

Malta Hate Crime Report 2023

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2023 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 develop a policy framework to address hate crimes comprehensively. 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, while police recording does not fully distinguish hate crimes from other crimes, such as hate speech. 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 the OSCE's hate crime definition. 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
2023	27	not available	not available

Police data by bias motivation

The breakdown below may include offences that fall outside the OSCE's hate crime definition but could not be separated from hate crime cases.

9

Racist and xenophobic hate crime

8

Anti-LGBTI hate crime

The 'unspecified' case is a case of computer misuse, and may fall outside the OSCE's hate crime definition.

7

Unspecified

This category includes hate crime motivated by bias on the basis of political orientation.

2

Other hate crime based on religion or belief

The 'unspecified' cases include one case of religious sentiment, which may fall outside the OSCE's hate crime definition.

1

Gender-based hate crime

Police data by type of crime

The breakdown below may include offences that fall outside the OSCE's hate crime definition but could not be separated from hate crime cases.

12

Threats/ threatening behaviour

This category includes cases recorded under 'threats and private violence' in the National Police System.

8

Disturbance of the peace

3

Physical assault

This category also includes gender-based violence

2

Damage to property

2

Unspecified

National Developments

Malta's Human Rights Directorate set up a data collection workshop for key stakeholders with the aim of developing a data collection tool and strengthening reporting of hate speech, hate crime and discrimination. The workshop was organized as part of the country's first National Action Plan Against Racism (NAPAR) and a project co-funded by the EU (END-RACISM-MT). This process will continue with the second NAPAR, which will involve all responsible authorities in a comprehensive response to addressing hate crime, including through various measures such as training, addressing of gaps, and awareness raising.

In 2023, the Criminal Code was amended to include hate crimes committed with the use of electronic equipment. In such instances, the offender is also charged with offences related to electronic communications (per Article 49 of Chapter 399 of the Laws of Malta - Electronic Communications (Regulation)). This article stipulates that anyone who utilizes an electronic communications network or device to threaten the commission of a crime, extort money or obtain other gains, or engage in other improper uses, is guilty of an offence.

Incidents reported by civil society

Total 1 incidents



Anti-Muslim hate crime

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, 2023](#)