OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2020 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 2020

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 recognizes Finland's efforts to improve its hate crime recording, data collection mechanisms, and local cooperation practices, as well as the submitted information on police records. However, based on the available information, ODIHR observes that Finland would benefit from raising the awareness and building the capacity of its criminal justice officials about hate crimes.

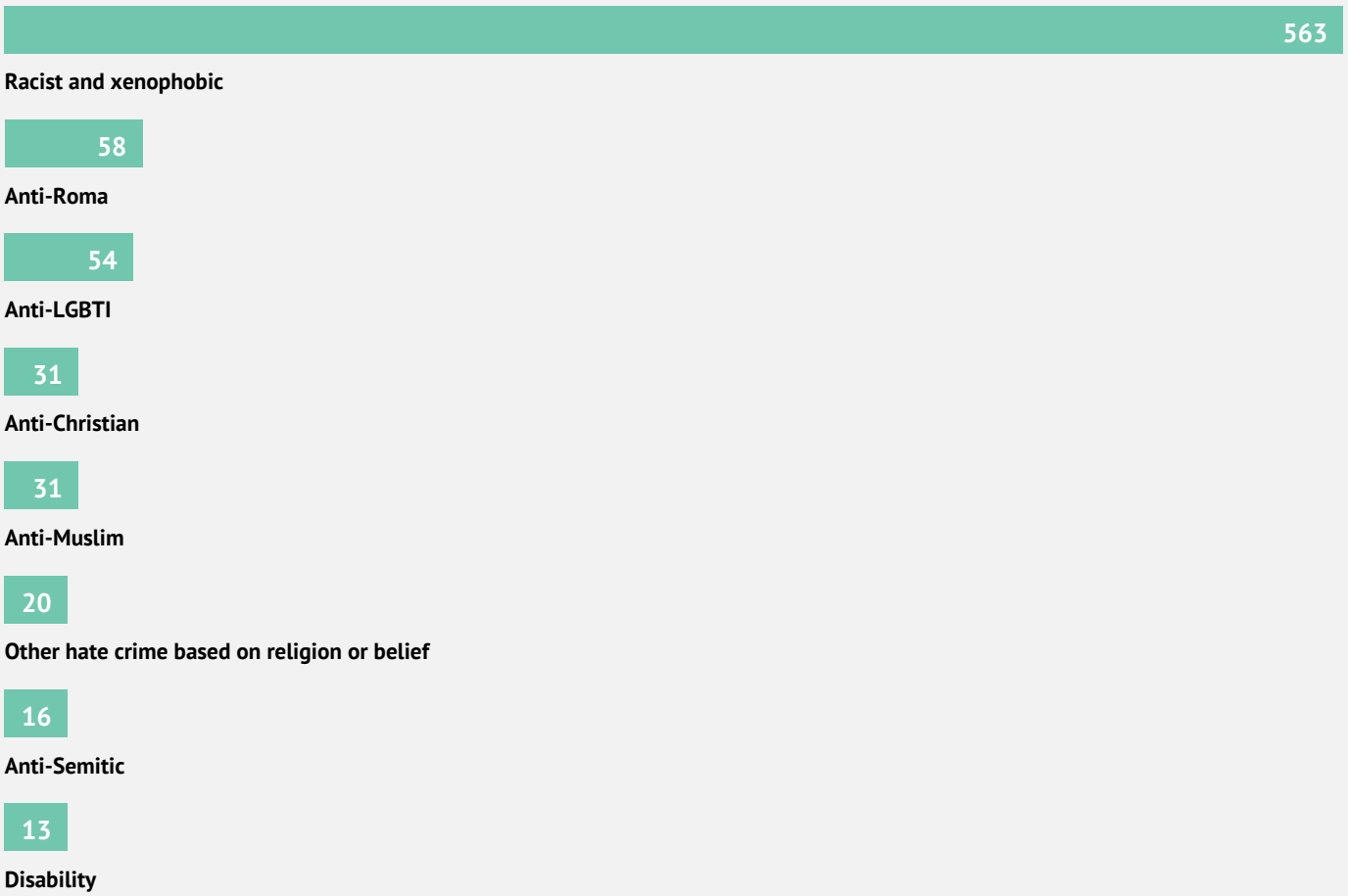
Official Data

The police also recorded criminal forms of intolerance other than hate crimes, such as defamation and criminal discrimination. These data are reported to ODIHR but are not included in the overall figure or in the breakdown below.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2020	1,177	48	42

Police data by bias motivation

Beyond this data breakdown, a further 407 cases of defamation and discrimination were reported to ODIHR. These do not fall under the OSCE definition of hate crime and are thus not included. 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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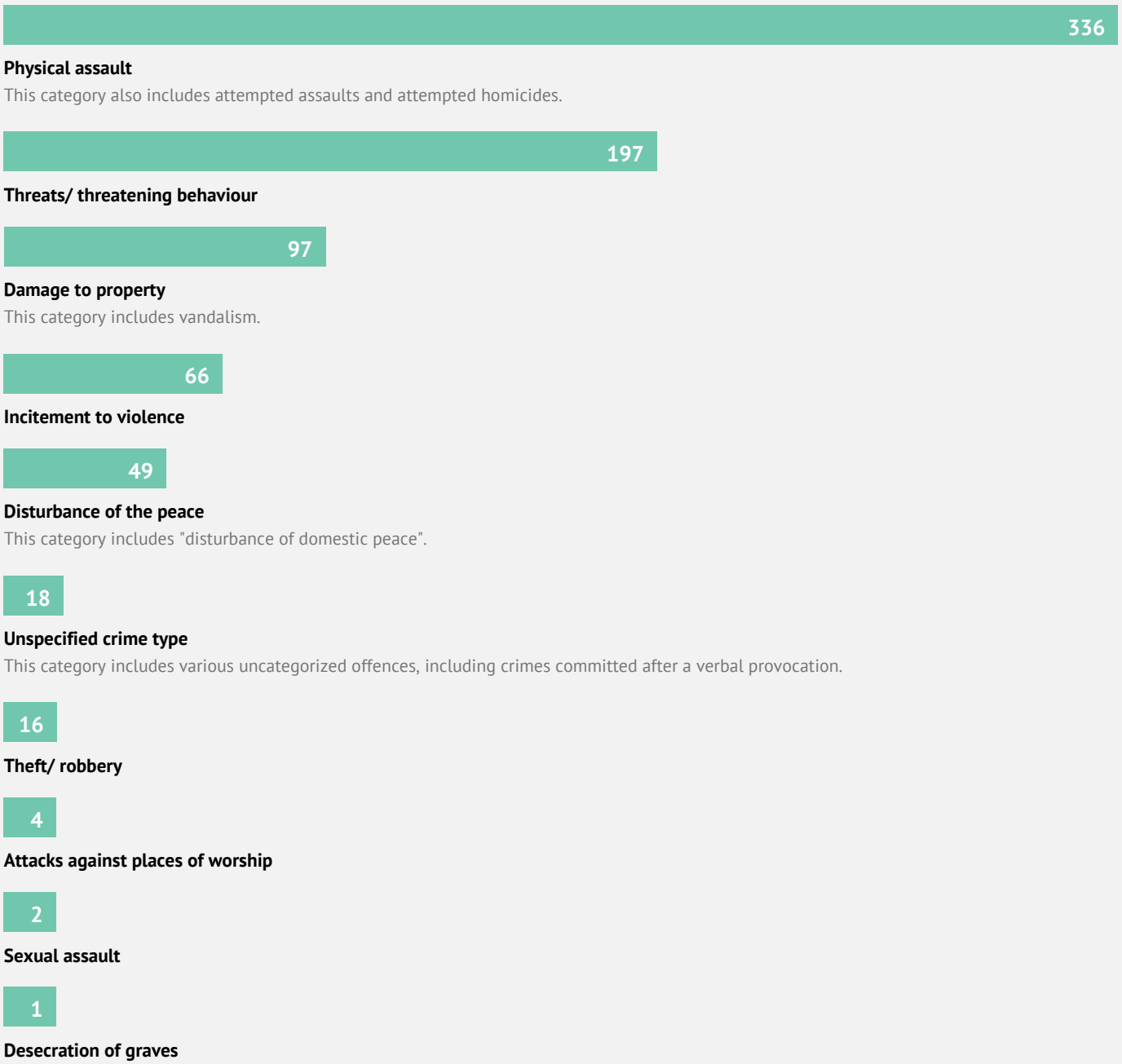


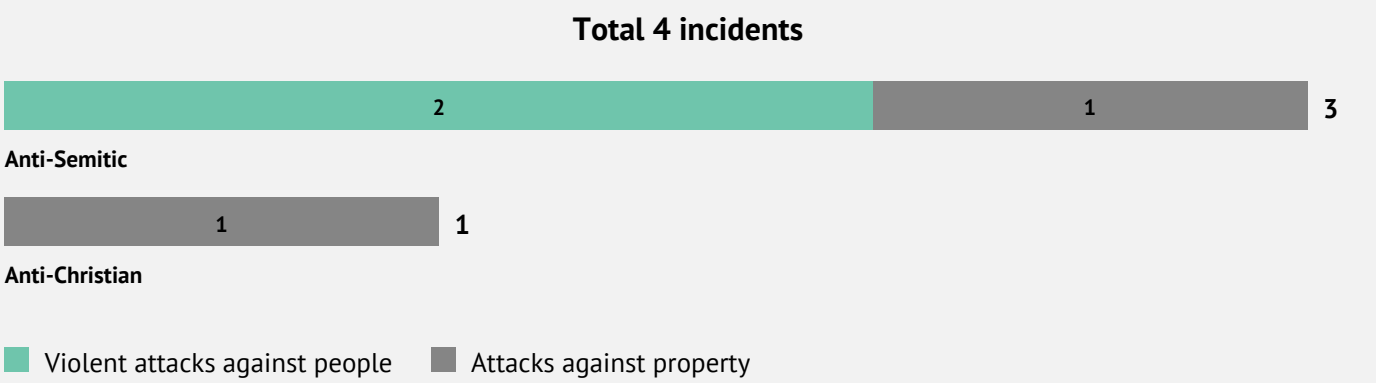
National Developments

In 2020, a shadow report on victims' experiences of hate crimes was published as part of the project "Against Hate", funded by the European Commission's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC) and co-ordinated by the **Ministry of Justice**. The aim of the report was to bring the perspectives of the victims into the discourse on hate crimes. Unlike the report on hate crimes carried out by the Police University College, this report sought out qualitative rather than statistical data, and the main focus was on the experiences and needs of the victims.

Furthermore, in December 2019, the Ministry of Justice launched a two-year REC-funded project entitled "Facts Against Hate" coordinated by the **Ministry of Justice**, with the project partners being the **Ministry of the Interior**, the **Police University College**, and the following civil society organizations: **Anti-Racist Forum (Finland)**, the Centre for Peace Studies (Croatia), and INAR (Ireland). The objective of the project is to improve the effectiveness of work against hate crimes and hate speech. The project is aimed at, among other things, developing data collection, hate crime reporting and local cooperation practices. It has so far produced material and organised trainings, e.g. virtual mandatory training for all police officers. As part of the Facts against Hate project, the **Police University College** and the **Ministry of Justice** will look into all of the recorded hate crimes in 2017 and follow them manually throughout the whole process from police involvement to prosecution and courts. The preliminary results indicate that there are huge shortcomings in this regard. The report will be published at the end of 2021.

The **Ministry of Justice** also started working on the amendments to the Criminal Code whereby gender would be added among the motives that constitute grounds for increasing the punishment of (any) crime as specified in chapter 6, section 5 of the Criminal Code. The Finnish government's proposal was introduced to the Parliament in February 2021.

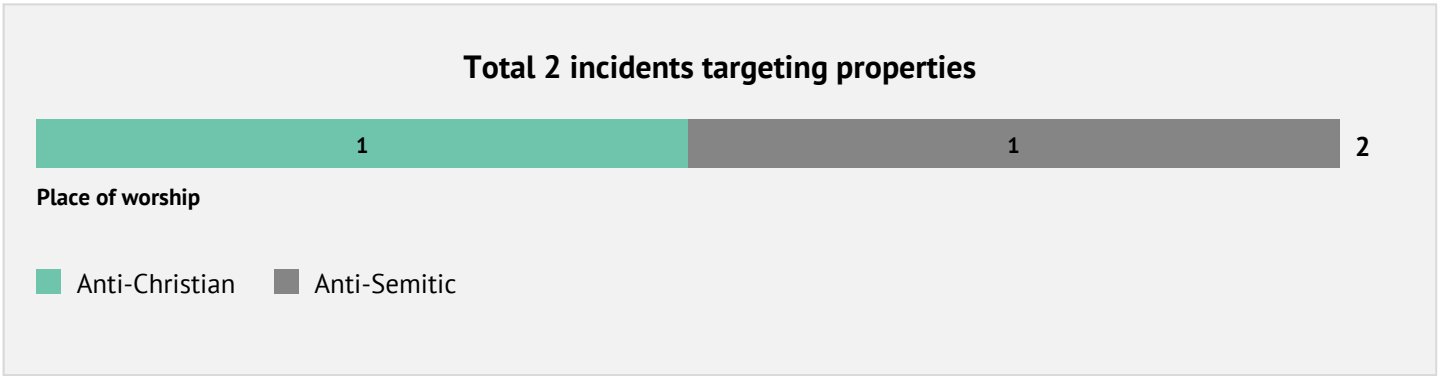
Incidents reported by civil society



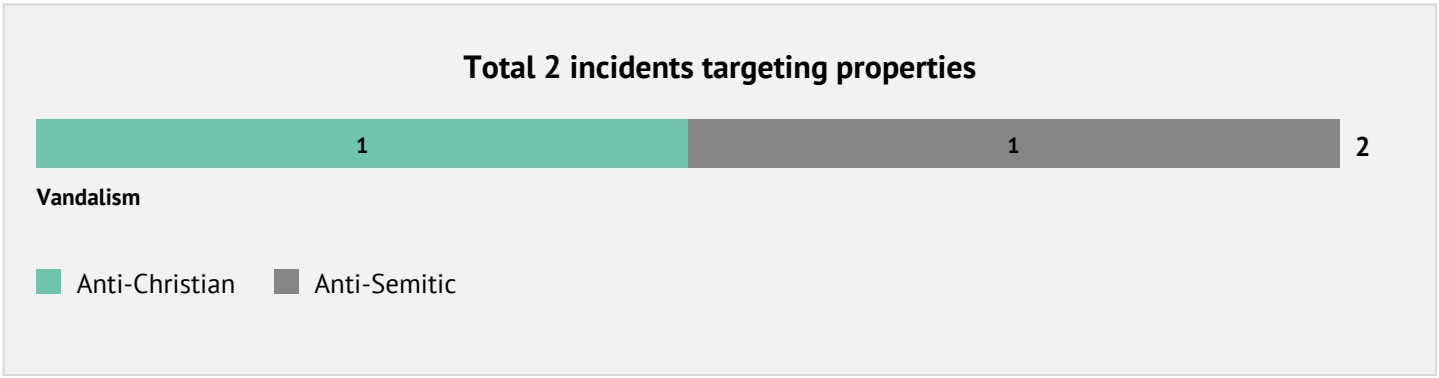
Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

In addition to incidents summarized below, this graph includes 2 hate incidents reported by Kantor Center as statistics.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Finland, 2020