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/netherlands

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

1 2023

Summary

The Netherlands regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Police and prosecution statistics are published annually. A victimization survey is conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics every two years and the results are published here.

A National Co-ordinator against Discrimination and Racism, appointed in October 2021, is tasked with ensuring a comprehensive approach to countering discrimination and hate crime, in co-operation with civil society organizations (CSOs). A State Commission against Discrimination and Racism is tasked with conducting research into discrimination and racism, including hate crimes.

The Ministry of the Interior (MoI) regularly consults CSOs on anti-discrimination policies. In particular, the MoI has entered into a formal co-operation agreement with the CSO Discriminatie.nl, which monitors discrimination in the Netherlands.

Hate crime data collection in the Netherlands
Support for hate crime victims in the Netherlands
Hate crime capacity building in the Netherlands
The Netherlands's hate crime legislation

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR. However, based on the available information, it observes that the Netherlands does not collect data on hate crimes at the level of the judiciary. In addition, ODIHR observes that the Netherlands would benefit from reviewing the existing legal framework in order to ensure that bias motivations can be effectively acknowledged and appropriate penalties imposed on the perpetrators.

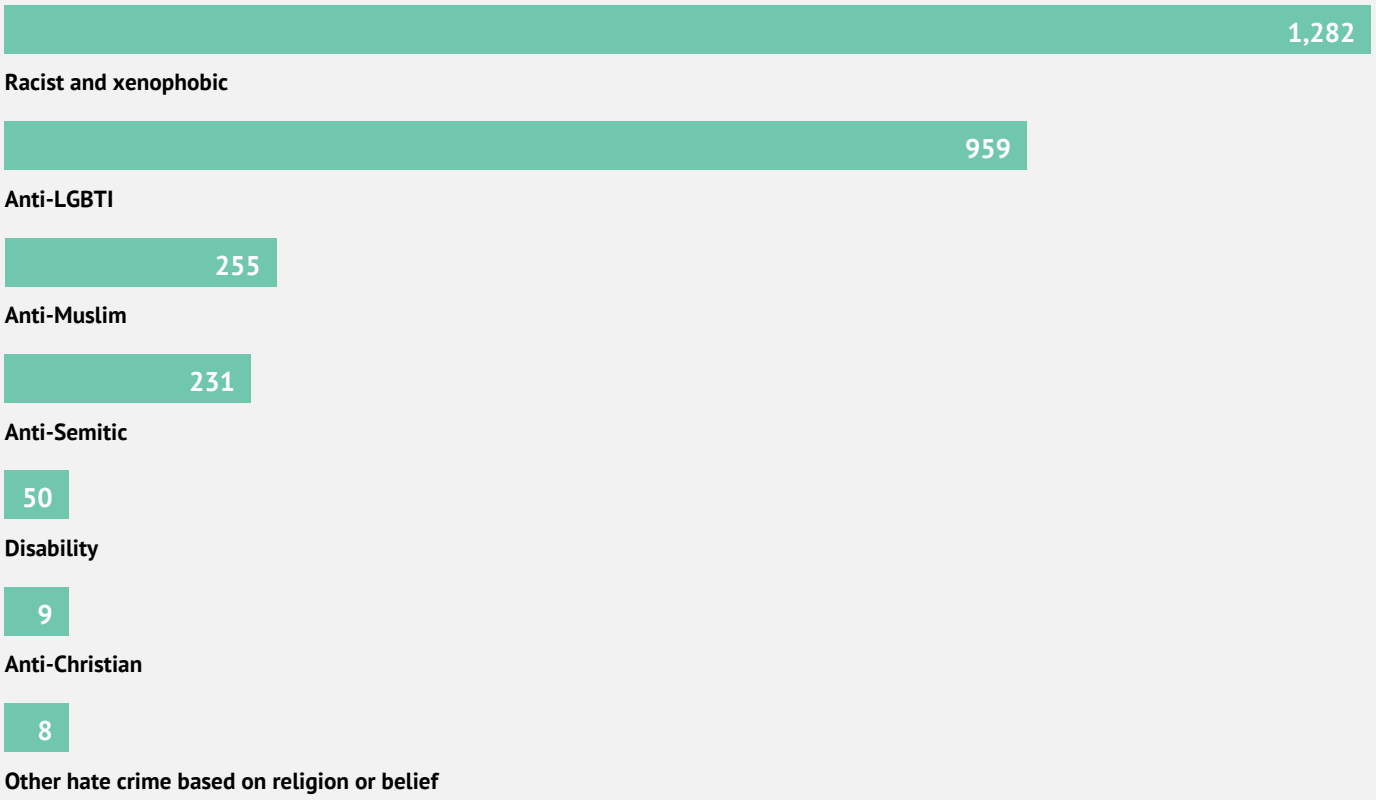
Official Data

Police-recorded figures only include hate crime incidents within the OSCE definition. Hate speech incidents, including insults, are not included in the figures above (5,694 incidents of insults were recorded in 2023). Where multiple biases are registered for an offence, each bias is registered separately. For judicial and technical reasons, not all hate crime incidents are fully disaggregated. Data on prosecuted cases only include hate crime incidents within the OSCE definition. Prosecutor data present the number of criminal discriminatory offences that can be legally qualified, rather than the number of incidents. One alleged criminal offence or hate crime fact can lead to the registration of more than one discriminatory ground. The judiciary does not record hate crimes, as the discriminatory motive does not need to be proven in court or addressed in judicial decisions. The discrepancy between the police and the prosecution figures can be explained by the different approaches to recording (including a perception-based recording and a broader framework for recording by the police), the fact that not all reported incidents lead to a prosecution (e.g., due to the victim's preference for an alternative solution or a lack of evidence), and the fact that not all registered hate incidents are found plausible by the prosecution.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2023	3,301	97	not available

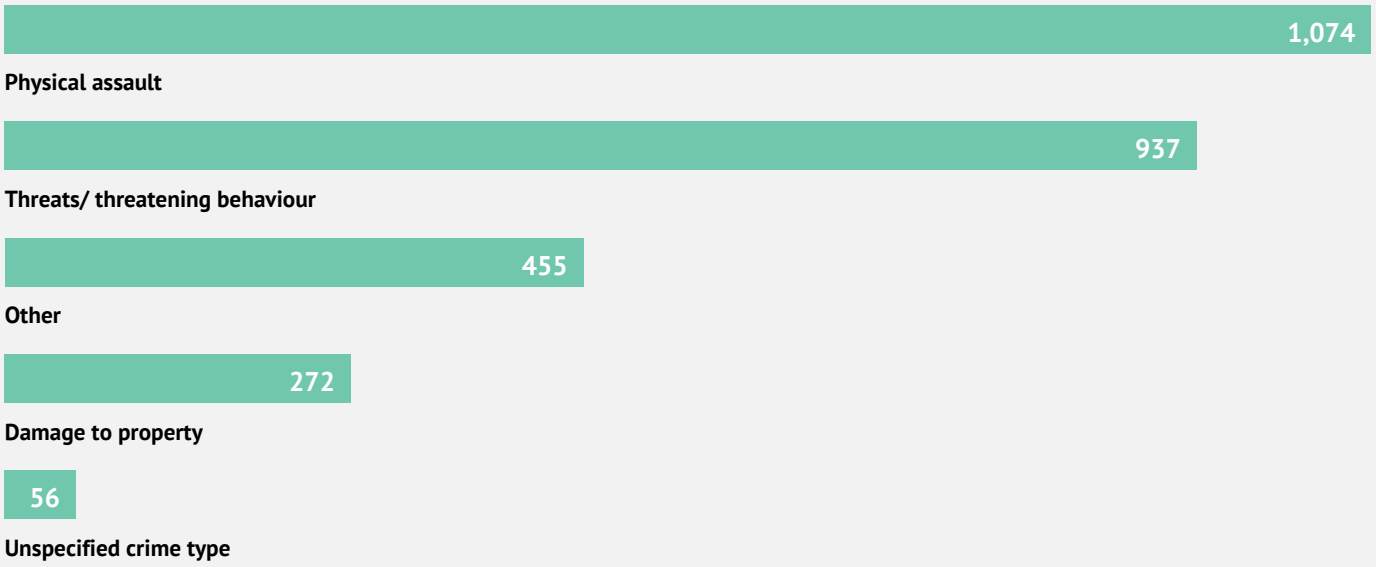
Police data by bias motivation

The breakdown below does not include hate speech incidents, including insults, which were recorded separately. The category 'other' in the breakdown below includes incidents that may fall outside the OSCE's hate crime definition. The charts below present the total numbers for each bias motivation; disaggregation by the type of crime is available for some bias motivation categories only.



Police data by type of crime

The breakdown below does not include hate speech incidents, including insults, which were recorded separately. The category 'other' in the breakdown below includes incidents that may fall outside the OSCE's hate crime definition. The charts below present the total numbers for each bias motivation; disaggregation by the type of crime is available for some bias motivation categories only.

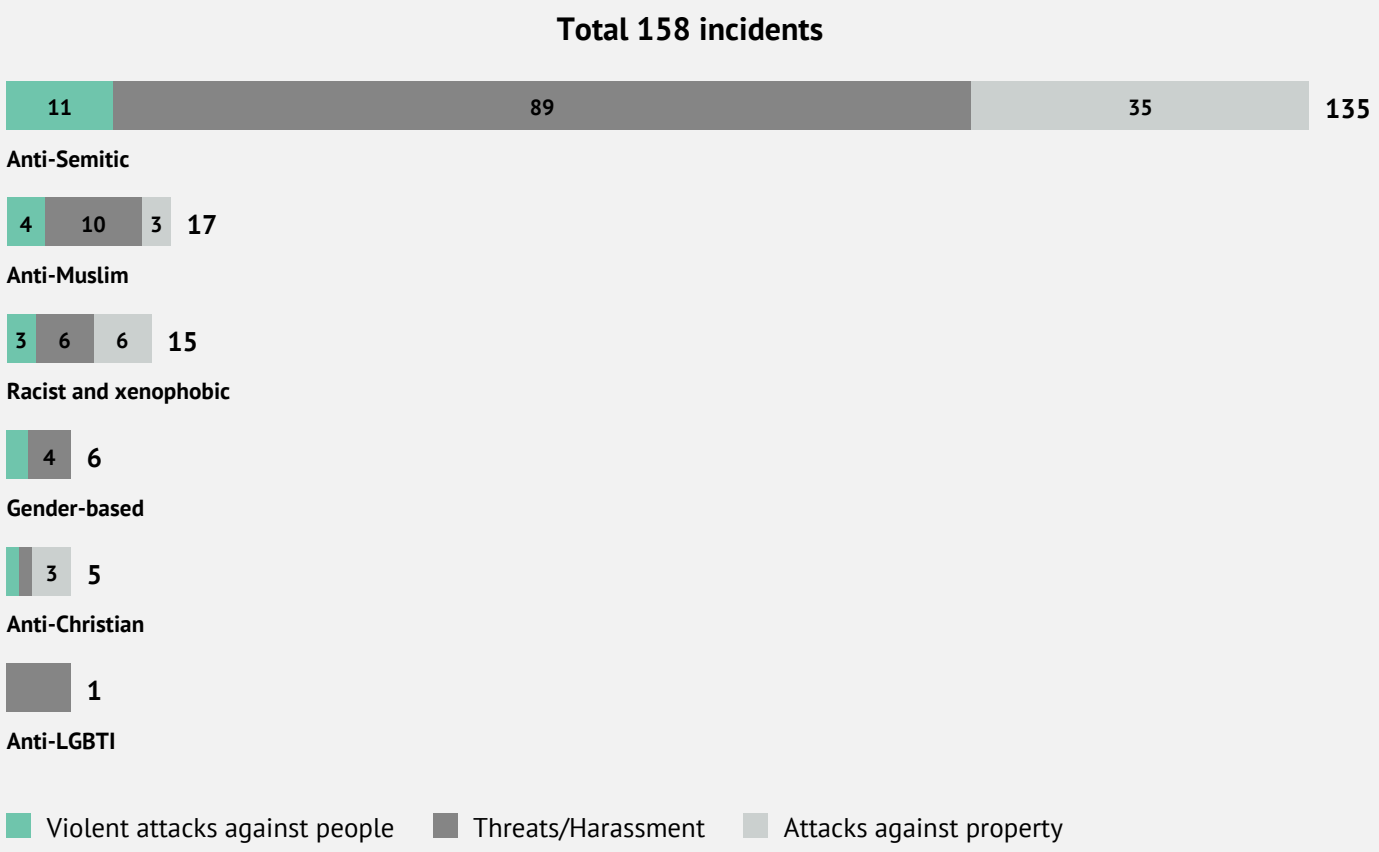


National Developments

In 2023, a revised version of a **draft bill** aimed at introducing a criminal provision of general application on aggravating circumstances was pending before the Dutch Parliament. In line with the bill, when a discriminatory aspect is proven, the maximum term of imprisonment imposed may be increased by one third.

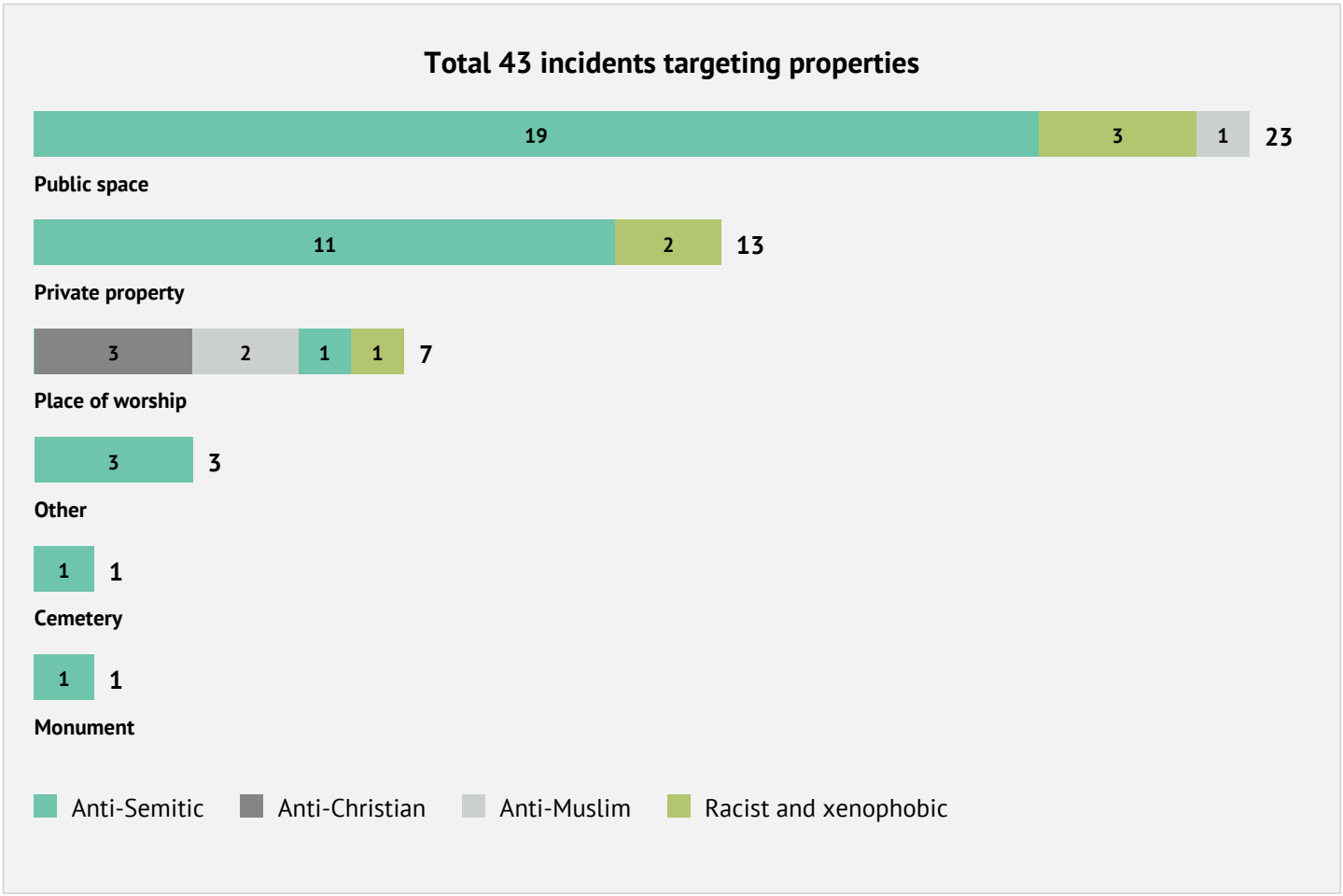
In 2023, the **National Co-ordinator against Discrimination and Racism (NCDR)** developed a multi-year programme against discrimination and racism. This initiative builds on a comprehensive national programme to strengthen anti-discrimination measures introduced by the NCDR in 2022. The NCDR works closely together with the different ministries and the **National Co-ordinator on Combating Anti-Semitism (NCAB)**.

Incidents reported by civil society

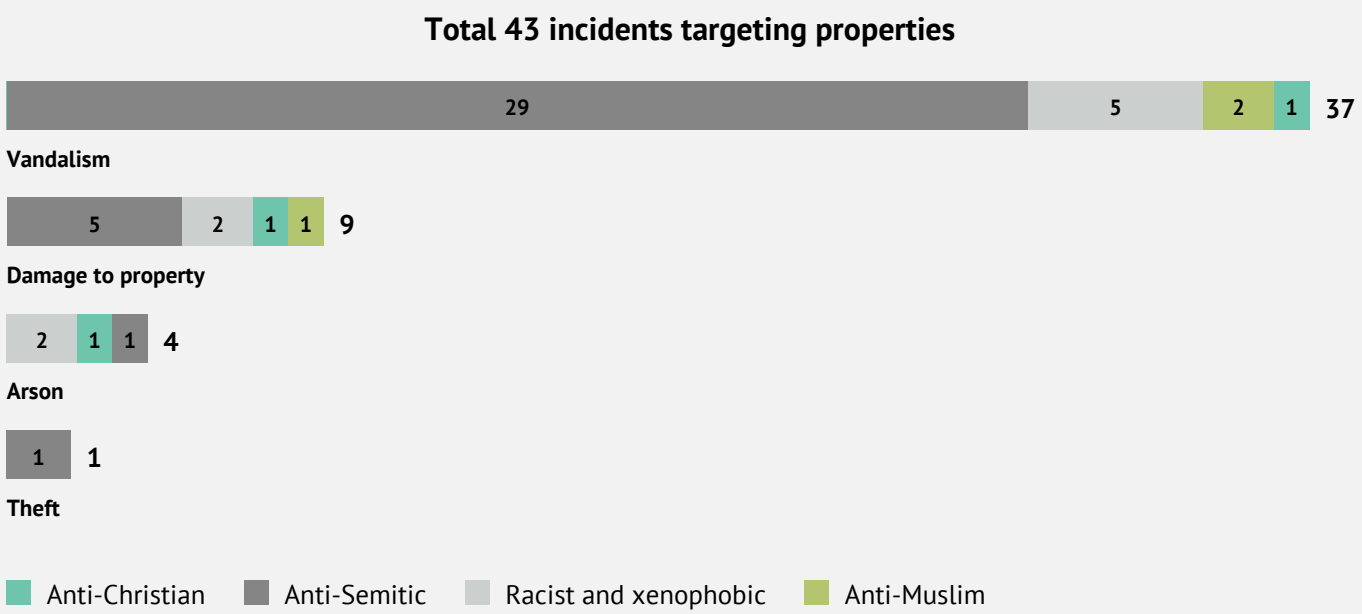


Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Netherlands, 2023