OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2022 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 2022

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 report hate crime information and statistics to ODIHR, including from the prosecution or judiciary. However, based on the available information, it observes that Cyprus' hate crime recording and statistics do not sufficiently distinguish hate crimes from other crimes. 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 police recorded figure consists of 14 criminal cases and 18 complaints. The number of prosecuted cases represent the number of cases filed with the courts. The numbers presented here include hate speech offences, which fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime but could not be disaggregated.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2022	32	10	4

Police data by bias motivation

The police recorded figure consists of 14 criminal cases and 18 complaints. The number of prosecuted cases represent the number of cases filed with the courts. The numbers presented here include hate speech offences, which fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime but could not be disaggregated.



Racist and xenophobic



Anti-LGBTI

Police data by type of crime

The police recorded figure consists of 14 criminal cases and 18 complaints. The number of prosecuted cases represent the number of cases filed with the courts. The numbers presented here include hate speech offences, which fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime but could not be disaggregated.



Threats/ threatening behaviour

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



Physical assault



Incitement to violence

National Developments

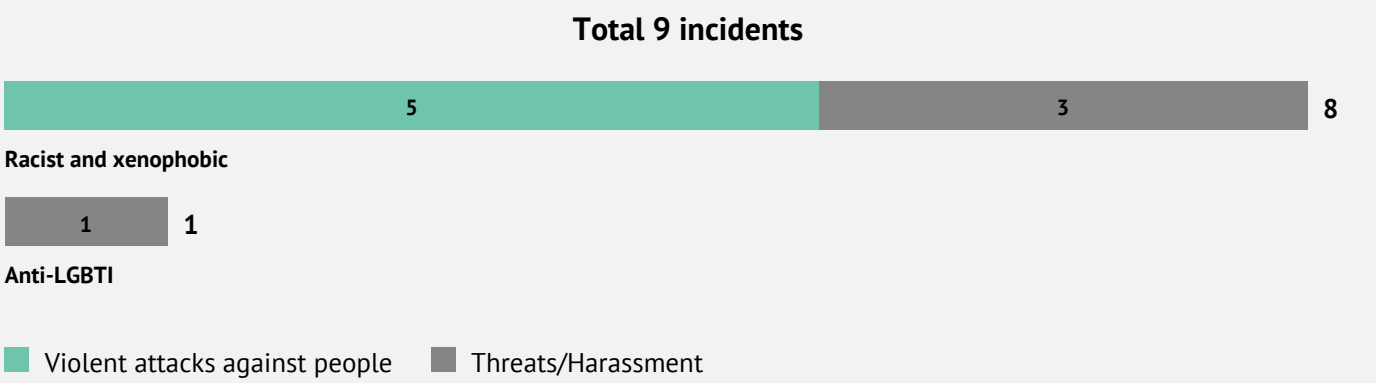
The **Cyprus Police** has appointed two members of each District Department, with experience in investigative duties, as liaison officers with the Legal Department and the Human Rights and Combating Discrimination Office of the Police. In total, there are 12 liaison officers responsible for: co-ordinating and supervising the investigation of complaints concerning incidents or cases of discrimination, racism and/or racist motives or other related hate crimes; ensuring that the Human Rights and Combating Discrimination Office of the Police is immediately informed about incidents or offences related to discrimination; and collaborating with officials of other relevant government services or civil society organizations to report and record racist incidents and to support victims of such crimes, among other measures.

The Cyprus Police has prepared a handbook entitled "Human Rights Handbook", which includes a separate chapter on combating racism, xenophobia and intolerance. The purpose of the manual is to inform and raise awareness among members of the police about human rights. The manual is uploaded on the internal portal of the police and was designed, printed and disseminated in 2022.

In July 2022, a one-day training programme was organized at the Cyprus Police Academy titled "Professional Approach of Cases of Racism and Discrimination". The aim of the programme was to train participants on handling and investigating racist offences and hate crimes. In October 2022, the Cyprus Police organized a Conference titled "The role of members of the Police in a society with respect to diversity". The aim of the conference was to raise awareness and strengthen a culture of respect for equality and diversity among participants.

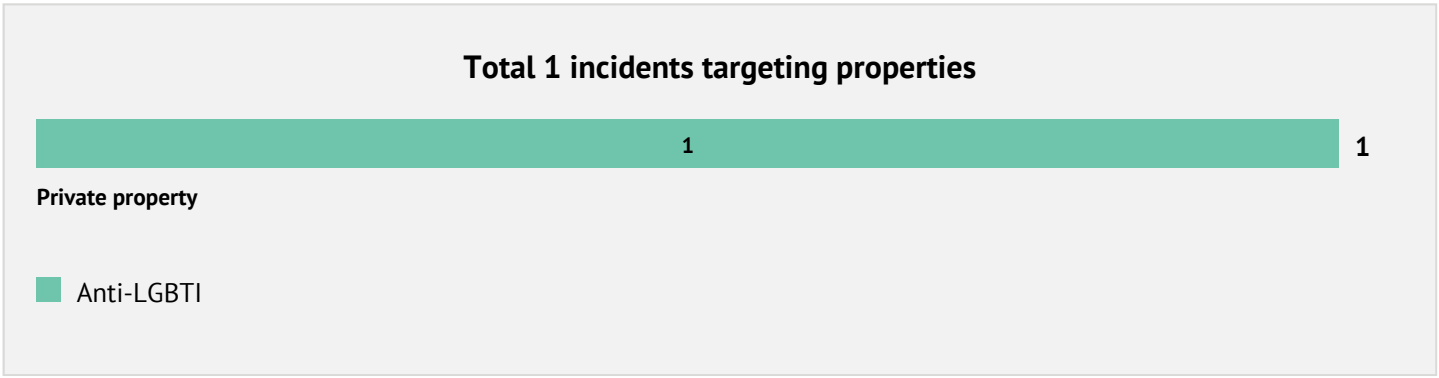
A Working Group on enhancing inter-agency co-operation to address hate crime was formed. The Working Group is facilitated by ODHR and is made up of representatives of the Cyprus Police, the Ministry of Justice and Public Order of Cyprus, the Law Office of the Republic of Cyprus (Attorney General's Office), 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 2022 Hate Crime Report was launched.

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



View civil society incidents for Cyprus, 2022