Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2015 Hate Crime Report.
For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/united-kingdom

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

1 2015

Summary

The United Kingdom regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR.

Authorities collaborate closely with civil society, including through Information Sharing Agreements concluded between the police and the Community Security Trust (CST), Galop and Tell MAMA, which enable the exchange of recorded data about incidents. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) regularly convenes an external consultation group (ECG) on hate crime, whose members include community organizations, victim advocacy groups, academics with relevant expertise and others. ECG members scrutinize CPS policies and practices, and suggest where improvements can be made.

In Northern Ireland, the Department of Justice chairs a multi-agency Hate Crime Delivery Group (HCDG) to identify strategic, cross-governmental priorities and develop new approaches to dealing with hate crime. The group meets quarterly and includes representatives of government departments, criminal justice agencies and victim groups. The Department of Justice and Northern Ireland Policing Board jointly fund Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) to engage and consult with the local community, and work with local partners to identify and prioritize local community safety and policing issues and develop initiatives and projects to address these.

In Scotland, there is Independent Police Advisory Council (IPAC). The IPAC sits at a strategic level, acting as a critical friend and partner to support Police Scotland to deliver sustainable improvements to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Human Rights outcomes across the service. The Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 became an Act of Parliament on 23 April 2021. The Act entered into force on 1 April 2024.

The UK's College of Policing has developed guidelines for police on responding to hate crime, and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has issued relevant guidance for prosecutors and published public policy statements on particular hate crime strands.

Police and prosecution data, which cover the reporting period from April to March of the following year, are regularly published by the relevant criminal justice agencies of England and Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Hate crime data collection in the United Kingdom
Support for hate crime victims in the United Kingdom
Hate crime capacity building in the United Kingdom
The United Kingdom's hate crime legislation

ODIHR's Key Observation

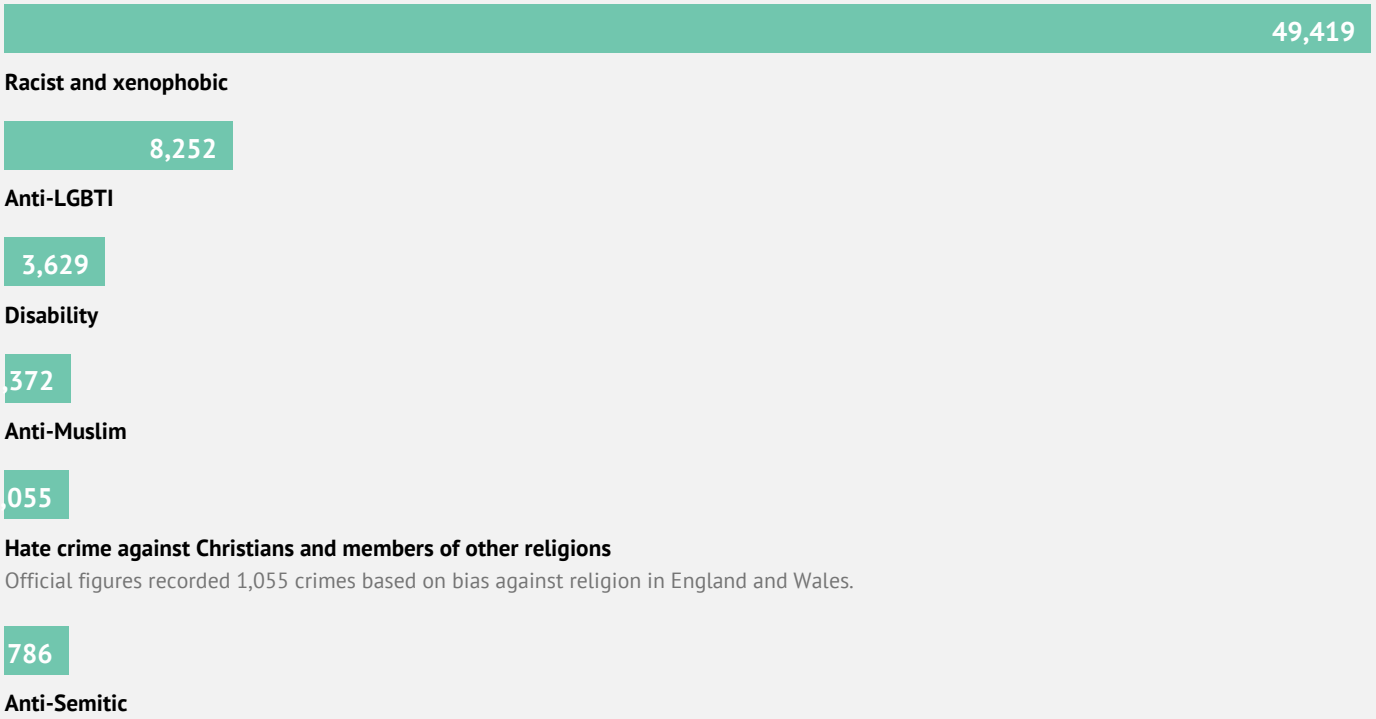
ODIHR observes that the United Kingdom has met most OSCE commitments on hate crime data collection and reporting.

Official Data

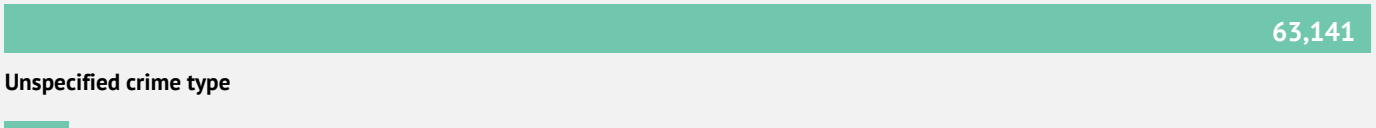
Police data represent hate crimes recorded in England and Wales only. The total numbers of police recorded hate crimes by bias motivation presented below are higher than this overall number due to cases involving more than one bias. Prosecution data breakdown is as follows: 314 in Northern Ireland, 5,544 in Scotland and 15,442 in England and Wales. Data on sentencing do not include Scotland, with Northern Ireland reporting 258 and England and wales 12,845 convictions. All data cover period from April 2015 to March 2016.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2015	62,518	21,300	13,103

Police data by bias motivation



Police data by type of crime



Unspecified crime type



n/a

National Developments

A new guidance on hate crime was published by the **College of Policing**, which aims at helping police officers reduce the under-reporting of hate crimes. The guidance further recognized emerging challenges such as internet-based offences and improving police response to hate crime against people with disabilities.

The **Welsh Assembly** published its hate crime strategy, Tackling hate crimes and incidents: a framework for action, focusing on three objectives: prevention, supporting victims and improving multi-agency response.

The **Office of the Mayor of London** published a hate crime strategy for London. The strategy identifies a number of objectives for the period from 2014 to 2017, including disseminating hate crime resources for educational institutions; developing an awareness campaign in London; developing a smartphone app for reporting incidents; developing a third party telephone reporting mechanism across London to supplement already existing local mechanisms; co-operating with the **Ministry of Justice** to develop resources within the True Vision hate crime reporting information website that are specific to London; developing with the **Metropolitan Police Service** a map of London's hate crime hotspots; improving the use of enhanced sentencing by judges in "hostility-based offences" by urging the **Home Secretary** to introduce new sentencing guidelines for hate crimes and the recording of enhanced sentences on the Police National Computer.

Incidents reported by civil society

No data reported to ODIHR.

View civil society incidents for United Kingdom, 2015