OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2019 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 2019

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

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

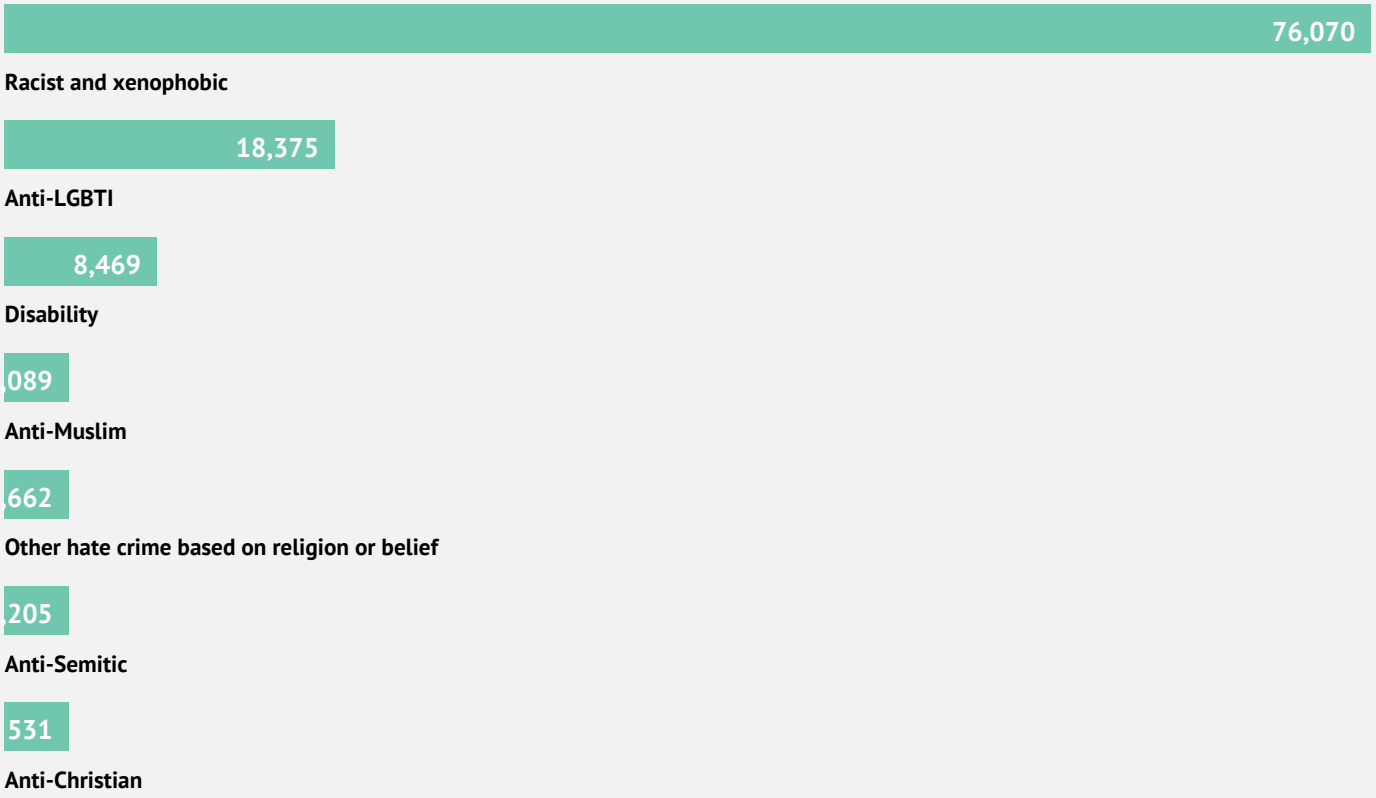
Official Data

Police data represent hate crimes recorded in England and Wales (105,090) and Northern Ireland (1,582). More than half of hate crimes recorded by police represent "public order offences", some of which fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime. Prosecution data consists of 8,446 cases in England and Wales and 5,612 cases in Scotland. The number of convictions is for England and Wales only.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2019	106,672	14,058	9,340

Police data by bias motivation

The disaggregated data below are for England and Wales only. The Police and several civil society organizations involved in monitoring hate incidents (including the Community Security Trust, Galop and Tell MAMA) exchange data on a regular basis about recorded incidents. This data sharing is governed by Information Sharing Agreements signed by the Police and each of the civil society organizations. As a result, some of the information presented below (particularly data on anti-Semitic hate crime and hate crime motivated by intolerance against Muslims) is also included in reporting by the abovementioned civil society organizations elsewhere on this page.



Police data by type of crime

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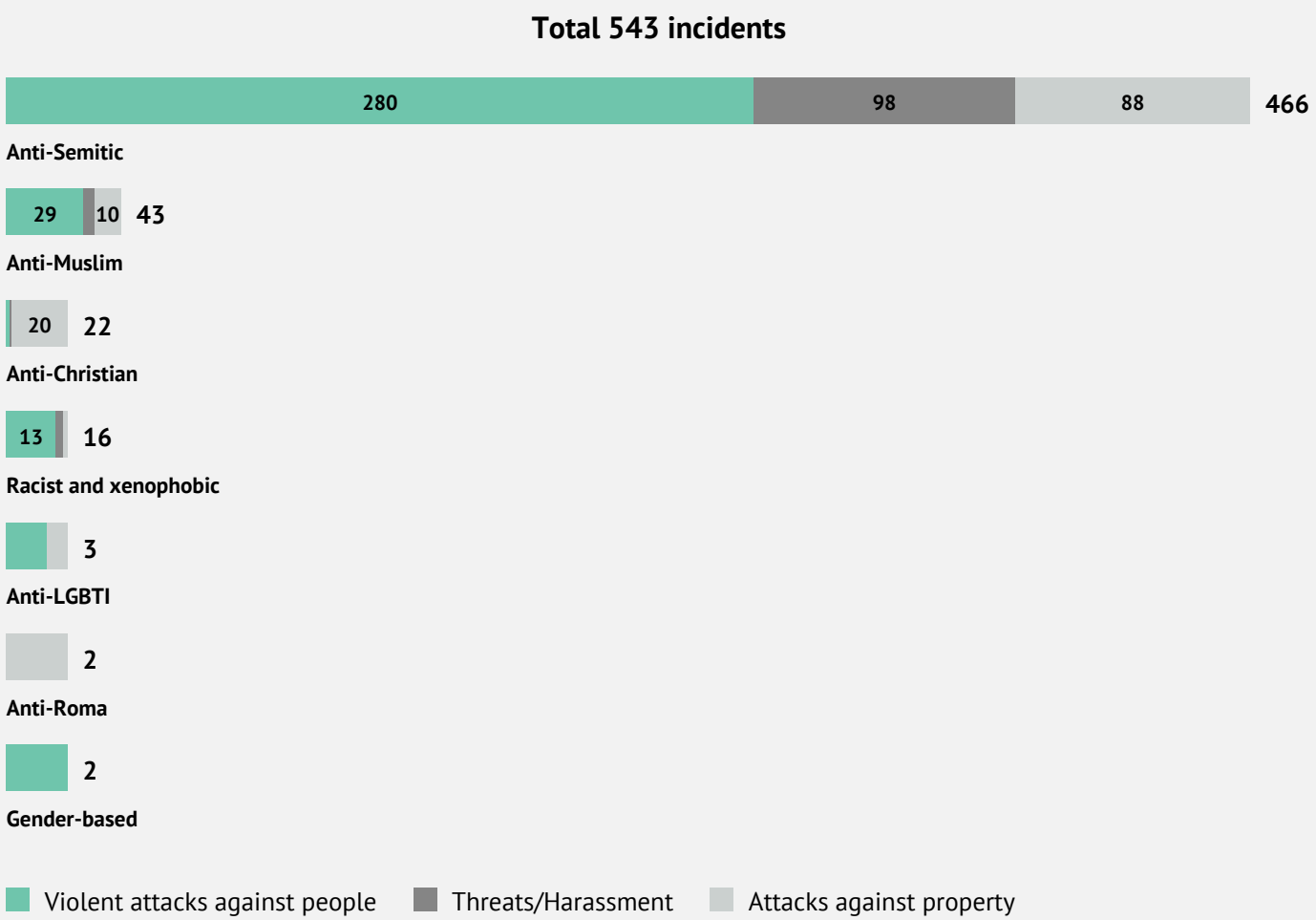
Unspecified crime type

National Developments

A consultation was launched by the College of Policing to update the Hate Crime Operational Guidance on police hate crime recording.

In April 2020, the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament and aims to (i) update the existing laws, (ii) combine most of the relevant laws into one Bill and (iii) add to the list of groups currently protected by hate crime laws.

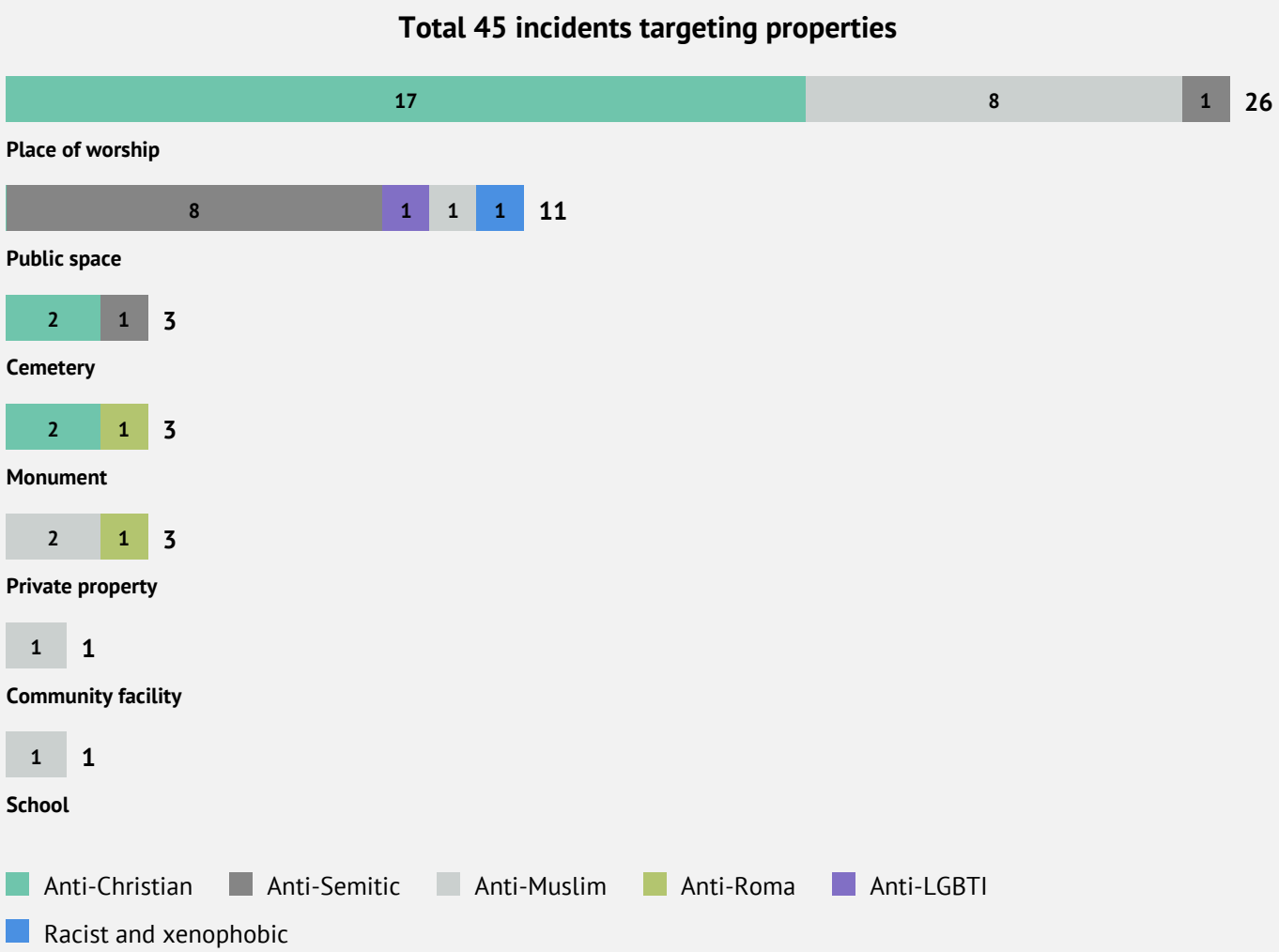
Incidents reported by civil society



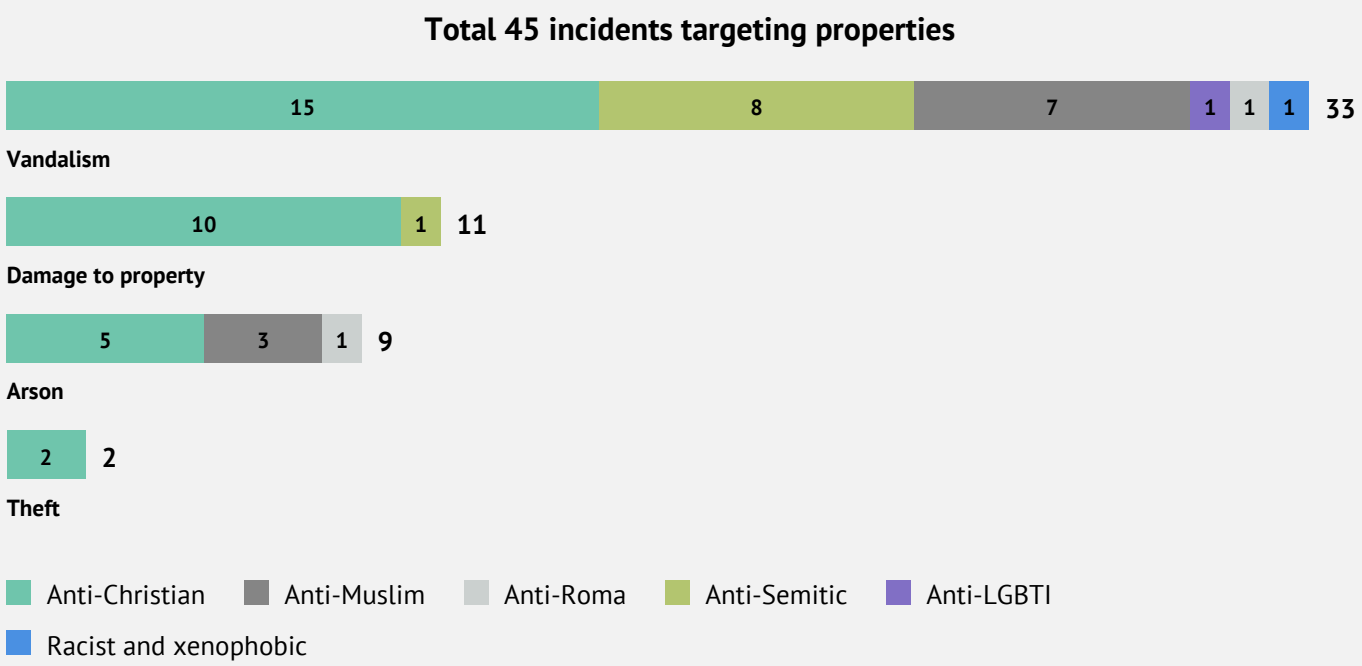
Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

Community Security Trust (CST) reported descriptive incidents as well as statistical data. Kantor Center reported only statistical data. This explains the discrepancy between the graphic above and the incidents included below.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for United Kingdom, 2019