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/malta

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

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Summary

Malta regularly reports hate crime information and data to ODIHR.

The Second National Action Plan Against Racism (NAPAR 2025–2030), launched on 12 November 2025, places particular emphasis on improving hate crime recording and data collection.

Malta implemented ODIHR's Training Against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) programme in 2017, followed by a refresher Training-of-Trainer programme in 2025. In 2021, ODIHR held a workshop for civil society organizations on ODIHR's hate crime methodology and its application to the specific context of Malta.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Malta's efforts to report hate crime data to ODIHR, amend its legislation to increase the punishment for bias-motivated crimes, and provide adequate specialist support to hate crime victims. However, based on available information, ODIHR observes that Malta does not collect data and statistics on hate crimes at the stage of prosecution and sentencing. In addition, ODIHR observes that Malta would benefit from raising awareness among and building the capacity of prosecutors and judges to record and address hate crime.

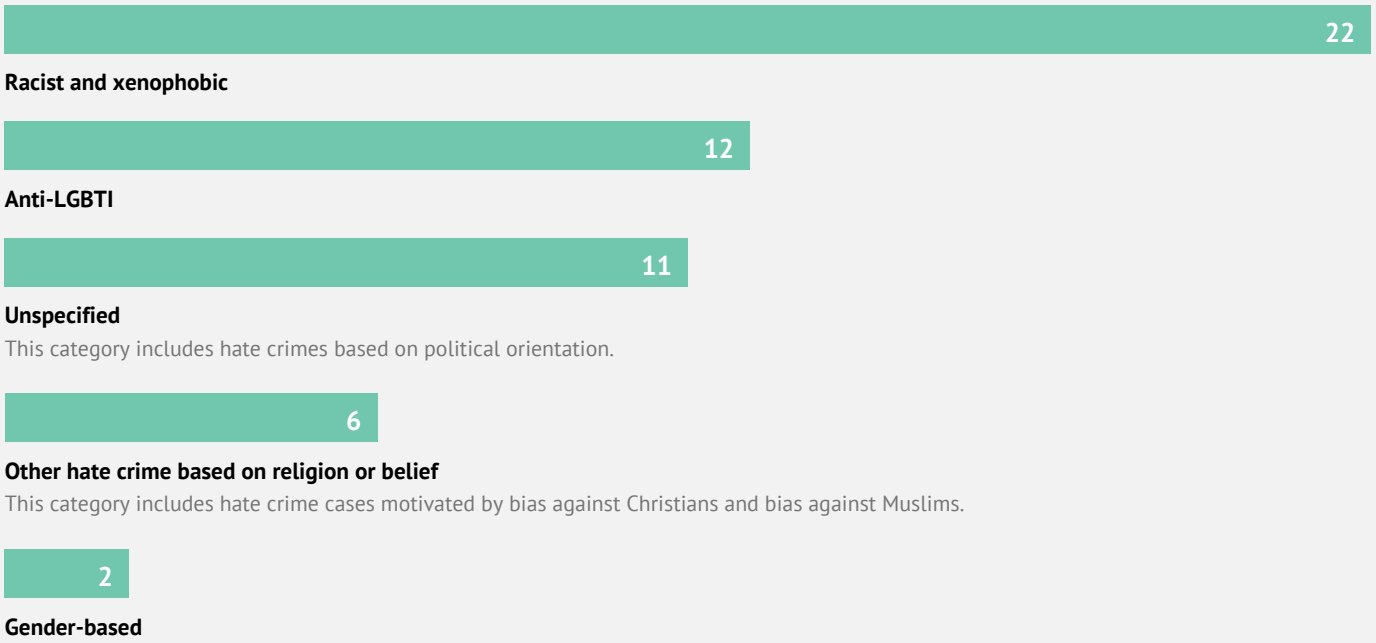
Official Data

Police-recorded data are taken from police reports within the National Police System and may include cases of hate speech that fall outside of the OSCE's hate crime definition. Three cases (offences of abuse of public authority and of a civil nature) that fall outside of the OSCE's hate crime definition were excluded from the above figure. Statistics on prosecuted and sentenced cases are not available, as data on bias motivations are not recorded.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2022	53	not available	not available

Police data by bias motivation

The breakdown below does not include cases of abuse of public authority and of a civil nature reported to ODIHR, as they fall outside of the OSCE's hate crime definition. The category "Threats/Threatening behaviour" may include hate speech cases that fall outside of the OSCE's hate crime definition but could not be separated from the hate crime cases.



Police data by type of crime

The breakdown below does not include cases of abuse of public authority and of a civil nature reported to ODIHR, as they fall outside of the OSCE's hate crime definition. The category "Threats/Threatening behaviour" may include hate speech cases that fall outside of the OSCE's hate crime definition but could not be separated from the hate crime cases.



National Developments

In 2022, the Anti-Racism Platform was formally launched as one of the measures envisaged under Malta's Anti-Racism Strategy 2021-2023. The Inter-ministerial Committee on Anti-Racism (IMC-AR) commenced its work.

In 2021, a newly adopted law introduced an increase in punishment for offences, including violent offences, that were "aggravated or motivated, wholly or in part by hatred against a person or a group, on the grounds of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, colour, language, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, citizenship, religion or belief or political or other opinion."

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.

View civil society incidents for Malta, 2022