

Finland Hate Crime Report 2023

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/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 coordination among authorities and civil society actors, and to strengthen access to support services to hate crime victims. However, based on the available information, ODIHR observes that Finland would benefit from raising awareness among and building the capacity of prosecutors to address and record hate crime.

Official Data

In addition to hate crimes, police also record cases of criminal forms of intolerance, such as defamation (636) and criminal discrimination (78). These data are reported to ODIHR but are not included in the overall figure or in the breakdown below as they fall outside the OSCE hate crime definition. The number of indictments and sentences provided by the Ministry of Justice may be much lower than actual indictments and sentences due to the fact that the Prosecutors and Courts do not have a tracking system.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2023	1,361	49	48

Police data by bias motivation

Cases of defamation and discrimination reported to ODIHR are not included in the breakdown below as they fall outside the OSCE definition of hate crime. With the consent of the Roma community, hate crimes against Roma people have been presented as a separate category below.

979

Racist and xenophobic hate crime

The figures presented here cover the following grounds: race/colour, ethnicity/national origin, and citizenship and language. They also include hate crimes committed with an anti-Roma bias.

165

Anti-LGBTI hate crime

Official data for hate crimes motivated by bias against lesbian, gay and bisexual people (139 hate crimes) and by bias against transgender people (26 hate crimes) were reported separately, but are presented together here.

75

Disability hate crime

64

Anti-Roma hate crime

43

Anti-Muslim hate crime

33

Other hate crime based on religion or belief

32

Anti-Semitic hate crime

28

Anti-Christian hate crime

6

Gender-based hate crime

Police data by type of crime

Cases of defamation and discrimination reported to ODIHR are not included in the breakdown below as they fall outside the OSCE definition of hate crime. With the consent of the Roma community, hate crimes against Roma people have been presented as a separate category below.

662

Physical assault

This category also includes attempted homicides.

439

Threats/ threatening behaviour

126

Damage to property

67

Disturbance of the peace

67

Incitement to violence

26

Unspecified

This category includes various uncategorized offences that do not fall into any of the above types of crime.

22

Theft/ robbery

8

Vandalism

5

Sexual assault

2

Attacks against places of worship

1

Homicide

National Developments

On 1 January 2023, a legislative amendment to make a gender-based motive an aggravating circumstance entered into force (Chapter 6, section 5 of the Criminal Code). The amendment was approved by the Finnish Parliament in December 2022.

In 2023, the Ministry of Justice co-ordinated a number of EU-funded projects aimed at combating hate speech and hate crime, including "Peer Action against Hate", designed to improve the effectiveness of addressing racism, discrimination and hate crimes through peer learning with the support of authorities and civil society actors. Project partners are the Ministry of Social affairs and health, Seta – LGBTI Rights in Finland, the Irish Network against Racism, and the Centre for Peace Studies (Croatia). As part of the project, the Ministry of Justice co-ordinates a network of authorities and CSO's working to combat hate speech and hate crime. Other activities include collecting information on the availability, adequacy and accessibility of support services to victims of hate crimes in Finland. The project also organizes trainings for professionals on preventing hate speech and hate crime, as well as on supporting hate crime victims.

As part of another EU-funded project ('Osaavat') co-ordinated by the Ministry of Justice, a study was conducted by the Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy to examine the characteristics of hate crime perpetrators based on international research literature and data obtained from Finnish registers.

Incidents reported by civil society

Total 4 incidents



Anti-Christian hate crime

■ Threats ■ Attacks against property

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.

Targeted properties

Total 1 incidents targeting properties



Place of worship

■ Anti-Christian hate crime

Type of property attack

Total 1 incidents targeting properties

1

1

Damage to property

■ Anti-Christian hate crime

[View civil society incidents for Finland, 2023](#)