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/cyprus

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

2025

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 strengthen police capacity to identify, record and investigate hate crimes, including by introducing a Police Circular regarding the identification, recording and appropriate handling of possible hate crime and hate speech incidents. However, based on the available information, it observes that Cyprus' hate crime recording and statistics do not adequately distinguish hate crimes from other crimes. In addition, ODIHR observes that Cyprus would benefit from raising awareness among and building the capacity of prosecutors to prosecute hate crime.

Official Data

The police-recorded figure includes 26 incidents that were recorded but not investigated, in addition to 18 criminal cases. One case may include more than one type of crime. The number of prosecuted cases represents the number of cases under investigation or pending trial. The numbers presented here include hate speech offences, which fall outside the OSCE definition of a hate crime but cannot be disaggregated.

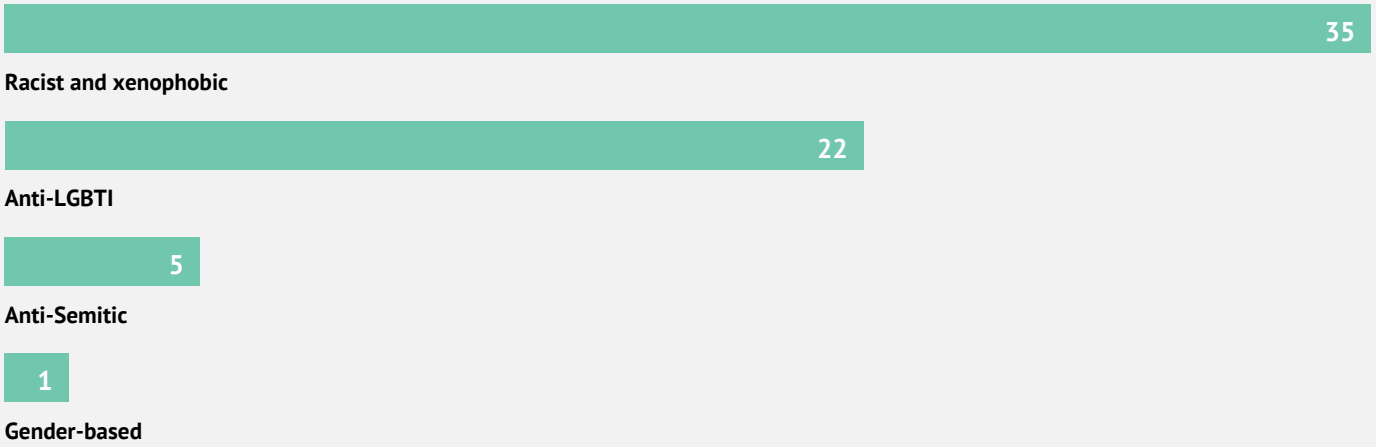
Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2025	44	13	0

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 numbers exceed that of the recorded incidents presented in the table above.

Three types of crime categories are included in the recording process: assault against a person, assault against property, and verbal assault/hate speech/threats.

Data included under the crime type "threats/threatening behaviour" may also include incidents of hate speech, which fall outside the OSCE definition of a 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 numbers exceed that of the recorded incidents presented in the table above.

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Data included under the crime type "threats/threatening behaviour" may also include incidents of hate speech, which fall outside the OSCE definition of a hate crime.



Threats/ threatening behaviour

This category corresponds with the recorded category "verbal assault/hate speech/threats." As such, it may include instances of hate speech, which fall outside the OSCE definition of a hate crime.



Physical assault

This category corresponds with the recorded category "assault against a person."



Damage to property

This category corresponds with the recorded category “assault against property.”

National Developments

In 2025, amendments to the Penal Code were introduced concerning the offence of incitement to violence or hatred, expanding the protected characteristics to include disability and age. The Cyprus Police proceeded to inform police officers of these legislative developments, in order to enable them to apply the relevant provisions effectively.

In 2025, a Police Circular was issued providing guidance to police officers regarding the identification, recording and appropriate handling of possible hate crime and hate speech incidents. The Circular highlighted the importance of correctly assessing possible bias motives, ensuring the proper treatment of victims and following established procedures for reporting and investigation.

In 2025, the Office on Human Rights and Combating Discrimination, together with the Cyprus Police Academy, organized a one-day seminar on "Understanding Antisemitism: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives", in co-operation with the Embassy of Israel in Cyprus.

Incidents reported by civil society

For 2025, ODIHR received reports of hate incidents in Cyprus from the International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF).

To learn more about this organization and others reporting hate incidents to ODIHR, visit the Contributors page. In addition, some incidents were reported by UNHCR as part of their ongoing monitoring.

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 seven hate incidents that took place in Cyprus targeting a total of six victims in the anti-Christian, anti-LGBTI, and racist and xenophobic bias motivation categories. ODIHR observes that a low number of incidents were reported in Cyprus for 2025.

The incidents reported to ODIHR included the violent attack and robbery of foreign food delivery drivers, as well as an attack on a Kurdish political refugee who was pelted with stones by a large group. ODIHR also observes incidents involving extensive damage to Christian places of worship, and two incidents targeting members of the LGBTI community.

It should be noted that ODIHR did **not** receive any reporting on Cyprus relating to anti-Muslim, anti-Roma, anti-Semitic, disability, gender-based, or other religion or belief. 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 Cyprus.

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 Cyprus click here.

View civil society incidents for Cyprus, 2025