OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2017 Hate Crime Report.
For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/finland

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

1 2017

Summary

Finland regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR, and has conducted victimization surveys to measure unreported hate crime incidents. The Finnish police closely co-operate with the Finnish Human Rights League, the Finnish Red Cross and Finnish Victim Support to develop a co-ordinated response to combat hate crimes. These organizations, along with the national police and other key authorities, form a network tasked by Finland's Ministry of Justice with monitoring hate crimes in Finland and developing effective preventative measures.

In 2017, Finland implemented ODIHR's Training Against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) programme, training over 1,000 police officers. The programme's hate crime modules have since been integrated into pre- and in-service training for police.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR observes that Finland has met most OSCE commitments on hate crime data collection and reporting.

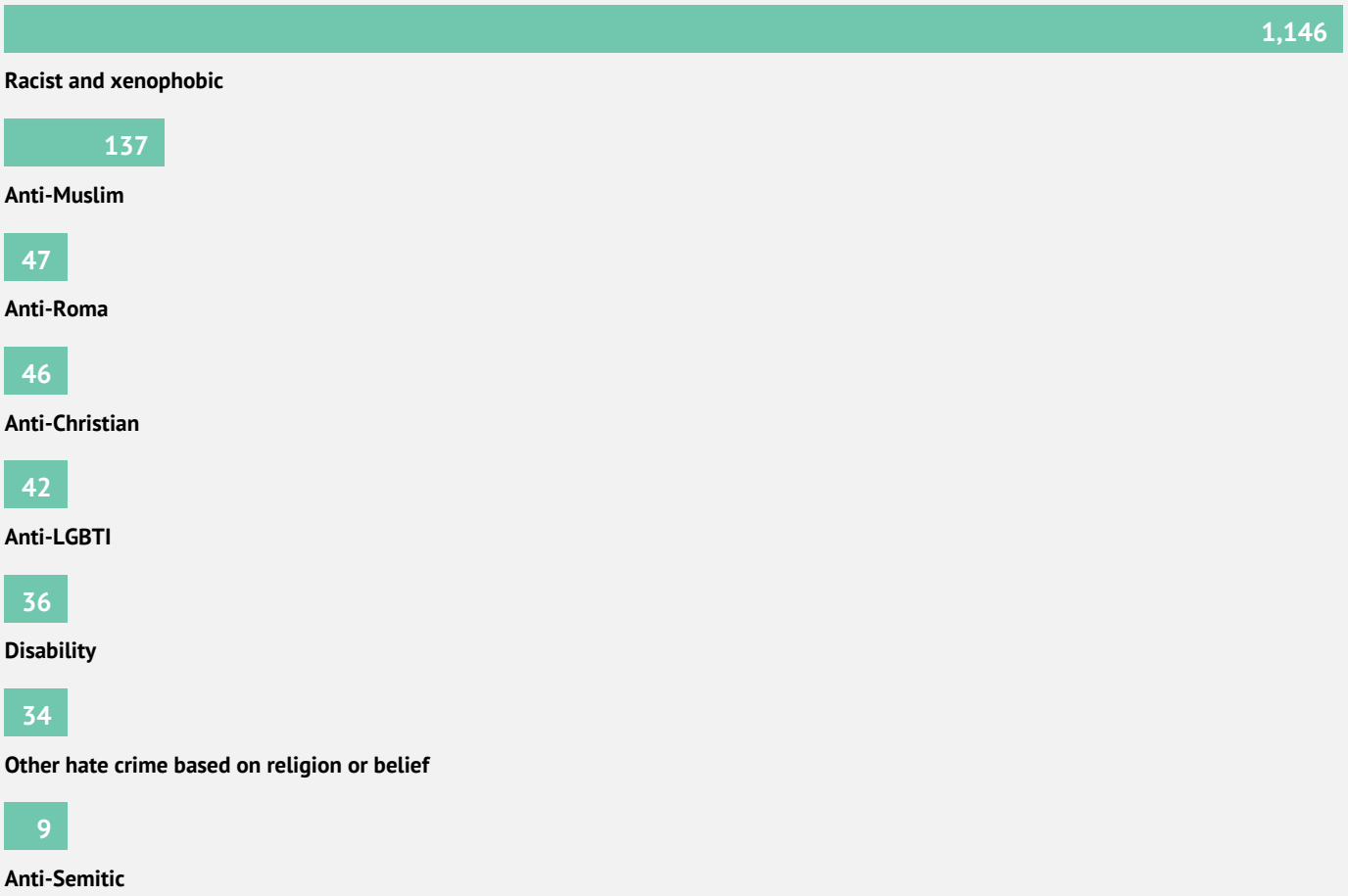
Official Data

The police also recorded criminal forms of intolerance other than hate crimes, such as defamation, other hate speech offences and criminal discrimination. These data are reported to ODIHR but are not included in the overall figure or in the breakdown below. One hundred prosecuted and 62 sentenced cases were originally reported, these numbers also included incidents of hate speech and discrimination which were therefore removed from the totals presented here. Prosecution and sentencing numbers represent only cases flagged by the police as hate crimes.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2017	1,497	63	37

Police data by bias motivation

A total of 1556 hate crimes were originally reported to ODIHR. The number of crime reports was 1165, as one crime report can include several hate crimes. This number included cases of ethnic agitation, defamation and discrimination, which were removed and are not presented here. For the first time, and with the consent of the Roma community, hate crime against Roma people are included as a new category.



Police data by type of crime

A total of 1556 hate crimes were originally reported to ODIHR. The number of crime reports was 1165, as one crime report can include several hate crimes. This number included cases of ethnic agitation, defamation and discrimination, which were removed and are not presented here. For the first time, and with the consent of the Roma community, hate crime against Roma people are included as a new category.



Physical assault

This category also includes attempted assaults and attempted homicides.



Incitement to violence



Threats/ threatening behaviour



Damage to property



Disturbance of the peace

This category includes "disturbance of domestic peace".



Unspecified crime type

This category includes various uncategorized offences, incl. crime committed after a verbal provocation.



Theft/ robbery



Vandalism



Attacks against places of worship



Homicide

National Developments

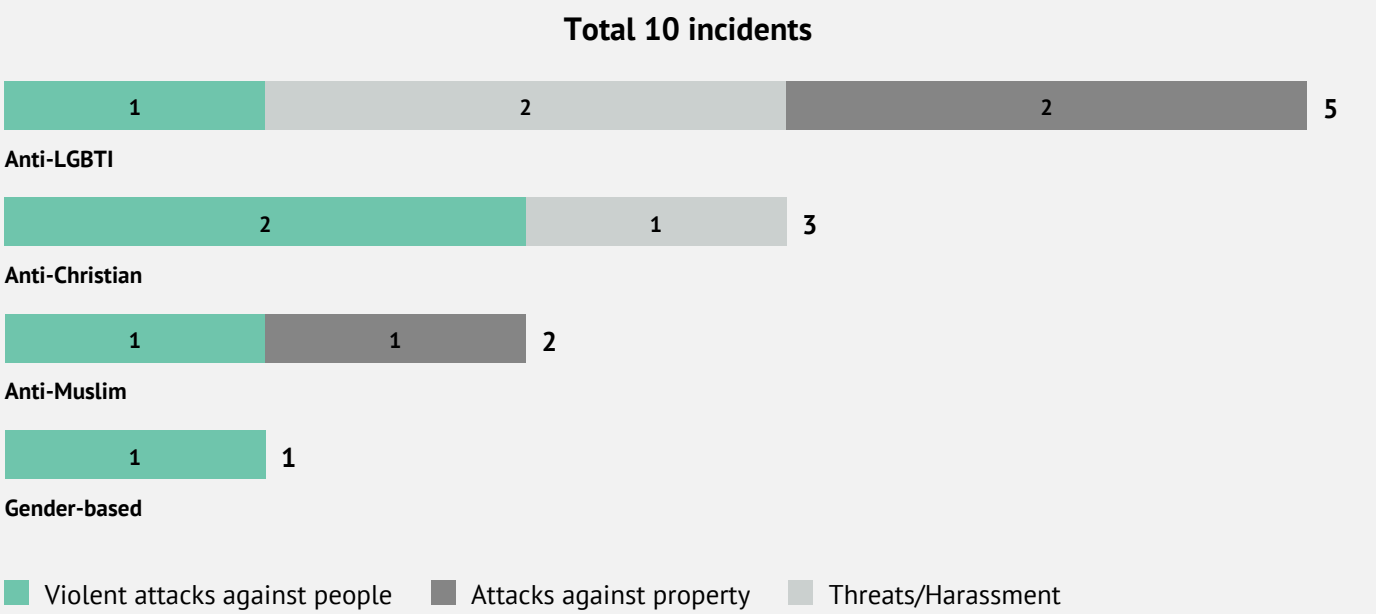
Based on a MoU with ODIHR, the Finnish police have been implementing the TAHCLE programme. Around 900 officers have received training on hate crimes to date. Training events have contributed to a measured increase in identification of hate motive (24 per cent in 2016 to 39 per cent in 2017).

The Ministry of Interior increased funding to address hate crime, which was identified as a priority area in the Police Strategy in 2016. The funding was used, among other things, to appoint 25 hate crime specialists to Helsinki Police Department.

Since December 2017, the Ministry of Justice has been co-ordinating an EU-funded project called Against Hate. One of the main objectives of the project is to further develop the national reporting mechanisms, especially regarding statistics on prosecution and sentencing of hate crime. The project also aims at enhancing the capacity of the police, prosecutors and judges to act against hate crime and hate speech, and to develop support services for victims of hate crime.

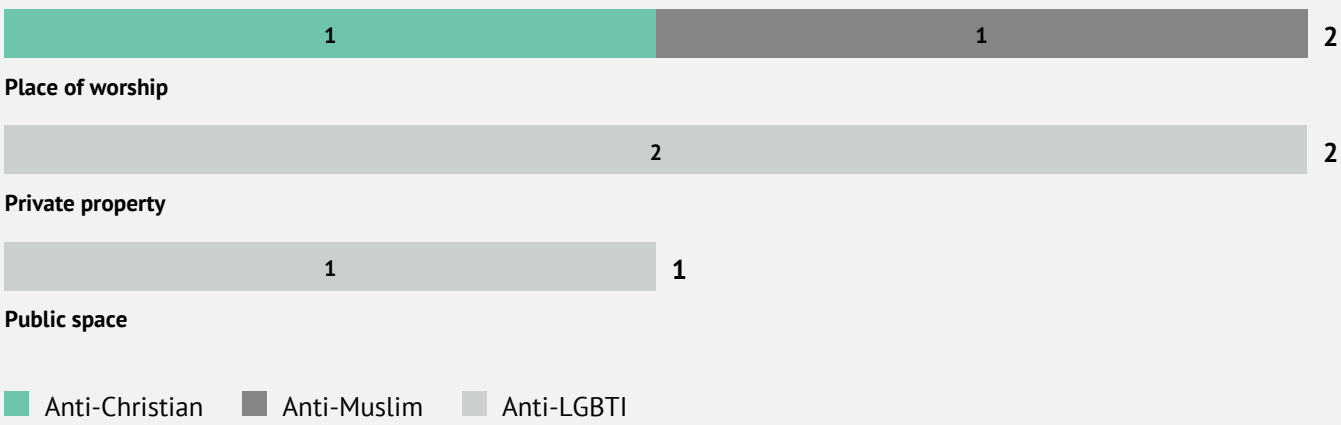
As part of the EU-funded project PROXIMITY, the Ministry of Justice is supporting the capacities of local authorities and especially municipal policing to prevent and identify hate crimes and other forms of intolerance.

Incidents reported by civil society

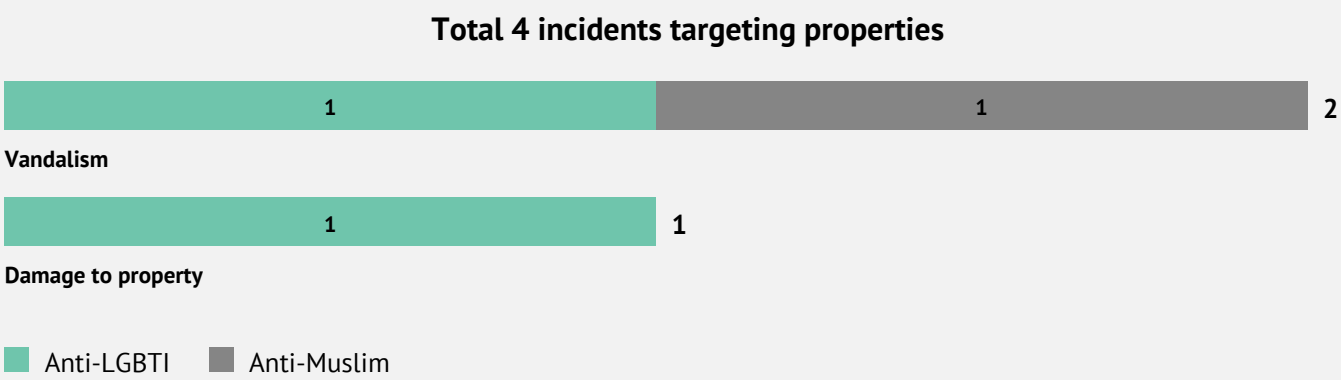


Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Finland, 2017