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/lithuania

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

1 2022

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.

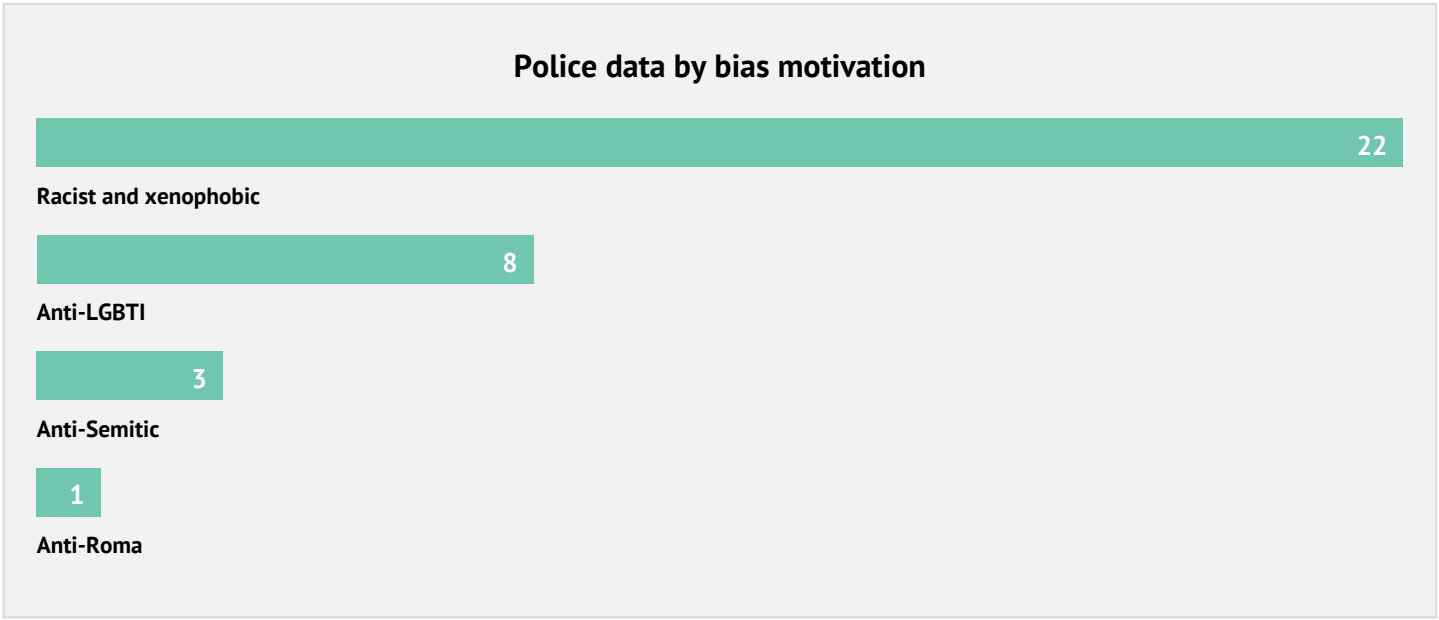
Hate crime data collection in Lithuania
Support for hate crime victims in Lithuania
Hate crime capacity building in Lithuania
Lithuania's hate crime legislation

ODIHR's Key Observation

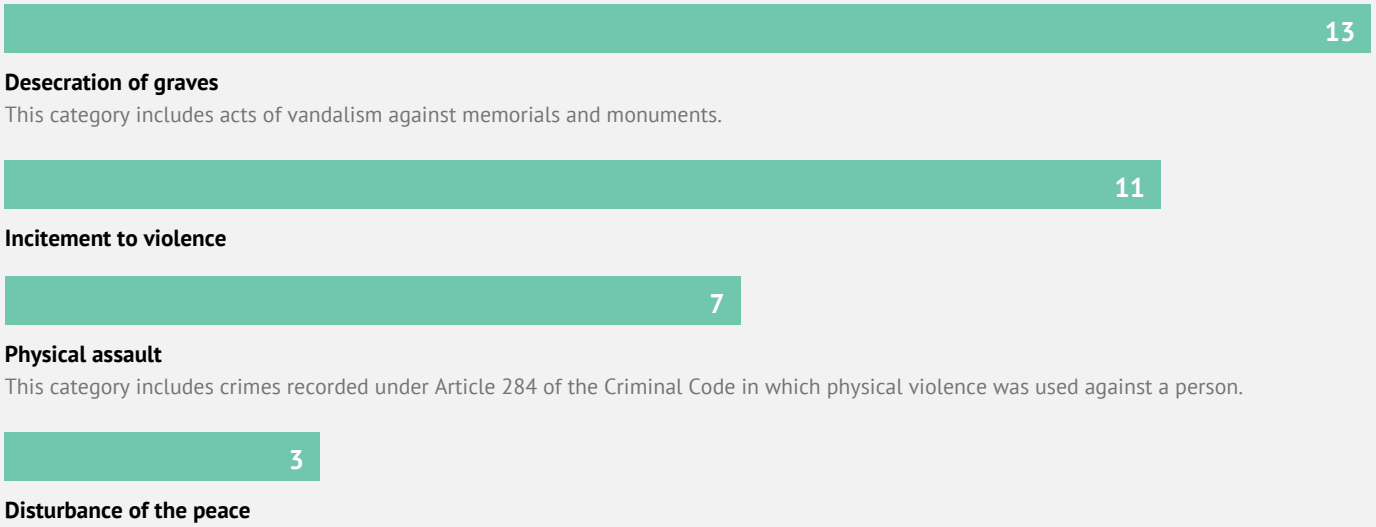
ODIHR recognizes Lithuania's efforts to improve the hate crime data recording and collection system. However, based on the available information, it observes the low numbers of officially recorded hate crimes. In addition, Lithuania would benefit from building the capacity of prosecutors and judges to address hate crime.

Official Data

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2022	34	12	6


Police data by bias motivation
22
Racist and xenophobic
8
Anti-LGBTI
3
Anti-Semitic
1
Anti-Roma

Police data by type of crime



Desecration of graves

This category includes acts of vandalism against memorials and monuments.

Incitement to violence

Physical assault

This category includes crimes recorded under Article 284 of the Criminal Code in which physical violence was used against a person.

Disturbance of the peace

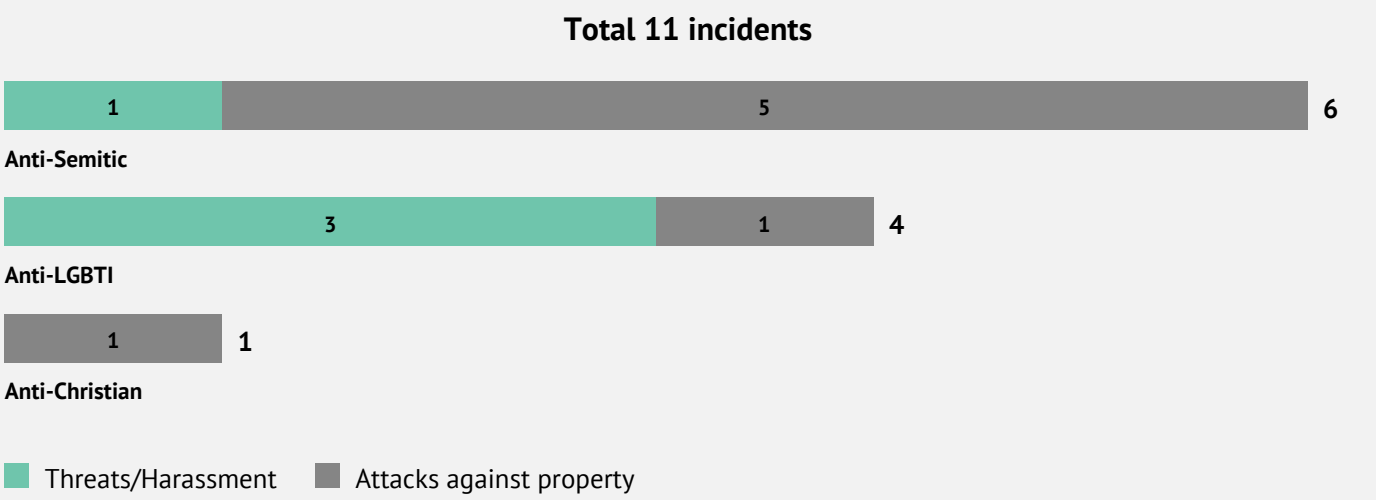
National Developments

In 2022, amendments were made to the Criminal Code to include skin colour and ethnic origin among other protected characteristics.

In 2022, 140 police officers participated in the five training sessions on "Strengthening of Intercultural Competences in the Fight Against Hate Crimes", organized by the Human Rights Monitoring Institute with the support of Lithuanian and international experts and representatives of victimized communities. During the training, attention was paid to learning about different communities (Muslim, Roma, and Jewish communities, and communities of immigrants from the Middle East and Africa), linking this knowledge to the recognition and investigation of hate crimes.

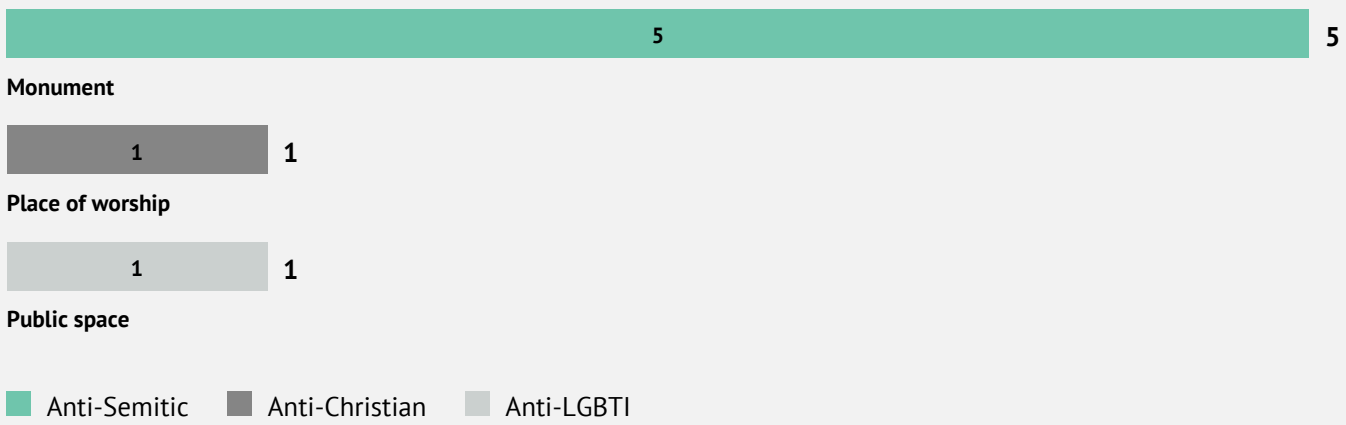
Also in 2022, 31 judges participated in an eight-hour training event on "Hate crimes: legal and psychological aspects". Training topics included the concept and recognition of hate crimes; recognizing and distinguishing between hate speech and hate crime; court practice in dealing with hate crime and hate speech offences; the practice of the European Court of Human Rights and national courts; the criminal process for these types of criminal cases; the impact of hate crimes and hate speech on victims and victimized communities; the needs of hate crime victims; and communicating with hate crime victims.

Incidents reported by civil society

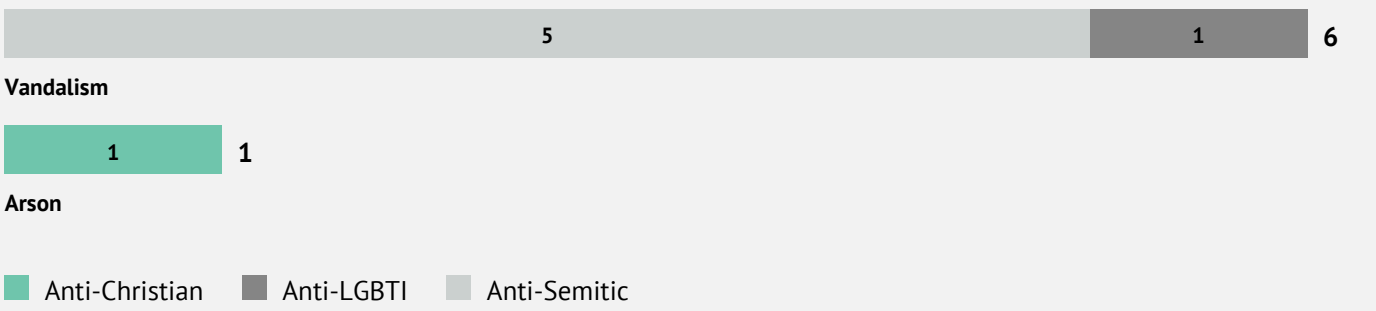


Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Lithuania, 2022