OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2024 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

2024

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 enhance the cooperation between national public authorities and civil society organizations to respond to hate crime. However, based on the available information, it observes the low numbers of officially recorded hate crimes. In addition, Lithuania would benefit from further building the capacity of prosecutors and judges to address hate crimes.

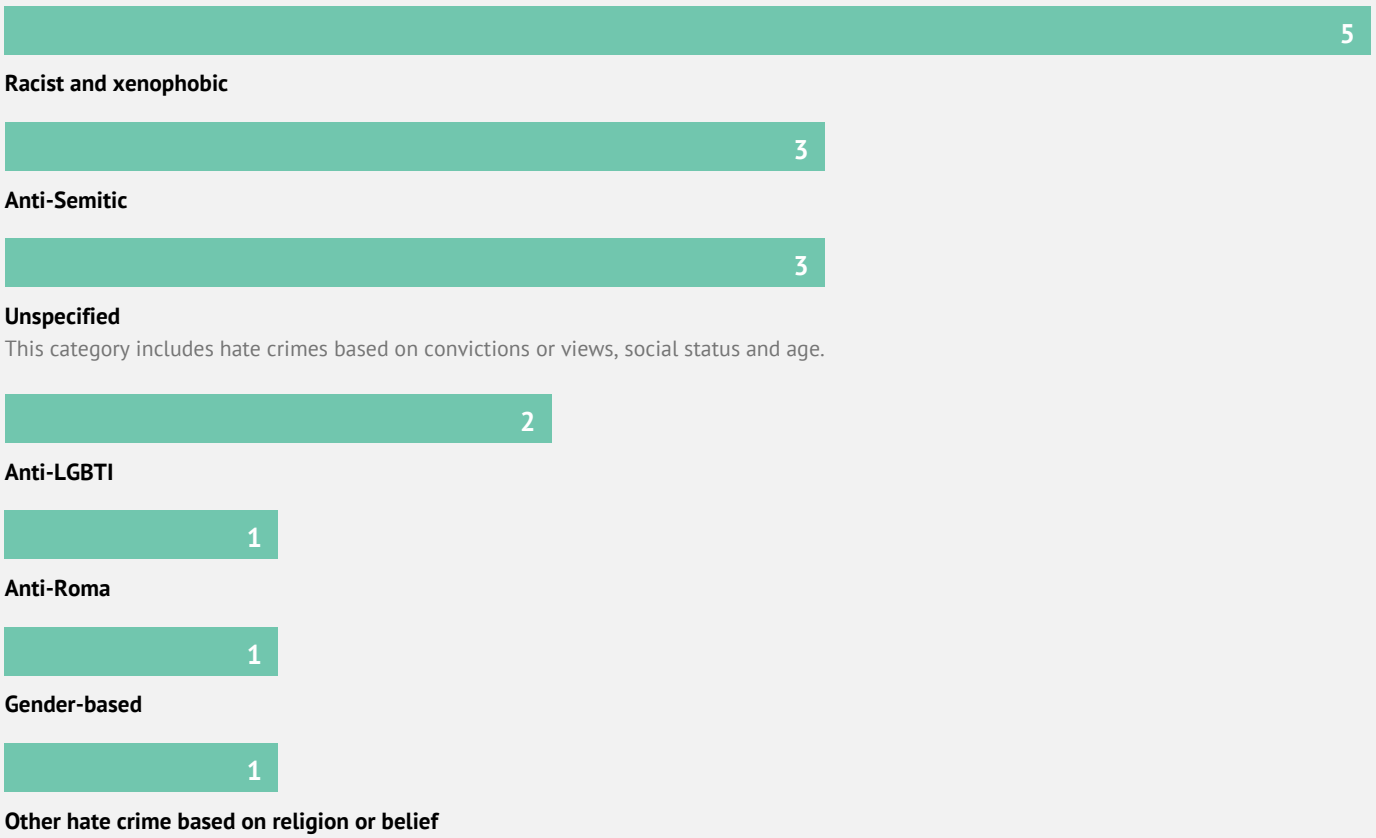
Official Data

The year-to-year drop in the numbers in the table above is due, among other possible factors, to changes in ODIHR's methodology, specifically the exclusion of offences of incitement to hatred, hostility or violence (Article 170(3) of Lithuania's Criminal Code) from its Hate Crime Report.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2024	16	5	2

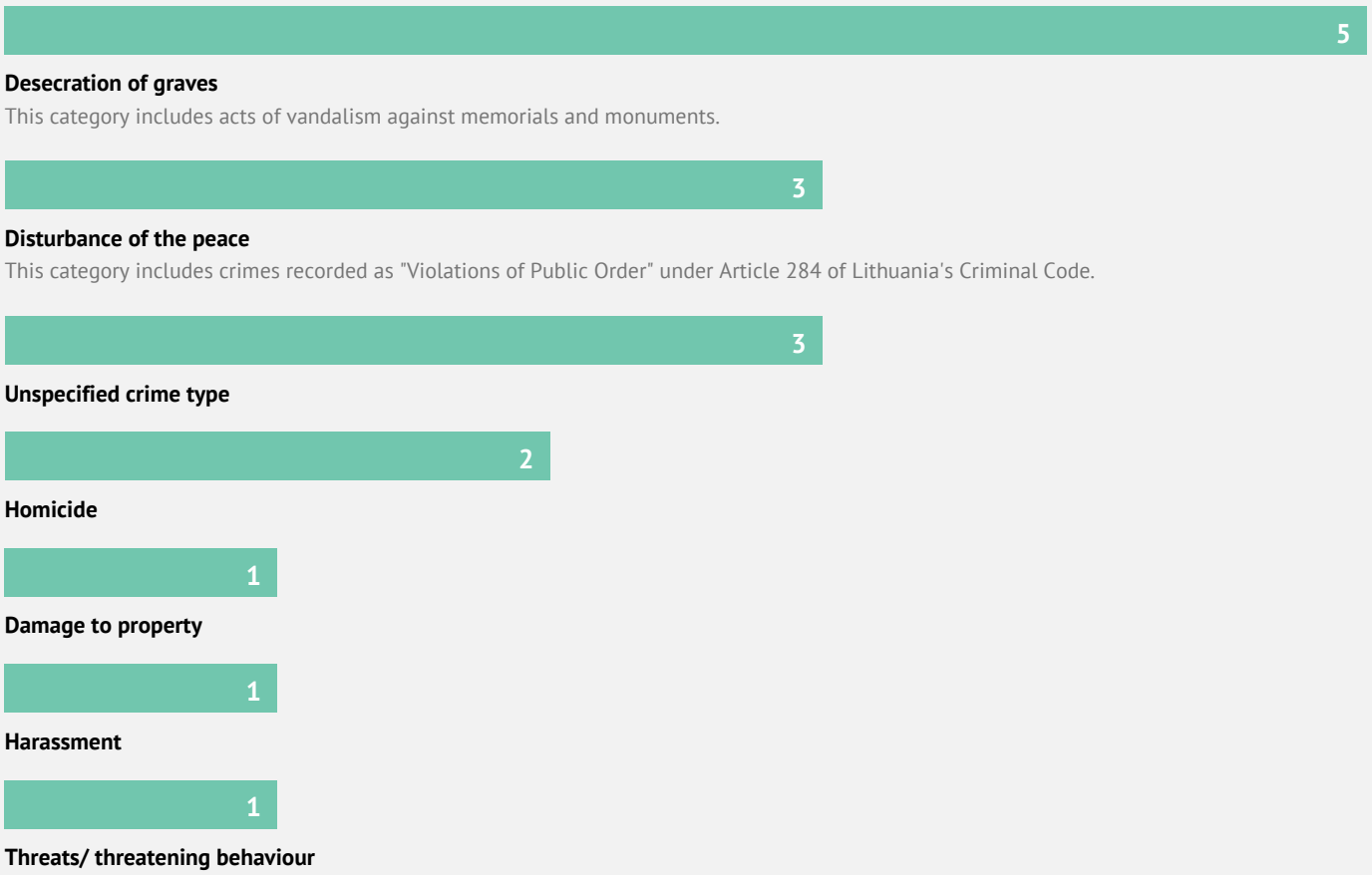
Police data by bias motivation

Twenty cases of incitement speech were recorded by police and reported to ODIHR but were excluded as falling outside of ODIHR's hate crime definition.



Police data by type of crime

Twenty cases of incitement speech were recorded by police and reported to ODIHR but were excluded as falling outside of ODIHR's hate crime definition.



National Developments

In November 2024, the Criminal Code of Lithuania was amended the list of protected characteristics has been expanded to include 'religion' (in addition to 'belief', 'convictions' and 'views').

In 2024, 13 national public authorities and agencies and six civil society organizations (19 organizations in total) signed the Memorandum on Strengthening the Response to Hate Speech and Hate Crime. The Memorandum defines the role of each competent organization and provides for annual meetings to discuss the progress and problems of the implementation of the Memorandum.

In 2024, a leaflet in Lithuanian and English was drafted, which provides basic information on where and how to report hate incidents and on victims' rights. The leaflet was published and distributed with the support of 68 institutions, bodies and organizations, including civil society organizations, victims support services and educational institutions, as well as the administrations of all 60 municipalities.

In 2024, the Ministry of the Interior carried out a survey on the personal attitudes of police officers and prosecutors towards hate crimes and hate speech. The results of the survey were compared with the results of the 2021 survey by the Office of the Inspector of Journalistic Ethics.

Notable case:

In 2024, a group of young people were arrested on suspicion of a series of violent hate crimes targeting Asian and African national and other persons based on their ethnicity and perceived ideology. The young people - some of them minors - had been radicalized on social networks. According to the assessment of Lithuanian intelligence institutions, Lithuania, like many other Western countries, remains at risk of the spread of right-wing extremist ideologies among young people.

Incidents reported by civil society

For 2024, ODIHR received reports of hate incidents in Lithuania from the following civil society organizations:

- Lithuanian Gay League
- Jewish Community of Lithuania
- International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF)
- The Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe (OIDAC)

To learn more about these organizations, visit the Contributors page.

In addition, ODIHR also received reports of incidents recorded by the Holy See as part of their ongoing monitoring across the OSCE region.

All incidents submitted by the above organizations 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 2024, ODIHR received reports of 14 hate incidents that took place in Lithuania in the following bias motivation categories: anti-Semitic, anti-Christian, and anti-LGBTI.

ODIHR observes that all of the anti-Semitic incidents reported involved attacks on property associated with the Jewish community, including community centres, cafes, synagogues and memorials. The anti-LGBTI incidents reported included physical assaults and threats.

It should be noted that ODIHR did not receive any reporting on Lithuania relating to anti-Muslim, anti-Roma, gender-based or disability hate 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 might not reflect the actual number of incidents or the most targeted communities in Lithuania.

To address under-reporting, ODIHR encourages any civil society organizations or groups that monitor hate incidents in Lithuania to report these to ODIHR at hatecrimereport@odihr.pl.

To export an Excel sheet with summaries of all incidents from Lithuania click here and search by year and country.

View civil society incidents for Lithuania, 2024