OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

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/ireland

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

1 2020

Summary

Ireland regularly submits hate crime data to ODIHR. Ireland's annual hate crime statistics can be accessed here.

The Criminal Justice (Hate Offences) Act 2024, which came into force on 31 December 2024, provides for increased prison sentences for certain crimes, where proven to be motivated by hatred, or where hatred is demonstrated.

In February 2020, Ireland co-organized a workshop with ODIHR and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights to enhance the understanding and recording of hate crimes. Based on ODIHR's Information Against Hate Crimes Toolkit (INFAHCT) programme, the workshop produced a number of recommendations for relevant state authorities. In July 2021, An Garda Síochána (Ireland's National Police and Security Service) launched an online hate crime reporting system.

In April 2022, representatives of An Garda Síochána took part in ODIHR's Online Training on Sensitive and Respectful Treatment of Hate Crime Victims. Also in 2022, a comprehensive and mandatory Online Hate Crime Training Programme for Gardaí (police officers) was launched.

In 2023, An Garda Síochána formalized the reporting process between civil society and the Garda National Diversity Unit to facilitate reporting and reduce the under-reporting of hate crimes.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Ireland's efforts to improve its hate crime recording mechanisms. Continuing in the same vein is encouraged, so that data on hate crime recorded and collected by police, prosecution, and judiciary can be duly processed in the future. In addition, ODIHR observes that Ireland would benefit from reviewing its existing legal framework in order to

ensure that bias motivations can be effectively acknowledged and appropriate penalties can be imposed on the perpetrators.



Official Data

Due to the introduction of the new PULSE crime registration system, in October 2020, hate crime data for 2020 could not have been processed and reported to ODIHR.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2020	not available	not available	not available

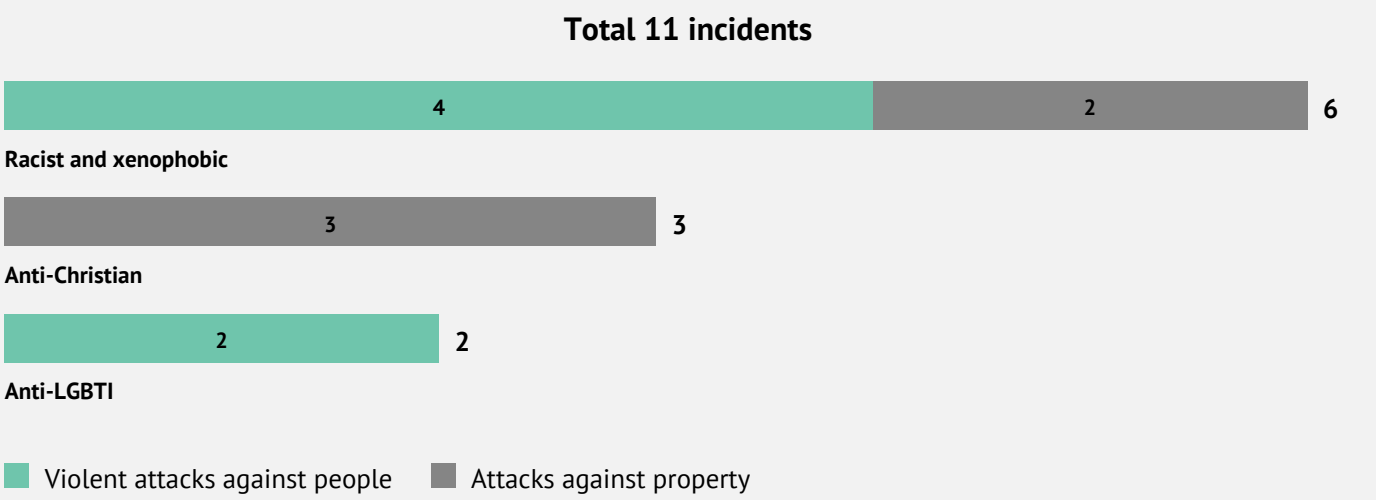
No data reported to ODIHR.

National Developments

In October 2019, An Garda Síochána launched the *Garda Diversity & Integration Strategy 2019-2021*. The strategy focuses on enhancing the identification, reporting, recording, investigating and prosecuting of hate crimes. It contains a working hate crime definition (attached) that is in line with international good practices and the McPherson "perception test". It also recognizes the current and emerging diversity of our communities, and aims to protect all diverse and minority groups in society. The strategy contains numerous initiatives and commitments aimed at increasing public confidence in reporting hate crime, such as online reporting, third party referrals, diversity consultation days, increased intercultural awareness and the establishment of a national diversity forum.

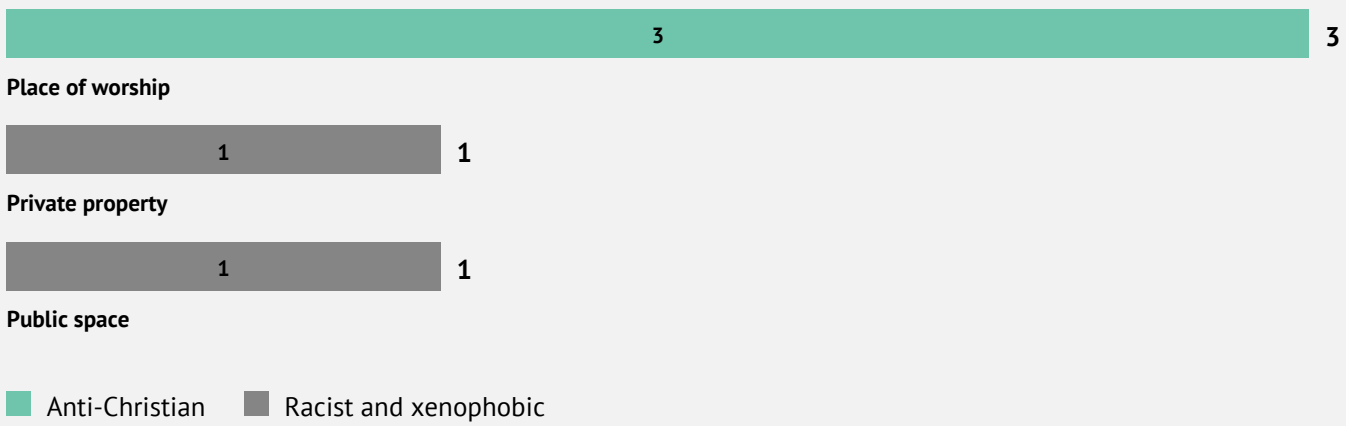
Since October 2020, the An Garda Síochána PULSE system allows for the recording of non-criminal hate incidents, which are recorded where there exists one or more discriminatory motives (bias motivations) as per the new working definition of hate crime. Policy and procedures on responding to hate crime and non-criminal hate incidents have been developed and these are supported by summary guidance documents on recording hate crime. An Garda Síochána has also formalised third-party reporting with a "Third Party Referral Agreement" to allow NGOs and CSOs to refer cases of hate crime directly to the Garda National Diversity and Integration Unit, who examine and action each referral. In July 2021, a Garda Síochána launched an online hate crime reporting system, supported by the publication of a hate crime information leaflet in 19 languages. An internal communications plan and public campaign were also carried out with extensive media coverage.

Incidents reported by civil society

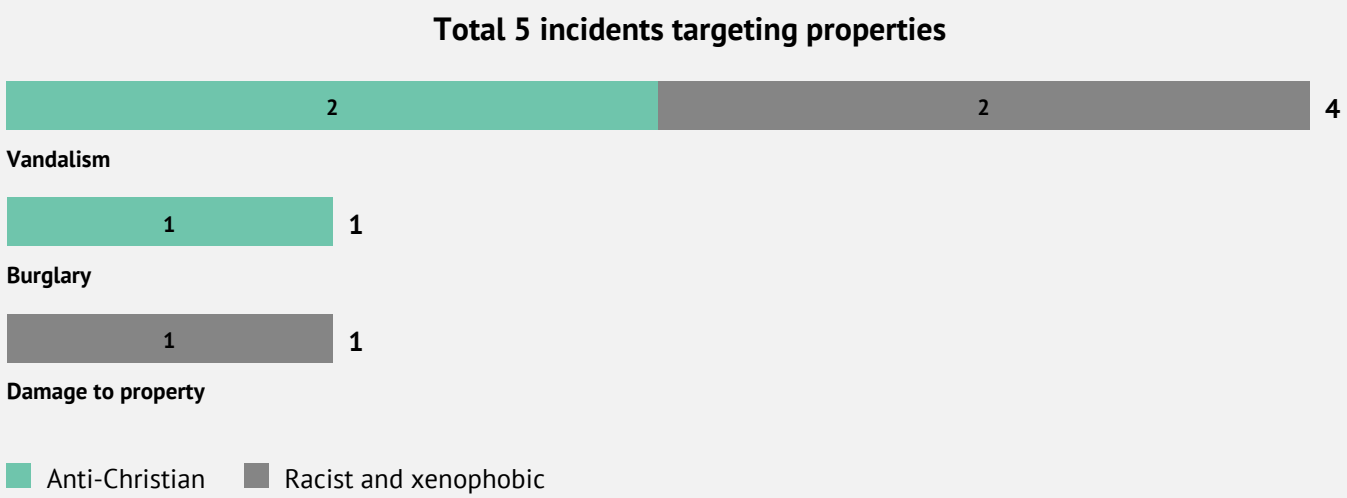


Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Ireland, 2020