OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2023 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 2023

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 recognizes the United Kingdom's efforts to regularly report hate crime data to ODIHR and to address hate crime in a comprehensive manner. However, it observes that the United Kingdom would benefit from raising awareness among and building the capacity of criminal justice officials to address hate crime, particularly in respect of some of the more isolated victim groups.

Official Data

Police data represent hate crimes recorded in Scotland (6,257), Northern Ireland (1,917) and England and Wales (140,561). Hate crimes recorded by police include "public order offences", some of which fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime. Police records from Scotland are based on 2022-23 data. Police records from England and Wales cover the period of April 2023 to March 2024. Police records from Northern Ireland cover the period of 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. Prosecution records from North Ireland are available here. No figures on hate crime prosecution from England and Wales, and Scotland were submitted. No figures on the number of hate crimes sentences were submitted.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2023	148,735	not available	not available

Police data by bias motivation

The data below covers England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. A single hate crime may involve one or more hate motivations; therefore, the figures below do not add up to the above total. Given the different legal and policy frameworks used in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, the breakdown below only displays data disaggregated by bias motivation, but not by type of crime, while both have been submitted to ODIHR.



Racist and xenophobic



Anti-LGBTI



Disability



Anti-Muslim



Anti-Semitic



Other hate crime based on religion or belief

Hate crimes recorded in this category include 48 offences in Northern Ireland, 501 case of religious hate crime, and 2,510 offences in England and Wales The records for Northern Ireland include offences motivated by anti-Semitic, anti-Muslim, and anti-Christian bias, bias against members of other religions, and bias against people who hold no religious belief.



Unspecified

Records under this category were collected by the police in Northern Ireland and relate to "sectarian hate crime". In Northern Ireland, such crimes are motivated by "bigoted dislike or hatred of members of a different religious or political group". It is broadly accepted that within the Northern Ireland context an individual or group must be perceived to be Catholic or Protestant, Nationalist or Unionist, or Loyalist or Republican. However, sectarianism can also relate to other religious denominations, for example, Sunni and Shi'ite in Islam.



Anti-Christian

Police data by type of crime

The data below covers England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. A single hate crime may involve one or more hate motivations; therefore, the figures below do not add up to the above total. Given the different legal and policy frameworks used in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, the breakdown below only displays data disaggregated by bias motivation, but not by type of crime, while both have been submitted to ODIHR.



Unspecified crime type

National Developments

England and Wales

The Online Safety Act 2023 made hate crime a priority offence. Under new legal duties of care, technology companies will need to prevent, identify, and remove illegal content and activity online. This means less illegal content - including content that incites hate on the grounds of race, religion, or sexual orientation - will appear online and, when it does, it will be removed more quickly. The Online Safety Act will require technology companies to remove already illegal content, such as hate crime related content, and to design their services to reduce the likelihood of being used for criminal activity in the first place.

In 2023, the UK Government introduced a code of practice for police in England and Wales relating to the recording and retention of personal data in non-crime hate incident records.

In 2018, the Law Commission conducted a review into hate crime legislation in England and Wales. In 2023, the UK Government published a response to the recommendations, agreeing with the Law Commission that sex/gender should not be added to the hate crime framework as a protected characteristic.

In 2023/24, the Home Office provided up to £50.9 million to protect faith communities. The Jewish Community Protective Security (JCPS) Grant provides protective security measures at synagogues, Jewish educational establishments and community sites. In response to the Israel/Hamas conflict and reports of increased incidents of anti-Semitism in the UK, the JCPS Grant was increased from £15 million to £18 million per year for 2023/24 and 2024/25.
The new Protective Security for Mosques Scheme provides protective security measures to mosques and associated Muslim faith community centres. Protective security measures are also available to Muslim faith schools. Additional funding of £4.9 million was made available for protective security at mosques and Muslim faith schools, bringing total funding to £29.4 million for 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Northern Ireland

In 2023, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) launched a hate crime campaign during Hate Crime Awareness Week. "Put yourself in their shoes" was rolled out across multiple media accounts and continues to be used at present. The purpose is to raise awareness of hate crime across communities and improve confidence in reporting hate crime to the Police.

Scotland

In November 2023, the Scottish Government published the Hate Crime Strategy Delivery Plan, which sets out the strategic priorities for tackling hate crime in Scotland until April 2026. It provides a vision for a Scotland where everyone lives free from hatred and prejudice and where communities are empowered, inclusive and safe.

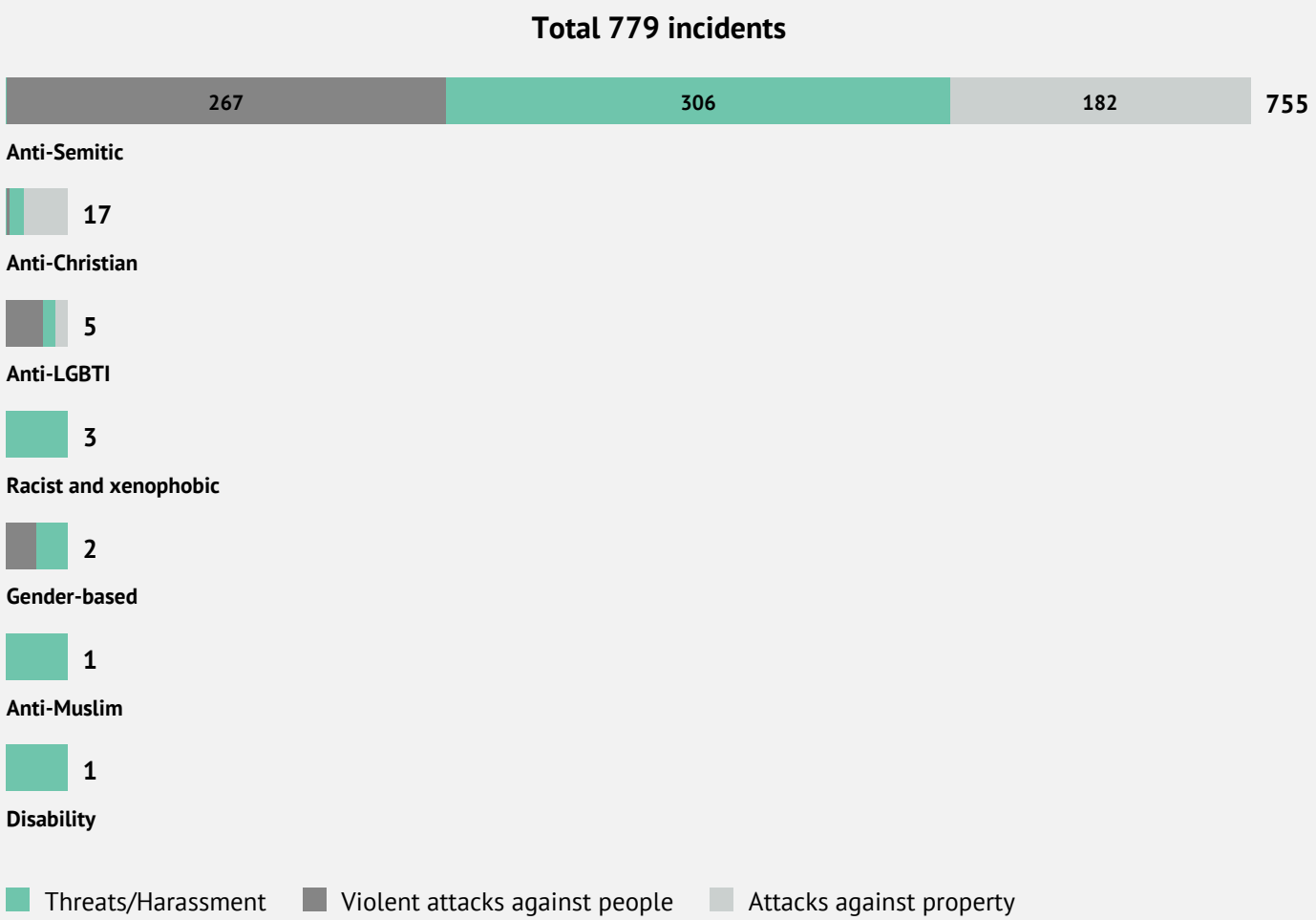
The Strategy was developed in partnership with organizations with expertise in tackling prejudice, building cohesive communities and advancing human rights. Importantly, it was informed by communities with lived experience of hate crime. The Delivery Plan includes actions to ensure improved support for victims of hate crime, improve data and evidence on hate crime. and develop effective approaches to preventing hate crime and promoting community cohesion.

Notable Cases:

In December 2023, two 16-year-olds were sentenced to a life term in prison for murdering a 16-year-old transgender girl. The pair were sentenced after the Crown Prosecution Service successfully applied for the sentence to reflect that the murder

was in part motivated by hostility towards the victim because she was transgender. The murder was found to be premeditated, the prosecution put forward evidence that suggested the murder was a hate crime – including WhatsApp messages which used dehumanizing language to describe the victim. The case triggered a national public response with messages of solidarity to the victim and her family.

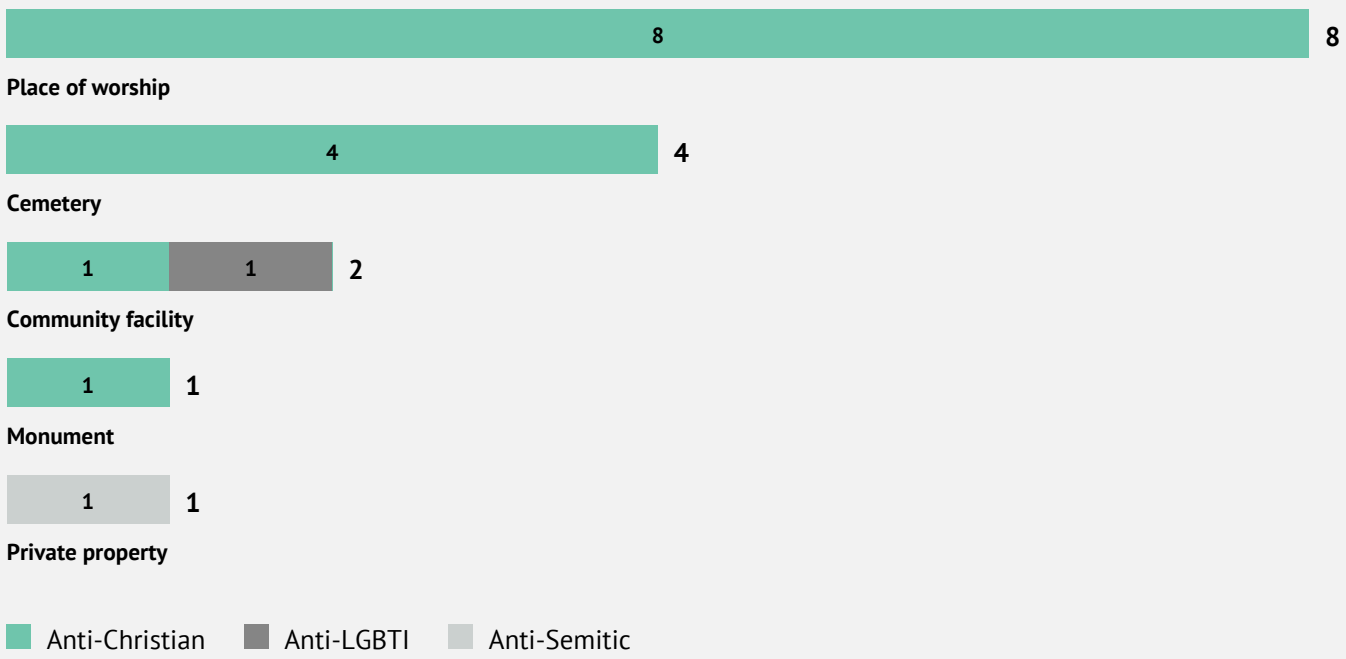
Incidents reported by civil society



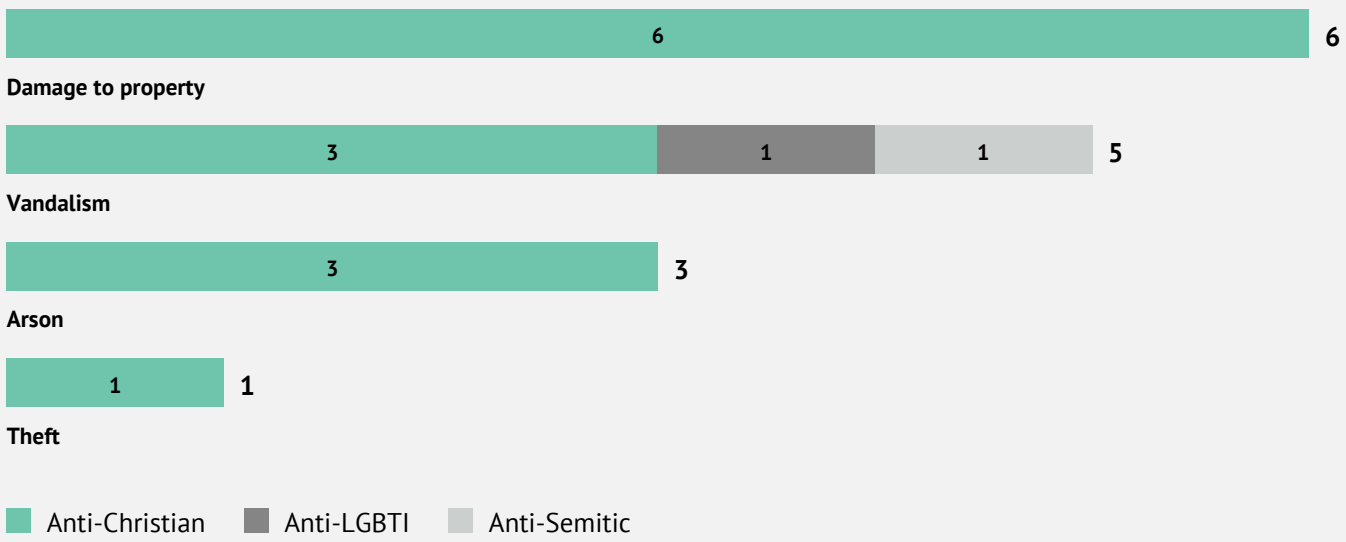
Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

In addition to incidents submitted with detailed descriptions, this chart includes 750 anti-Semitic incidents reported as statistics by the Community Security Trust (CST).

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for United Kingdom, 2023