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/cyprus

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

1 2021

Summary

Cyprus has regularly reported hate crime data to ODIHR since 2018. In February 2022, the Cyprus Police and Ministry of the Interior organized a workshop on understanding and improving hate crime recording and data collection in co-operation with ODIHR and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights. The workshop was based on ODIHR's Information Against Hate Crimes Toolkit (INFAHCT), and resulted in a set of recommendations for relevant state authorities.

Hate crime data are collected annually and published online by the Cyprus Police and its Human Rights and Combating Discrimination Office.

In 2017, the Cyprus Police signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights with 14 civil society organizations. The purpose of the Memorandum was to further improve and deepen co-operation between the parties for the protection and promotion of human rights.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes the efforts of Cyprus to improve its hate crime recording and data collection processes, including the introduction of a co-ordination mechanism established through an inter-agency agreement. ODIHR also recognizes the information submitted on police records. However, based on the available information, it observes that Cyprus has not reported data on hate crimes recorded by the prosecution or judiciary to ODIHR. In addition, ODIHR observes that Cyprus would benefit from raising awareness among and building the capacity of criminal justice officials to address hate crime.

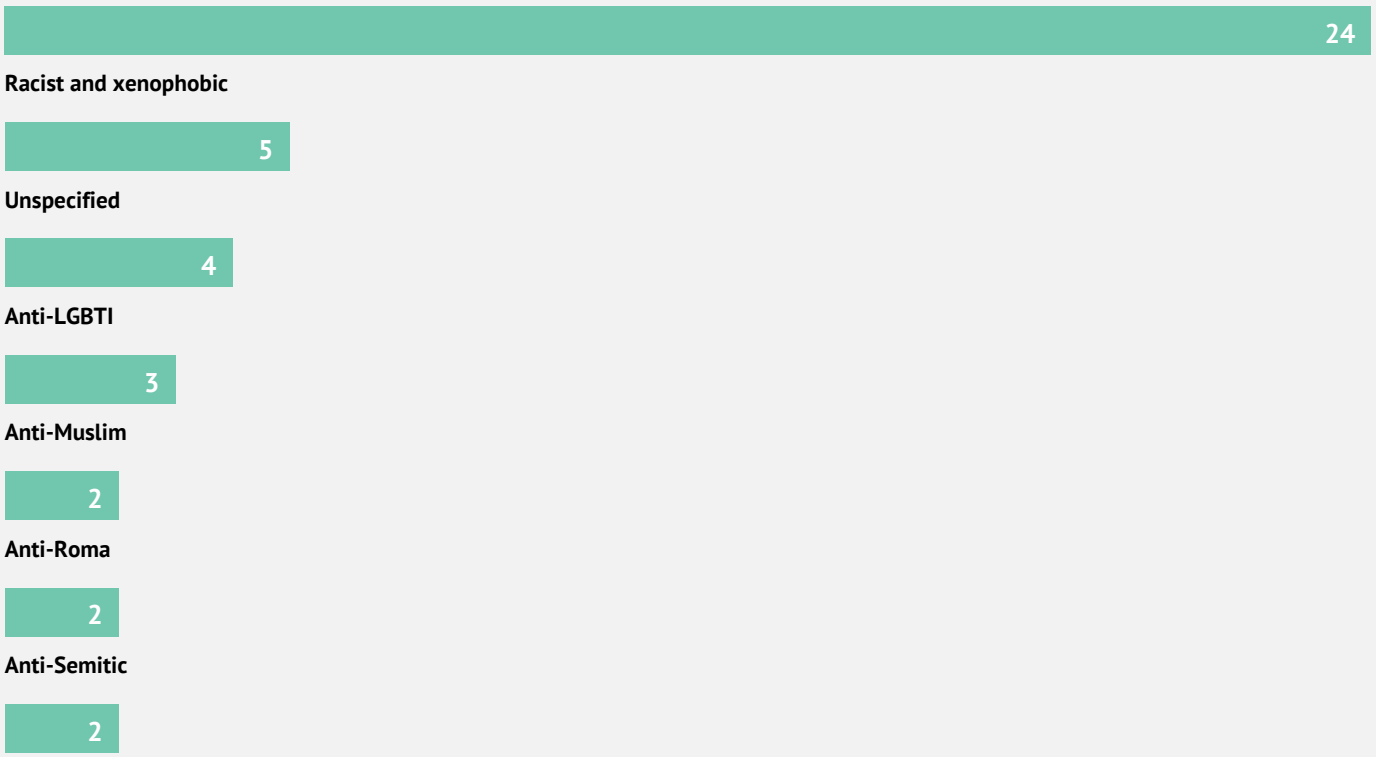
Official Data

The numbers presented here include hate speech offences, which fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2021	33	not available	not available

Police data by bias motivation

In the breakdown below, more than one motivation and more than one criminal offence can be recorded for a single incident and, therefore, the number below exceeds that of the recorded incidents presented above.



This category includes hate crimes based on political belief.

Police data by type of crime

In the breakdown below, more than one motivation and more than one criminal offence can be recorded for a single incident and, therefore, the number below exceeds that of the recorded incidents presented above.



Threats/ threatening behaviour

This category may include instances of hate speech, which fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime.



Physical assault



Unspecified crime type



Damage to property



Attacks against places of worship

National Developments

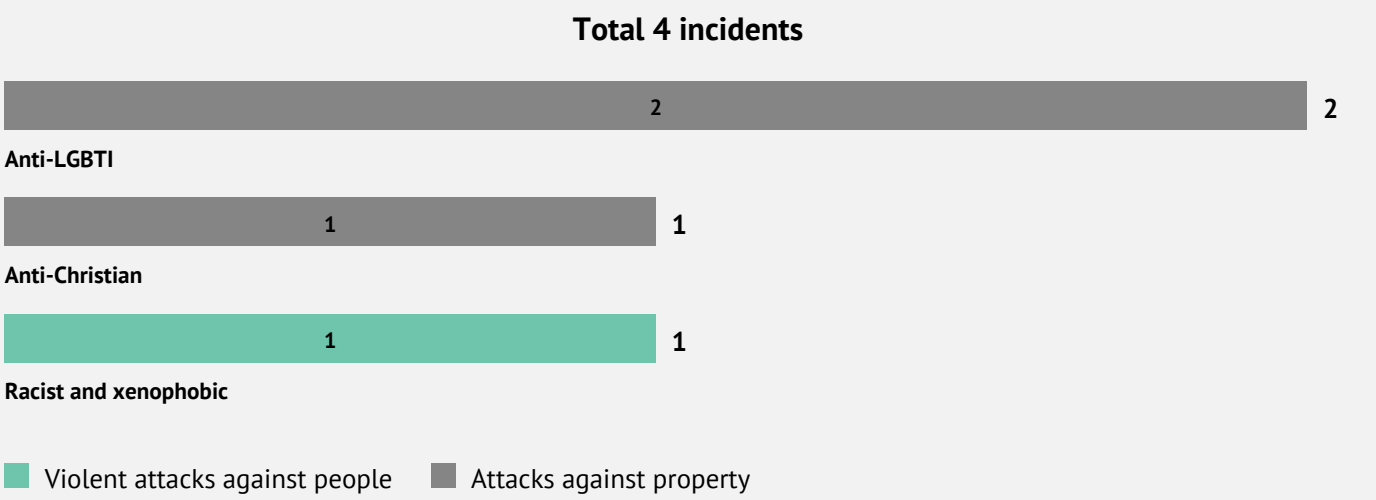
In 2021, the Human Rights and Combating Discrimination Office of the **Cyprus Police** co-operated with ODIHR and the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) to organize a workshop on understanding and improving hate crime recording and data collection, held in February 2022. The workshop was based on ODIHR's Information Against Hate Crimes Toolkit (INFAHCT), and aimed to identify gaps in hate crime recording and data collection and to improve the relevant procedures and practices. Subsequently, ODIHR and FRA prepared a Report with a set of recommendations to be implemented by relevant state authorities. The Cyprus police has reviewed the report in order to begin implementing the recommendations, including procedural and structural changes in hate crime data collection.

A **Working Group** on enhancing inter-agency co-operation to address hate crime was formed. The Working Group is facilitated by ODHR and is made up of representatives of the Cyprus Police, the Ministry of Justice and Public Order of Cyprus, the Law Office of the Republic of Cyprus (Attorney General's Office), the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare of Cyprus, the Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Protection of Human Rights of Cyprus, the University of Cyprus, the CSO Hope For Children, the CSO Caritas Cyprus, and the CSO Cyprus Refugee Council. The Working Group was responsible for preparing a Memorandum of Understanding (an inter-agency protocol), signed by all members, on strengthening co-operation in the field of hate crime. The Memorandum was at the final stage of consultations when the 2021 Hate Crime Report was launched.

Furthermore, the **Cyprus Police** appointed 12 liaison officers – two per district department –responsible for: (i) co-ordinating and supervising the investigation of complaints concerning incidents of discrimination, racism and/or racist motives or other related hate crimes; (ii) ensuring that the Human Rights and Combating Discrimination Office of the Police is immediately informed about incidents or offences related to discrimination; and (iii) collaborating with officials of relevant state authorities or civil society organizations to report or record racist incidents and support victims of such crimes, etc.

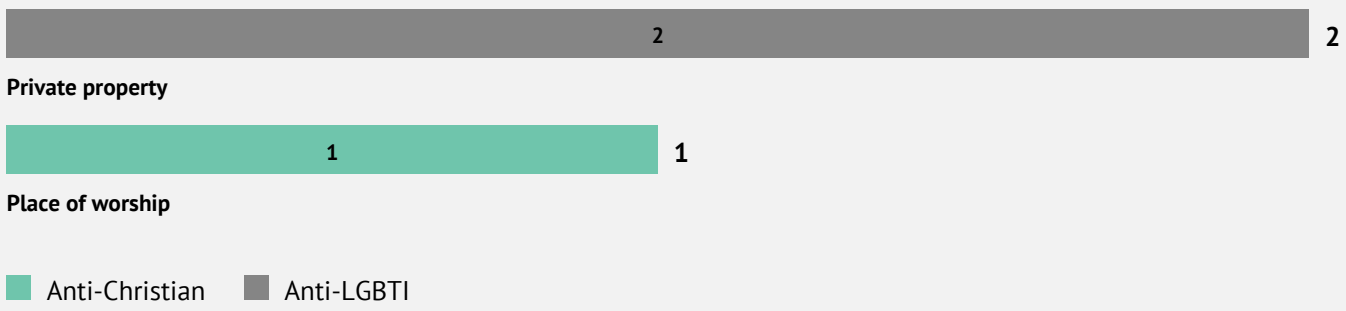
The **Cyprus Police** has also prepared a form for reporting a racist offence. The form must be completed by every police officer who receives a complaint concerning any offence or incident committed with a racist motive. The form is then sent to the District Department's Liaison Officer responsible for monitoring anti-discrimination issues, who forwards it to the Human Rights and Combating Discrimination Office for statistical purposes. In addition, a questionnaire was disseminated among police officers to enable them to better identify hate crimes by asking specific questions to the victims.

Incidents reported by civil society

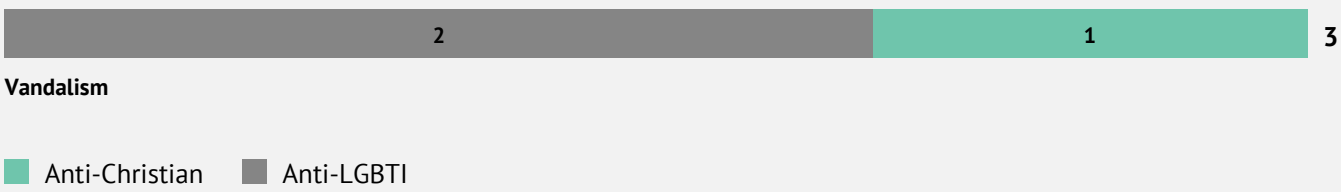


Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Cyprus, 2021