OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

**Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2024 Hate Crime Report.**
**For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/albania**

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

# 2024

## Summary

Albania last reported information on hate crimes to ODIHR for the 2025 Hate Crime Report. In co-operation with the OSCE Presence in Albania, Albania has trained law enforcement officers on addressing hate crimes. ODIHR organized a hate crime data workshop in Albania in 2017.

In 2021, Albania introduced the National Strategy for Gender Equality, 2021-2030, which includes specific measures to combat discrimination and hate crimes and promote equality and social inclusion. In 2024, Albania introduced the Intersectoral Strategy for the Protection of Crime Victims, 2024-2030.

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

## ODIHR's Key Observation

**ODIHR recognizes Albania's efforts to report information and statistics on hate crimes to ODIHR. Based on the official information, ODIHR observes that Albania's hate crime recording and statistics do not sufficiently distinguish hate crimes from other crimes, while the number of officially recorded hate crimes is low. ODIHR also observes that Albania has not reported data on hate crimes recorded by the prosecution and the judiciary to ODIHR. In addition, ODIHR observes that Albania would benefit from raising awareness among and building the capacity of law enforcement and criminal justice officials to address hate crime.**

## Official Data

The total number of cases recorded by police does not include an additional 21 cases of insults, the dissemination of racist or xenophobic material, discrimination and incitement to hatred, as these cases fall outside the OSCE hate crime definition.

| Year | Hate crimes recorded by police | Prosecuted | Sentenced |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2024 | 9 | not available | not available |

## Police data by bias motivation

Altogether 30 criminal offences committed with a bias motive were recorded by the police. However, of these, 21 constituted criminal forms of hate speech and/or discrimination and as such were excluded from the bias motivation breakdown chart below.




**Racist and xenophobic**

## Police data by type of crime

Altogether 30 criminal offences committed with a bias motive were recorded by the police. However, of these, 21 constituted criminal forms of hate speech and/or discrimination and as such were excluded from the bias motivation breakdown chart below.

9

**Threats/ threatening behaviour**

Cases recorded in the threats/ threatening behaviour category of crime consists of crimes falling under article 84/a (threats with motives of racism or xenophobia via a computer system).

## National Developments

In May 2024, the European Union asked Albania to revise the Criminal Code to include clearer and tougher provisions against hate speech and hate crimes, especially those targeting the LGBTQI community. This request was part of the country's commitment within the framework of EU membership negotiations.

In 2024, the Council of Europe published a recommendation calling on Albania to develop guidelines and protocols for the recognition, investigation, prosecution, and recording of hate crimes. This recommendation emphasizes the importance of training Prosecutors and creating specialized roles for prosecuting these crimes.

In 2024, a strategy on the protection of crime victims was introduced, and is valid until 2030. The strategy includes measures to cooperate with civil society on addressing hate crimes. The Ministry of Justice is the lead authority responsible for the strategy's monitoring and overall coordination. The Police Institution plays an essential role in strategy's implementation and coordination at the local and central levels, and leads on the coordination with the Prosecutor's Office, the judiciary, and the services providing social and psychological care that are responsible for implementing protocols and protective measures.

In March 2024, a training for police officers was held by the United States Embassy on the topic of "Diversity for Fair and Impartial Policing".

In June 2024, a hate crime training session was organized in Tirana, focusing on exchanging knowledge among judges and prosecutors. Ten police officers from the regional police directorates also participated in the activity.

In July 2024, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted a meeting with the UN Independent Expert on protection from violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

In September 2024, a meeting on the joint efforts of the Albanian State Police and the European Council to address hate crimes was held in relation to Council of Europe projects on "Advancing the protection from discrimination in Albania", the joint programme of the European Union/Council of Europe, and the "Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey (Phase III)".

Throughout 2024, the OSCE and the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination held meetings with representatives of the State Police to improve cooperation for community protection and security.

On 23-24 May 2024, a regional meeting titled "Police Operating in a Diverse Society" was held before the LGBTI community parade in Tirana on 25 May. The meeting facilitated the exchange of experiences among representatives from Albania, Kosovo, Ukraine, and civil society, focusing on addressing hate crimes and securing public gatherings.

## Incidents reported by civil society

For 2024, ODIHR did not receive any reports of hate incidents in Albania from civil society organizations. This is not an indication that hate crimes are not taking place, only that they have not been reported to civil society or to ODIHR.

To address under-reporting, ODIHR encourages any civil society organizations or groups that monitor hate incidents in Albania to report these to ODIHR at hatecrimereport@odihr.pl.

**View civil society incidents for Albania, 2024**