OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2024 Hate Crime Report.
For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/norway

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

2024

Summary

Norway regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. In 2021, the Norway Police established a National Expertise Group on Hate Crime. The Group is part of the Oslo Police District and is a reinforcement of the Oslo Police District's Hate Crime Unit. The mandate of the Group is to build the capacities of the regional police districts through training and guidance and, if necessary, to provide assistance in specific cases.

The Attorney General's Annual Circular, which sets out the annual goals and priorities for the police and prosecution services, has consistently included hate crime as a priority area for more than 20 years. This means that hate crime cases, regardless of the severity, are given priority and cannot be dismissed due to capacity or other reasons within police districts.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Norway's efforts to improve understanding of patterns, the societal responses to and consequences of hate crime. In addition, ODIHR observes that Norway would benefit from ensuring that hate crimes are addressed in a comprehensive manner, including by introducing an inter-agency co-ordination mechanism.

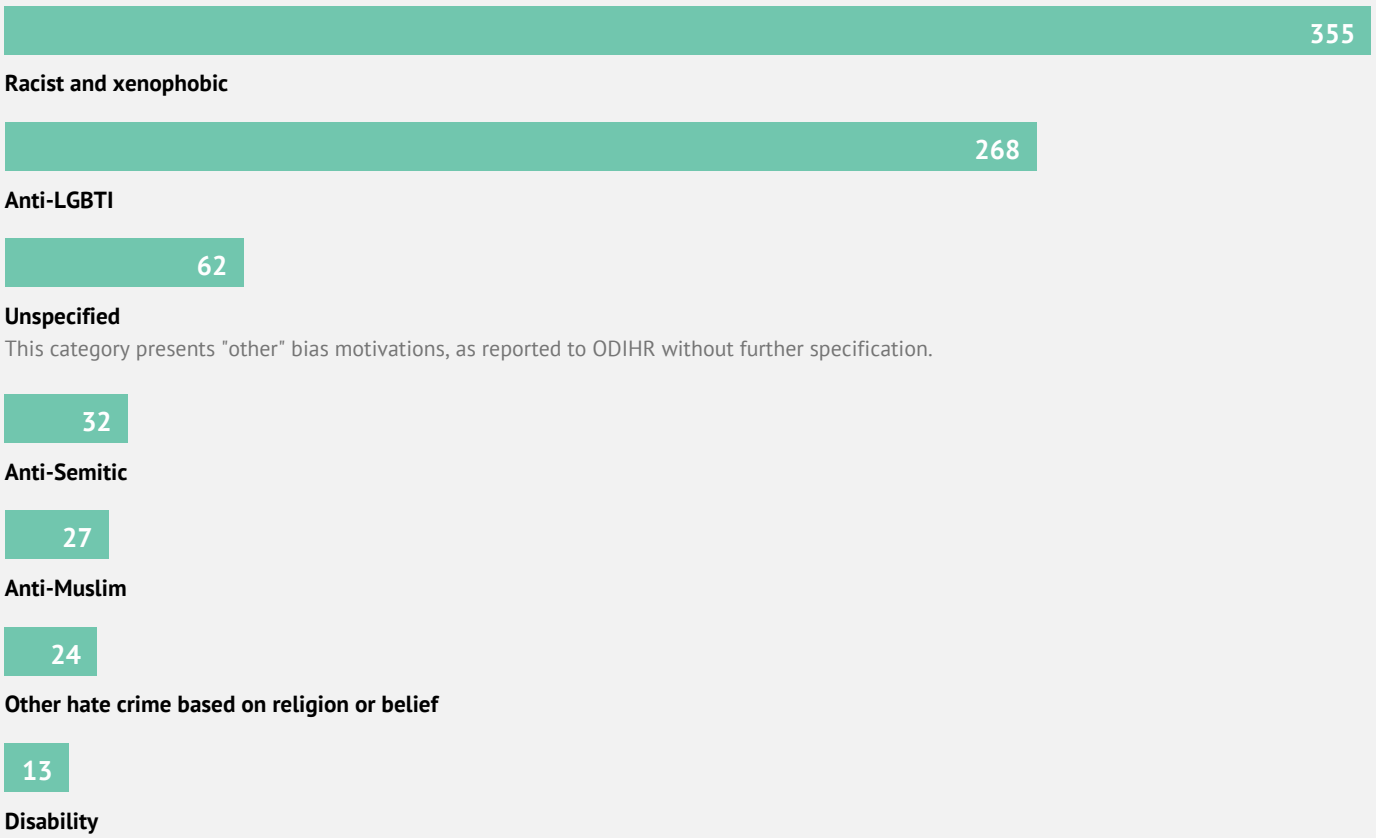
Official Data

The figures presented above exclude incidents of hate speech and discrimination, which had also been reported but fall outside the OSCE hate crime definition. This is also the likely main reason for the drop in overall numbers reported year-to-year. As such, and due to other methodological changes, yearly numbers presented here are not directly comparable. The prosecution figure is based on the numbers of cases in which suspects were charged with an offence. The sentenced figure includes all types of resolutions, excluding cases of acquittal and where the charges were dismissed.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2024	717	285	139

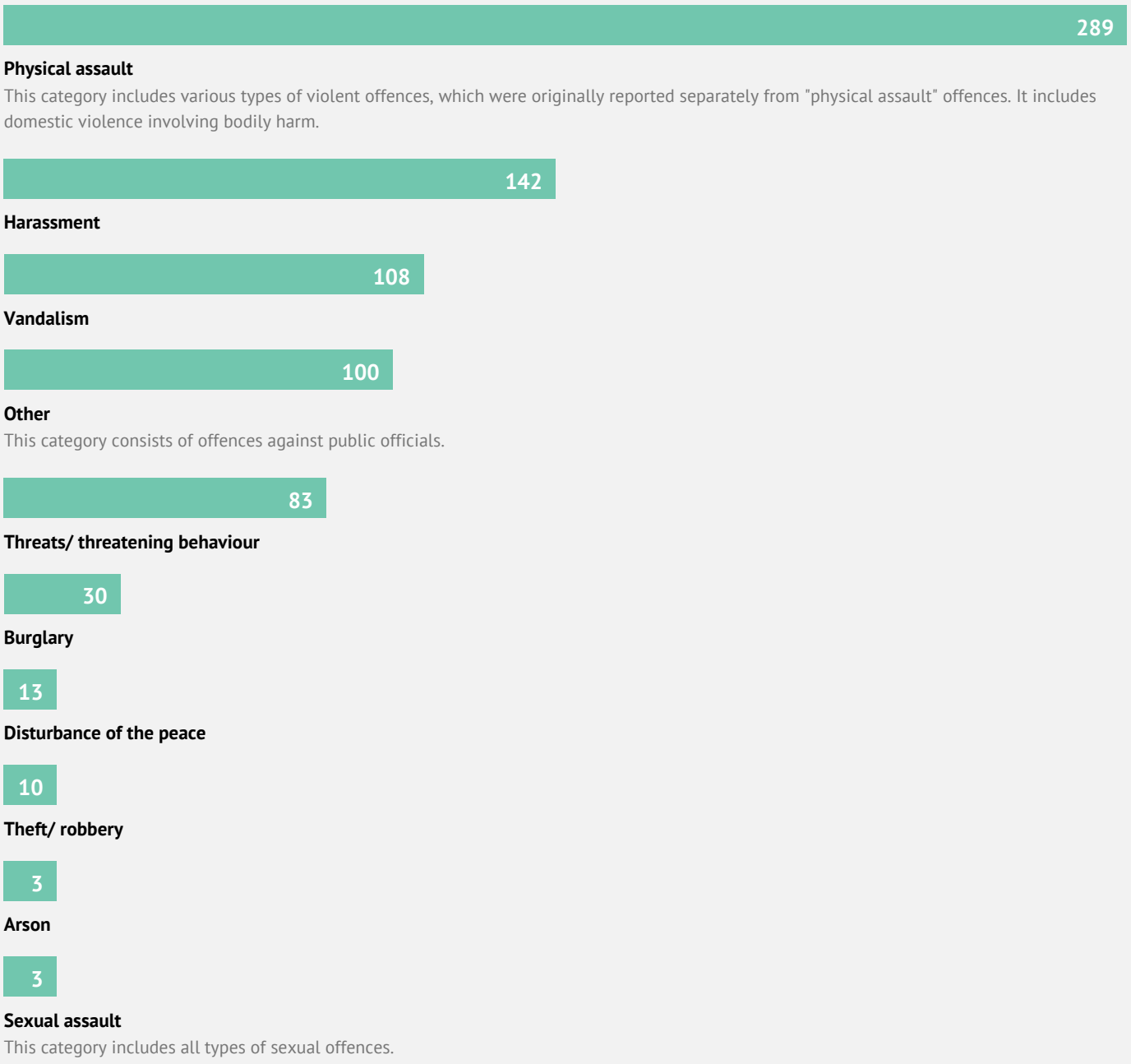
Police data by bias motivation

The breakdown below excludes offences of discrimination and hate speech, which fall outside the OSCE hate crime definition.



Police data by type of crime

The breakdown below excludes offences of discrimination and hate speech, which fall outside the OSCE hate crime definition.



National Developments

Norway is involved in a project led by C-REX - Center for Research on Extremism, called HATECYCLE: The life cycle of hate crimes – Patterns, responses and consequences. The project HATECYCLE will investigate the life cycle of hate crimes in Norway to improve understanding of its patterns, the societal responses to hate crime and their consequences, using these insights to guide more targeted prevention and intervention. More about the project in this link. The project period is from 2023 to 2026.

In 2023, dedicated hate crime contact points in all police districts were established, each with its own local network. In-person training was provided to all districts, traveling across the country to ensure a unified approach to hate crime investigations. In 2024, the focus was on following up with the districts, gathering feedback on additional training needs and areas for improvement.

Notable case:

In 2024, a notable hate crime case occurred in the South-West Police District, where a man with a disability was punched in the face. As a result, he fell and hit his head on the ground. He sustained multiple fractures in his face, skull, and bleeding in the brain. He underwent surgery at the hospital and was given a medical disability estimated at 75 to 100 per cent. After the incident, he became completely dependent on care. The case was registered as Serious Bodily Injury. The perpetrator was under 18 years old and sentenced to juvenile punishment for a duration of three years. The investigation succeeded in highlighting a hate motive and focused on this from the outset. The case received significant media attention and was covered by several online newspapers.

Incidents reported by civil society

For 2024, ODIHR received reports of hate incidents in Norway from the following civil society organizations:

- The Saami Council
- Norwegian Centre against Racism
- The Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe (OIDAC)
- European Association of Jehovah's Witnesses

To learn more about these organizations, visit the Contributors page.

All incidents submitted by the above organizations have been analysed by ODIHR. Those that were 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 2024, ODIHR received reports of 11 incidents that took place in Norway in the following bias motivation categories: racist and xenophobic, anti-Christian, anti-Muslim, and anti-LGBTI.

ODIHR observes one physical assault targeting a member of the Saami minority community in Norway. Reports of an anti-Muslim incident and a racist incident were both perpetrated by neighbours of the victims. Two incidents took place after bystanders intervened when discriminatory insults were used towards a victim. In the anti-Christian incidents reported, Jehovah's Witness congregations in Norway were targeted, including when shot at with a rifle as they entered a Kingdom Hall.

It should be noted that ODIHR did not receive any reporting on Norway relating to anti-Semitic, gender-based, or disability hate incidents, and a low number of incidents reported involved an anti-LGBTI bias. This indicates potential gaps in the information reported here.
Please note that incidents reported here are based on voluntary civil society submissions and as such might not reflect the actual number of incidents or the most targeted communities in Norway.

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

To export an Excel sheet with summaries of all incidents from Norway click here and search by year and country.

View civil society incidents for Norway, 2024