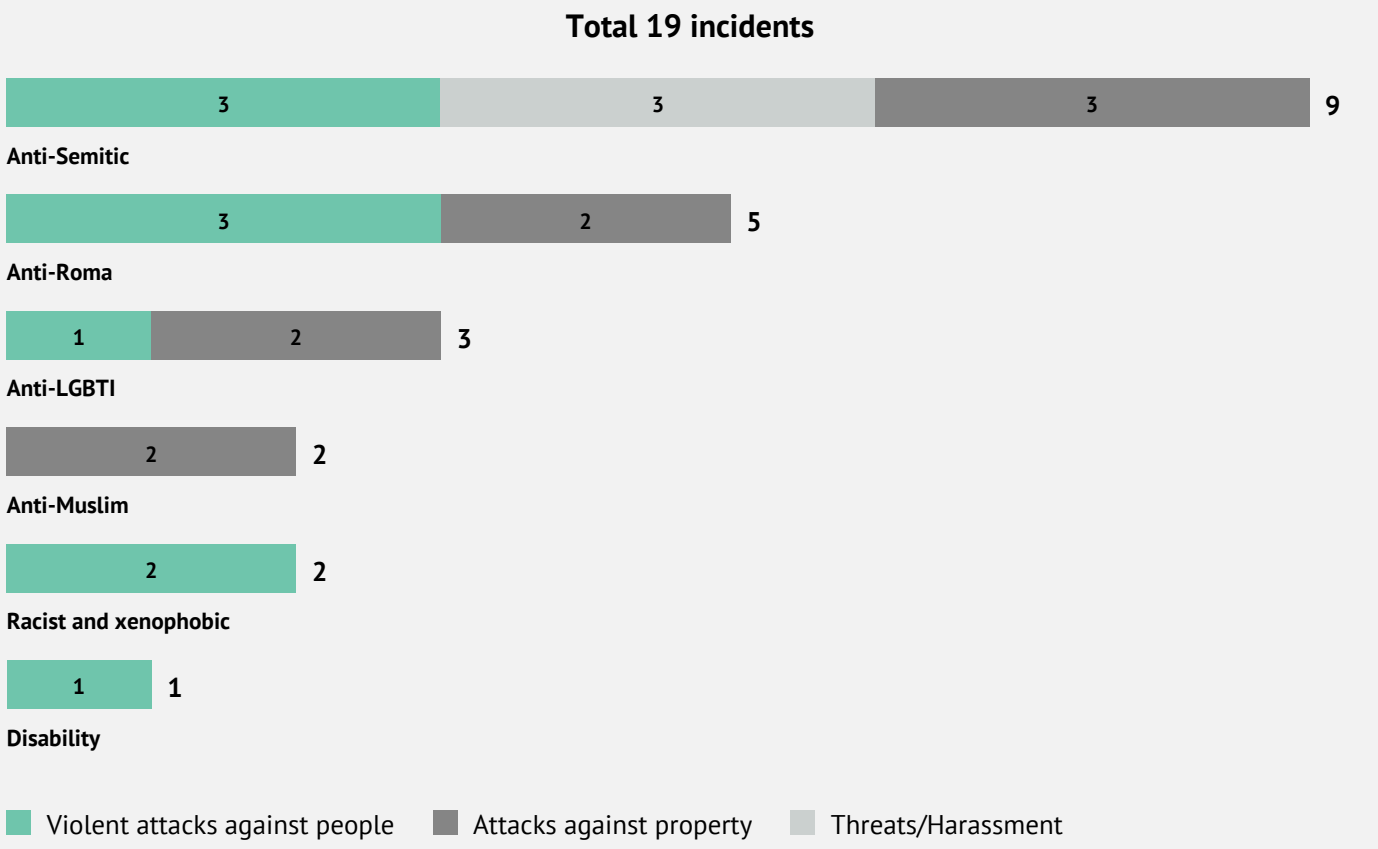


National Developments

In February and July 2020, respectively, in Arbanassi and Bankya, two training events for **police officers** on the topic of hate crime were organized by the LGBTI youth organization "Action".

The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** published a handbook entitled "Police Action in Hate Crimes against LGBTI People: Training for a Professional Police Response" which was developed under the project "Safe To Be" funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020). The project has three goals: the first is related to publishing the handbook; the second entails developing a Handbook on Restorative Justice; and the third is to create a website for (and by) the LGBTI community offering an empowering counter-narrative for hate-based conflicts.

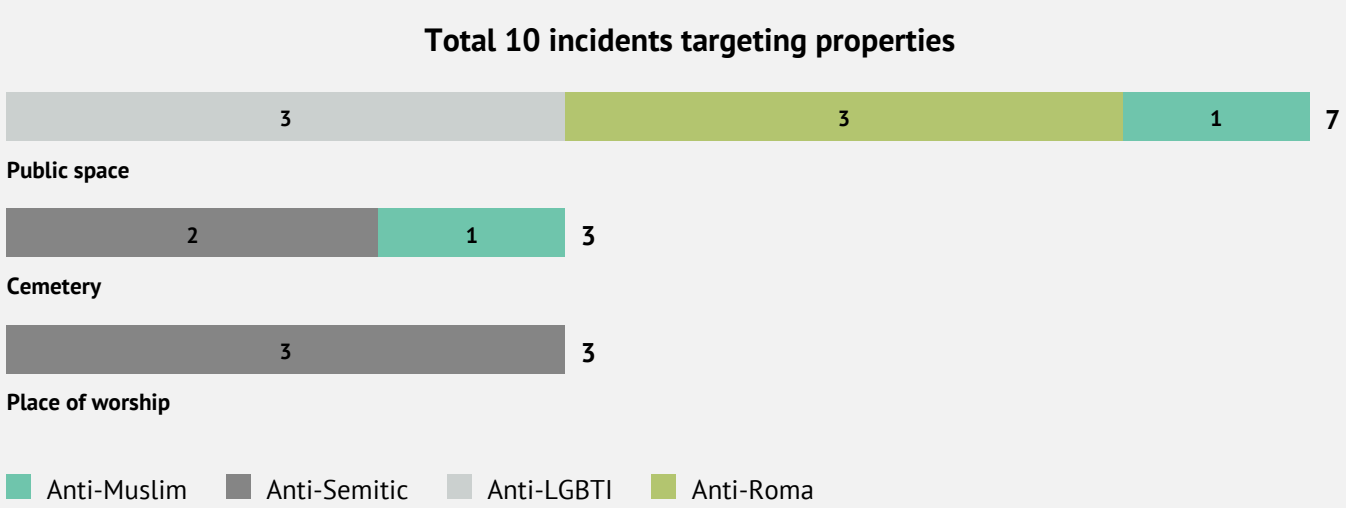
Incidents reported by civil society



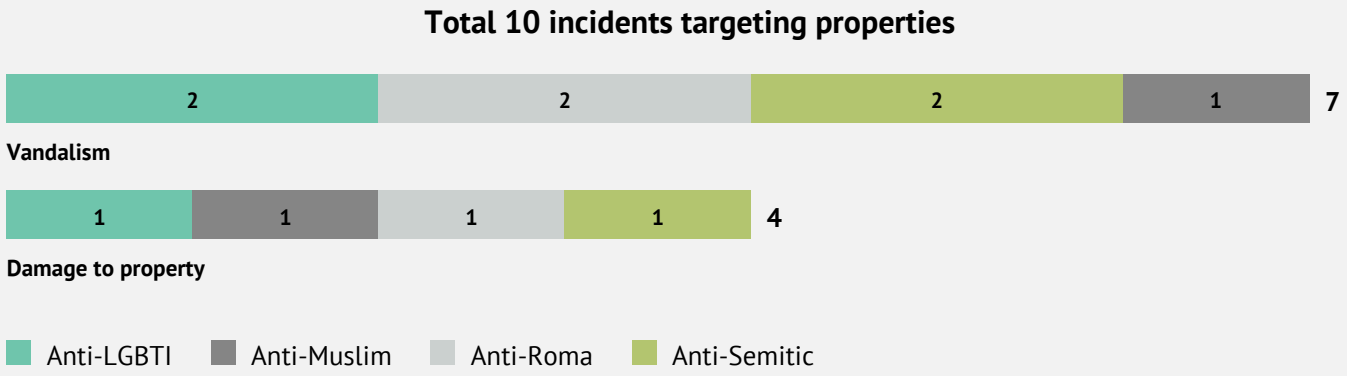
Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

In addition to incidents summarized below, this graph includes 2 hate incidents reported by Kantor Center as statistics.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Bulgaria, 2020