

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/ireland

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

1 2020

Summary

Ireland regularly submits hate crime data to ODIHR. Ireland's annual hate crime statistics can be accessed [here](#).

In February 2020, Ireland co-organized a workshop with ODIHR and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights to enhance the understanding and recording of hate crimes. Based on ODIHR's Information Against Hate Crimes Toolkit (INFAHCT) programme, the workshop produced a number of recommendations for relevant state authorities. In July 2021, the Garda launched an online hate crime reporting system.

In April 2022, the Garda took part in ODIHR's Online [Training on Sensitive and Respectful Treatment of Hate Crime Victims](#). Also in 2022, a comprehensive and mandatory Online Hate Crime Training Programme for Garda officers was launched.

In 2023, the Garda formalized the reporting process between civil society and the Garda National Diversity Unit to facilitate reporting and reduce under-reporting of hate crimes.

The Criminal Justice (Hate Offences) Act 2024 came into force on 31 December 2024. The new legislation provides for increased prison sentences for certain crimes, where proven to be motivated by hatred, or where hatred is demonstrated. For example, the legislation ensures that assault aggravated by hatred, or damage to property aggravated by hatred, will attract higher prison sentences. Where hatred is not proven, a person can still be charged with assault or damage to property.

[Hate crime data collection in Ireland](#)

[Support for hate crime victims in Ireland](#)

[Hate crime capacity building in Ireland](#)

[Ireland's hate crime legislation](#)

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Ireland's efforts to improve its hate crime recording mechanisms. Continuing in the same vein is encouraged, so that data on hate crime recorded and collected by police, prosecution, and judiciary can be duly processed in

the future. In addition, ODIHR observes that Ireland would benefit from reviewing its existing legal framework in order to ensure that bias motivations can be effectively acknowledged and appropriate penalties can be imposed on the perpetrators.

Official Data

Due to the introduction of the new PULSE crime registration system, in October 2020, hate crime data for 2020 could not have been processed and reported to ODIHR.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2020	not available	not available	not available

No data reported to ODIHR.

National Developments

In October 2019, An Garda Síochána launched the *Garda Diversity & Integration Strategy 2019-2021*. The strategy focuses on enhancing the identification, reporting, recording, investigating and prosecuting of hate crimes. It contains a working hate crime definition (attached) that is in line with international good practices and the McPherson "perception test". It also recognizes the current and emerging diversity of our communities, and aims to protect all diverse and minority groups in society. The strategy contains numerous initiatives and commitments aimed at increasing public confidence in reporting hate crime, such as online reporting, third party referrals, diversity consultation days, increased intercultural awareness and the establishment of a national diversity forum.

Since October 2020, the An Garda Síochána PULSE system allows for the recording of non-criminal hate incidents, which are recorded where there exists one or more discriminatory motives (bias motivations) as per the new working definition of hate crime. Policy and procedures on responding to hate crime and non-criminal hate incidents have been developed and these are supported by summary guidance documents on recording hate crime. An Garda Síochána has also formalised third-party reporting with a "Third Party Referral Agreement" to allow NGOs and CSOs to refer cases of hate crime directly to the Garda National Diversity and Integration Unit, who examine and action each referral. In July 2021, a Garda Síochána launched an online hate crime [reporting system](#), supported by the publication of a [hate crime information leaflet](#) in 19 languages. An internal communications plan and public campaign were also carried out with extensive media coverage.

Incidents reported by civil society

Total 11 incidents



Racist and xenophobic hate crime



Anti-Christian hate crime

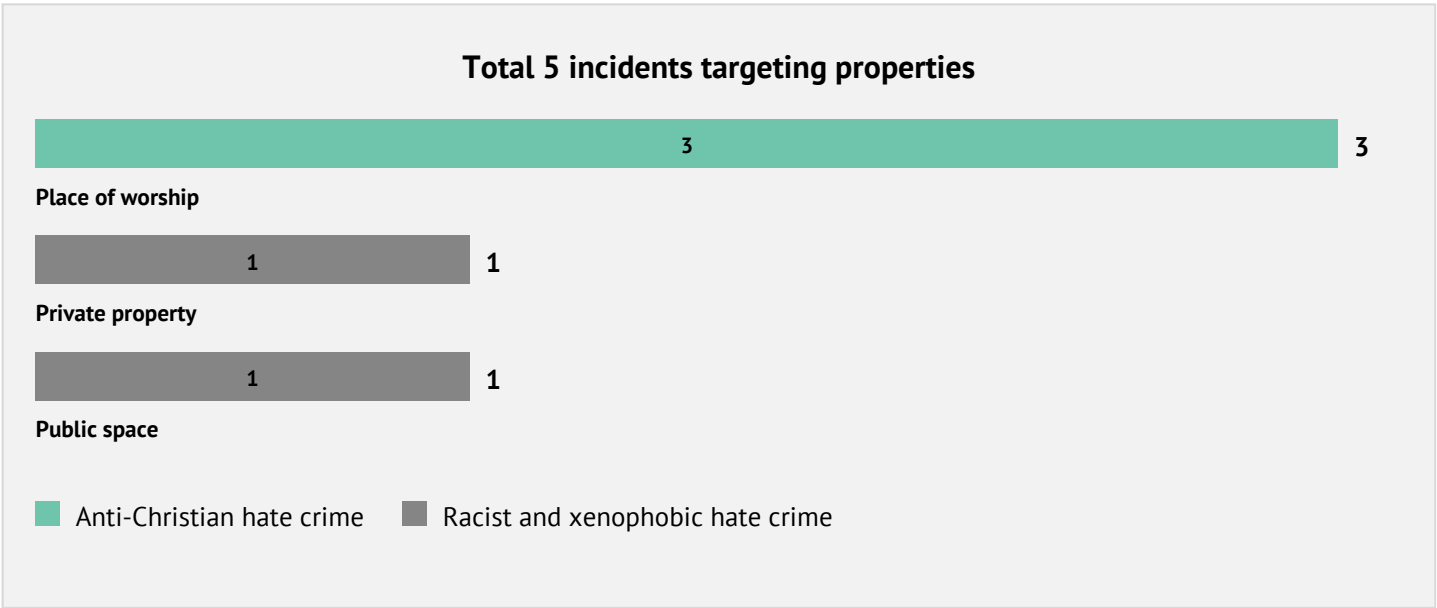


Anti-LGBTI hate crime

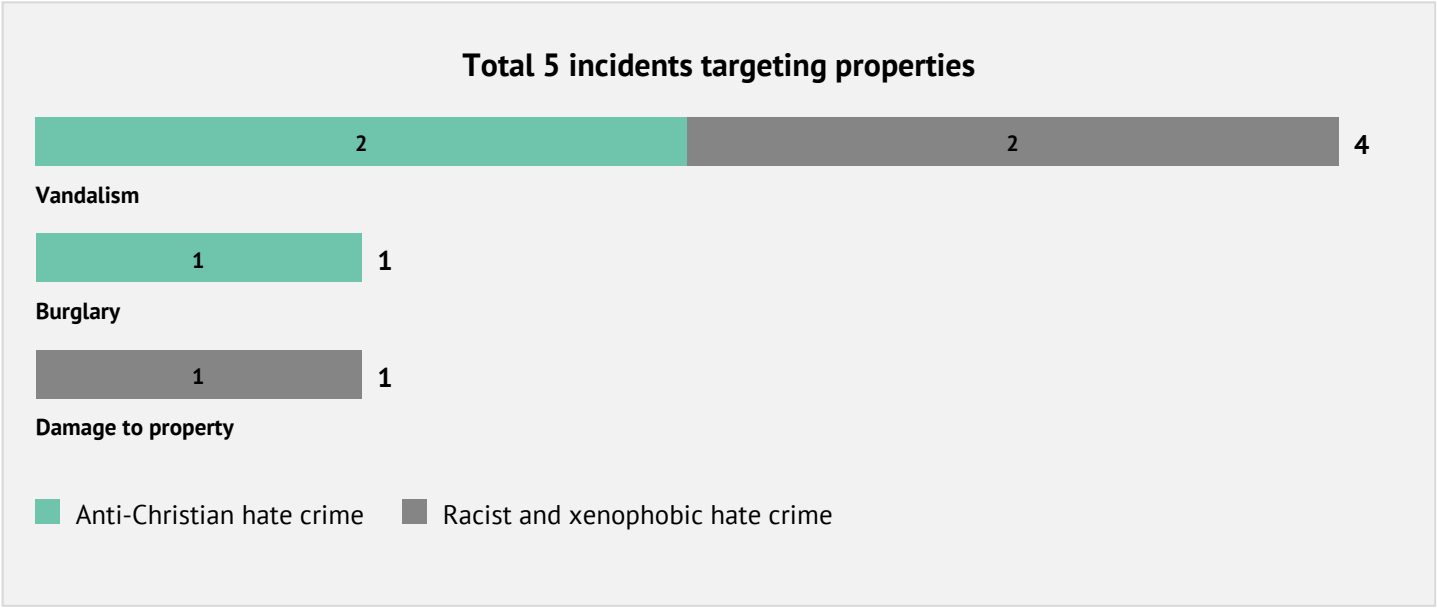
Violent attacks against people Attacks against property

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 Ireland, 2020](#)