

Norway Hate Crime Report 2021

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2021 Hate Crime Report.

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

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

Summary

Norway regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. In 2021, the Norway Police established a National Expertise Group on Hate Crime. The Group is part of the Oslo Police District and is a reinforcement of the Oslo Police District's Hate Crime Unit. The mandate of the Group is to build the capacities of the regional police districts through training and guidance and, if necessary, to provide assistance in specific cases.

The Attorney General's Annual Circular, which sets out goals and priorities for the year for police and prosecution services, has included hate crime as a priority area for over 20 years. This means that hate crime cases, whatever the severity, are given priority and cannot be dismissed due to capacity or other reasons within police districts.

[Hate crime data collection in Norway](#)

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

[Hate crime capacity building in Norway](#)

[Norway's hate crime legislation](#)

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Norway's efforts to address a wider range of bias motivations through amendments to the Criminal Code. However, based on the available information, it observes that Norway's hate crime recording and statistics do not sufficiently distinguish hate crimes from other crimes. In addition, ODIHR observes that Norway would benefit from ensuring that hate crimes are addressed in a comprehensive manner, including by introducing a co-ordination mechanism.

Official Data

The records presented in this table include incidents of hate speech and discrimination, which fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime. The sum of disaggregated incidents below adds up to more than the total because crimes can be recorded under more than one bias motivation. The records on prosecuted and sentenced cases do not include all hate crimes recorded in 2021.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2021	959	54	17

Police data by bias motivation

In the breakdown below, the numbers do not correspond with the total number of police-recorded hate crimes. This is because: (i) there may be several motives registered in one criminal case; and (ii) the police records included incidents of hate speech and discrimination. Such incidents were excluded as they constitute hate speech and discrimination, which fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime.

532

Racist and xenophobic hate crime

This category includes hate crimes committed with bias based on "race", colour and ethnicity.

366

Unspecified

The category "damage to property" includes acts of vandalism.

240

Anti-LGBTI hate crime

This category includes 174 hate crimes committed with bias based on sexual orientation and 66 hate crimes committed with bias based on gender identity or gender expression.

71

Anti-Muslim hate crime

64

Other hate crime based on religion or belief

This category includes hate crimes committed with bias based on religion, but not anti-Muslim hate crimes.

19

Anti-Semitic hate crime

18

Disability hate crime

Police data by type of crime

In the breakdown below, the numbers do not correspond with the total number of police-recorded hate crimes. This is because: (i) there may be several motives registered in one criminal case; and (ii) the police records included incidents of hate speech and discrimination. Such incidents were excluded as they constitute hate speech and discrimination, which fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime.

944

Unspecified

136

Physical assault

115

Disturbance of the peace

75

Threats/ threatening behaviour

29

Damage to property

4

Incitement to violence

4

Sexual assault

2

Theft/ robbery

1

Homicide

National Developments

In January 2021, amendments to Section 77 of the Criminal Code (Aggravating circumstances) came into force, following their adoption by the **Norwegian Parliament** in November 2020. The amendments extended the list of protected characteristics to gender identity and gender expression, while also changing the term “homosexual orientation” to “sexual orientation”. The amendments have thus allowed harsher penalties to be imposed for crimes motivated by a wider range of protected grounds.

In 2021, the **Norwegian Police** established a "National competence environment" on hate crime. Its main duty is to increase capacity and build a common framework and standards among police and prosecutors to counter hate crime, including through dialogue and co-operation with civil society.

Incidents reported by civil society

No data reported to ODIHR.

[View civil society incidents for Norway, 2021](#)