

Finland Hate Crime Report 2020

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/finland

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

Summary

Finland regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Finland has conducted victimization surveys to measure unreported hate crimes. The Finnish police closely co-operates with the Finnish Human Rights League, the Finnish Red Cross and Finnish Victim Support to develop a co-ordinated response to combat hate crimes. These organizations, along with the national police and other key authorities, form a network tasked by Finland's Ministry of Justice with monitoring hate crimes in Finland and developing adequate measures to prevent such crimes. Finland implemented ODIHR's Training Against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) programme in 2017 and went on to train over 1,000 police officers on hate crimes before integrating the programme's hate crime modules into pre- and in-service training for police.

[Hate crime data collection in Finland](#)

[Support for hate crime victims in Finland](#)

[Hate crime capacity building in Finland](#)

[Finland's hate crime legislation](#)

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Finland's efforts to improve its hate crime recording, data collection mechanisms, and local cooperation practices, as well as the submitted information on police records. However, based on the available information, ODIHR observes that Finland would benefit from raising the awareness and building the capacity of its criminal justice officials about hate crimes.

Official Data

The police also recorded criminal forms of intolerance other than hate crimes, such as defamation and criminal discrimination. These data are reported to ODIHR but are not included in the overall figure or in the breakdown below.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2020	1,177	48	42

Police data by bias motivation

Beyond this data breakdown, a further 407 cases of defamation and discrimination were reported to ODIHR. These do not fall under the OSCE definition of hate crime and are thus not included. With the consent of the Roma community, hate crime against Roma people has been included as a category separate from Racism and Xenophobia.

563

Racist and xenophobic hate crime

The figures presented here cover the following grounds: race/colour, ethnicity/national origin, citizenship and language.

58

Anti-Roma hate crime

54

Anti-LGBTI hate crime

Official data for hate crimes motivated by bias against lesbian, gay and bisexual people (43 hate crimes) and by bias against transgender people (11 hate crimes) were reported separately, but are presented together here.

31

Anti-Christian hate crime

31

Anti-Muslim hate crime

This category also includes hate crimes committed among Shia and Sunni Muslims.

20

Other hate crime based on religion or belief

16

Anti-Semitic hate crime

13

Disability hate crime

Police data by type of crime

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336

Physical assault

This category also includes attempted assaults and attempted homicides.

197

Threats/ threatening behaviour

97

Damage to property

This category includes vandalism.

66

Incitement to violence

49

Disturbance of the peace

This category includes "disturbance of domestic peace".

18

Unspecified

This category includes various uncategorized offences, including crimes committed after a verbal provocation.

16

Theft/ robbery

4

Attacks against places of worship

2

Sexual assault

1

Desecration of graves

National Developments

In 2020, a [shadow report](#) on victims' experiences of hate crimes was published as part of the project "Against Hate", funded by the European Commission's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC) and co-ordinated by the **Ministry of Justice**. The aim of the report was to bring the perspectives of the victims into the discourse on hate crimes. Unlike the report on hate crimes carried out by the Police University College, this report sought out qualitative rather than statistical data, and the main focus was on the experiences and needs of the victims.

Furthermore, in December 2019, the Ministry of Justice launched a two-year REC-funded project entitled "Facts Against Hate" coordinated by the **Ministry of Justice**, with the project partners being the **Ministry of the Interior**, the **Police University College**, and the following civil society organizations: **Anti-Racist Forum (Finland)**, the Centre for Peace Studies (Croatia), and INAR (Ireland). The objective of the project is to improve the effectiveness of work against hate crimes and hate speech. The project is aimed at, among other things, developing data collection, hate crime reporting and local cooperation practices. It has so far produced material and organised trainings, e.g. virtual mandatory training for all police officers. As part of the Facts against Hate project, the **Police University College** and the **Ministry of Justice** will look into all of the recorded hate crimes in 2017 and follow them manually throughout the whole process from police involvement to prosecution and courts. The preliminary results indicate that there are huge shortcomings in this regard. The report will be published at the end of 2021.

The **Ministry of Justice** also started working on the amendments to the Criminal Code whereby gender would be added among the motives that constitute grounds for increasing the punishment of (any) crime as specified in chapter 6, section 5 of the Criminal Code. The Finnish government's proposal was introduced to the Parliament in February 2021.

Incidents reported by civil society

Total 4 incidents



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 2 hate incidents reported by Kantor Center as statistics.

Targeted properties

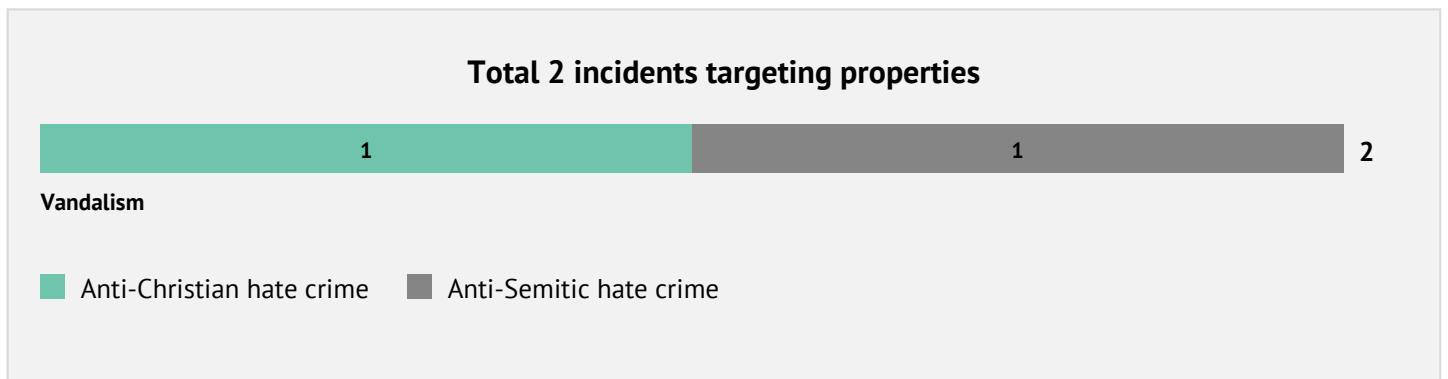
Total 2 incidents targeting properties



Place of worship

■ Anti-Christian hate crime ■ Anti-Semitic hate crime

Type of property attack



[View civil society incidents for Finland, 2020](#)