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/lithuania

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

1 2020

Summary

Lithuania regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Data are collected by the Police Department under the Ministry of the Interior and the Prosecutor General's Office. Lithuania's annual hate crime report is published here.

Lithuania began implementing ODIHR's Training Against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) programme in 2015 and continues to train police officers using ODIHR's training curriculum. In 2018, Lithuania co-organized a workshop on hate crime recording and data collection with ODIHR and the EU Fundamental Rights Agency. The workshop was based on ODIHR's Information Against Hate Crimes Toolkit (INFAHCT) and resulted in a set of recommendations for relevant state authorities.

In 2020, a working group to promote an effective response to hate crime and hate speech in Lithuania was established by order of the Minister of the Interior. The working group consists of representatives of eight national public authorities (the Ministry of the Interior, the Prosecutor General's Office, the Police Department, the Department of National Minorities, the Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics, the Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson, the Parliamentary Ombudspersons Office and the Ministry of Social Security and Labour), victim support services, and ten civil society organizations (CSOs). The working group is responsible for developing effective measures to address hate crime and hate speech, monitoring the implementation of international commitments, and reviewing relevant legislation, among other duties.

In 2023, the Action Plan for the Implementation of Equal Opportunities, 2024-2026, was approved, and includes measures to prevent hate speech and hate crimes. Amendments were also made to recommendations for the pre-trial investigation of hate crime and hate speech, drafted with support from ODIHR, to include a definition of hate crime and bias indicators.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Lithuania's efforts to address hate crimes in a comprehensive manner, namely through establishing a relevant working group under the Ministry of Interior. However, based on the available information, it observes that Lithuania has not made hate crime data public. In addition, Lithuania would benefit from raising the awareness and building the capacity of criminal justice officials about hate crimes.

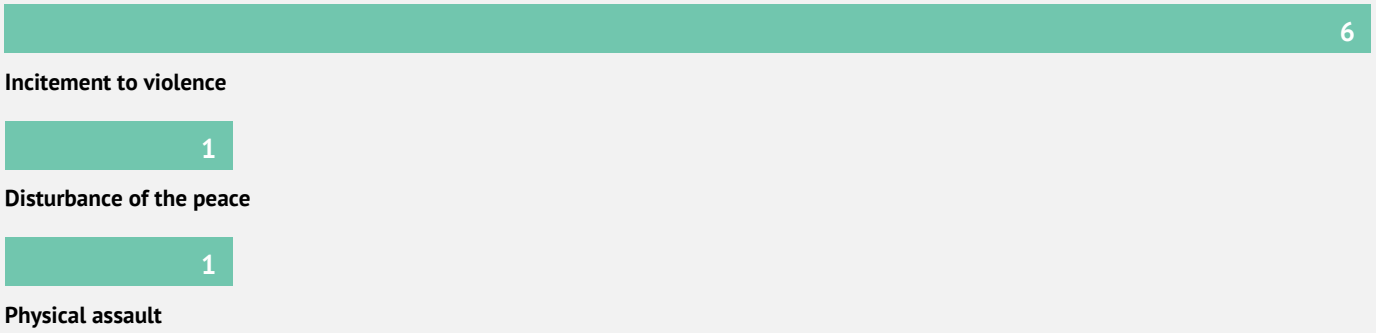
Official Data

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2020	8	4	1

Police data by bias motivation



Police data by type of crime

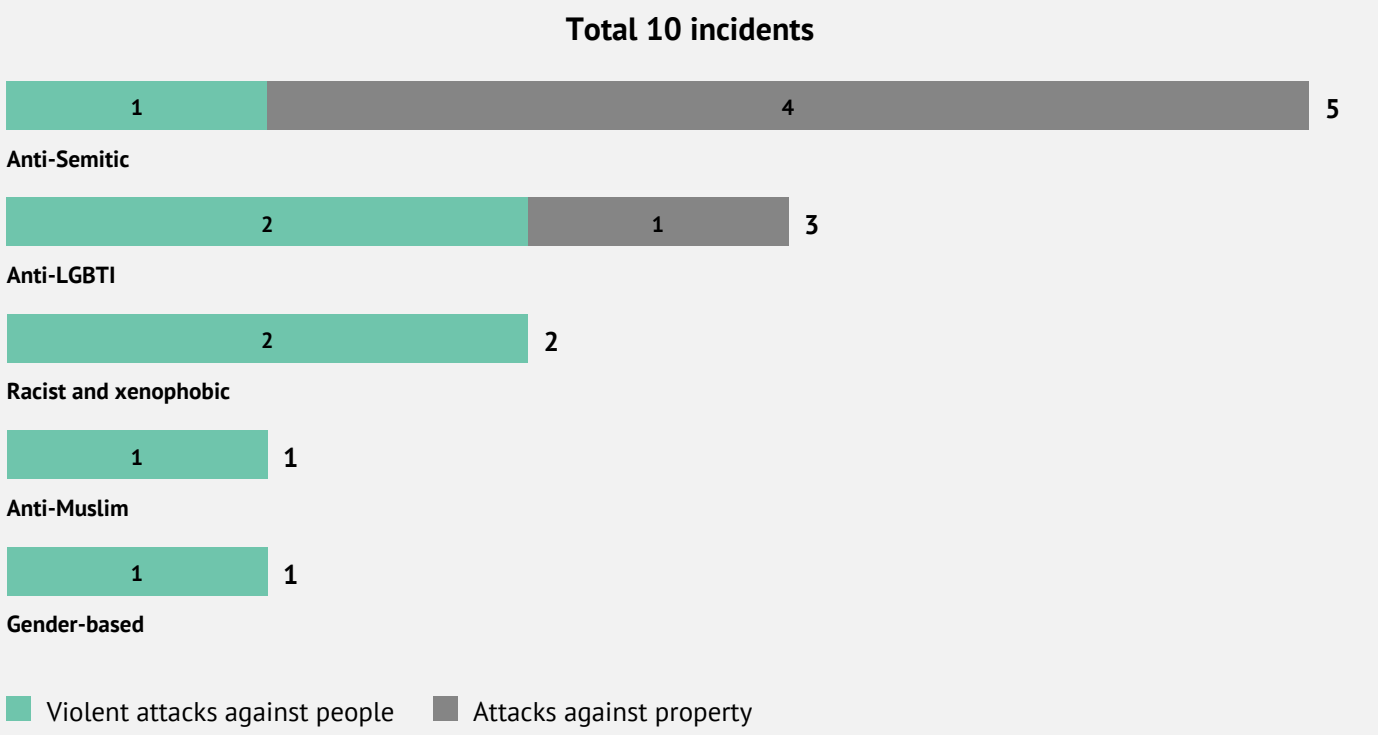


National Developments

In 2020, with the support of the project "Strengthening the Response to Hate Crimes and the Language of Hate in Lithuania" funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014–2020), the **Prosecutor General** issued an updated version of the Methodological Recommendations on the Peculiarities of Conducting, Organizing and Guiding the Pre-Trial Investigation of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech.

The **Ministry of Interior** compiled a practical guide for law enforcement officers on cooperation with communities vulnerable to hate crimes. Under the same ministry, a working group to promote an effective response to hate crimes and hate speech in Lithuania was established in February 2020. The working group consists of representatives of the criminal justice system, other relevant agencies, and civil society. It has been tasked with: (i) considering the issues of raising public awareness of hate crimes and hate speech, promoting dialogue with vulnerable communities and other ways to increase the effectiveness of the fight against hate crimes and hate speech and making relevant proposals; (ii) monitoring the implementation of the international obligations in the field of prevention of hate crimes and hate speech, and preparing proposals on their proper implementation; (iii) assessing relevant applicable and draft legislation; (iv) considering the issues involved in improving the monitoring of hate crime and hate speech in Lithuania; (v) preparing and publishing annual reports on hate crimes and hate speech in Lithuania; (vi) exchanging relevant information on planned and ongoing activities and best practices in the field of prevention of hate crime and hate speech; (vii) initiating events to strengthen the public's capacity to recognise hate crimes and hate speech, reduce the latency of hate crime, and strengthen the relevant competences of law enforcement institutions and other state institutions and bodies and civil society organisations (CSOs); and (viii) considering the recommendations of international organisations, NGOs, and other organisations with regard to the response to hate crimes and hate speech in Lithuania and preparing proposals for their implementation.

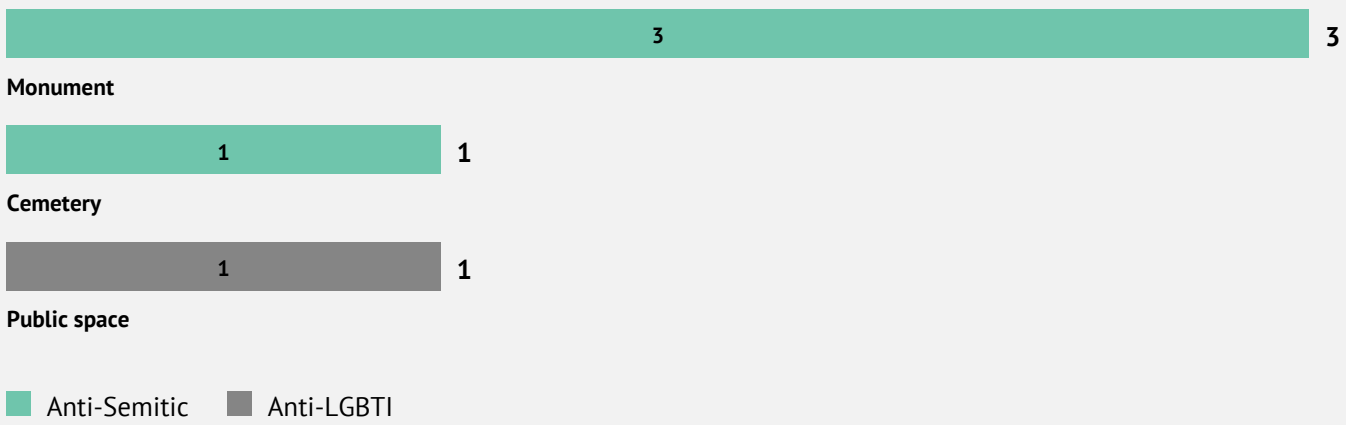
Incidents reported by civil society



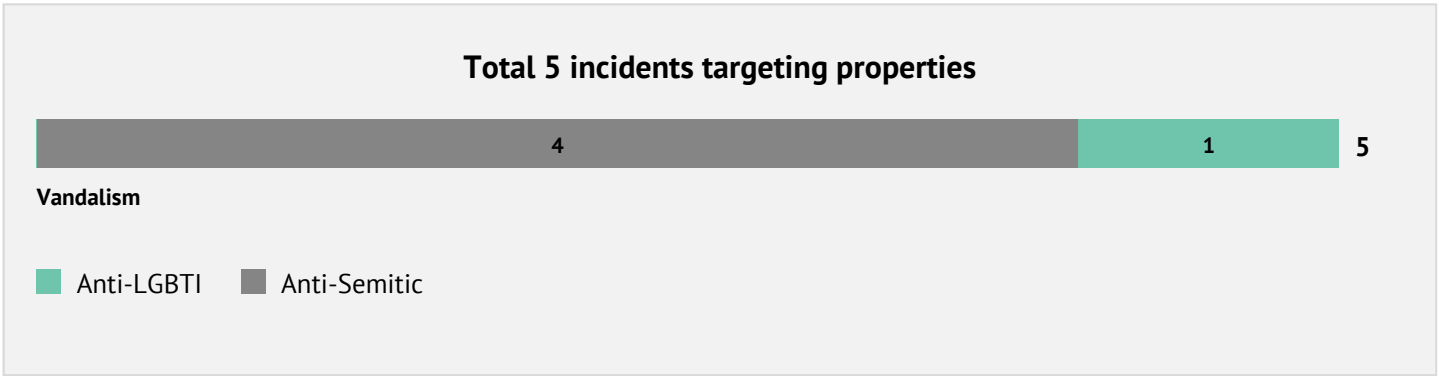
Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

In addition to incidents summarized below, this graph includes 1 hate incident reported by Kantor Center as statistics.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Lithuania, 2020