OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2025 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

2025

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 adopt a strategic approach to combating hate crimes, including through its second National Action Plan Against Racism. 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 crimes.

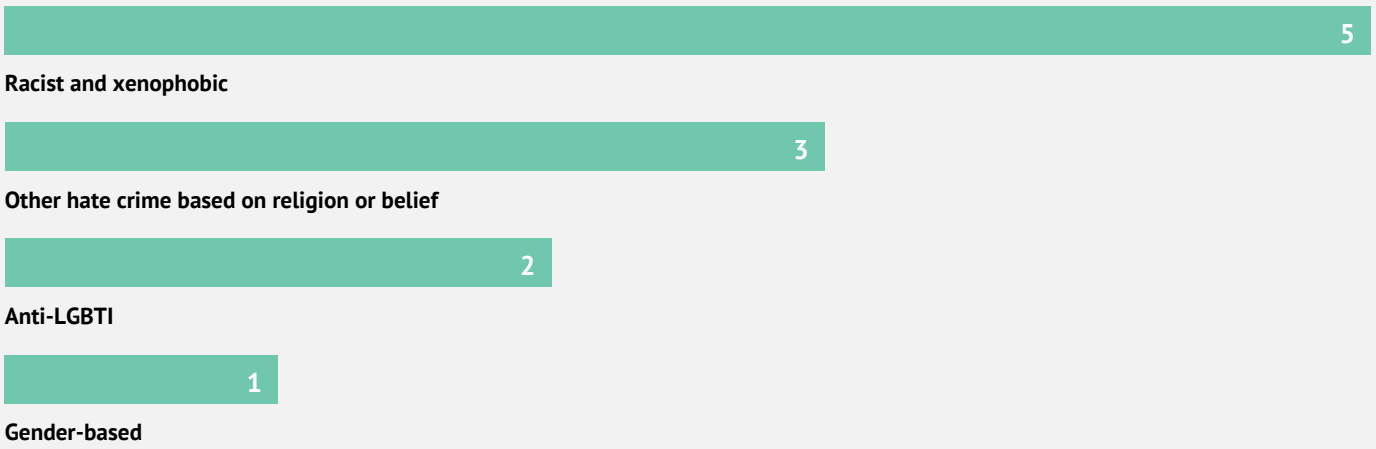
Official Data

Police-recorded data are taken from police reports within the National Police System. Police-recorded data also included two cases of computer or social media misuse motivated by anti-religious bias, and one case of stalking on political grounds; these cases were excluded from the above figure as they fall outside the OSCE's hate crime definition. Data on bias motivations are not recorded by prosecution services and the courts.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2025	11	not available	not available

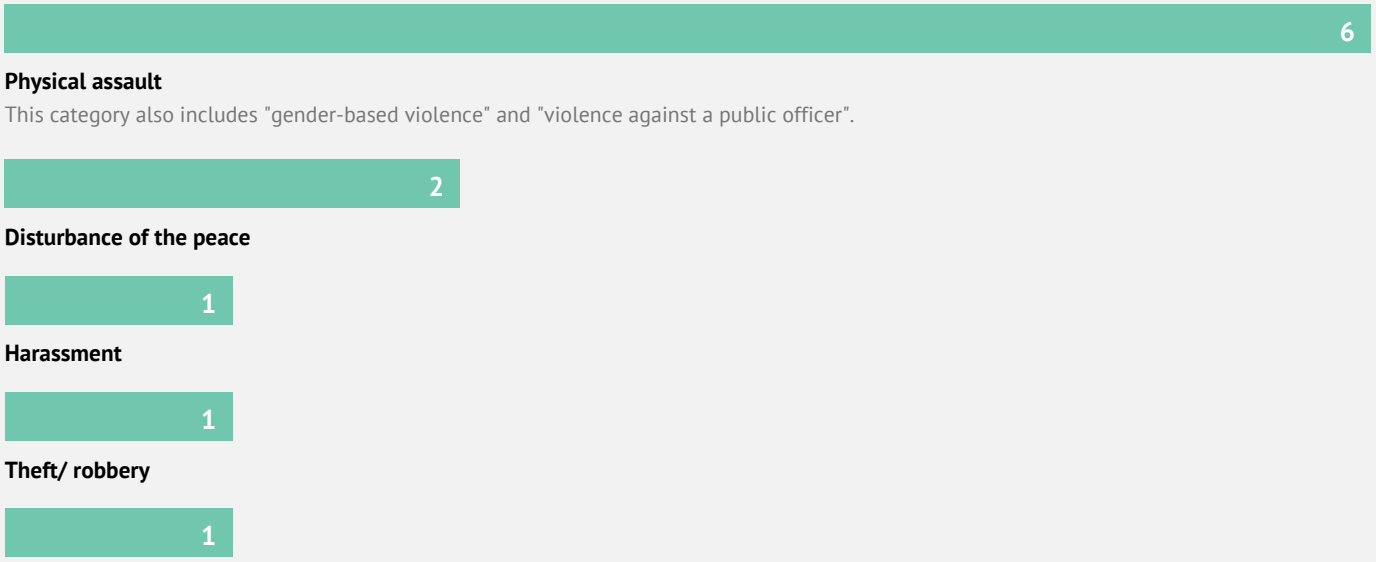
Police data by bias motivation

The breakdown below does not include offences that were reported to ODIHR but fall outside the OSCE's hate crime definition.



Police data by type of crime

The breakdown below does not include offences that were reported to ODIHR but fall outside the OSCE's hate crime definition.



National Developments

The second National Action Plan Against Racism (NAPAR 2025–2030) was launched in November 2025. The NAPAR places particular emphasis on improving hate crime recording and data collection, in recognition of existing gaps and under-reporting, and calls for stronger co-ordination and information sharing between relevant authorities to support evidence based policymaking. It also includes measures on awareness raising, training and capacity building for public officials, frontline professionals and the wider public.

The second NAPAR provided for the establishment of a Hate Speech and Hate Crime Working Group, which focuses on enhancing synergies between relevant entities, strengthening inter institutional co-operation, and improving data collection and information sharing related to hate speech and hate crime. The Integration and Anti Racism Consultative Council was also established and forms part of the Working Group, and serves as a structured consultative mechanism to facilitate inclusive dialogue, co-ordination and policy input on broader issues related to integration, anti racism, hate speech and hate crime. As such, the Council ensures that civil society expertise and lived experience inform policy development and implementation.

Malta's Victim Support Agency (VSA), in collaboration with SOS Malta, is currently implementing an EU-funded project titled 'Hatedemics'. This pilot research initiative aims to develop an innovative online database that identifies and categorizes annotations, verbal expressions, and written content commonly associated with hate speech. Through this project, the VSA seeks to contribute to a deeper understanding of how hate speech manifests online and offline, ultimately supporting more effective prevention strategies, educational outreach, and policy development in this area. VSA experts also led a training event for various professionals working in the field of victim support, including on the legal interpretation of hate speech cases.

Incidents reported by civil society

For 2025, ODIHR received reports of hate incidents in Malta from the Aditus Foundation.

To learn more about the civil society organizations that report hate incidents to ODIHR, visit the Contributors page.

Individual incidents submitted by CSOs have been analysed by ODIHR. Those that are broadly considered to be hate crimes within the OSCE definition (criminal offence committed with a bias motive) are listed in the tables below according to the bias motivation category. Some incidents involved multiple biases and may be listed in multiple categories.

ODIHR's insights

For 2025, ODIHR received reports of two incidents that took place in Malta in the anti-LGBTI bias motivation category, including one incident of abduction and physical assault against a young gay man, and one incident of property damage against an LGBTI-friendly café. The low number of incidents is not an indication that hate crimes are not taking place, only that they have not been reported to civil society or to ODIHR.
Please note that incidents reported here are based on voluntary civil society submissions and as such do not reflect the actual number of incidents or the most targeted communities in Malta.

To address under-reporting, ODIHR encourages any civil society organizations or groups that monitor hate incidents to report these to ODIHR at hatecrimereport@odihr.pl.

To export an Excel sheet with summaries of all incidents from Malta click here.

View civil society incidents for Malta, 2025