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/romania

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

2025

Summary

Romania regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. The Ministry of Administration and Interior, the Police, the Prosecutor's Office and the Superior Council of Magistracy collect hate crime data.

Amendments to the Criminal Code introduced in 2023 set out the constituent elements of hate crimes and the protected grounds therein.

In 2016, Romania implemented ODIHR's Training Against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) Programme. A specialized hate crime unit was created in the Romanian Police in 2021.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Romania's efforts to further develop the capacity of law enforcement and criminal justice professionals to identify, investigate and prosecute hate crimes. However, based on the available information, it observes that Romania has not reported data on hate crimes recorded by the judiciary to ODIHR, and that Romania's hate crime recording and statistics do not sufficiently distinguish hate crimes from other crimes. In addition, ODIHR observes that Romania would benefit from ensuring that hate crimes are addressed in a comprehensive manner, including by introducing a co-ordination mechanism.

Official Data

Police figures represent the number of hate crime cases recorded. Police recorded a further 302 incitement speech offences that were excluded as they fall outside the OSCE hate crime definition. Police also recorded a number of speech crimes and crimes committed on the basis of political opinion or social origin that could not be disaggregated and are therefore in included in the total figure. Prosecution figures represent the total number of hate crimes pending in the prosecutor's offices as of 31 December 2025. A further 471 cases registered by the prosecution authorities and reported to ODIHR fall outside the OSCE definition of a hate crime. Figures on the sentencing of cases committed with a bias motive (according to Article 77 (h) of the Criminal Code) are not available due to ongoing developments in the judicial statistics IT system.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2025	190	388	not available

Police data by bias motivation

A total of 115 offences were excluded from the breakdown below, including incidents of hate speech and the establishment of an organization with a fascist, racist or xenophobic character, all of which fall outside the OSCE hate crime definition.



Unspecified

This category includes one case motivated by bias based on social origin, and 21 cases committed based on the perpetrator's perception of the victim's inferiority in relation to others.



Racist and xenophobic



Anti-Christian



Anti-LGBTI



Anti-Roma



Anti-Semitic



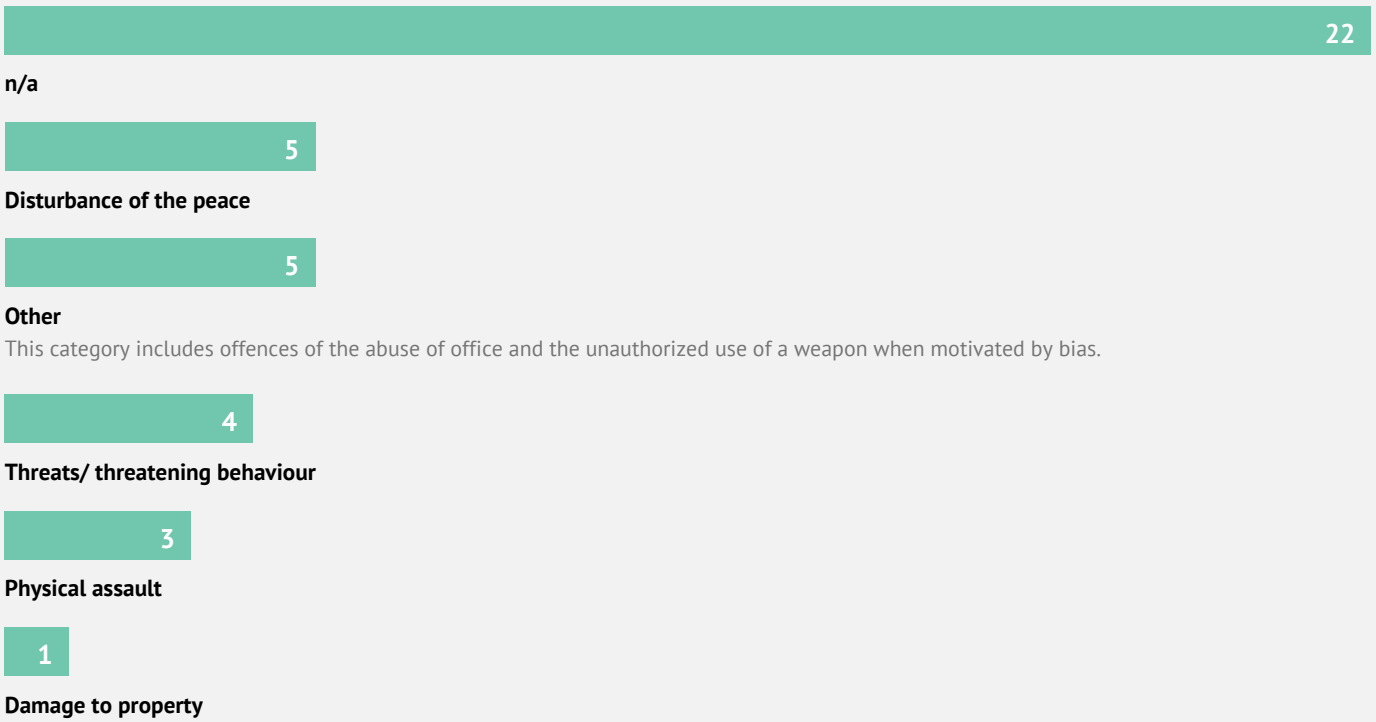
Disability



Other hate crime based on religion or belief

Police data by type of crime

A total of 115 offences were excluded from the breakdown below, including incidents of hate speech and the establishment of an organization with a fascist, racist or xenophobic character, all of which fall outside the OSCE hate crime definition.



National Developments

On 23 December 2025, Law No. 157/2018 on measures to prevent and combat anti-Semitism was amended (Law No. 241/2025) in order to update and strengthen the definitions of prohibited materials, extend the scope of existing offences to the online environment, and refine key concepts. Law No. 241/2025 also addresses contemporary forms of hate-motivated conduct by including statutory definitions of anti-Semitic materials and of the Legionary Movement (a far-right, fascist, and ultranationalist political movement active in Romania from the 1920s to the early 1940s).

Romania is currently implementing the Strategy for the Inclusion of Romanian Citizens Belonging to the Roma Minority (2022–2027). The Strategy addresses anti-Roma attitudes as a driver of hate crime, noting an increase in the number of discrimination cases recorded by the National Council for Combating Discrimination (CNCD) and adjudicated by the courts, as well as a growing awareness of and confidence in national protection mechanisms.

Implementation of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Antisemitism, Xenophobia, Radicalization and Hate Speech (2024–2027) also continued in 2025. The Strategy's Action Plan ensures the continued activities of a Working Group set up to assess the threat levels posed by anti-Semitism, xenophobia, radicalization and hate speech to at-risk groups. The Working Group meets once every quarter or as required. Annual monitoring reports on the implementation of the Strategy, together with the reports of the Threat Assessment Working Group, are to be used to assess the extent to which the Strategy has produced positive changes across all strategic areas by the end of 2027.
In 2025, the Prosecutor's Office of the High Court of Cassation and Justice continued to raise awareness both within the judiciary and society as a whole regarding the impact of discrimination, particularly on members of at-risk communities. These efforts followed on from the successful completion in 2024 of a project carried out by the Prosecutor's Office in partnership with the ACCEPT Association to implement the case law of the European Court of Human Rights in relation to discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

In 2025, officers from the Hate Crime Investigation Unit delivered two dedicated training sessions at the Alexandru Ioan Cuza Police Academy, aimed at the 2nd and 3rd year students of the Faculty of Police. These sessions provided future police officers with practical information on identifying, recording and investigating hate crimes, thereby integrating operational expertise into pre-service law enforcement education.

During 2025, prosecutors from the Prosecutor's Office of the High Court of Cassation and Justice and its subordinate units participated in national-level hate crime training activities – conducted through the National Institute of Magistracy (INM) – while regional hate crime training activities were conducted at the level of the prosecutor's offices of the courts of appeal.

Thus, in 2025 the INM organized a training programme on combating discrimination, which focused on investigating hate crimes, issues related to hate speech and hate crimes, and combating anti-Semitism and (promoting) non-discrimination against members of the LGBTI community. As part of this initiative, the INM also continued its series of online training activities with the support of the "Elie Wiesel" National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania, and in 2025 organized an event titled 'Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust – history, memory and legislation'.

The INM also co-ordinated a training session on hate crimes at the seat of the Prosecutor's Office of the Brașov Court of Appeal, attended by 45 prosecutors.

Throughout 2025, the topic of hate crime was included in the following in-service learning activities carried out within regional prosecutor's offices of the courts of appeal and their subordinate units:

A training course on hate crimes at the seat of the Prosecutor's Office of the Oradea Court of Appeal;
A training session on "Preventing and combating domestic violence and gender discrimination, as well as sexual harassment in the workplace", which also addressed hate crimes. The session trained 46 participants, including prosecutors from the Prosecutor's Office of the Brașov Court of Appeal and its subordinate units, as well as criminal investigation bodies from the Brașov and Covasna County Police Inspectorates;
A training session on "Handling cases involving offences of incitement to hatred or discrimination". The session was held at the seat of the Prosecutor's Office of the Craiova Court of Appeal and was attended by 20 prosecutors; and
A training event on the theoretical aspects of incitement to violence, hatred or discrimination (Articles 368 and 369 of the Criminal Code). The event was held at the seat of the Prosecutor's Office of the Arad Tribunal and was attended by 11 prosecutors.
During 2025, combating hate crimes was a priority for the Public Ministry, with several high-profile cases being brought to trial, garnering significant media and public attention.
With regards offences under Law No. 157/2018 – on measures to prevent and combat anti-Semitism – compared to 2024, 2025 saw an increase of 63.6 per cent in cases pending resolution, 140 per cent in cases resolved, and five cases brought to trial (through indictments and plea agreements) compared to no cases brought to trial in the previous year. A further five defendants in cases under Law No. 157/2018 were brought to trial compared to no defendants brought to trial in the previous year.

Incidents reported by civil society

For 2025, ODIHR received reports of hate incidents in Romania from the UNHCR as part of the Office's ongoing monitoring in the OSCE region.

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 racist and xenophobic incidents that took place in Romania targeting Ukrainian and Moldovan persons and property. 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 Romania.

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 Romania click here.

View civil society incidents for Romania, 2025