OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

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

1 2023

Summary

Malta regularly reports hate crime information and data to ODIHR.

The Second National Action Plan Against Racism (NAPAR 2025–2030), launched on 12 November 2025, places particular emphasis on improving hate crime recording and data collection.

Malta implemented ODIHR's Training Against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) programme in 2017, followed by a refresher Training-of-Trainer programme in 2025. In 2021, ODIHR held a workshop for civil society organizations on ODIHR's hate crime methodology and its application to the specific context of Malta.

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.

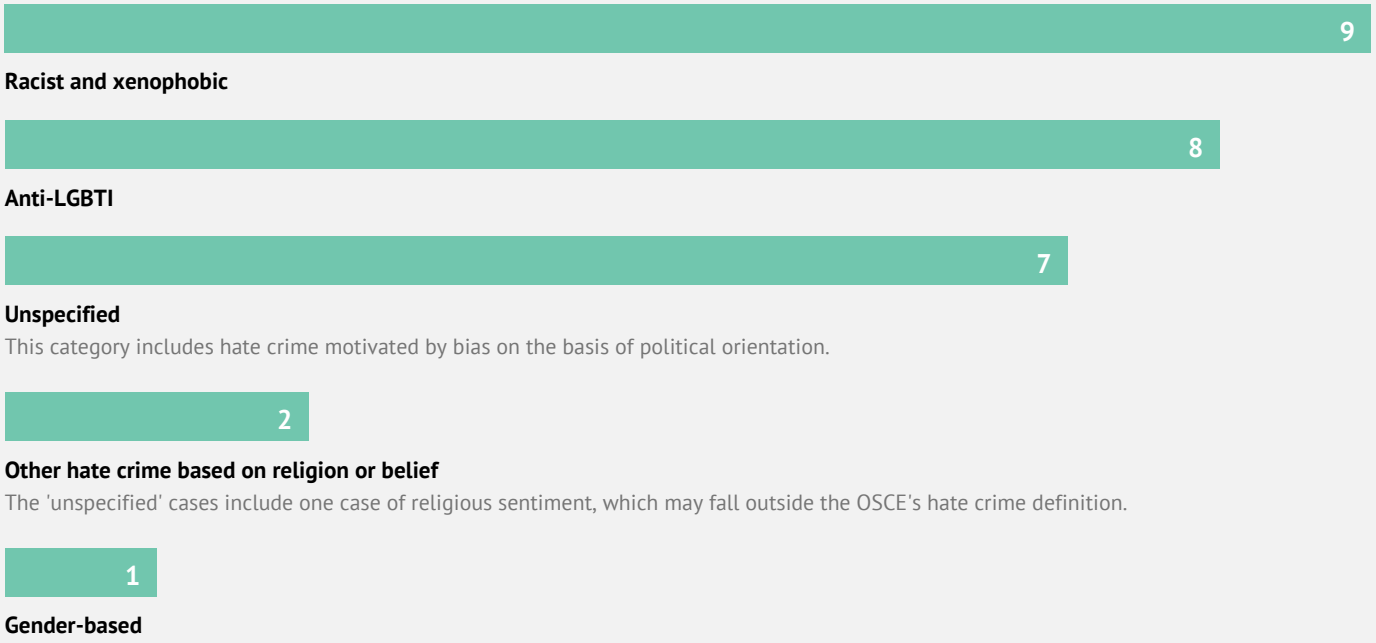
Official Data

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

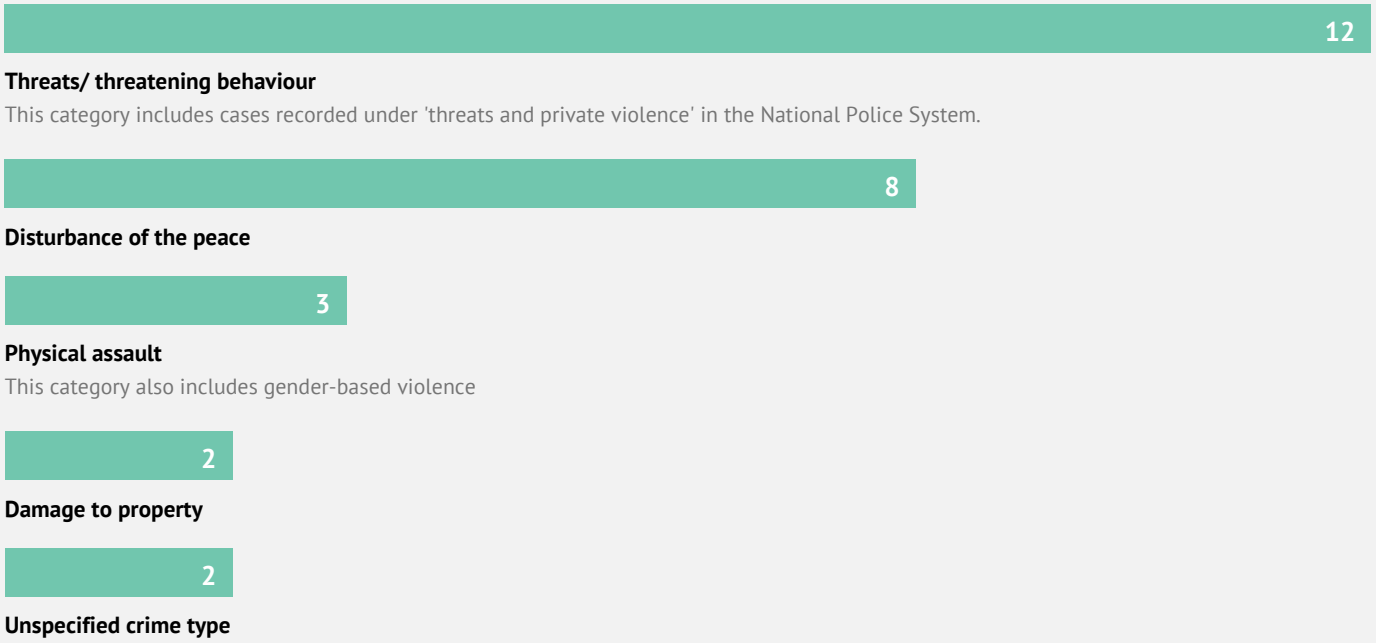
Police data by bias motivation

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



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.



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

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