OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2021 Hate Crime Report.
For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/lithuania

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

1 2021

Summary

Lithuania regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Data are collected by the Police Department under the Ministry of the Interior and the Prosecutor General's Office. Lithuania's annual hate crime report is published here.

Lithuania began implementing ODIHR's Training Against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) programme in 2015 and continues to train police officers using ODIHR's training curriculum. In 2018, Lithuania co-organized a workshop on hate crime recording and data collection with ODIHR and the EU Fundamental Rights Agency. The workshop was based on ODIHR's Information Against Hate Crimes Toolkit (INFAHCT) and resulted in a set of recommendations for relevant state authorities.

In 2020, a working group to promote an effective response to hate crime and hate speech in Lithuania was established by order of the Minister of the Interior. The working group consists of representatives of eight national public authorities (the Ministry of the Interior, the Prosecutor General's Office, the Police Department, the Department of National Minorities, the Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics, the Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson, the Parliamentary Ombudspersons Office and the Ministry of Social Security and Labour), victim support services, and ten civil society organizations (CSOs). The working group is responsible for developing effective measures to address hate crime and hate speech, monitoring the implementation of international commitments, and reviewing relevant legislation, among other duties.

In 2023, the Action Plan for the Implementation of Equal Opportunities, 2024-2026, was approved, and includes measures to prevent hate speech and hate crimes. Amendments were also made to recommendations for the pre-trial investigation of hate crime and hate speech, drafted with support from ODIHR, to include a definition of hate crime and bias indicators.

Hate crime data collection in Lithuania
Support for hate crime victims in Lithuania
Hate crime capacity building in Lithuania
Lithuania's hate crime legislation

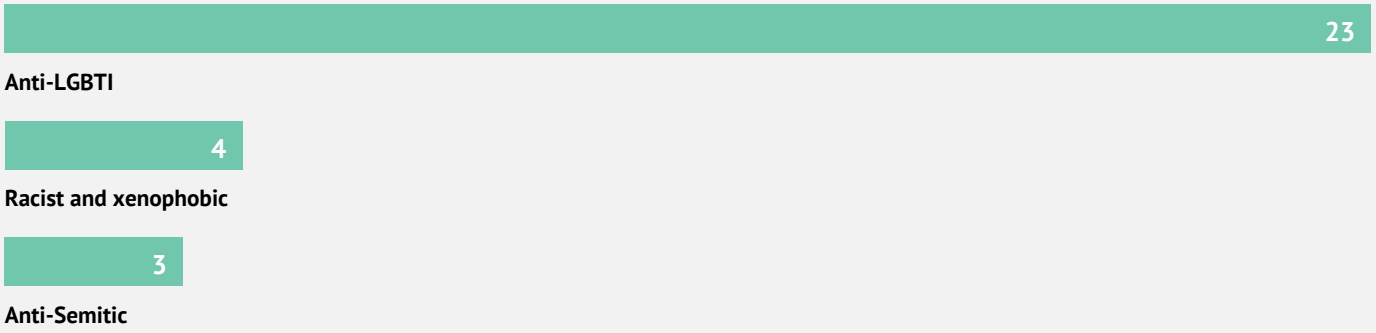
ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Lithuania's efforts to address hate crime in a comprehensive manner, namely by establishing a working group under the Ministry of Interior with the participation of civil society. However, based on the available information, it observes that Lithuania has not made hate crime data public. In addition, Lithuania would benefit from building the capacity of prosecutors to address hate crime.

Official Data

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2021	31	10	10

Police data by bias motivation



Police data by type of crime



Incitement to violence



Attacks against places of worship



Disturbance of the peace

This category includes cases under Article 284 of the Criminal Code ("Violation of Public Order").



Desecration of graves



Theft/ robbery

National Developments

In April 2021, the **Lithuanian Police** established a virtual patrol unit to monitor social networks and carry out preventive activities online by collecting information about alleged violations, including hate crime, and transferring that information to the relevant police unit to carry out investigations.

Furthermore, in 2021, the **Lithuanian Parliament (Seimas)** adopted the Law on Assistance to Victims of Criminal Offences, which transposes EU Directive 2012/29 on establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. The Law strengthens the support offered to hate crime victims by requiring investigating officers to take victims' individual needs into account from the outset of the proceedings. According to the Law, assistance to victims must be provided free of charge and, in the case of a violent crime, victims are entitled to compensation for material and non-material damages.

A website "Nepyka.lt" was launched by the **Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson**. The website provides information on hate speech and hate crimes and is intended for practitioners, victims, and members of the public seeking information about these phenomena.

A working group set up by the **Ministry of Interior** to promote an effective response to hate crimes and hate speech met four times in 2021. The working group consists of representatives of the criminal justice system, other relevant agencies, and civil society. The meetings included an ODIHR workshop on understanding and strengthening hate crime responses, which resulted in a set of recommendations.

In June 2021, the Office of the **Prosecutor General** (OPG) and ODIHR co-organized an awareness-raising workshop for 36 prosecutors from across the country, as well as representatives of the OPG, Ministry of Interior, and civil society. The workshop resulted in a formal request by the OPG for ODIHR to review the OPG's existing methodological guidance on hate crime.

Incidents reported by civil society

Total 2 incidents



Anti-LGBTI

Violent attacks against people Threats/Harassment

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.

View civil society incidents for Lithuania, 2021