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/finland

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

2025

Summary

Finland regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR, and has conducted victimization surveys to measure unreported hate crime incidents. The Finnish police closely co-operate 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 effective preventative measures.

In 2017, Finland implemented ODIHR's Training Against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) programme, training over 1,000 police officers. The programme's hate crime modules have since been integrated 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 strengthen policy response to hate crime, including through the National Action Plan against Racism, 2025-2027. Based on the available information, ODIHR observes that Finland would benefit from raising awareness among and building the capacity of criminal justice professionals to address and record hate crimes.

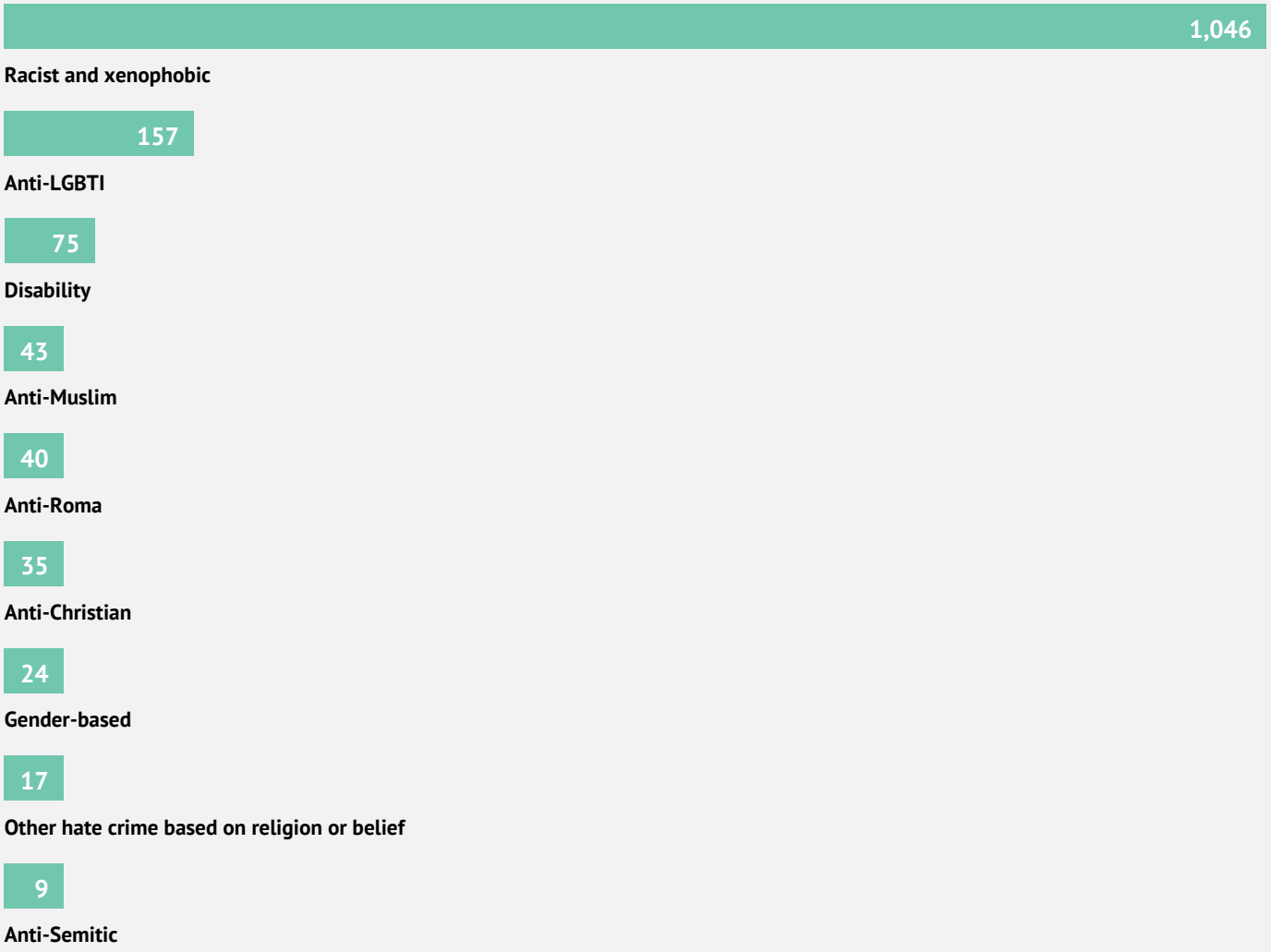
Official Data

In addition to hate crimes, police also record cases of criminal forms of intolerance, such as defamation, criminal discrimination, and incitement offences. These data are reported to ODIHR but are not included in the overall figure or in the breakdown below, since they fall outside the OSCE hate crime definition. The prosecution figure represents the number of charges filed in hate crime cases, with indictments on discrimination and defamation excluded. The sentencing figure represents the number of convictions from district courts, with decisions in defamation and discrimination cases excluded. Owing to the absence of a tracking system among prosecution and the courts, the number of indictments and sentences presented here may be much lower than the actual numbers.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2025	1,446	116	71

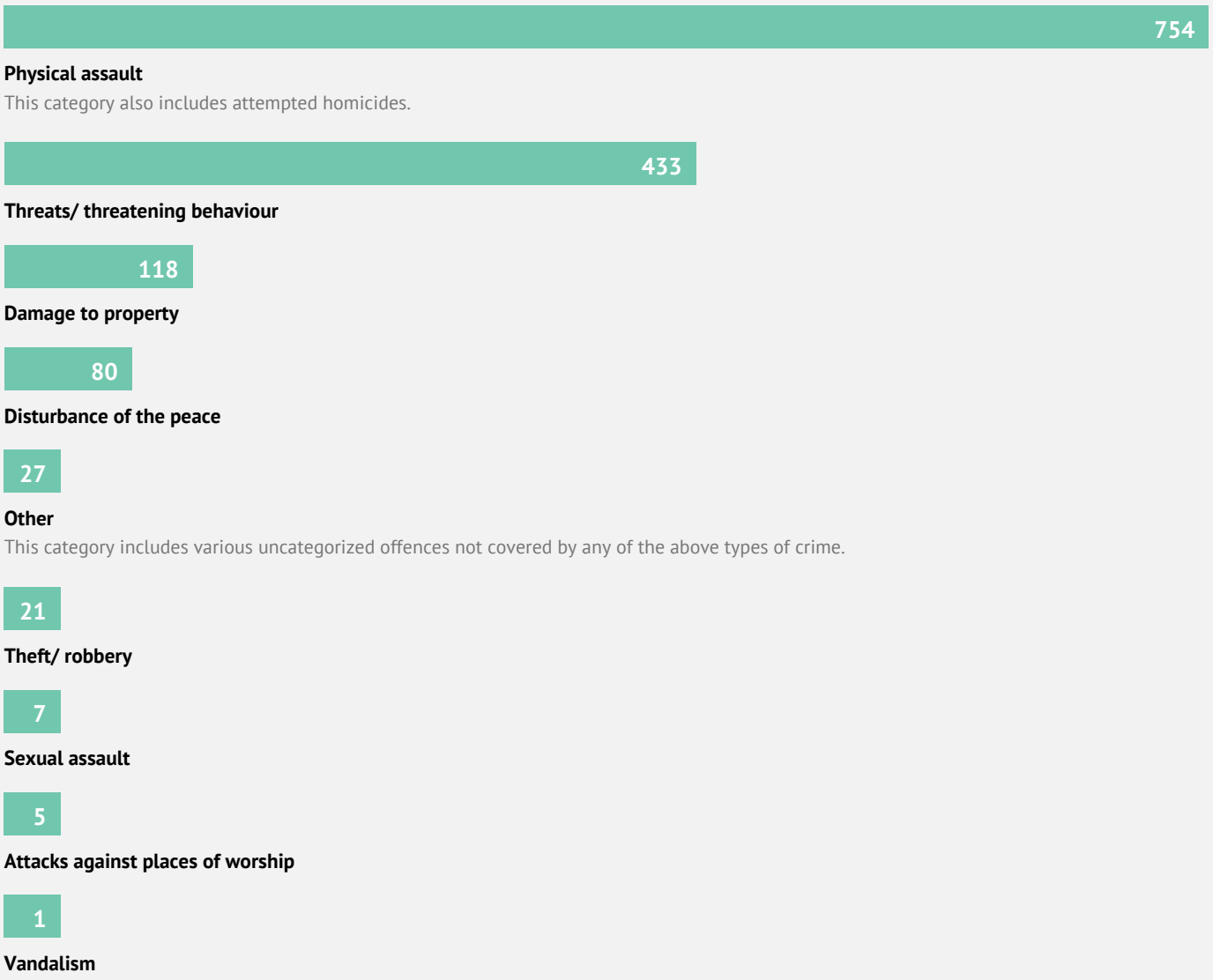
Police data by bias motivation

Cases of defamation, discrimination and incitement offences, which were reported to ODIHR, are not included in the breakdown below as they fall outside the OSCE definition of hate crime.



Police data by type of crime

Cases of defamation, discrimination and incitement offences, which were reported to ODIHR, are not included in the breakdown below as they fall outside the OSCE definition of hate crime.



National Developments

In 2025, the National Police Board issued new guidelines on protection and support measures for those involved in a crime, including detailed guidance on the assessment of protection needs, as well as specific instructions on how to protect and support crime victims.

A National Action Plan to combat racism and promote equality (2025-2027) was drawn up by the Prime Minister's Office following an equality statement submitted to Parliament on 31 August 2023. The Action Plan includes various measures to promote an inclusive society, such as a national campaign against racism and an annual roundtable on equality.

As part of the Action Plan, a report will be compiled comprising international recommendations and Finland's response measures related to hate speech and hate crime between 2019 and 2025. The Action Plan also includes also measures to tackle harassment, discriminatory and violent speech, and racist violence. Between 2025 and 2027, the Ministry of Justice has committed to raising awareness of legal remedies related to discrimination and harassment among religious minorities, as well as to establishing a co-ordination network to improve public discourse and combat online harassment and hate speech. Various state agencies and representatives of civil society will be invited to the co-ordination network.

Incidents reported by civil society

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

- European Association of Jehovah's Witnesses
- European Office of the Church of Scientology for Public Affairs and Human Rights

To learn more about the organizations that report hate incidents to ODIHR, visit the Contributors page.

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 25 hate incidents targeting six victims in the anti-Christian, anti-LGBTI, and other religion or belief bias motivation categories. ODIHR observes that a low number of incidents were reported in Finland for 2025.

ODIHR observes that almost all incidents reported targeted the Jehovah's Witness community in Finland, with the majority of incidents involving property attacks targeting Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Halls, as well as private property associated with the community. ODIHR also observes two incidents targeting Jehovah's Witnesses engaged in street preaching. Finally, ODIHR received one report of an anti-LGBTI physical assault in which two women were pelted with objects and threatened with death due to their LGBTI activism.

It should be noted that ODIHR did **not** receive any reporting on Finland related to anti-Muslim, anti-Roma, anti-Semitic, disability, gender-based, or racist and xenophobic hate incidents, and a low level of reporting on anti-LGBTI 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 Finland.

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 Finland click here.

View civil society incidents for Finland, 2025