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/cyprus

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

1 2023

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 their police hate crime recording methodology and to ensure the sensitive treatment of hate crime victims. 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.

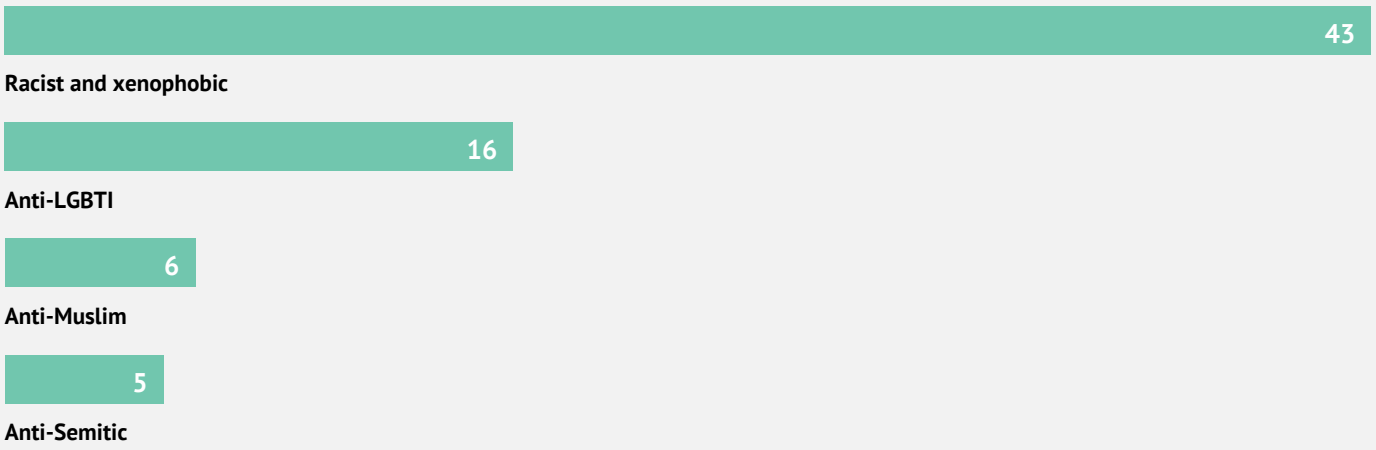
Official Data

The police recorded figure consists of 32 criminal cases and 25 incidents. One incident may include more than one type of crime. The number of prosecuted cases represents the number of cases filed with the courts. The numbers presented here include hate speech offences, which fall outside the OSCE definition of hate crime but could not be disaggregated.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2023	57	32	17

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; therefore, the total number below exceeds that of the recorded incidents presented above. The data below may also include incidents of hate speech, which fall outside the OSCE definition of hate crime



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; therefore, the total number below exceeds that of the recorded incidents presented above. The data below may also include incidents of hate speech, which fall outside the OSCE definition of hate crime



Threats/ threatening behaviour

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



Physical assault



Damage to property

National Developments

The **Cyprus Police** has appointed two officers from each District Department with experience in investigative duties to act 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. The liaison officers also ensure that the Police's Human Rights and Combating Discrimination Office is immediately informed about incidents or offences related to discrimination, while also working with relevant civil servants and civil society organizations to report and record racist incidents and support victims of such crimes, among other measures.

The Cyprus Police has developed a form to record incidents with a racist motive or other related hate offences. The form must be completed by the officer receiving the complaint, and then sent to the Liaison Officer of the District Department responsible for monitoring anti-discrimination issues in the District. The form is subsequently forwarded to the Human Rights and Combating Discrimination Office for statistical purposes.

Police Standing Order No. 3/38, 'Management of Offences and Anti-Discrimination Issues', was revised in October 2023 to include bias indicators and provisions for the protection of victims. In particular, when handling hate crime cases, police officers are required to:

(a) recognize and treat the victim with respect, sensitivity, and an individualized, professional and non-discriminatory approach;

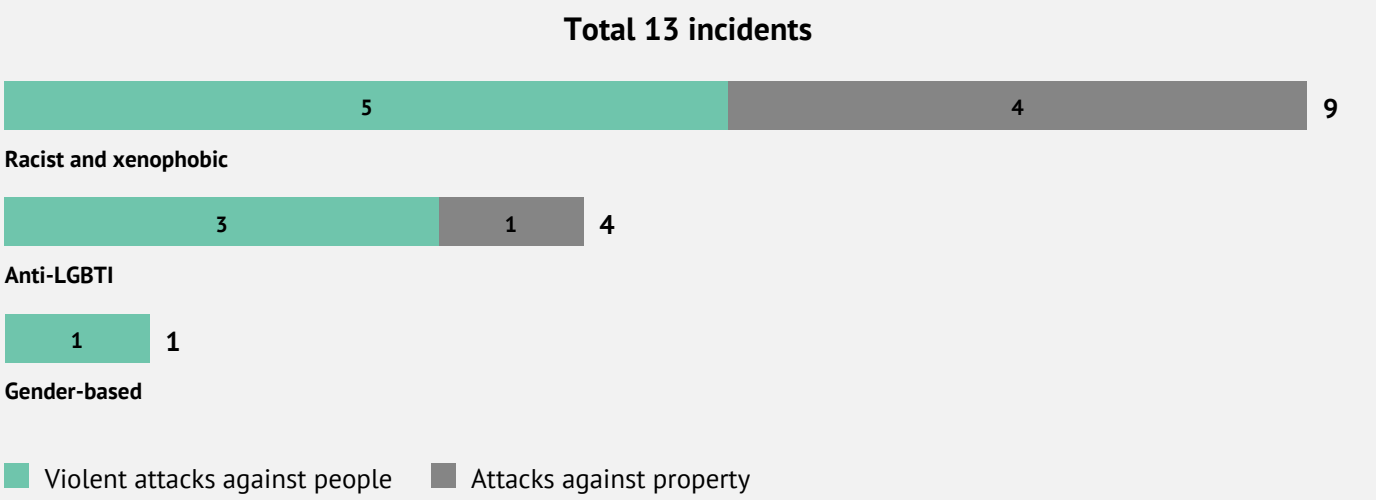
(b) ensure that victims can exercise their rights without discrimination on any grounds, including sex, race, colour, language, disability, religion, sexual orientation, political or other opinion, national or social origin, membership of an ethnic minority, birth or any other status of the victim;

(c) inform victims of their rights; and

(d) take into account the needs of victims.

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.

Incidents reported by civil society

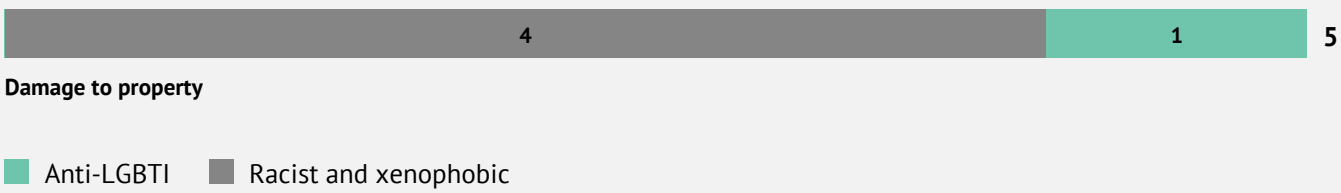


Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Cyprus, 2023