OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2023 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 2023

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 report information on hate crime information and statistics to ODIHR and to improve its existing legal framework to ensure that bias motivation can be effectively addressed. Based on the available information, ODIHR observes that Bulgaria has not reported statistics on hate crimes recorded by the police to ODIHR. In addition, ODIHR observes that Bulgaria would benefit from raising awareness and building the capacity of law enforcement and criminal justice officials to address hate crime.

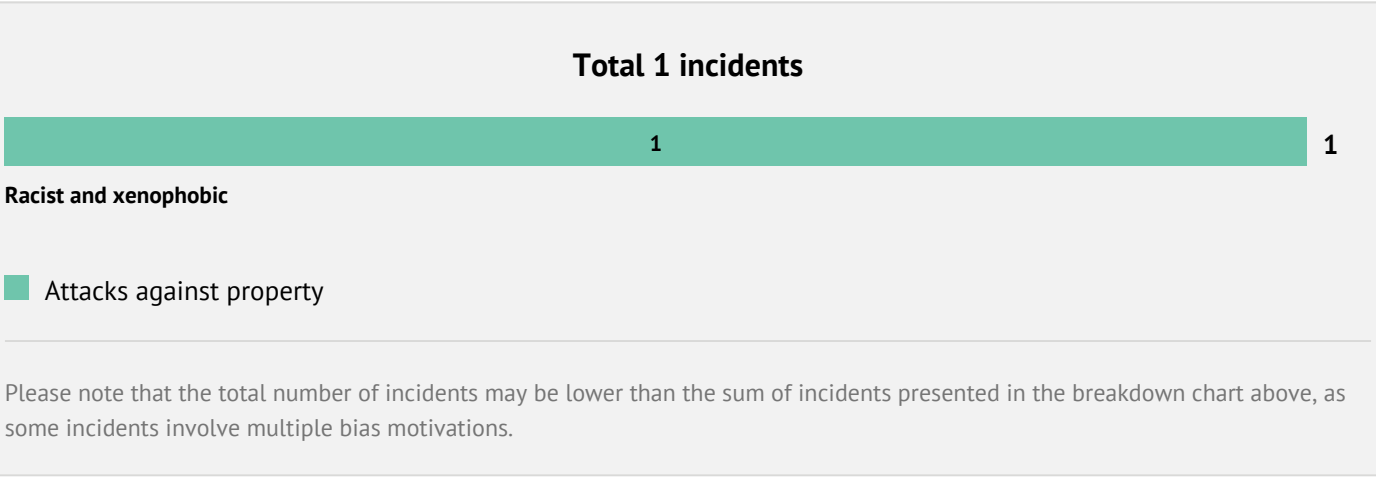
Official Data

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2023	not available	12	3

National Developments

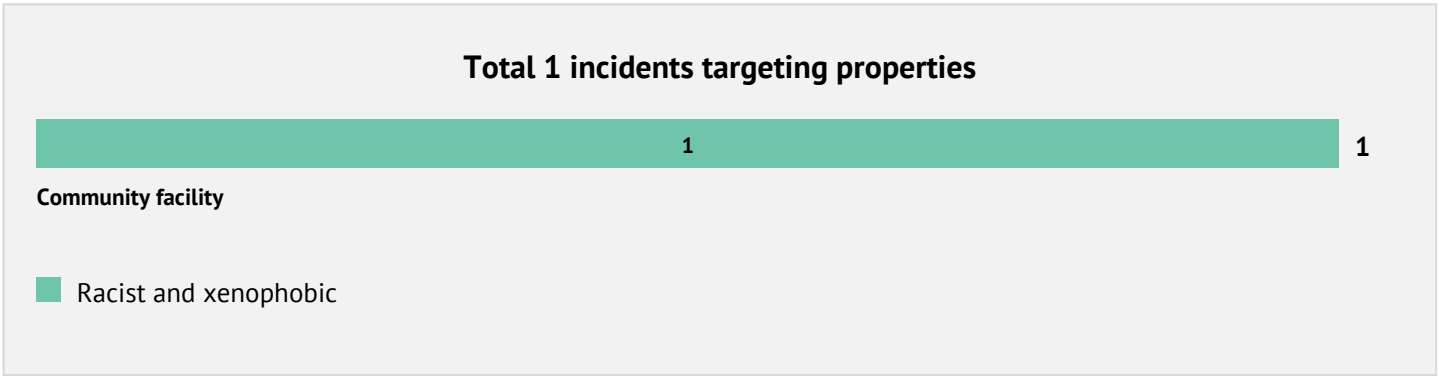
The Bulgarian Criminal Code was amended in 2023 to include hate crimes motivated by bias against the victim's sexual orientation. The amendments also outline sentencing provisions for crimes committed out of racist or xenophobic motives, and crimes motivated by bias against sexual orientation. Harsher penalties were introduced for certain types of crimes, including murder, assault and abduction.

Incidents reported by civil society

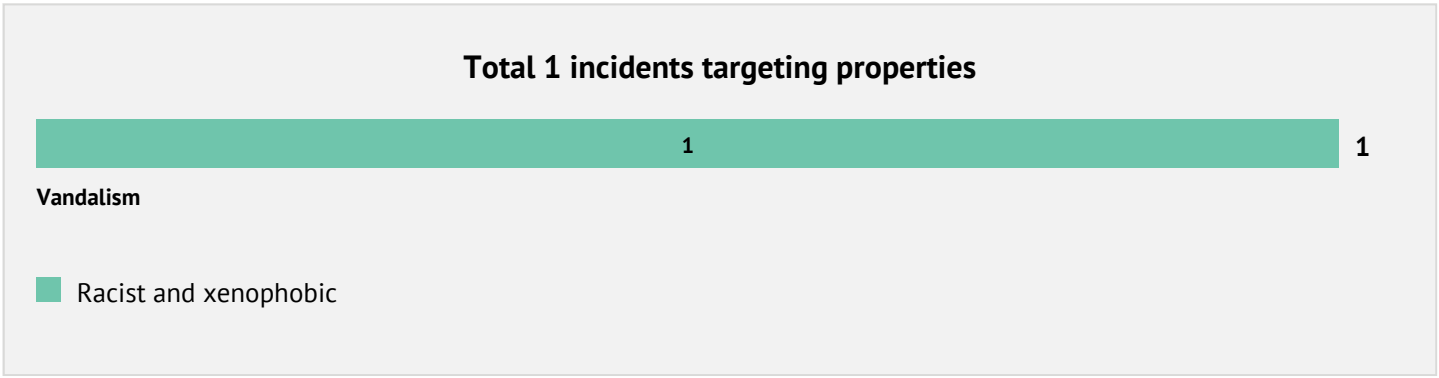


Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Bulgaria, 2023