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/iceland

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

2025

Summary

Iceland regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. In 2017, Iceland implemented ODIHR's Training Against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) and Prosecutors and Hate Crimes Training (PAHCT) programmes. Refresher TAHCLE and PAHCT train-the-trainer workshops were delivered by ODIHR in 2024.

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

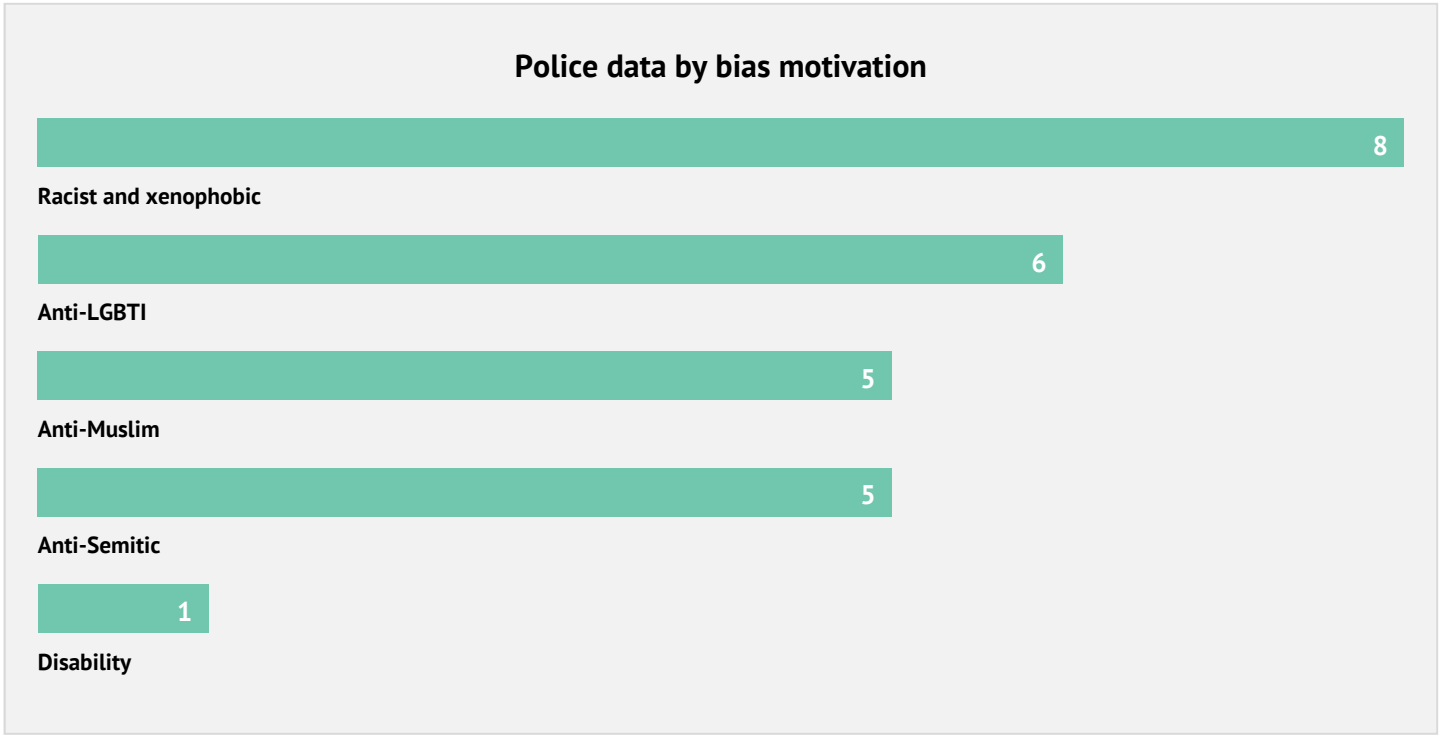
ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Iceland's efforts to report to ODIHR. However, based on the available information, it observes that Iceland has not reported data on hate crimes recorded by the prosecution and judiciary to ODIHR. In addition, ODIHR observes that Iceland would benefit from further reviewing the existing legal framework to ensure that bias motivations can be effectively acknowledged and appropriate penalties imposed on the perpetrators.

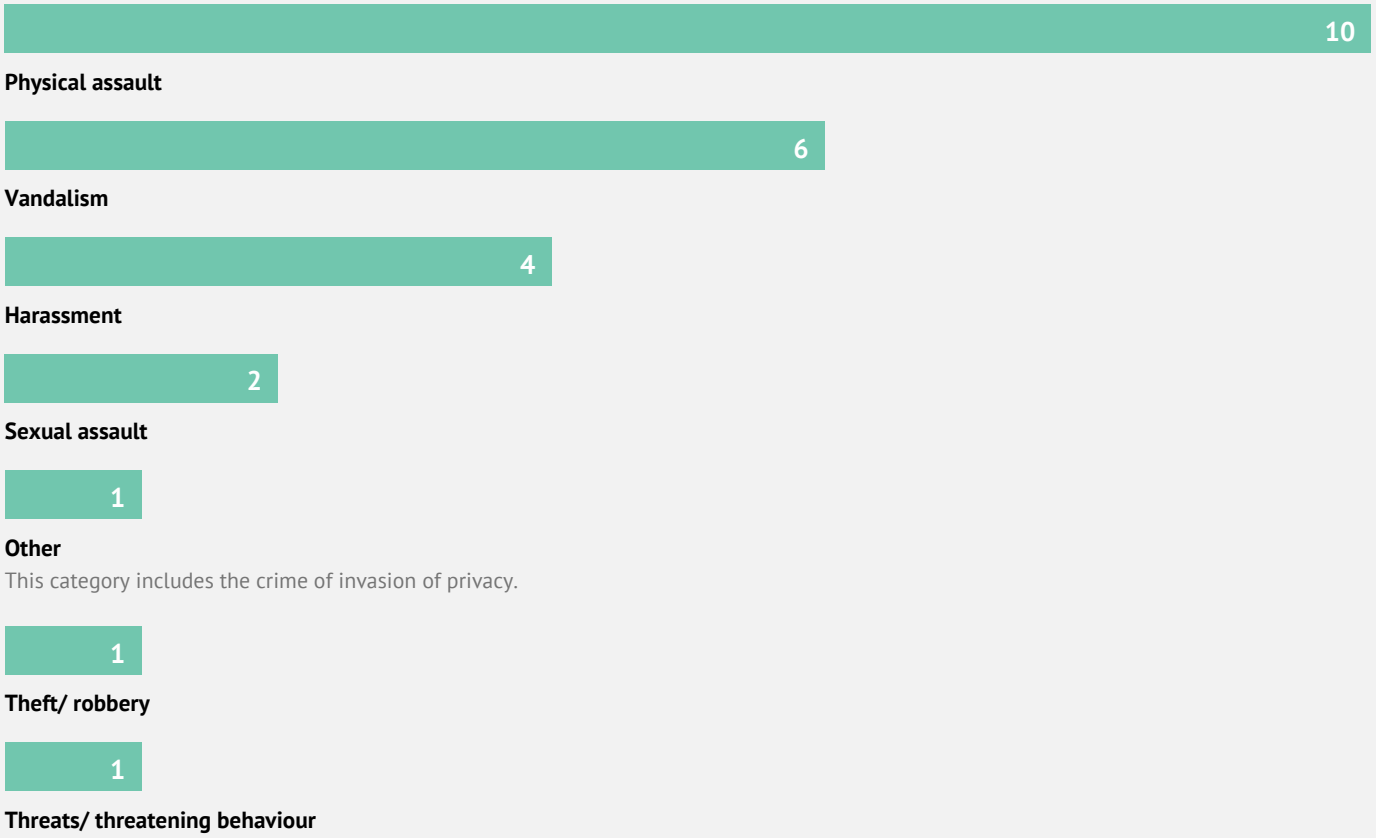
Official Data

The police figure is based on a "possible hate crimes" flag registered in the police database as an addition to the registered base offences. This flag corresponds to a potential bias motive.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2025	25	not available	not available


Police data by bias motivation
8
Racist and xenophobic
6
Anti-LGBTI
5
Anti-Muslim
5
Anti-Semitic
1
Disability

Police data by type of crime



National Developments

In 2025, the Analysis Department of the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police provided training and awareness-raising sessions on online extremism for police districts.

The National Commissioners Office is working with civil society and public institutions to develop educational materials on cyberbullying and hate speech. The materials will be made available to schools as part of the Safer Icelandic Youth 2.0 initiative.

Incidents reported by civil society

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

- Common [Under] Ground
- Samtökin '78

To learn more about these organizations, 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 nine hate incidents targeting seven victims in Iceland in the anti-LGBTI and racist and xenophobic bias motivation categories, as well as incidents involving both gender-based and anti-LGBTI bias motivations. ODIHR observes that a low number of incidents were reported in Iceland for 2025.

ODIHR observes several incidents of violent attacks and threatening behaviour targeting LGBTI persons, including a physical assault outside an LGBTI community centre, as well as property damage and arson attacks targeting rainbow flags on private property and a church. In addition, ODIHR received two reports of racist violent attacks, including a series of attacks targeting foreign taxi and delivery drivers that occurred after an extensive anti-immigration campaign.

It should be noted that ODIHR did **not** receive any reporting on Iceland relating to anti-Christian, anti-Muslim, anti-Roma, anti-Semitic, disability, or other hate incidents based on religion or belief. This indicates potential gaps in the information reported here.

In addition, one reporting organization submitted 4 statistical incidents for which descriptions are not available in the tables below, including 3 anti-LGBTI hate incidents involving threats/harassment and 1 anti-LGBTI hate incident involving violent attacks against people.
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 Iceland.

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 Iceland click here.

View civil society incidents for Iceland, 2025