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/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 recognizes Finland's efforts to improve coordination among authorities and civil society actors, and to strengthen access to support services to hate crime victims. However, based on the available information, ODIHR observes that Finland would benefit from raising awareness among and building the capacity of prosecutors to address and record hate crime.

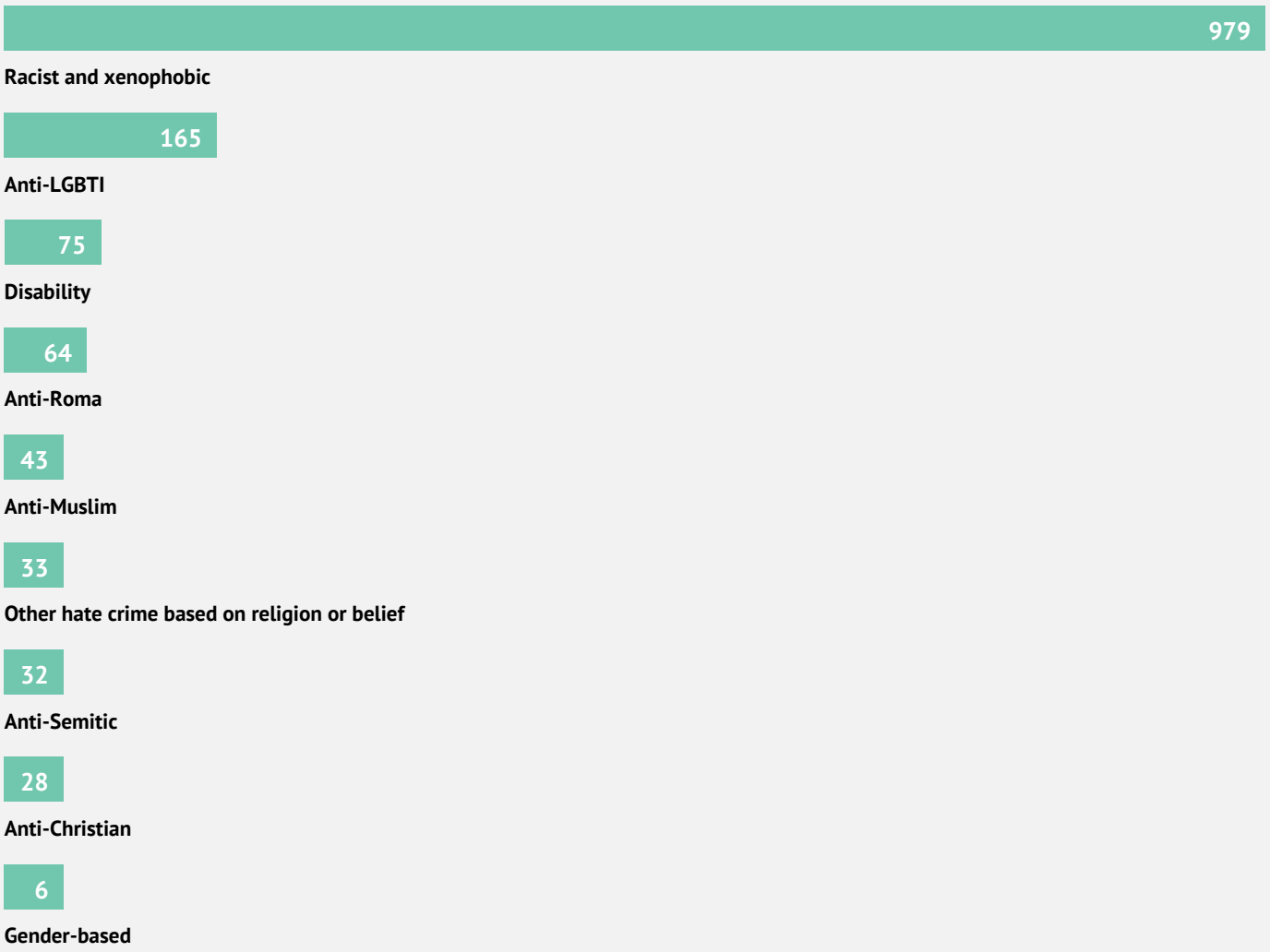
Official Data

In addition to hate crimes, police also record cases of criminal forms of intolerance, such as defamation (636) and criminal discrimination (78). These data are reported to ODIHR but are not included in the overall figure or in the breakdown below as they fall outside the OSCE hate crime definition. The number of indictments and sentences provided by the Ministry of Justice may be much lower than actual indictments and sentences due to the fact that the Prosecutors and Courts do not have a tracking system.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2023	1,361	49	48

Police data by bias motivation

Cases of defamation and discrimination reported to ODIHR are not included in the breakdown below as they fall outside the OSCE definition of hate crime. With the consent of the Roma community, hate crimes against Roma people have been presented as a separate category below.



Police data by type of crime

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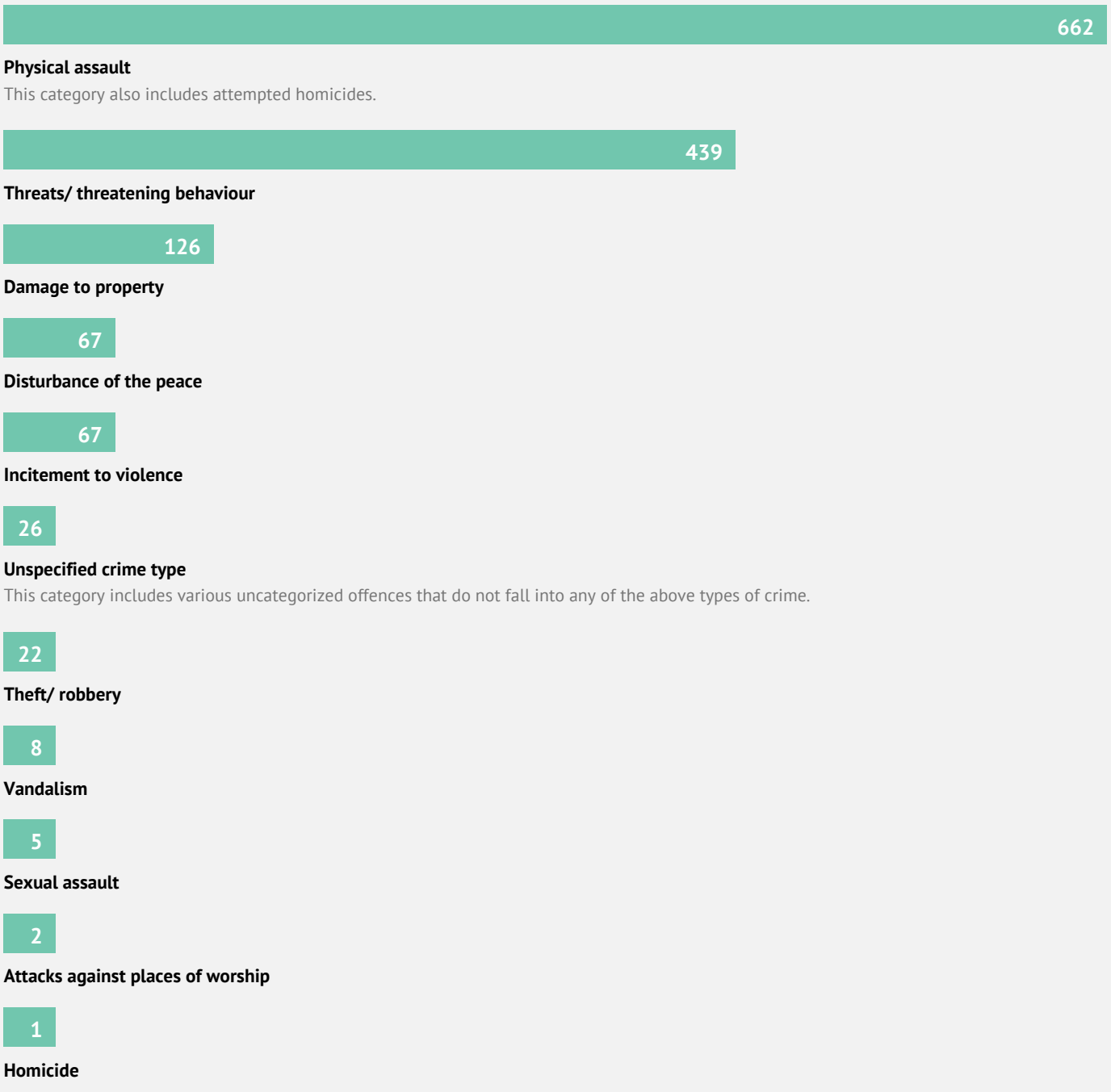


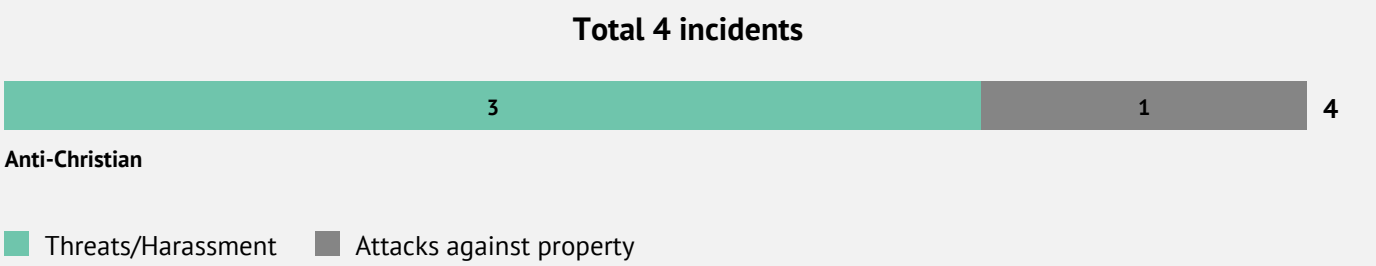
National Developments

On 1 January 2023, a legislative amendment to make a gender-based motive an aggravating circumstance entered into force (Chapter 6, section 5 of the Criminal Code). The amendment was approved by the Finnish Parliament in December 2022.

In 2023, the Ministry of Justice co-ordinated a number of EU-funded projects aimed at combating hate speech and hate crime, including "Peer Action against Hate", designed to improve the effectiveness of addressing racism, discrimination and hate crimes through peer learning with the support of authorities and civil society actors. Project partners are the Ministry of Social affairs and health, Seta – LGBTI Rights in Finland, the Irish Network against Racism, and the Centre for Peace Studies (Croatia). As part of the project, the Ministry of Justice co-ordinates a network of authorities and CSO's working to combat hate speech and hate crime. Other activities include collecting information on the availability, adequacy and accessibility of support services to victims of hate crimes in Finland. The project also organizes trainings for professionals on preventing hate speech and hate crime, as well as on supporting hate crime victims.

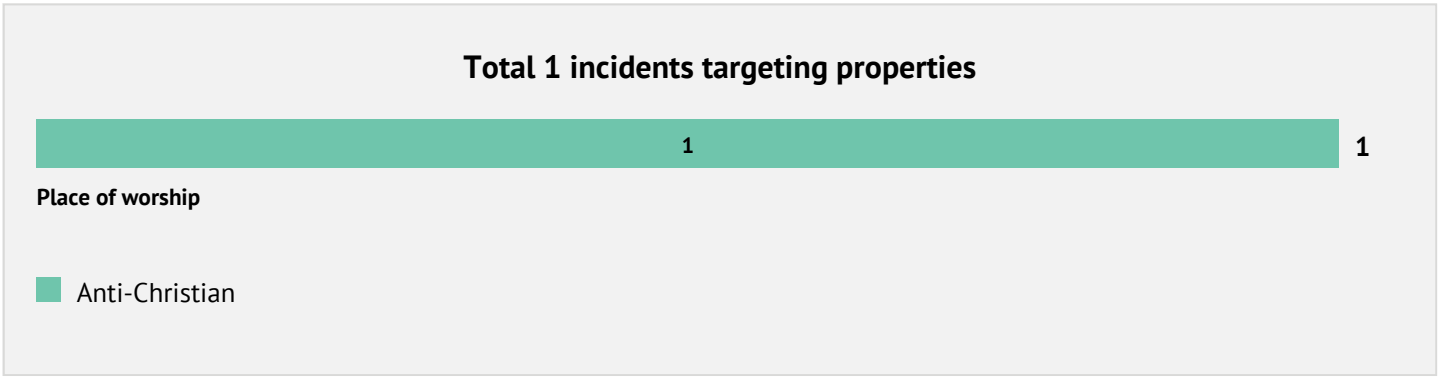
As part of another EU-funded project ('Osaavat') co-ordinated by the Ministry of Justice, a study was conducted by the Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy to examine the characteristics of hate crime perpetrators based on international research literature and data obtained from Finnish registers.

Incidents reported by civil society

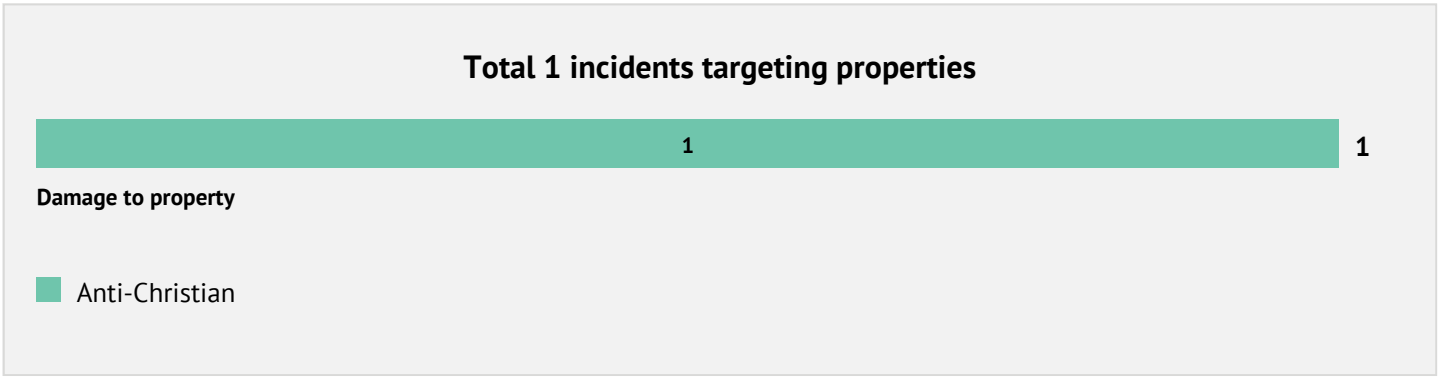


Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Finland, 2023