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/bulgaria

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

2025

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. Based on the available information, ODIHR observes that Bulgaria has not reported police statistics to ODIHR, while the hate crime recording and prosecution and sentencing statistics do not sufficiently distinguish hate crimes from other crimes. 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

The prosecution number refers to the number of pre-trial proceedings; a single set of pre-trial proceedings may involve the investigation of multiple crimes, including crimes of different types. The sentencing figures consist of 12 sentencing judgments and one acquittal.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2025	not available	22	13

National Developments

Notable hate crime case in 2025:

In 2025, a defendant was brought to trial for inflicting minor bodily injury motivated by the victim's sexual orientation. The perpetrator perceived the victim as wearing women's clothing and a wig, and shouted homophobic insults while striking the victim. The perpetrator was convicted by a final court judgment and sentenced to 1.5 years of probation.

Incidents reported by civil society

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

- Bilitis Resource Center Foundation
- Office of the Grand Mufti in Bulgaria

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 14 hate incidents that took place in Bulgaria targeting ten victims in the anti-LGBTI, anti-Muslim, anti-Semitic, and racist and xenophobic bias motivation categories, as well as incidents involving both gender-based *and* anti-LGBTI, and both racist and xenophobic *and* anti-Semitic bias motivations. ODIHR observes that a low number of incidents were reported on Bulgaria for 2025.

ODIHR observes that many incidents targeted LGBTI persons and involved violent attacks or threats perpetrated by a group, with a number of incidents occurring on transport or in public spaces. In one incident, a man was beaten and repeatedly stabbed in the chest due to his perceived sexual orientation by a group who had previously carried out similar incidents.

ODIHR also observes multiple incidents of anti-Semitic vandalism targeting a synagogue, Holocaust memorials, a Jewish school and public spaces, including incidents in which neo-Nazi symbols were used.

It should be noted that ODIHR did **not** receive any reporting relating to anti-Christian, anti-Roma, or disability incidents in Bulgaria. 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 Bulgaria.

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 Bulgaria click here.

View civil society incidents for Bulgaria, 2025