OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2022 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 2022

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 recognizes Sweden's efforts to report its hate crime information to ODIHR. However, based on the available information, it observes that Sweden has not reported data on hate crimes recorded by the judiciary to ODIHR. ODIHR recognizes Sweden's efforts to address hate crime in a comprehensive manner. ODIHR's main observation on data collection will be added here after the data for 2022 is submitted to ODIHR in December 2023. Otherwise, ODIHR observes that Sweden has met most of its OSCE commitments on hate crime.

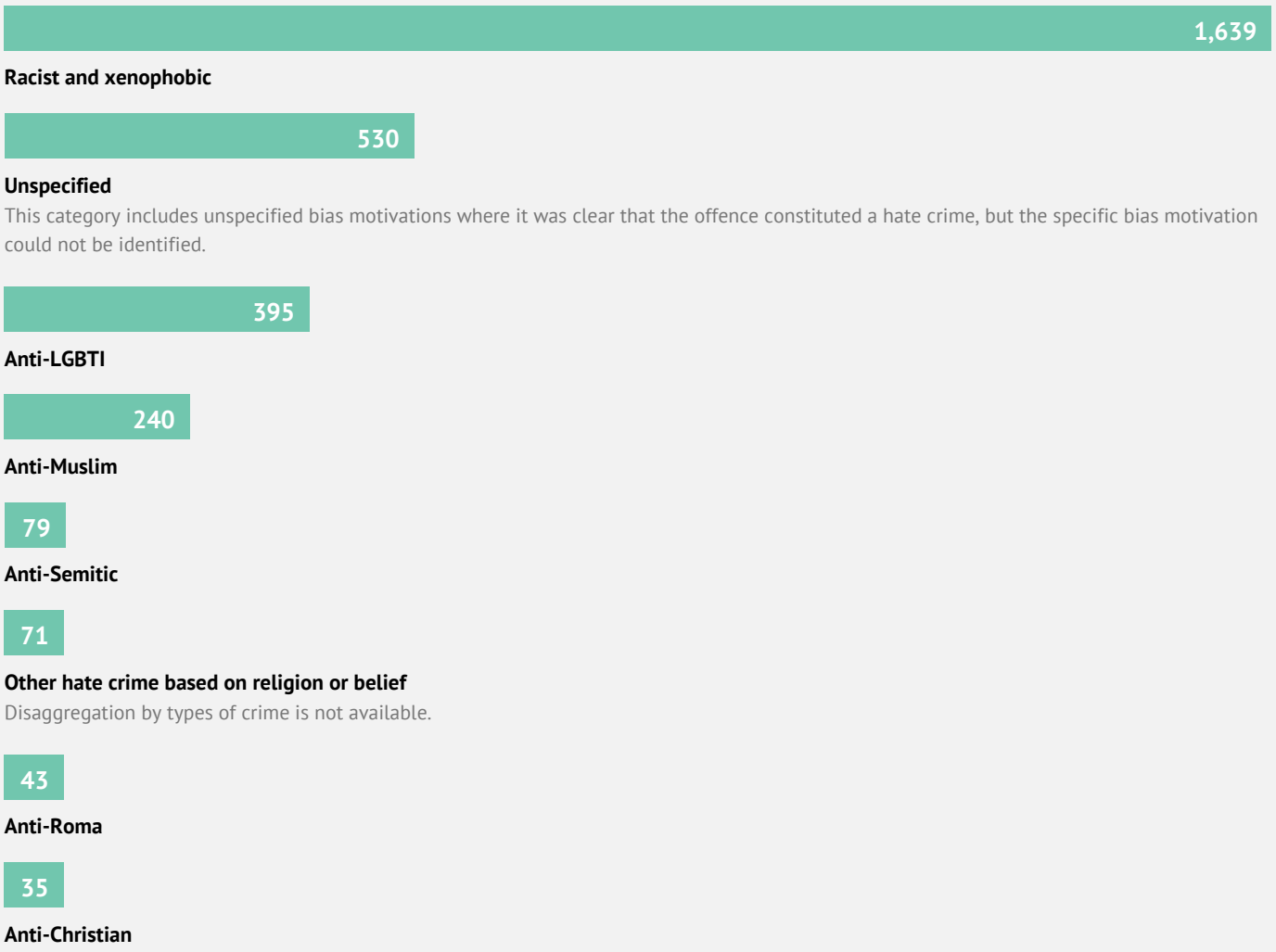
Official Data

Sweden reports hate crime statistics every second year. The national hate crime data for 2022 was published in December 2023, after the launch of the 2022 HCR. A total of 3,709 cases were recorded by police, including 559 offences that fall outside of the OSCE definition of hate crime and are not presented here. The cases reported include crimes where hate was identified as the underlying motive. In 2020, Sweden's National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) used a different data selection methodology for hate crime statistics. Therefore, these statistics are not comparable with those submitted by Brå in previous years. The prosecution figures show the number of prosecuted hate crimes as of May 31, 2023, of the hate crimes that were reported in 2020.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2022	2,695	213	not available

Police data by bias motivation

The breakdown below presents records referring to bias motivations and may include offences that fall outside the OSCE's hate crime definition. A number of offences involved more than one bias motivation.



Police data by type of crime

The breakdown below presents records referring to bias motivations and may include offences that fall outside the OSCE's hate crime definition. A number of offences involved more than one bias motivation.



Unspecified crime type

This category includes the offences of harassment, defamation, and unlawful violations of freedom and integrity, and defamation, among others. Such offences fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime but could not be disaggregated.



Other

This category includes the offences of harassment, defamation, and unlawful violations of freedom and integrity, and defamation, among others. Such offences fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime but could not be disaggregated.



Threats/ threatening behaviour



Physical assault



Damage to property

National Developments

In 2022, the **Swedish Police Authority** worked to improve its capacity to address hate crime, launched social media campaigns related to hate crimes, established stronger links between the police and religious communities, and tightened co-operation with the municipal police and the Security Service as part of "Redex" – a network of regional intelligence-oriented teams tasked with reducing extremism by flagging individuals of interest in hate crime cases. The Police also co-operated as part of special councils aimed at exchanging information on hate crimes and building trust with victimized communities.

In November 2022, the **Swedish Prosecution Authority** (*Åklagarmyndigheten*) held a conference for specialized hate crime prosecutors from across the country to exchange experiences.

The **Prosecution Development Centre** issued guidelines on how to investigate hate crimes.

The **Swedish Crime Victim Authority** (*Brottsoffermyndigheten*) celebrated the International day of Crime Victims by highlighting new research in the area and providing in-depth knowledge about the situation and rights of crime victims, including hate crime victims. It also provided financial support to civil society organizations specializing in hate crimes.

The **Public Health Agency of Sweden** (*Folkhälsomyndigheten*) has launched research projects related to intersectional discrimination and hate crimes against members of victimized groups infected with HIV, bisexual people, members of the indigenous populations and national minorities.

The **Living History Forum** – a public agency established under the **Ministry of Culture** – continued to support the implementation of Sweden's "National plan against racism, similar forms of hostility and hate crimes" by co-ordinating the government's network of experts. The **Police Authority**, in co-operation with the **Living History Forum** organized an awareness-raising online seminar for police officers, focusing on anti-Semitic expressions and symbols. The Forum also ran research, educational (including with the **Swedish National Agency for Education**), awareness-raising and capacity-building projects.

The **Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions** (SKR) continued to implement a programme on countering hate crimes and offering conflict management tools at a local level.

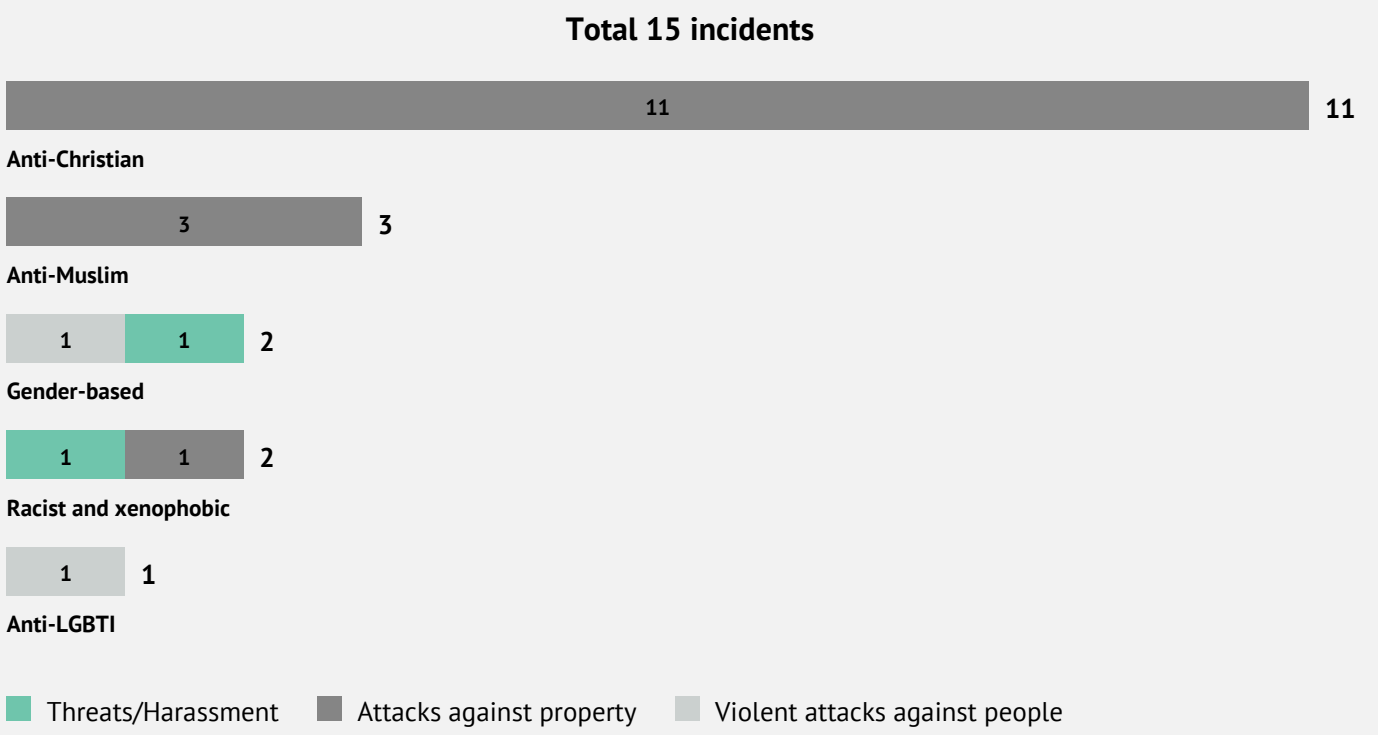
The **National Board of Health and Welfare** (*Socialstyrelsen*) devoted its financial support to organizations that provide support to LGBTI people who have experienced intimate partner violence and undertake awareness-raising activities.

The **Swedish Media Council** (*Statens Mediaråd*) continued its awareness-raising efforts to prevent hate crimes.

The **Swedish Agency for Support for Faith Communities** (*Myndigheten för stöd till Trossamfund*), co-operated with the **Swedish Police** and **Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency** (MSB) on community safety issues, and worked on projects to raise awareness of anti-Muslim hate.

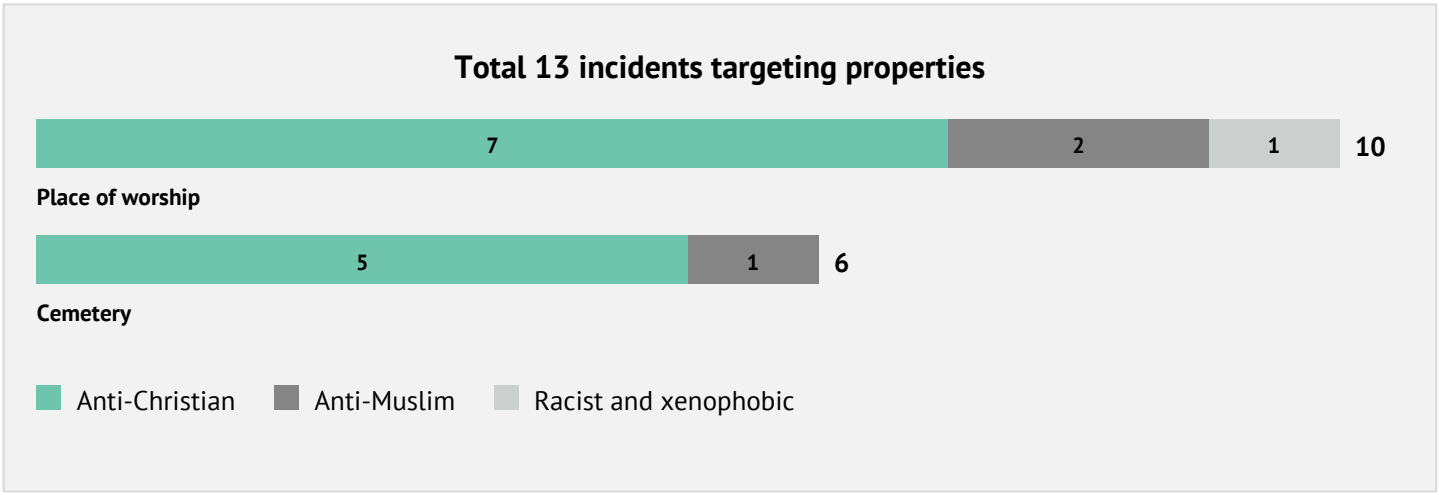
The **Swedish Defence Research Agency** has been tasked with research on the prevalence of different forms of racism in digital environments in relation to Sweden. As of 2022, it has conducted a permanent survey and analysis of violent extremism and racism in digital environments.

Incidents reported by civil society

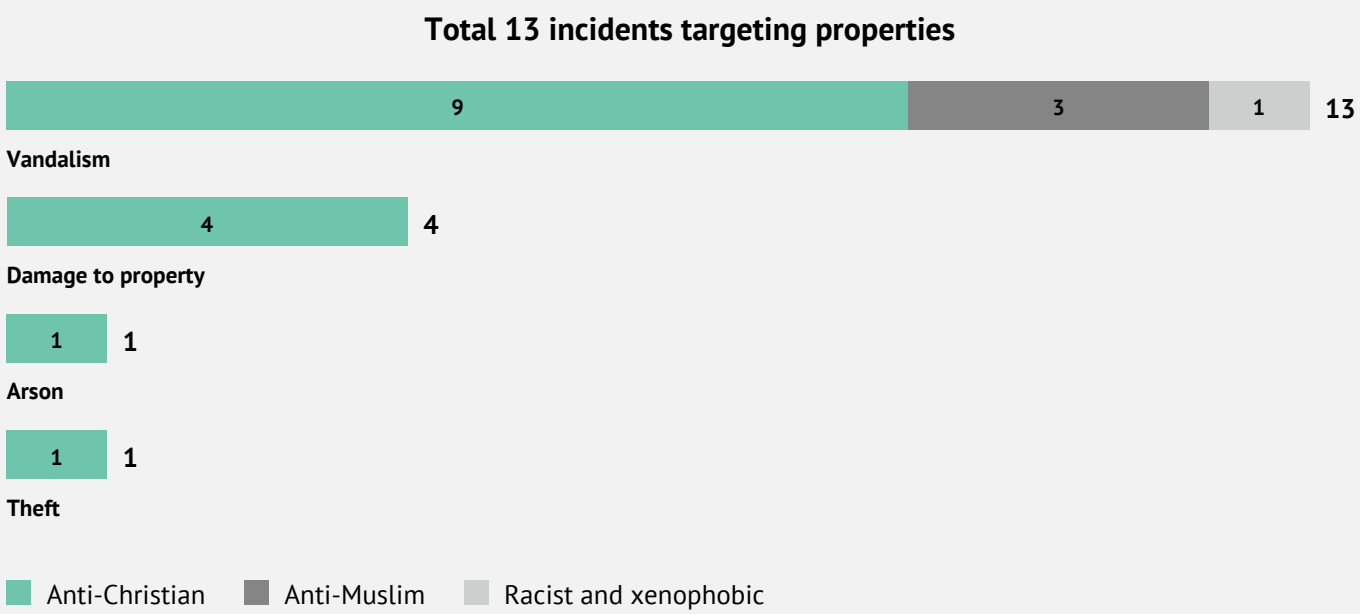


Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Sweden, 2022