OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2019 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

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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.

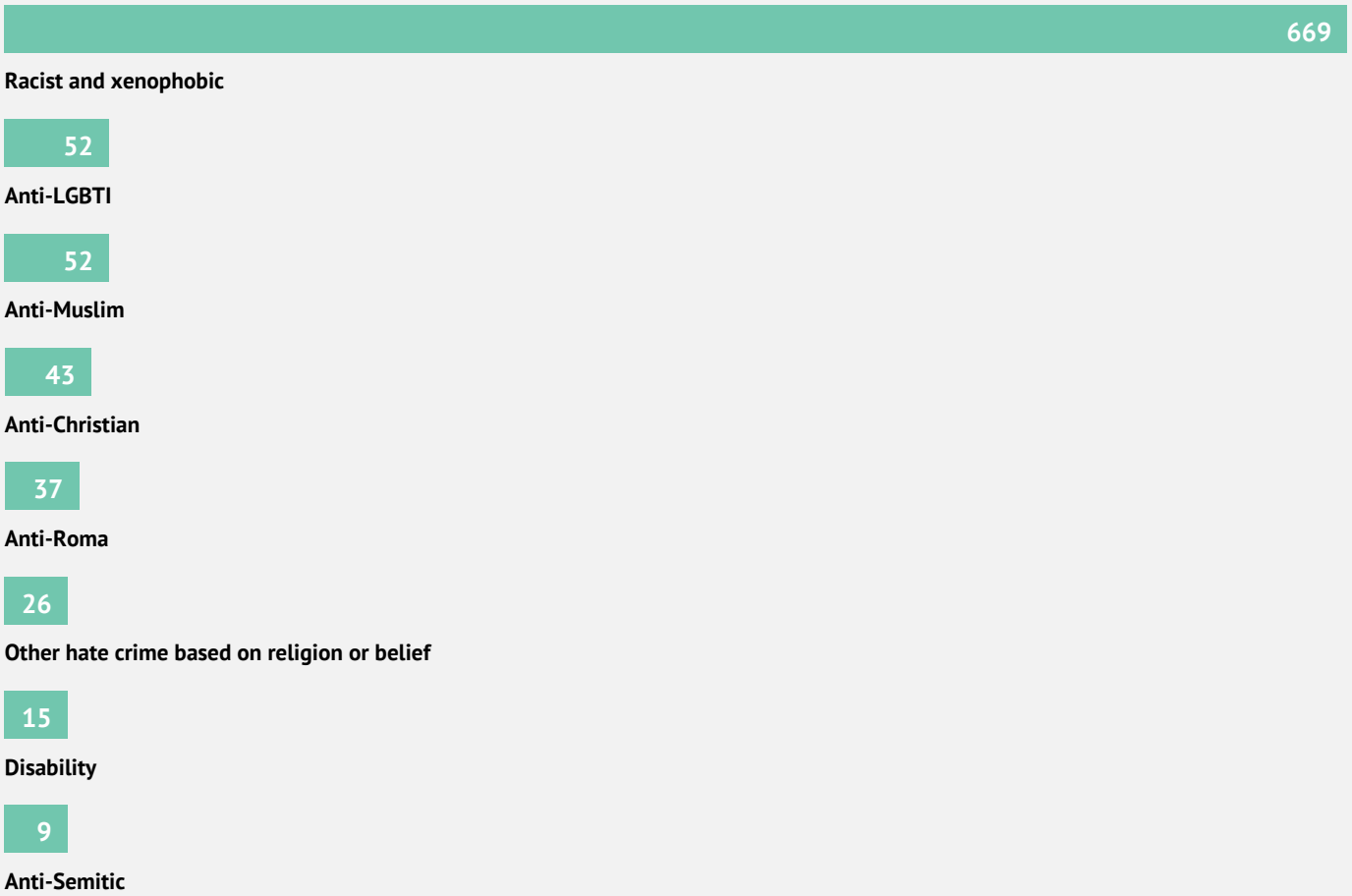
Official Data

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. Prosecution and sentencing numbers only represent cases flagged by the police as hate crimes.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2019	900	22	17

Police data by bias motivation

A total of 1,237 hate crimes were originally reported to ODIHR. The number of individual crime reports was 899, 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. With the consent of the Roma community, hate crime against Roma people has been included as a category separate from Racism and Xenophobia.



Police data by type of crime

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Physical assault

This category also includes attempted assaults and attempted homicides.



Threats/ threatening behaviour



Incitement to violence



Damage to property

This category includes vandalism.



Unspecified crime type

This category includes various uncategorized offences, including crimes committed after a verbal provocation.



Disturbance of the peace

This category includes "disturbance of domestic peace".



Theft/ robbery



Attacks against places of worship

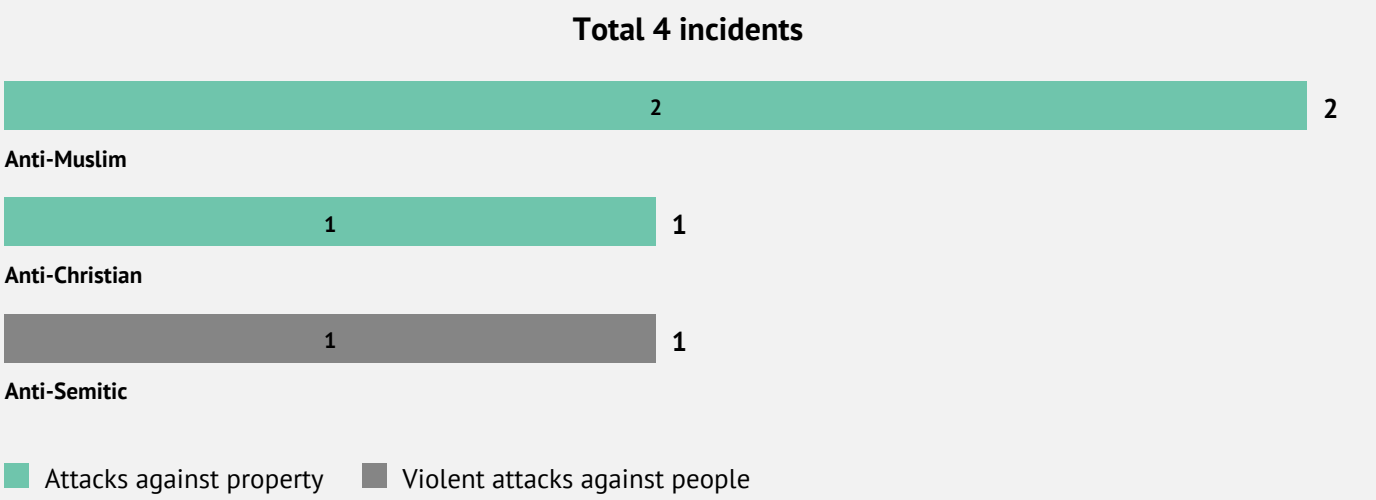


Vandalism

National Developments

November 2019 marked the end of a two-year project "Against Hate", funded by European Commission Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme and co-ordinated by the Ministry of Justice. Project activities were focused on developing hate crime reporting and strengthening the capacities of police, prosecutors and judges to handle cases of hate crime and hate speech, as well as on improving support for hate crime victims. The project included training activities, including five regional training events for police officers, prosecutors and judges in May 2019. A hate crime manual for prosecutors and judges was developed, and a shadow report on reported hate crime cases was published in March 2019. In November 2019, the project released three episodes of a podcast dealing with hate crime. The project also saw the publication in March 2019 of a shadow report on victims' experiences of hate crimes, aimed at including their perspectives in discussions on the issue (https://www.riku.fi/binary/file/-/id/79/fid/2142). Unlike the report on hate crimes by the Police University College, this report drew on qualitative rather than statistical data, and focused on the experiences and needs of victims. This type of data gathering will continue in the "Facts against Hate", launched in December 2019 and co-ordinated by Ministry of Justice.

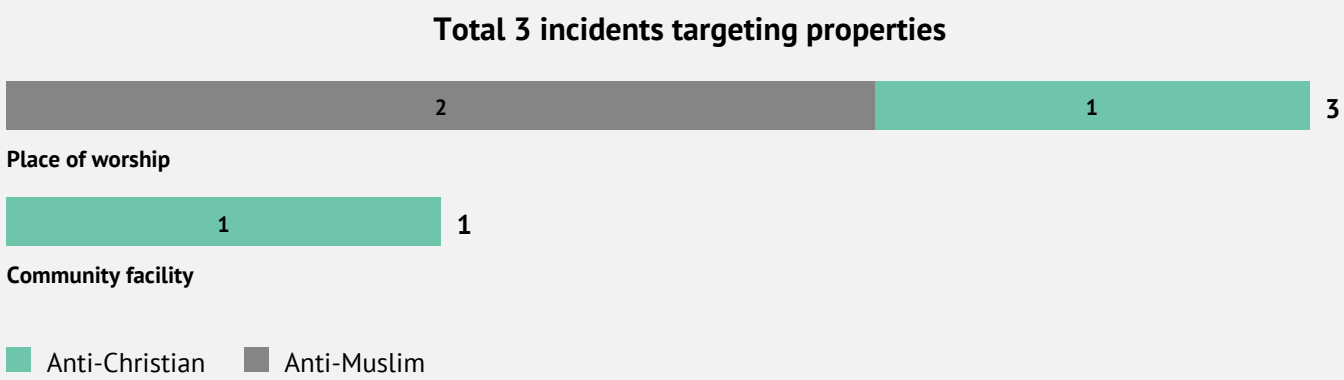
Incidents reported by civil society



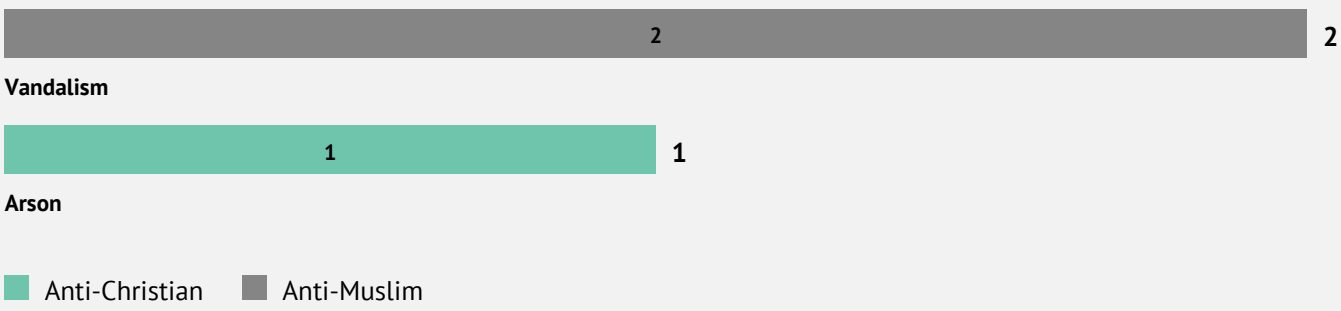
Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

Kantor Center reported only statistical data. This explains the discrepancy between the graphic above and the incidents included below.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Finland, 2019