OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2013 Hate Crime Report.
For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/sweden

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

1 2013

Summary

Sweden regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Hate crime reports are published every second year. Since 2016, the Government has implemented a national plan against racism, similar forms of hostility and hate crime. The plan takes an integrated approach and comprises strategies and measures to prevent and combat racism and hate crime through co-ordination and monitoring, education and research, and support for and co-operation with civil society. A new Action Plan to Combat Racism and Hate Crimes was launched in December 2024.

Three different victimization surveys are conducted at one, two and three-year intervals in order to measure unreported hate crime.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

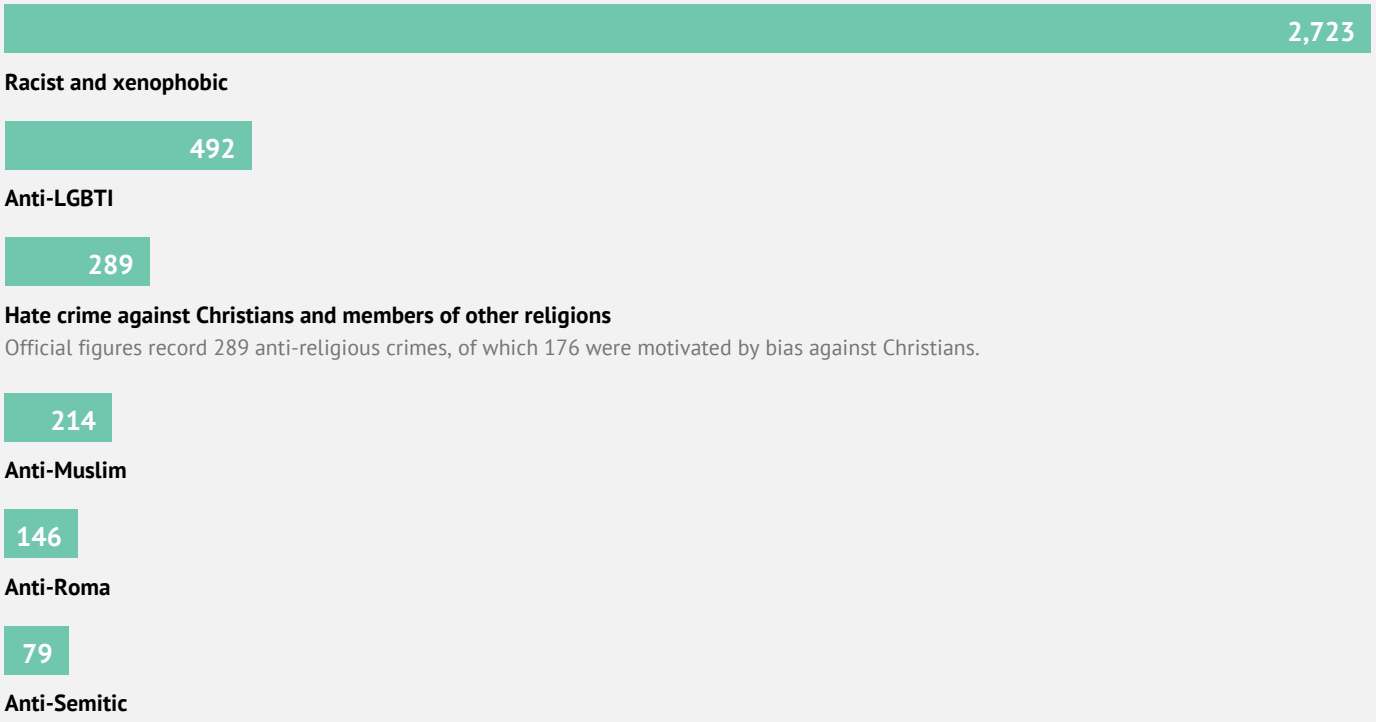
ODIHR observes that Sweden has not reported information on sentenced hate crime cases to ODIHR.

Official Data

Figure reported to ODIHR comprised estimated 5508 police reports. This number included incidents related to defamation, hate speech, and unlawful discrimination. A number displayed represents only hate crimes according to OSCE definition. A year-to-year drop in police number displayed here is thus due to improved separation of hate crimes from other cases.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2013	3,943	161	not available

Police data by bias motivation



Police data by type of crime



Threats/ threatening behaviour

Includes crimes that are officially categorized as 'unlawful threats and non-sexual molestation.'



Physical assault

Includes a selection of crimes of a violent nature: homicide, assault and violence against a public servant.



Vandalism

Includes crimes that are officially categorized as criminal damage/graffiti.



Unspecified crime type

This category includes a selection of other hate crimes besides those mentioned above. For example: malpractice, crimes against the Personal Data Act, unlawful deprivation of liberty and interference in a judicial matter.

National Developments

The **Swedish Prosecution Authority** commissioned the development of an improved methodology for the identification and tracking of hate crimes in the judicial and law enforcement systems. The new methodology should improve pre-trial investigations and increase prosecution rates.

In 2013, the **Swedish Police** issued an inspection report on the ability of police authorities to detect and investigate hate crimes, including recommendations for the future. The **Police Authority of Jönköping County**, together with the local municipality, organized a public panel discussion on hate crimes to raise awareness and increase reporting rates. The **Police Authority of Norrbotten County** has also worked to raise awareness among potential victims about hate crimes and their rights.

Approximately 20 municipalities were actively engaged in the work of a network of municipalities put together by the **Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions**. Best practices among municipalities in combating hate crimes are shared within the network and published in a report.

The **Swedish Association for Victim Support** worked with more than 90 local hate crime victim-support organizations on collecting hate crime data. Data on incidents were compiled in a report that identified 279 hate-motivated incidents. The **Swedish Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority** provided funding to Malmö University to conduct a comparative research study on exposure to and experience with hate crimes, which will compare the situation among students in the United Kingdom and in Sweden. The **Anti-Discrimination Bureau** in Uppsala continued its project "Web presence" by training 790 persons from schools and non-governmental organizations on Internet hate. The project enables online reporting of Internet hate crimes, resulting in 111 reports being received and forwarded to police in 2013.

Incidents reported by civil society

No data reported to ODIHR.

View civil society incidents for Sweden, 2013