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/serbia

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

2025

Summary

Serbia regularly reports data on hate crimes to ODIHR. In 2018, the Office of the Prosecutor General, with the support of the OSCE Mission to Serbia and ODIHR, developed *Guidelines for the prosecution of hate crimes in the Republic of Serbia*. A network of contact persons working on hate crime within the prosecution services was established and, with the OSCE Mission's assistance, Serbia's Judicial Academy has developed, integrated and implemented a hate crime training plan and programme.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Serbia's efforts to regularly report hate crime information and statistics to ODIHR. However, based on the available information, it observes that Serbia's recording and statistics do not sufficiently distinguish hate crimes from other crimes, while the bias motivations of hate crimes are not recorded. In addition, ODIHR observes that Serbia would benefit from building the capacity of police, prosecutors and judges to address hate crimes.

Official Data

The above figures were provided by the public prosecution and refer to the number of reported, indicted and convicted persons, not the number of criminal acts. The above figures include offences of incitement to hatred, defamation, violence in sports and discrimination/the violation of equality. Most of these offences fall outside the OSCE's hate crime definition but could not be deducted from the total number as the data were not disaggregated according to ODIHR's criminal offence categories.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2025	76	13	11

National Developments

On 3-4 July and 11-12 September 2025, two workshops on the criminal prosecution of hate crimes were held for public prosecutors and judges from the basic and higher public prosecution offices and courts.

In November 2025, a consultative meeting was held to analyse the need for amendments to the 2018 *Guidelines for the criminal prosecution of hate crimes in the Republic of Serbia*. The meeting was organized by the Judicial Academy with the support of the OSCE Mission to Serbia. The meeting participants agreed on the need to amend and expand the existing Guidelines in line with changes to the national and international legal framework, the latest case law of the European Court of Human Rights, as well as recommendations arising from an analysis of the implementation of the Guidelines, including the need for practical examples of the decisions made by the competent public prosecutors and courts. A working group is expected to draft amendments and extensions to the Guidelines in 2026, with the support of the OSCE Mission to Serbia.

Incidents reported by civil society

For 2025, ODIHR received reports of hate incidents in Serbia from the following civil society organizations:

- Association Da se zna!
- European Association of Jehovah's Witnesses
- Federation of Jewish Communities in Serbia (SJOS)
- Helsinki Committee for Human Rights Skopje
- International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF)
- Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe (OIDAC)

To learn more about these organizations, 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 52 hate incidents that took place in Serbia targeting a total of 72 victims in the following bias motivation categories: anti-Christian, anti-LGBTI, anti-Muslim, anti-Roma, anti-Semitic, gender-based, and racist and xenophobic. Several incidents involving both anti-LGBTI *and* gender-based bias motivations were also reported.

ODIHR observes that 80 per cent of incidents reported were motivated by anti-LGBTI bias, and involved threats, harassment or violent attacks against mostly male victims. While several incidents occurred in the context of LGBTI Pride events and were committed by organized hate groups, many incidents involved the targeting of LGBTI persons in public spaces.

It should be noted that ODIHR did **not** receive any reporting related to disability and other religion or belief hate incidents in Serbia, and a low level of reporting related to anti-Christian, anti-Muslim, anti-Roma, anti-Semitic and racist and xenophobic hate incidents. 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 do not reflect the actual number of incidents or the most targeted communities in Serbia.

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 Serbia click here.

View civil society incidents for Serbia, 2025