OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2025 Hate Crime Report.
For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/bosnia-and-herzegovina

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

2025

Summary

Bosnia and Herzegovina regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR via the Ministry of Interior. There is no formal system for recording and collecting hate crime data in the country. In co-operation with ODIHR and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the authorities of Republika Srpska have worked to improve hate crime recording and data collection through ODIHR's Information Against Hate Crimes Toolkit (INFAHCT) programme, including through a diagnostic workshop held in April 2022. Bosnia and Herzegovina has also co-operated with ODIHR and the OSCE Mission to train law enforcement officers and criminal justice professionals on addressing hate crimes.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's Gender Action Plan, 2023-2027, includes hate crime prevention activities as part of its strategic implementation.

Hate crime data collection in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Support for hate crime victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Hate crime capacity building in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bosnia and Herzegovina's hate crime legislation

ODIHR's Key Observation

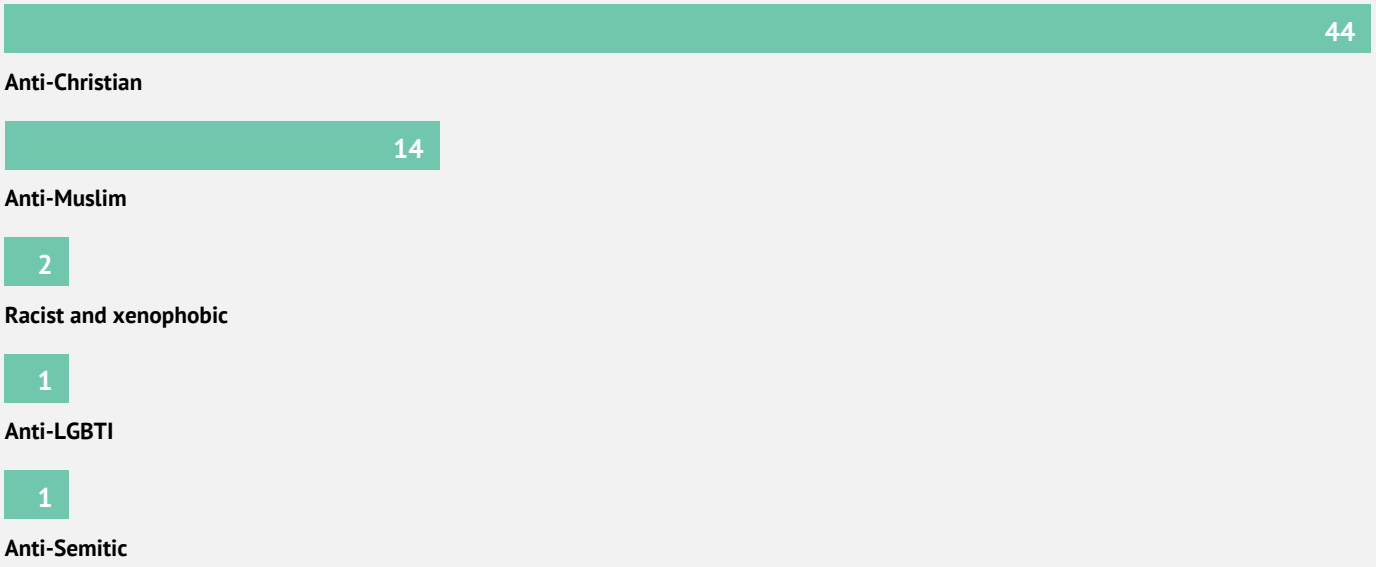
ODIHR recognizes Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts to report hate crime information and statistics to ODIHR. However, based on the available information, ODIHR observes that the country's mechanisms for recording hate crime data and statistics do not sufficiently distinguish hate crimes from other crimes, while the number of officially recorded hate crimes is low. In addition, ODIHR observes that Bosnia and Herzegovina would benefit from raising awareness among and building the capacity of criminal justice officials, in particular prosecutors and judges, to address hate crimes.

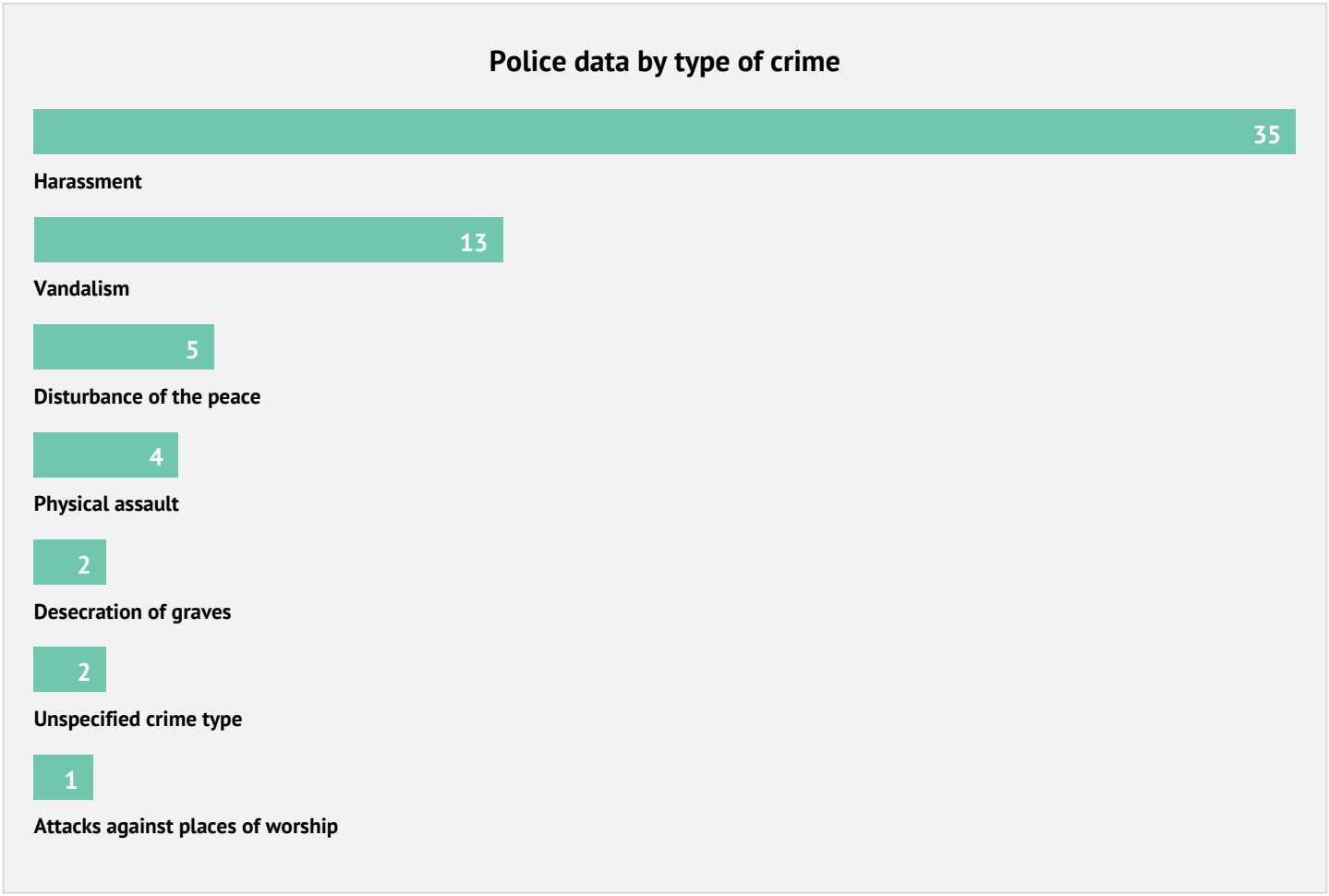
Official Data

Data on recorded, prosecuted and sentenced cases include cases that fall outside the OSCE's definition of a hate crime, but which could not be disaggregated from the total number.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2025	66	5	4

Police data by bias motivation




Police data by type of crime
35
Harassment
13
Vandalism
5
Disturbance of the peace
4
Physical assault
2
Desecration of graves
2
Unspecified crime type
1
Attacks against places of worship

National Developments

In 2025, the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina was amended to expand the range of offences that can be committed out of hatred. Crimes such as stalking, sexual harassment, psychological violence, forced sterilization or female genital mutilation are now included among the hate crime provisions. The amendments were introduced by the Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, No. 58/2025), which entered into force on 9 August 2025.

In 2025, 38 representatives of the Ministry of Interior of the Republika Srpska participated in hate crime training activities organized by the OSCE. One representative of the Ministry also served as a trainer on two occasions, delivering a training on hate speech.

During the reporting period, a total of 181 police cadets successfully completed a hate crime training in the Police Academy. At the Secondary School of Internal Affairs of the Ministry of Interior of the Republika Srpska, 188 students completed the course on police integrity, including hate crime-related topics.

In Tuzla Canton, the Police Administration's Annual Professional Training Programme for Police Officers trained a total of 158 police officers in three one-day sessions. The training covered the definition and characteristics of hate crimes; the concept of criminal offences motivated by bias; the criminal law framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina; the detection, investigation and prosecution of hate crimes; hate speech, including the legal framework and police response; and hate crimes and hate speech in the context of radicalization and violent extremism.

Incidents reported by civil society

For 2025, ODIHR received reports of hate incidents in Bosnia and Herzegovina from the following civil society organizations:

- Association Da se zna!
- Center for Education and Research (Nahla)
- European Association of Jehovah's Witnesses
- Islamic Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF)
- Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe (OIDAC)
- Sarajevo Open Center (SOC)

To learn more about these organizations, visit the Contributors page. In addition, some incidents were recorded by the UNHCR and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of their ongoing monitoring.

Individual incidents submitted by CSOs have been analysed by ODIHR. Those that are broadly considered to be hate crimes within the OSCE definition (criminal offence committed with a bias motive) are listed in the tables below according to the bias motivation category. Some incidents involved multiple biases and may be listed in multiple categories.

ODIHR's insights

For 2025, ODIHR received reports of 83 hate incidents that took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina targeting a total of 72 victims in the following bias motivation categories: anti-Christian, anti-LGBTI, anti-Muslim, anti-Semitic, and racist and xenophobic hate incidents. In addition, several incidents involved multiple biases, such as racist and xenophobic *and* anti-Muslim, gender-based *and* anti-LGBTI, and disability *and* anti-LGBTI.

Half of the incidents reported involved racist and xenophobic bias targeting victims based on their ethnicity, migrant status or foreign origin. The majority of racist incidents targeted Bosniak persons or property, including at times and locations significant to the community, while several incidents targeting Serb and Croat persons and property were also reported. ODIHR observes a number of incidents in which migrants were physically assault, robbed and shot at by organized groups at the border or near reception centres. In addition, several racist incidents were also reported as taking place in schools or involving school students, including a violent attack against a Croat teacher and a group of Croat secondary school students by a large group of masked men.

ODIHR also observes that more than one-third of incidents targeted places of worship and cemeteries, many of which belong to the Serbian Orthodox and Catholic communities, including incidents that occurred during religious holidays.

Finally, a significant number of anti-LGBTI incidents of physical and harassment/threats were also reported, often perpetrated by family members.

It should be noted that ODIHR did **not** receive any reporting on Bosnia and Herzegovina relating to anti-Roma and other religion or belief hate incidents, and few reports of anti-Semitic and gender-based hate incidents. This indicates potential gaps in the information reported here.

Please note that incidents reported here are based on voluntary civil society submissions and as such do not reflect the actual number of incidents or the most targeted communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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

To export an Excel sheet with summaries of all incidents from Bosnia and Herzegovina click here.

View civil society incidents for Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2025