OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2014 Hate Crime Report.
For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/poland

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

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Summary

Poland regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Several public bodies – including the Police and the Prosecutor's Office – are involved in hate crime monitoring and/or data collection. Hate crime data are regularly published.

There is a high degree of hate crime specialization in both police and prosecutor structures. More than 100 specialist hate crime prosecutors have been appointed, and a network of hate crime co-ordinators was established within the police in 2014. In 2015, following a request by the lower house of parliament, ODIHR provided a legislative review of proposed changes to the Criminal Code of Poland, including hate crime provisions.

In 2023, Polish police participated in a three-day train-the-trainer workshop as part of ODIHR's Training Against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE). In 2018, the Ministry of the Interior, ODIHR and the EU Fundamental Rights Agency co-organized a workshop on understanding and improving hate crime recording and data collection based on ODIHR's Information Against Hate Crimes Toolkit (INFAHCT) programme. In 2019, ODIHR co-operated with the Commissioner for Human Rights in Poland to issue a report on the nature and scale of unreported hate crimes against members of selected communities in Poland. In 2016, Polish prosecutors participated in a three-day train-the-trainer workshop as part of ODIHR's Prosecutors and Hate Crime (PAHCT) programme.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

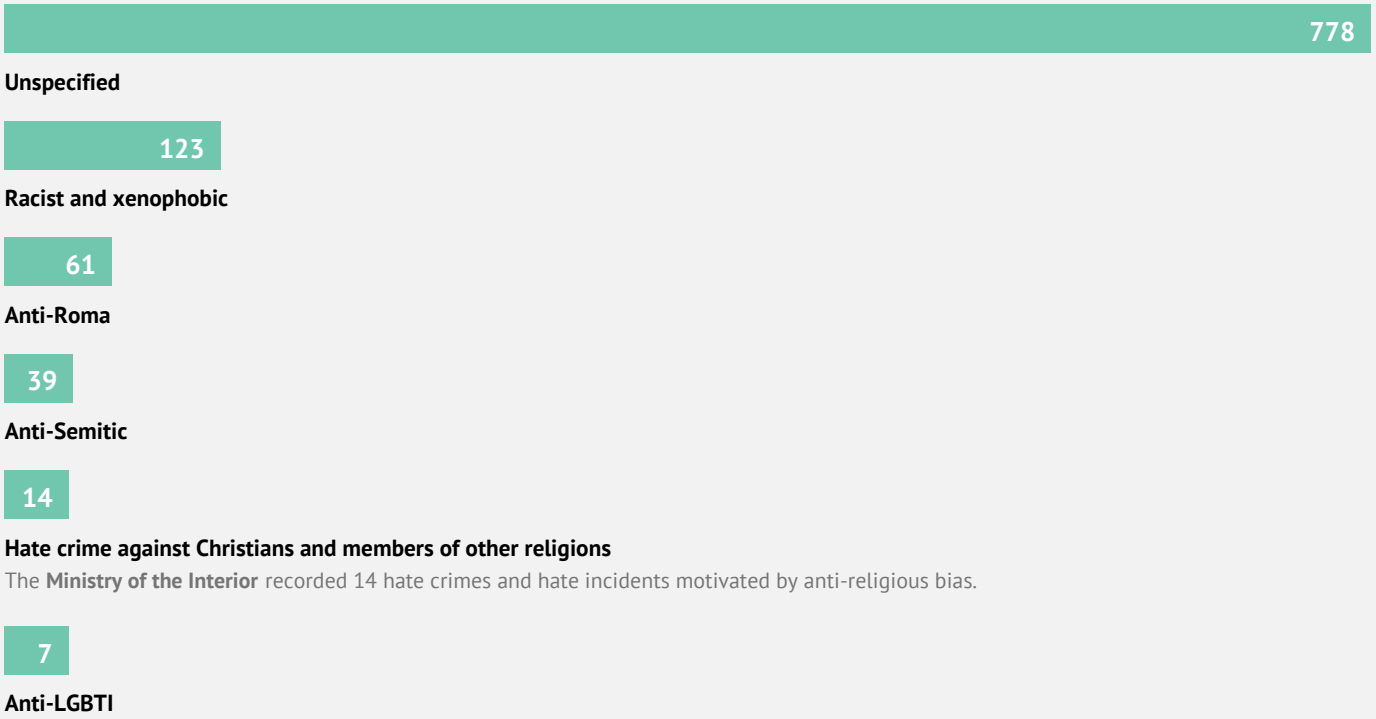
ODIHR observes that Poland has not reported on hate crimes separately from cases of hate speech.

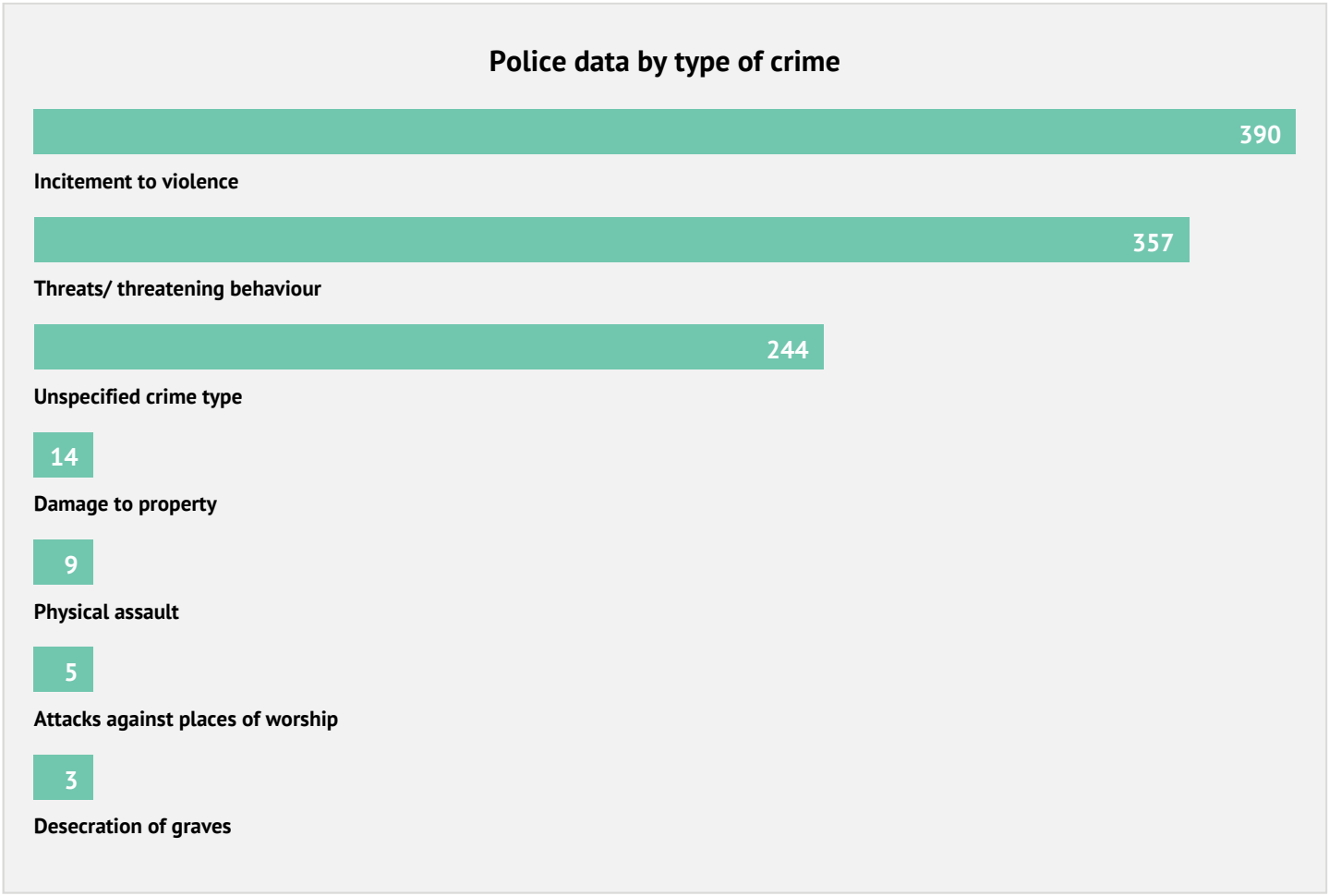
Official Data

Two sets of data are reported to ODIHR: the overall number of hate crimes is provided by the police and disaggregated by type of crime, but not by bias motivation (presented in the “unspecified” bias motivation section below). The Ministry of the Interior reports a number of hate crimes disaggregated by bias motivation, but not by type of crime. Most of the cases recorded by the Ministry of the Interior are included in the overall figure (although due to technical limitations, these are also displayed separately below). Reported data include crimes of incitement to hatred and discrimination cases.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2014	778	179	127

Police data by bias motivation




Police data by type of crime
390
Incitement to violence
357
Threats/ threatening behaviour
244
Unspecified crime type
14
Damage to property
9
Physical assault
5
Attacks against places of worship
3
Desecration of graves

National Developments

The **Polish Police** continued providing training workshops on hate crime for police officers as part of ODIHR's TAHCLE programme.

The **Criminal Service Bureau**, **Voivodship police headquarters** and **Metropolitan Police Headquarters** appointed hate crime co-ordinators in local police units. The co-ordinators compile monthly updates on hate crime investigations and submit them to the **Criminal Service Bureau** of **General Police Headquarters**.

The **Voivodship police headquarters** and **Metropolitan Police Headquarters** established specialized units for combating cybercrime, based on a model of the Cybercrime Unit of the General Police Headquarters. The new units' specialists monitor Internet websites to identify cases of hate speech, which can constitute crimes in Poland.

The **General Police Headquarters** launched a Platform against Hate, which gathers the representatives of the police, public institutions and nongovernmental organizations. Representatives of the **Ministry of the Interior**, the **Ombudsman's Office**, the **Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment Office**, the **Ministry of Justice**, representatives of the police from **General Police Headquarters** and from local police units and civil society groups attend Platform meetings. The aim of the Platform is to exchange the experiences and develop best practices when countering hate crimes.

The **Ministry of the Interior** carried out a nationwide information campaign called "Racism. Say it to fight it!", aimed at increasing awareness and reporting of hate crimes. The campaign launched a website that includes a reporting form. Leaflets and TV spots were also prepared and a conference organized as part of the campaign.

The **General Prosecutor's Office** launched two sets of guidelines for prosecutors in 2014. The Guidelines on conducting proceedings in hate crime cases contains guidance on how to investigate hate crimes correctly, and what steps - other than based on the Penal Code - should be undertaken by prosecutors in hate crime cases. The guidelines also deal with recording information about hate crime prosecutions. Prosecutors have also received the new Guidelines on hate crimes committed via the Internet. Their main aim is to unify practice in investigation and prosecution of these types of hate crime and hate speech cases.

Incidents reported by civil society

No data reported to ODIHR.

View civil society incidents for Poland, 2014