

Malta Hate Crime Report 2022

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2022 Hate Crime Report.

For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/malta

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

Summary

Malta reported hate crime information and data for the 2023 Hate Crime Report.

Malta implemented ODIHR's Training Against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) programme in 2017. In 2021, ODIHR held a workshop for civil society organizations in Malta on ODIHR's hate crime methodology and its application to the specific context of Malta.

A legislative amendment to the Criminal Code in 2023 includes hate crimes committed with the use of electronic equipment as criminal offences.

[Hate crime data collection in Malta](#)

[Support for hate crime victims in Malta](#)

[Hate crime capacity building in Malta](#)

[Malta's hate crime legislation](#)

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Malta's efforts to report hate crime data to ODIHR, amend its legislation to increase the punishment for bias-motivated crimes, and provide adequate specialist support to hate crime victims. However, based on available information, ODIHR observes that Malta does not collect data and statistics on hate crimes at the stage of prosecution and sentencing. In addition, ODIHR observes that Malta would benefit from raising awareness among and building the capacity of prosecutors and judges to record and address hate crime.

Official Data

Police-recorded data are taken from police reports within the National Police System and may include cases of hate speech that fall outside of the OSCE's hate crime definition. Three cases (offences of abuse of public authority and of a civil nature) that fall outside of the OSCE's hate crime definition were excluded from the above figure. Statistics on prosecuted and sentenced cases are not available, as data on bias motivations are not recorded.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2022	53	not available	not available

Police data by bias motivation

The breakdown below does not include cases of abuse of public authority and of a civil nature reported to ODIHR, as they fall outside of the OSCE's hate crime definition. The category "Threats/Threatening behaviour" may include hate speech cases that fall outside of the OSCE's hate crime definition but could not be separated from the hate crime cases.

22

Racist and xenophobic hate crime

This category includes hate crime cases motivated by anti-Semitic and anti-Roma bias. One case of abuse of public authority and one case of a civil nature were recorded in this category but not included here.

12

Anti-LGBTI hate crime

One case of a civil nature was recorded in this category but not included here.

11

Unspecified

This category includes hate crimes based on political orientation.

6

Other hate crime based on religion or belief

This category includes hate crime cases motivated by bias against Christians and bias against Muslims.

2

Gender-based hate crime

Police data by type of crime

The breakdown below does not include cases of abuse of public authority and of a civil nature reported to ODIHR, as they fall outside of the OSCE's hate crime definition. The category "Threats/Threatening behaviour" may include hate speech cases that fall outside of the OSCE's hate crime definition but could not be separated from the hate crime cases.

19

Threats/ threatening behaviour

This category includes cases recorded under "insult and threats" and "threats and private violence" in the National Police System, and may include offences that fall outside of the OSCE's hate crime definition.

13

Unspecified

12

Disturbance of the peace

8

Physical assault

1

Damage to property

National Developments

In 2022, the Anti-Racism Platform was formally launched as one of the measures envisaged under Malta's Anti-Racism Strategy 2021-2023. The Inter-ministerial Committee on Anti-Racism (IMC-AR) commenced its work.

In 2021, a newly adopted law introduced an increase in punishment for offences, including violent offences, that were "aggravated or motivated, wholly or in part by hatred against a person or a group, on the grounds of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, colour, language, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, citizenship, religion or belief or political or other opinion."

Incidents reported by civil society

Total 8 incidents



Racist and xenophobic hate crime



Gender-based hate crime

Violent attacks against people Threats/Harassment

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.

[View civil society incidents for Malta, 2022](#)