

Poland Hate Crime Report 2016

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2016 Hate Crime Report.

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

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

Summary

Poland regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Several public bodies are involved in monitoring and/or collecting data on hate crimes, primarily the police and the Prosecutor's Office. Hate crime data are regularly published.

There is a high degree of hate crime specialization in both police and prosecutor structures. More than 100 specialist hate crime prosecutors have been appointed, and a network of hate crime co-ordinators was established in the police in 2014. In 2015, following a request by the lower house of parliament, ODIHR provided a [legislative review](#) of proposed changes to the Criminal Code of Poland, including on hate crime provisions.

In 2023, Polish police participated in a three-day train-the-trainer workshop as part of ODIHR's Training Against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement ([TAHCLE](#)). In 2018, the Ministry of the Interior, ODIHR and the EU Fundamental Rights Agency co-organized a workshop on understanding and improving hate crime recording and data collection based on ODIHR's Information Against Hate Crimes Toolkit ([INFAHCT](#)) programme. In 2019, ODIHR co-operated with the Commissioner for Human Rights in Poland to issue a [report](#) on the nature and scale of unreported hate crimes against members of selected communities in Poland.

A draft bill is being developed to amend the Penal Code to strengthen criminal law protection against criminal discriminatory grounds for conduct on the basis of disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

[Hate crime data collection in Poland](#)

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

[Hate crime capacity building in Poland](#)

[Poland's hate crime legislation](#)

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR observes that Poland has not reported on hate crimes separately from cases of hate speech.

Official Data

Police, prosecution and sentencing figures include cases of hate speech.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2016	874	281	236

Police data by bias motivation

The numbers presented here refer to police investigations initiated as hate crimes. The numbers also include incidents of hate speech, which are considered crimes under Polish penal law.

592

Racist and xenophobic hate crime

158

Anti-Muslim hate crime

103

Anti-Semitic hate crime

47

Anti-Roma hate crime

29

Other hate crime based on religion or belief

12

Anti-LGBTI hate crime

With the exception of one "other" crime motivated by transphobic bias, all other hate crimes listed here were committed on account of sexual orientation.

Police data by type of crime

The numbers presented here refer to police investigations initiated as hate crimes. The numbers also include incidents of hate speech, which are considered crimes under Polish penal law.

729

Unspecified

This category includes hate speech incidents, which fall outside the OSCE definition of hate crimes.

120

Physical assault

52

Threats/ threatening behaviour

24

Damage to property

6

Desecration of graves

4

Attacks against places of worship

4

Incitement to violence

2

Arson

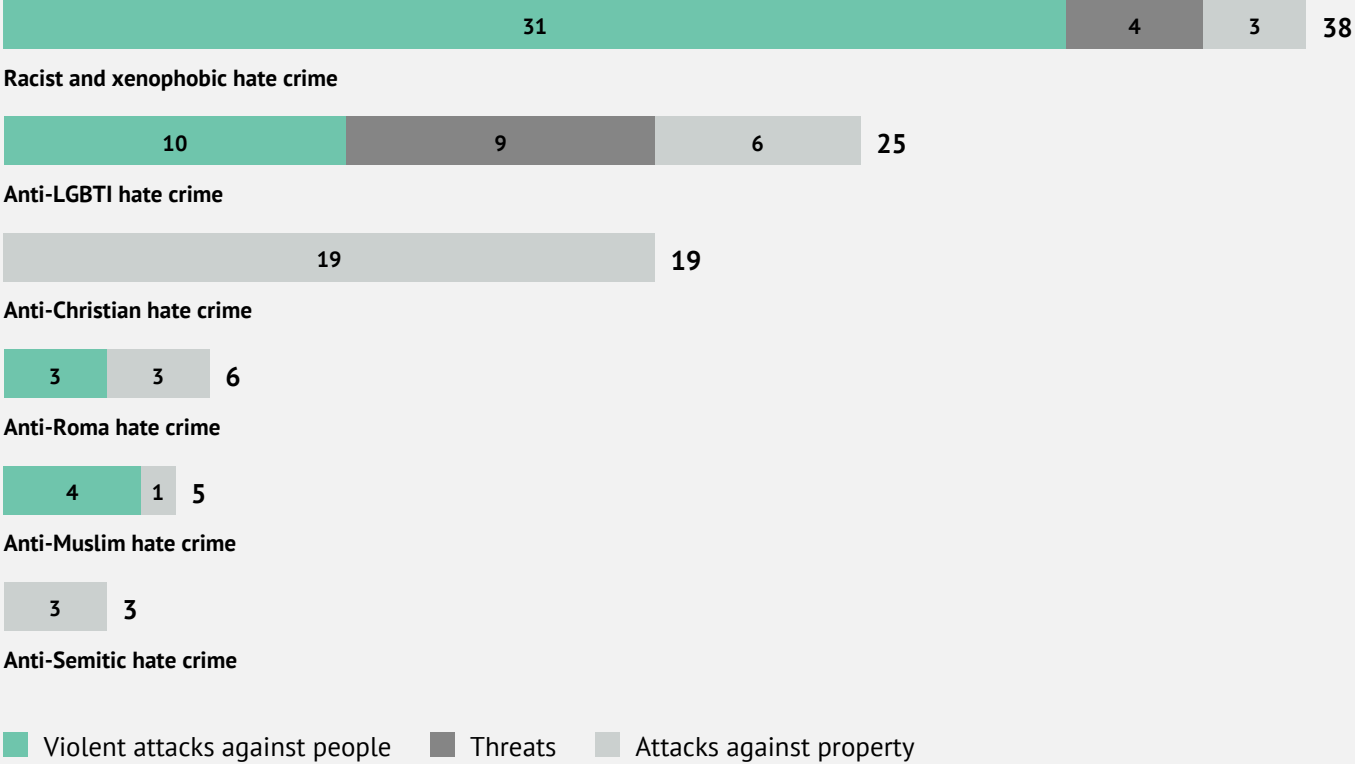
National Developments

The Prosecutor's Office has introduced improvements to the methods through which it gathers information on hate crime prosecutions and compiles statistics from across the country.

In implementing the Memorandum of Understanding of 2015, ODIHR has, in co-operation with the National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution, worked with 24 prosecutors to make them capable of training others on hate crime. The new trainers should cascade the PAHCT training to their colleagues.

Incidents reported by civil society

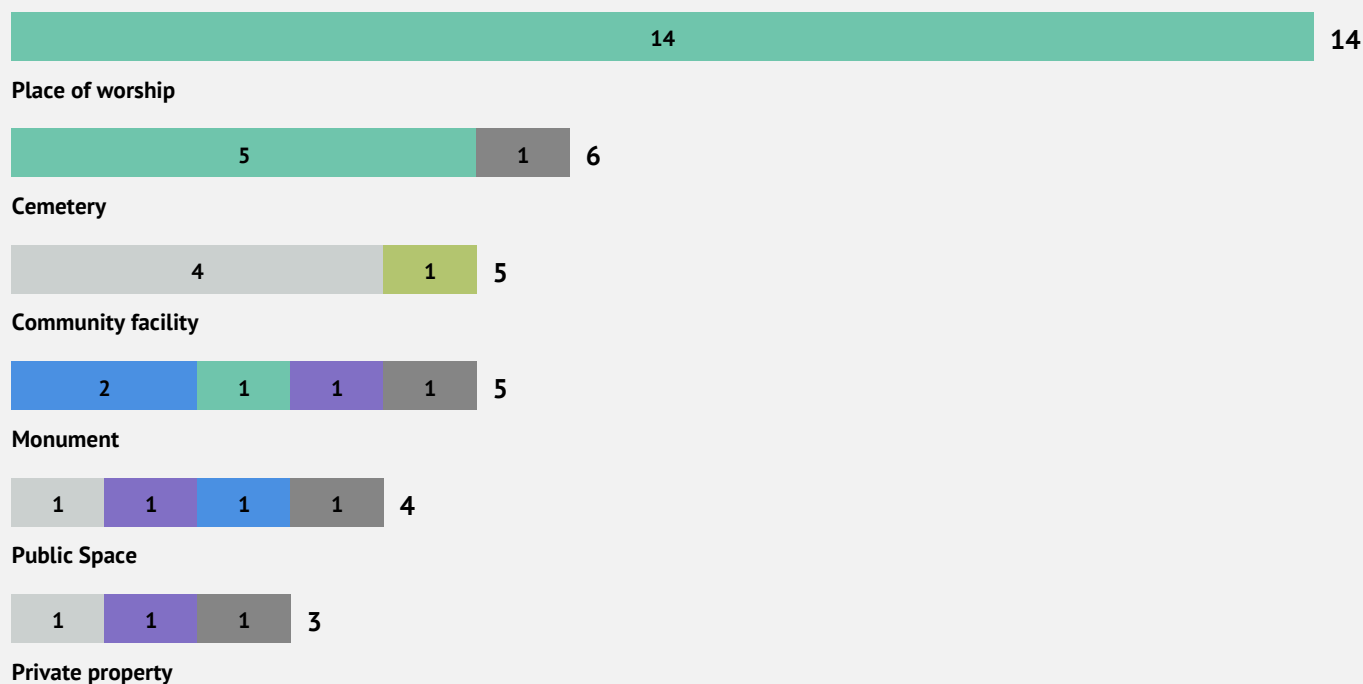
Total 93 incidents



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

Total 35 incidents targeting properties



■ Anti-Christian hate crime
 ■ Racist and xenophobic hate crime
 ■ Anti-LGBTI hate crime
■ Anti-Muslim hate crime
 ■ Anti-Roma hate crime
 ■ Anti-Semitic hate crime

Type of property attack

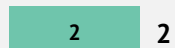
Total 35 incidents targeting properties



Vandalism



Damage to property



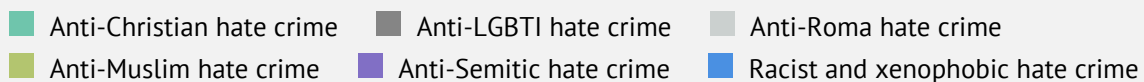
Burglary



Arson



Theft



[View civil society incidents for Poland, 2016](#)