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/switzerland

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

2025

Summary

Switzerland regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Switzerland's Criminal Code contains no hate crime provision, and hate crimes are addressed under anti-discrimination criminal provisions. The Federal Commission against Racism partners with the association 'humanrights.ch' in the Counselling Network for Victims of Racism, which publishes annual analytical reports on cases of racism reported to the Network.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Switzerland's efforts to report hate crime information and statistics to ODIHR. However, based on the available information, it observes that Switzerland's recording does not sufficiently distinguish hate crimes from other crimes, law enforcement agencies do not record the bias motivation of hate crimes, and Switzerland has not reported data on hate crimes recorded by the prosecution to ODIHR. In addition, ODIHR observes that Switzerland would benefit from reviewing the existing legal framework to ensure that bias motivations are effectively acknowledged and appropriate penalties can be imposed on the perpetrators.

Official Data

The above figures consist of offences registered by police as well as convictions relating to Article 261bis of the Swiss Criminal Code (Discrimination and Incitement to Hatred). Therefore, the numbers include offences that fall outside the OSCE hate crime definition. Disaggregation of police data by bias motive is not available. A breakdown of sentencing judgments by bias motivation was reported to ODIHR.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2025	566	not available	118

National Developments

Based on a parliamentary postulate, a survey was conducted on the recording of specifically racist incidents and racist hate crime. A follow-up report was published in August 2025, and confirms the general need for action in the recording of racist incidents and hate crime. In particular, the report found that "[…] Police forces differ in how systematically they refer crimes under the discrimination provision (Art. 261bis of the Swiss Criminal Code) to the public prosecutor's office, what characteristics they record about these crimes […], and to what extent they record hate motives in other crimes and conduct training on how to record them. A more uniform, systematic, and comprehensive recording of racist incidents by the police would provide important insights into crimes with racist motives. […]."

The Federal Council decided that several measures should be implemented from 2026 onwards to improve the monitoring of hate crimes. These measures will be included in the National Action Plan against Racism and Anti-Semitism, which is currently being developed by the Federal Service for Combatting Racism. The strategy underlining the National Action Plan was presented in December 2025.

Notable case:

In August 2024, a 19-year-old Orthodox Jewish man was attacked in Davos by two men, aged 24 and 29. The perpetrators followed him, punched him in the face and shouted anti-Semitic statements. In March 2025, the Graubünden Public Prosecutor's Office convicted both men of racial discrimination and imposed two-month suspended prison sentences. The conviction of the 29-year-old became final, while the other defendant appealed.

Incidents reported by civil society

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

- Consultation Network for the Victims of Racism, humanrights.ch
- European Association of Jehovah's Witnesses
- International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF)
- LGBTIQ Helpline
- Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe (OIDAC)
- Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities (SIG)

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 143 hate incidents that took place in Switzerland targeting a total of 185 victims in the anti-Christian, anti-LGBTI, anti-Muslim, anti-Roma, anti-Semitic, gender-based and racist and xenophobic bias motivation categories. Almost one quarter of incidents involved multiple biases, mostly anti-LGBTI *and* gender-based, but also racist and xenophobic *and* anti-Muslim.

ODIHR observes that the majority of incidents were motivated by anti-LGBTI bias and involved threats, harassment, and physical and sexual assaults mostly targeting gay men, but also transgender, lesbian and non-binary persons. The incidents often occurred in public spaces and in the context of LGBTI Pride and other events, and involved degrading behaviour such as spitting, intrusive questions, and discriminatory insults. In addition, a significant number of racist and xenophobic incidents were reported, mostly violent attacks targeting Black, Asian, and refugee victims, including a number of incidents perpetrated in victim's neighbourhoods, on public transport and in schools.

ODIHR also received reports of several anti-Semitic incidents, mostly threats but also physical assaults against visibly Jewish people, including Orthodox Jews and the owners of Jewish businesses. The anti-Muslim incidents reported to ODIHR involved property attacks targeting community centres, as well as physical assaults and threats against Muslims in public-facing roles.

It should be noted that ODIHR did **not** receive any reporting on Switzerland relating to disability and other religion or belief hate incidents, and received a low level of reporting related to anti-Roma hate incidents. This indicates potential gaps in the information reported here.

In addition, one reporting organization submitted 27 statistical incidents motivated by anti-Semitism for which descriptions are not available in the tables below, including 25 attacks against property and 2 incidents involving violent attacks against people.

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 Switzerland.

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 Switzerland click here.

View civil society incidents for Switzerland, 2025