OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2020 Hate Crime Report.
For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/austria

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

1 2020

Summary

Austria regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Implemented in 2021, Austria's new hate crime recording system represents a good practice in the region. The Austrian Ministry of the Interior is also a member of the civil society network "Hate Crime Kontern", which strengthens hate crime co-ordination and victim support, and co-operates directly with civil society organizations. Hate crime statistics collected by the Ministry are published online each year.

In January 2023, Austria implemented ODIHR's Diagnostic Workshop to Assess National Structures and Services for Hate Crime Victim Support.

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

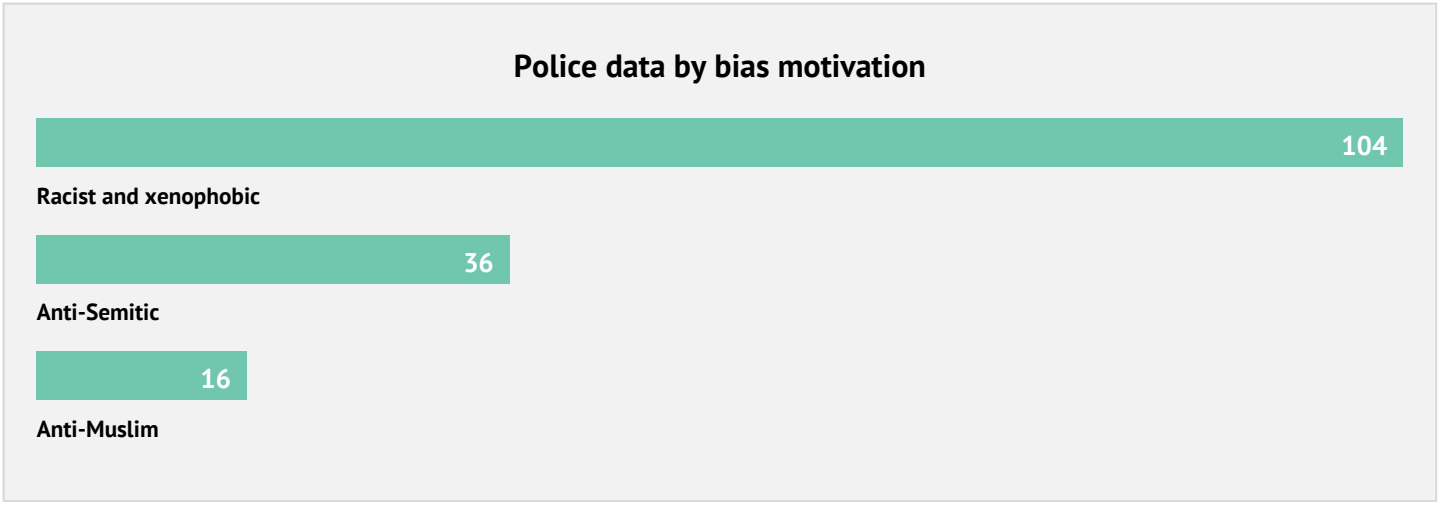
ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Austria's long-term efforts to improve its hate crime recording and data collection mechanism. However, based on the available information, it observes that Austria's hate crime recording and statistics do not sufficiently distinguish hate crimes from other crimes. In addition, ODIHR observes that Austria would benefit from raising the awareness and building the capacity of criminal justice officials about hate crimes.

Official Data

Police-recorded hate crime is registered as "right-wing extremism". As such, police figures include incitement to hatred, which largely falls outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime. Prosecution and sentencing figures consist of incitement to hatred and "Neo-Nazi crimes".

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2020	156	436	169


Police data by bias motivation
104
Racist and xenophobic
36
Anti-Semitic
16
Anti-Muslim

Police data by type of crime

156

Unspecified crime type

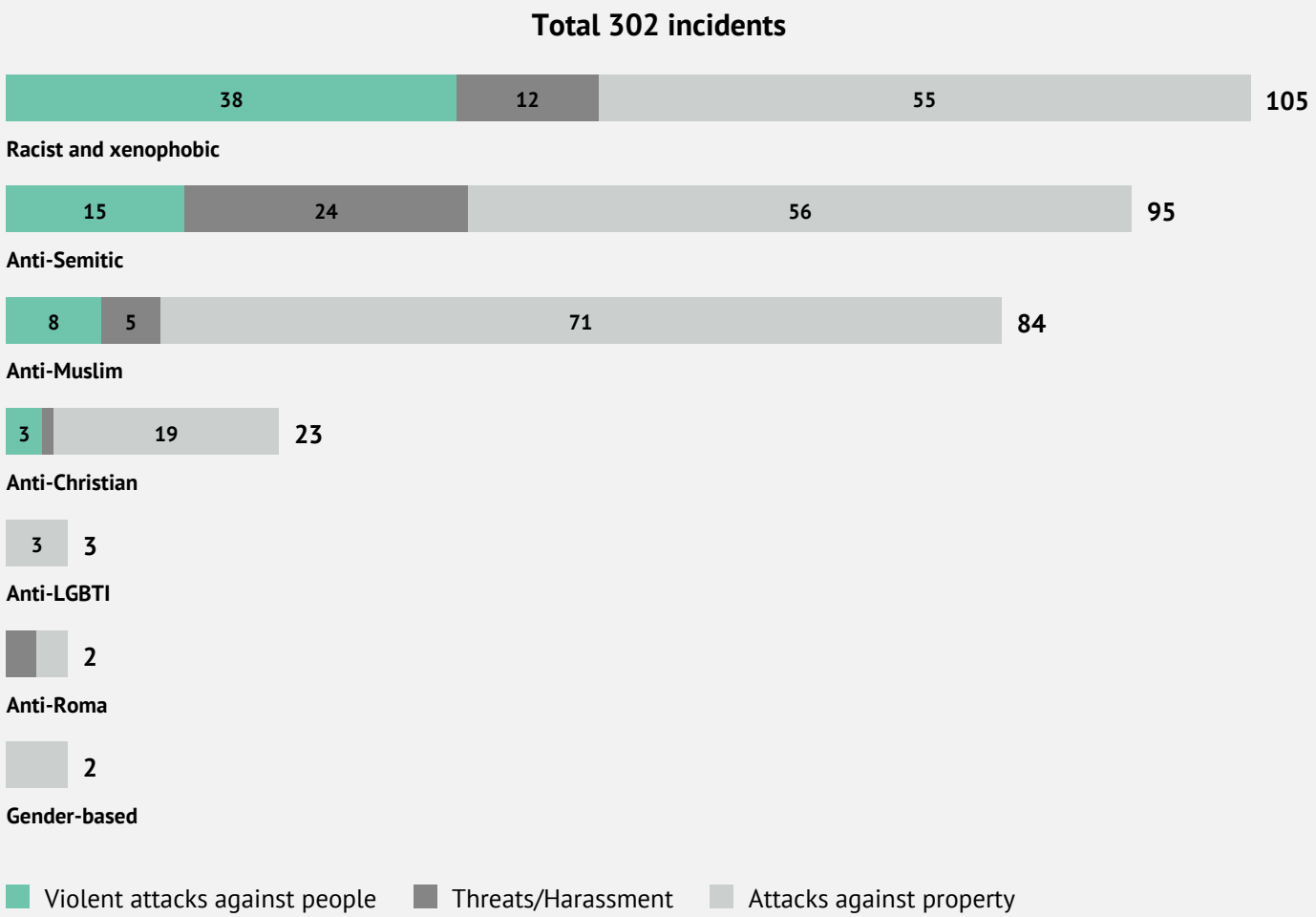
National Developments

Based on the support of an EU-funded project aimed at improving hate crime recording, on 1 November 2020, the **Ministry of Interior** (MoI) introduced a new electronic recording and data collection mechanism. The mechanism is supported by a MoI guidance providing a new definition of hate crime monitoring, a system of bias indicators, and improved data quality management. The introduction of the new mechanism has been complemented by an e-learning training programme for police officers, launched in August 2020 and delivered through the e-Campus of the Police Training Academy (*Sicherheitsakademie*, SIAK). By 10 May 2021, 22,788 police officers completed the three-module e-learning and obtained certification. Further, 207 police officers from the Federal Provinces were trained to deliver training events to front-line officers and to serve as contact points for CSOs and victim support organizations; to date, they have conducted most of the obligatory trainings for all colleagues who have completed the online training programme. Since May 2021, an additional module was launched for prosecutors and judges.

Furthermore, in 2021 MoI developed a factsheet on hate crime translated into nine languages and, together with the Institute for the Sociology of Law and Criminology (*Institut für Rechts- und Kriminalsoziologie*, IRKS) conducted a hate crime victimization survey on unreported cases entitled "Prevalence of bias-motivated crimes in the Austrian population". The latter, based on 2,325 telephone interviews, concluded that nearly four percent of those surveyed had been a victim of a hate crime. The perception of security of hate crime victims was significantly worse than those of other respondents who suffered a crime without bias motives. The likelihood of victims reporting hate crimes was far lower than in case of offences without bias motives. The results of the survey were included in the Pilot Report "Hate Crime in Austria" mapping the improvements in the Austrian hate crime recording and data collection since 2019, published in June 2021.

An ongoing dialogue on lessons learned and promising practices was held with international institutions, such as ODIHR, the European Commission, the EU High-level Group on combating racism, xenophobia, and other forms of intolerance and its subgroups, and the EU FRA. Within the above-mentioned EU-funded project, study visits were carried out to Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, and Slovakia. Actors involved in the design and implementation of the practice. Between January and March 2020, 17 consultation meetings with various civil society organisations and NGOs took place to improve the MoI's new hate crime recording mechanisms and to build trust.w hate crime recording mechanisms and to build trust.

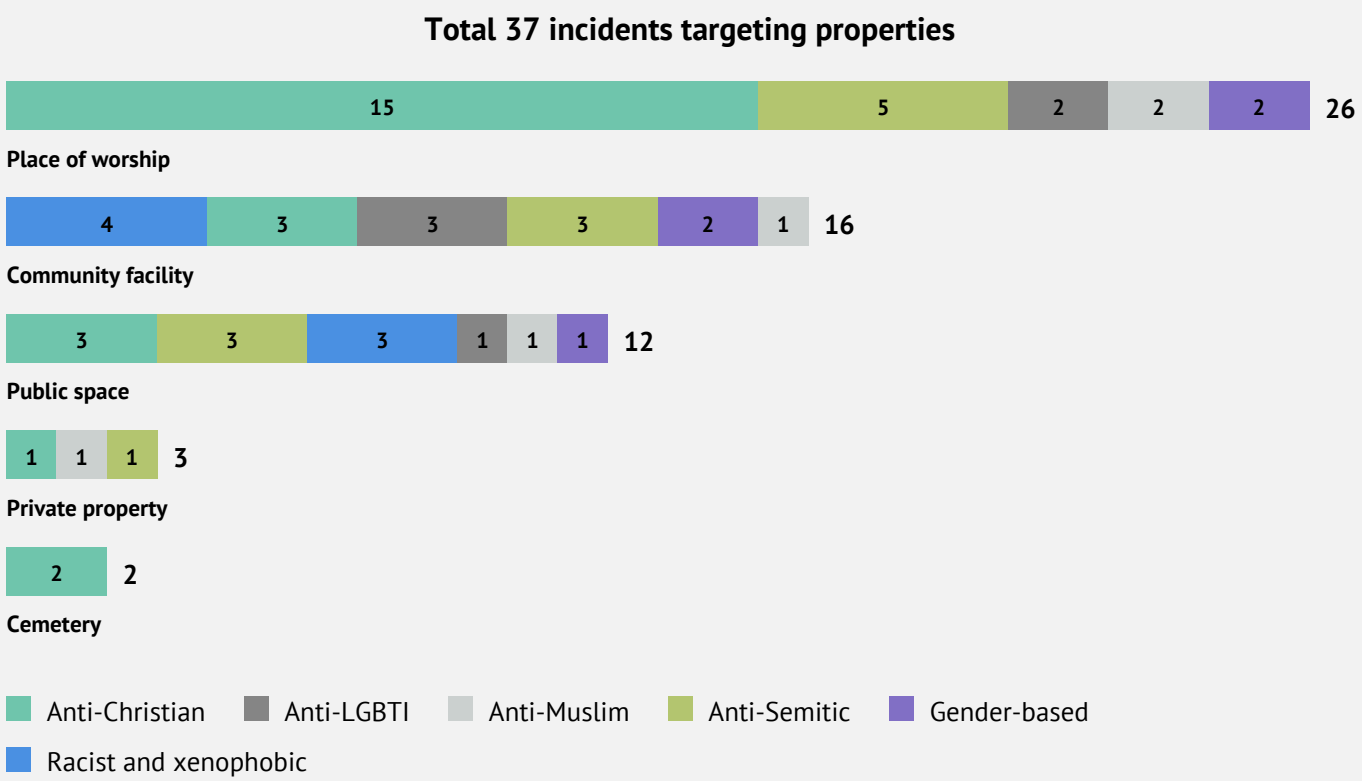
Incidents reported by civil society



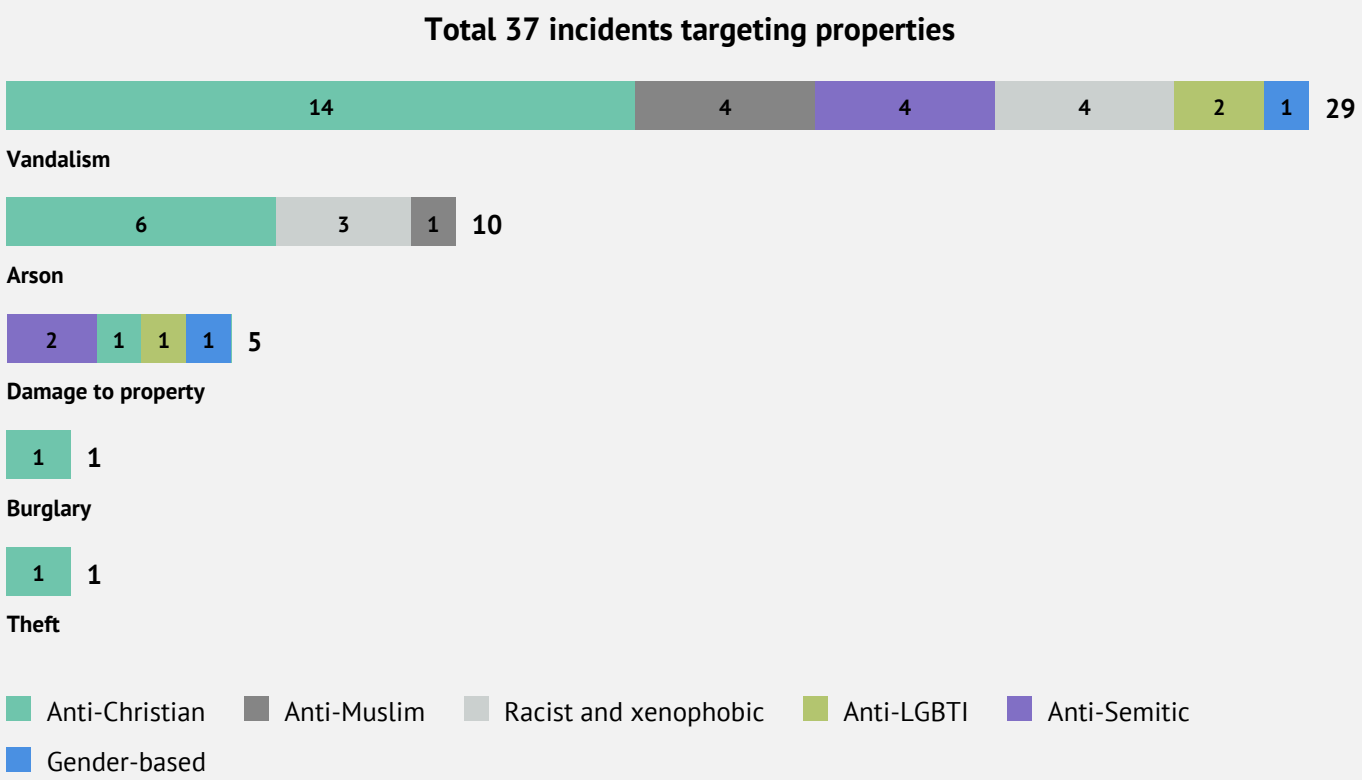
Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

In addition to incidents summarized below, this graph includes the following numbers of hate incidents reported as statistics: 131 (with 135 recorded bias motivations) reported by ZARA; 72 reported by FAAS/IKG Wien; and 45 reported by DCMiA/Dokustelle.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Austria, 2020