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/lithuania

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

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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

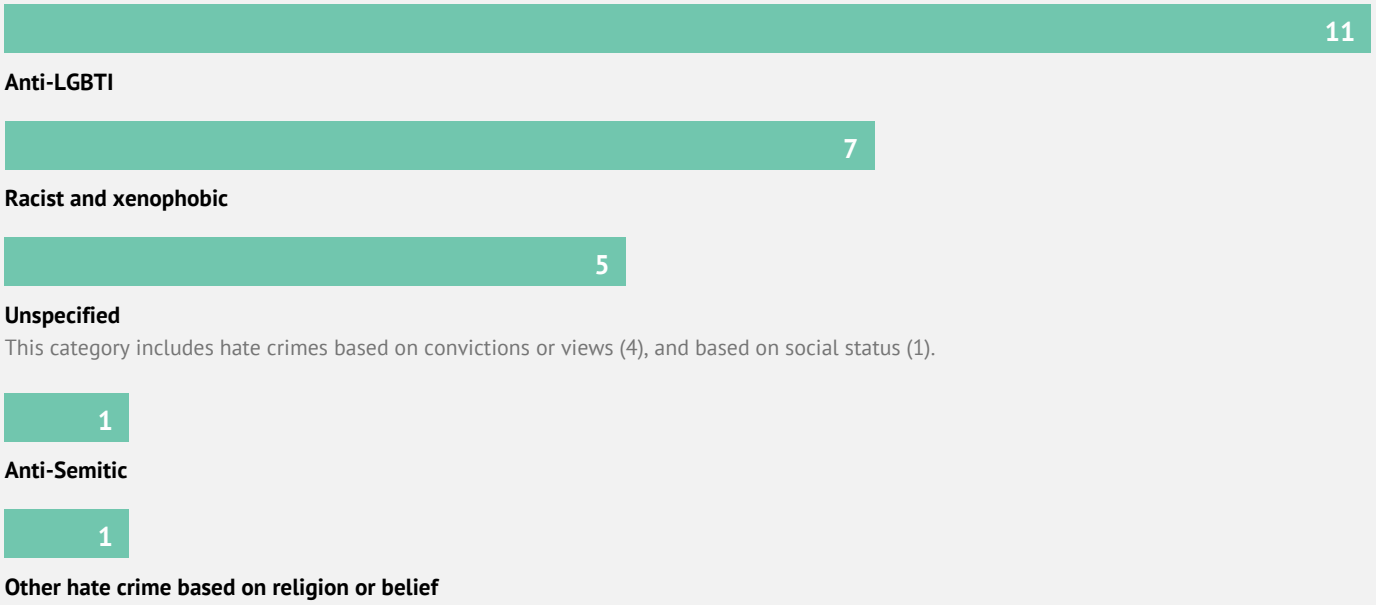
ODIHR's Key Observation

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

Official Data

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2023	25	8	7

Police data by bias motivation



Police data by type of crime



Incitement to violence



Disturbance of the peace

This category includes incidents under Article 284 of the Criminal Code “Violation of Public Order”



Desecration of graves

This category includes acts of vandalism against memorials and monuments.



Physical assault



Threats/ threatening behaviour

National Developments

In 2023, 40 police officers participated in a training organized by the Lithuanian Disability Forum on the topic of "Hate crimes and violence against people with disabilities: causes of vulnerability, recognition and help options".

In 2023, 25 judges participated in a training covering the following: the concept and recognition of hate crimes; distinguishing between hate speech and hate crime; court practice in dealing with hate crimes; the practice of the European Court of Human Rights and national courts; peculiarities of the criminal process of hate crime cases; the impact of hate crimes and hate speech on victims and vulnerable communities; the needs of hate crime victims; and communicating with hate crime victims.

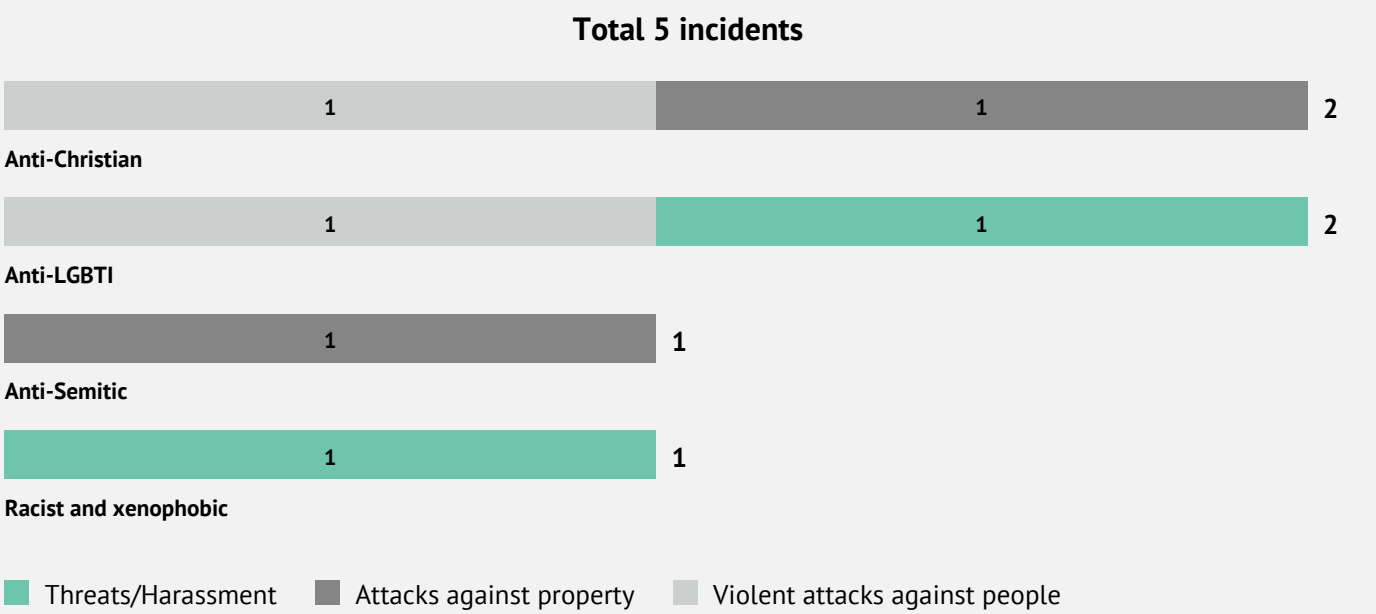
In 2023, the Action Plan for the Implementation of Equal Opportunities, 2024-2026, was approved by order of the Minister of Social Security and Labor of the Republic of Lithuania. The purpose of the plan is as follows:

- to develop respect for people;
- to ensure the implementation of the provisions of legal acts establishing the principles of non-discrimination and equal opportunities;
- to increase public legal awareness and understanding regarding gender, race, nationality, citizenship, language, origin, social status, faith, religion or beliefs, views, age, sexual orientation, disability, state of health, ethnicity and other grounds of discrimination;
- to inform the public about measures to promote equal opportunities and non-discrimination; and
- to strengthen inter-institutional co-operation in the field of equal opportunities.

The Action Plan also includes measures to prevent hate speech and hate crimes.

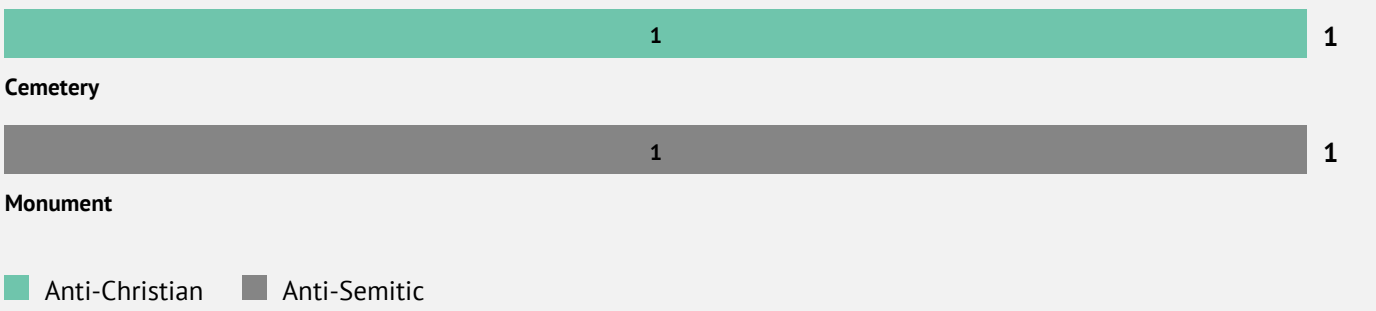
In 2023, methodological recommendations on the pre-trial investigation of hate crime and hate speech were approved by the Prosecutor General following amendments. The recommendations were drafted with the assistance of ODIHR experts, and include the OSCE's hate crime definition, a list of bias indicators, and main provisions on hate crime recording. The recommendations are based on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights.

Incidents reported by civil society

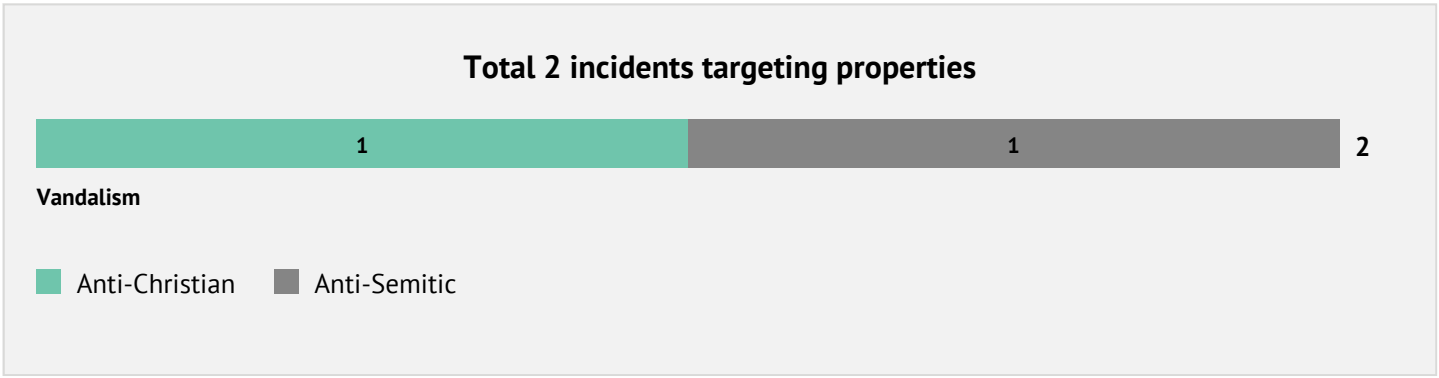


Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Lithuania, 2023