OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2022 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 2022

Summary

Ireland regularly submits hate crime data to ODIHR. Ireland's annual hate crime statistics can be accessed here.

The Criminal Justice (Hate Offences) Act 2024, which came into force on 31 December 2024, provides for increased prison sentences for certain crimes, where proven to be motivated by hatred, or where hatred is demonstrated.

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, An Garda Síochána (Ireland's National Police and Security Service) launched an online hate crime reporting system.

In April 2022, representatives of An Garda Síochána 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 Gardaí (police officers) was launched.

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

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 enhance the capacity of law enforcement to identify, record and investigate hate crime. However, based on the available information, it observes that Ireland has not reported data on hate crimes recorded by the prosecution or judiciary to ODIHR. In addition, ODIHR observes that Ireland would benefit from reviewing its existing legal

framework to ensure that bias motivations can be effectively acknowledged and appropriate penalties can be imposed on the perpetrators.



Official Data

There is no information on the number of prosecuted or sentenced hate crimes as there is currently no hate crime legislation on the basis of which hate crimes could be monitored within the judiciary.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2022	628	not available	not available

Police data by bias motivation

The total figures included in the breakdown below is different from the overall number given in the official data table above. This is because i) ten incidents included in the overall number were recorded under historic categories, which are no longer used for the purpose of recording hate crime by the Garda, and ii) non-crime hate incidents are excluded as they fall outside of the OSCE's hate crime definition.



Racist and xenophobic



Anti-LGBTI



Disability



Other hate crime based on religion or belief

The categories of injured parties recorded under this category include: Hindu (1), Islamic (4) and Other (2).
Three non-crime hate incidents were monitored under this category.



Anti-Christian



Anti-Muslim



Anti-Semitic

Police data by type of crime

The total figures included in the breakdown below is different from the overall number given in the official data table above. This is because i) ten incidents included in the overall number were recorded under historic categories, which are no longer used for the purpose of recording hate crime by the Garda, and ii) non-crime hate incidents are excluded as they fall outside of the OSCE's hate crime definition.



Disturbance of the peace

This type of crime is recorded as "Public Order Offence" in the PULSE system.



Physical assault

This type of crime combines physical assaults recorded as "Assault (minor)" and those recorded as "Assault causing harm" in the PULSE system.



Threats/ threatening behaviour



Damage to property

This type of crime is recorded as "Criminal Damage (not by fire)" in the PULSE system. This category also includes offences of desecration of graves and attack against places of worship.



Unspecified crime type

The category "Unspecified" includes the following offences: Affray / Riot / Violent Disorder, Blackmail / Extortion, Coercive Control, and Harassment, which may fall outside of the OSCE's hate crime definition.



Incitement to violence



Theft/ robbery



Arson

This type of crime is recorded as "Criminal Damage (by fire)" in the PULSE system.



Homicide

This type of crime is recorded as "Murder" in the PULSE system

National Developments

In 2022, a new Bill on Incitement to Violence or Hatred and Hate Offences was proposed following a review of the Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act (1989). The new Bill is currently before the legislative branch of the State. If enacted, the new legislation intends to criminalize any intentional or reckless communication or behaviour that is likely to incite violence or hatred against a person or persons because they are associated with a protected characteristic. The penalty for this offence will be up to five years' imprisonment.

The Bill will also create new, aggravated forms of certain existing criminal offences, where those offences are motivated by hatred of a protected characteristic. These will carry an enhanced penalty, and the criminal record will clearly state that the offence was a hate crime.

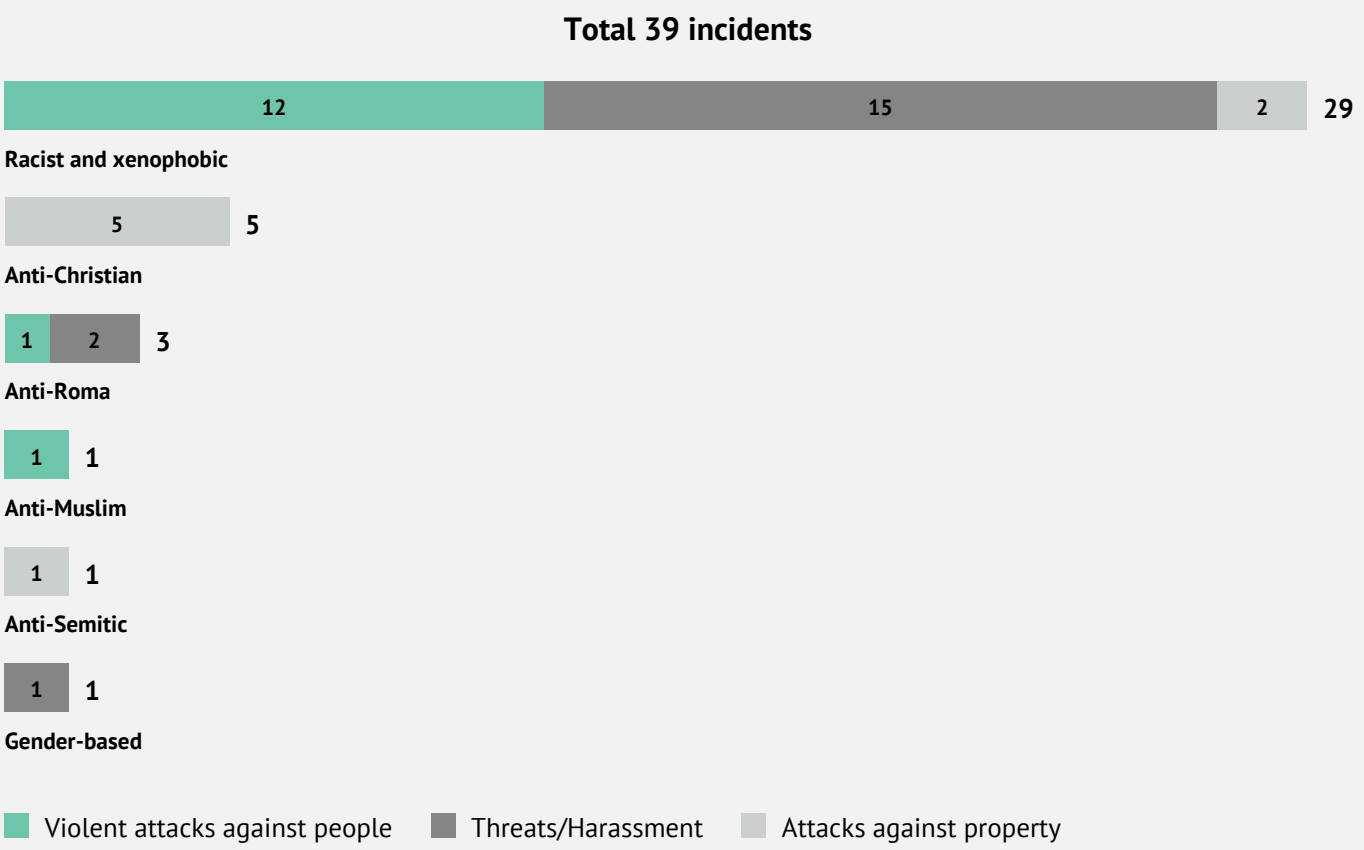
In 2022, the Garda designed a comprehensive Online Hate Crime Training Programme, which is now mandatory for all Garda members and Garda staff (civilians) with public-facing roles. The current completion rate of the training across the organization is 86 percent.

In addition, existing and new Garda Diversity Officers were trained in 2022 to actively engage with and attend to the concerns of minority and diverse communities, including by providing reassurance, building trust and extending the accessibility of the Garda Service. Contributions to each session were made by community representatives who detailed their communities' experience of victimization and discrimination.

In 2022, the National Diversity Forum (established in 2020), comprising of CSOs and community representatives from all diverse and/or minority backgrounds, completed the monitoring of the implementation of the Diversity and Integration Strategy for 2019-2021.

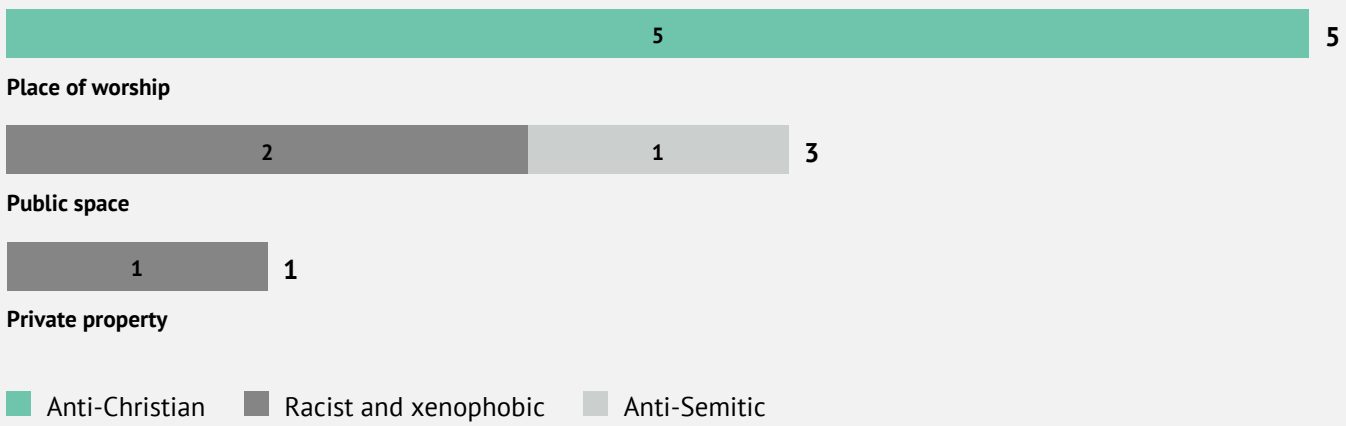
There were several **notable hate crime cases** in 2022. In Sligo, two gay men were murdered over a period of approximately 24 hours in the same area due to their sexual orientation. A resident in the town was arrested and charged with the two murders and is currently awaiting trial. In the aftermath of the killings, vigils were held in Sligo and around Ireland. Significant community support and reassurance efforts were made by the police to the LGBT+ Community in Ireland. In Dublin, a drag artist was attacked by a group of six men. The perpetrators were charged and judicial proceedings are ongoing. Also in Dublin, a man was convicted for 60 hours of community service after shouting racist abuse at a shopkeeper before becoming aggressive with responding Gardaí.

Incidents reported by civil society

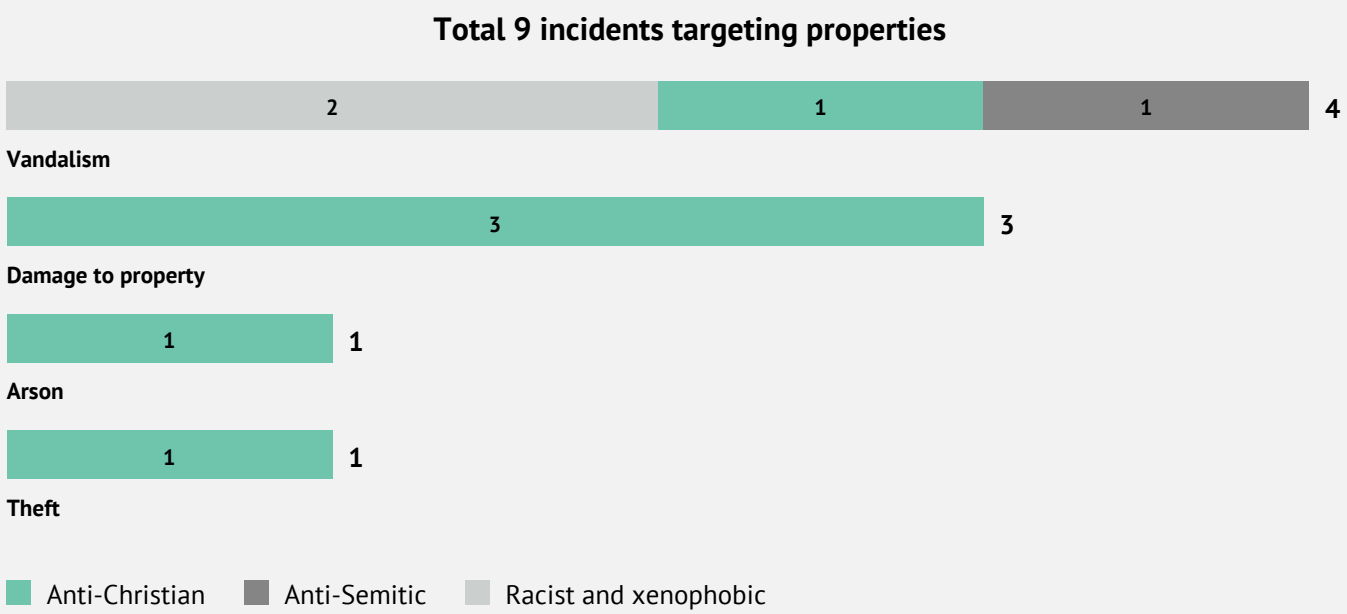


Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Ireland, 2022