OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2025 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

2025

Summary

Poland regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Several public bodies – including the Police and the Prosecutor's Office – are involved in hate crime monitoring and/or data collection. 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 within 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 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. In 2016, Polish prosecutors participated in a three-day train-the-trainer workshop as part of ODIHR's Prosecutors and Hate Crime (PAHCT) programme.

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 recognizes Poland's efforts to build the capacity of police to address hate crimes, as well as to strengthen the hate crime response at the level of prosecutors. However, based on the available information, it observes that Poland's hate crime recording and statistics do not sufficiently distinguish hate crimes from other crimes. In addition, ODIHR observes that

Poland would benefit from further building the capacity of prosecutors on hate crime.



Official Data

The police records represent the number of proceedings initiated by police for hate crimes cases in 2025, including proceedings that were later discontinued owing to a lack of evidence. The police figure excludes 465 cases of criminal hate speech, which fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime. The prosecution figure includes the number of indictments and requests to convict a person without holding a trial. A total of 163 cases were excluded as incidents of insults, discrimination, propagation of fascism or other totalitarian regime, and public incitement offences, all of which fall outside the OSCE hate crime definition. The prosecution figure above may still contain offences that fall outside the OSCE hate crime definition. The records on sentenced hate crimes represent the number of convictions in the first instance before district and regional courts. Sentencing figures exclude cases of discrimination, hate speech and, to the extent possible, insults, which fall outside the OSCE hate crime definition.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2025	925	200	138

Police data by bias motivation

The data below refer to police investigations that were initiated as hate crimes, and present the numbers of recorded bias motivations. As such, the breakdown below does not match the total police figure presented above. The numbers may include offences of 'insults' and other speech-based crimes, which fall outside the OSCE hate crime definition but could not be disaggregated.



Racist and xenophobic



Anti-Semitic



Anti-Muslim



Other hate crime based on religion or belief



Anti-Roma



Unspecified

This category presents other hate crimes, such as those motivated by bias against age, occupation, and other characteristics.



Anti-Christian



Anti-LGBTI



Disability

Police data by type of crime

The data below refer to police investigations that were initiated as hate crimes, and present the numbers of recorded bias motivations. As such, the breakdown below does not match the total police figure presented above. The numbers may include offences of 'insults' and other speech-based crimes, which fall outside the OSCE hate crime definition but could not be disaggregated.

869

Other

This category consists of offences recorded under Article 119 para. 1 of the Criminal Code, which can include physical attacks or threats on persons due to protected characteristics. It also includes offences recorded under Article 257 of the Criminal Code, which may include cases of the physical or verbal breach of personal inviolability that fall outside the OSCE's hate crime definition. Furthermore, several instances of disruption of worship (Article 195 para 1 of the Criminal Code) are presented under this category.

28

Physical assault

25

Damage to property

18

Theft/ robbery

15

Unspecified crime type

7

Attacks against places of worship

4

Threats/ threatening behaviour

1

Burglary

1

Homicide

National Developments

In 2025, training workshops on bias-motivated crimes were held for designated police officials and specialized co-ordinators and hate crime units from prosecutor's offices, among other beneficiaries. The workshops were held with the co-operation of external partners, including the Jewish Association Czulent and a representative of the Prosecutor's Office. The workshops included an analysis of hate symbols with the aim of strengthening the recognition of bias-motivated crimes.

A 2023-2024 Co-operation Agreement concluded on 22 March 2023 between the Chief Commander of the Police and the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews was extended to 2025. The agreement aimed to increase the knowledge and professional competences of police officers in preventing and combating anti-Semitism and protecting human rights and equal treatment, with particular emphasis on anti-discrimination. Approximately 2,200 police officers participated in activities implemented as part of the agreement. A new agreement covering 2026-2030 is currently being developed.

In 2025, the National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution organized an optional training course on "Tackling hate crime in criminal law: the Prohibition of torture and inhuman treatment", as part of its continuous training programme. The training course covered the topics of crimes motivated by hate and/or prejudice in Polish criminal law; the methodology for handling such crimes; and a review of national and international case law related to hate crime and the use of torture. The course was held online and involved 114 participants, including 12 judges, 3 trainee judges, 24 assistant judges, 55 prosecutors, 3 trainee prosecutors, 16 assistant prosecutors and 1 trainee at the National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution.

The Prevention Bureau and the Criminal Bureau of the National Police Headquarters are lead institutions working to tackle hate speech and hate crimes. Data submitted to the Prevention Bureau show that police officers carried out 717 activities to counter hate crimes and hate speech in 2025.

In September 2025, the Prevention Bureau held a training seminar on "Police preventive actions in the area of hate speech, hate crime and cyber threats". The seminar was implemented as part of the Bureau's 2025 Plan of Local Vocational Training and delivered to 23 social prevention co-ordinators from the regional and Warsaw Metropolitan Police Headquarters, as well as police lecturers responsible for related training activities, including from the Szczytno Police Academy. The seminar aimed to improve professional competences and practical skills to address and prevent hate speech and cyber threats. During the seminar, the "Tolerado" Association for LGBTQ People held a training session on "My pronouns are... The social situation of LGBTQ+ people", concerning the experiences of the LGBTI community in relation to hate, hate speech and hate crimes. The "Tolerado" Association's presentation was further distributed to the Voivodeship and Warsaw Metropolitan Police Headquarters, as well as to the Police Academy in Szczytno and police schools. The Prevention Bureau plans to organize a similar training seminar in 2026: using the materials provided, social prevention co-ordinators from the regional and Warsaw Metropolitan Police Headquarters will deliver the training seminar to officers within the subordinated police municipal and district headquarters responsible for implementing activities to prevent hate speech.

On 5 March 2025, the Public Prosecutor General issued new guidelines on conducting proceedings related to bias-motivated crimes, thereby repealing the previous guidelines of 26 February 2014.

On 23 April 2025, the Public Prosecutor General issued an Ordinance for the Prosecutor's Office on the procedures for investigating bias-motivated crimes. The Ordinance also established the positions and duties of a national co-ordinator and

district co-ordinators for the prosecution of bias-motivated crimes. Based on this Ordinance, district co-ordinators were appointed in all regional Prosecutor's Offices in the country, and a national co-ordinator has been appointed in the Department of Preparatory Proceedings of the National Public Prosecutor's Office. Consequently, bias-motivated cases will no longer be handled by prosecutors from all district Prosecutor's Offices, but by a specialized group of about 100 designated prosecutors operating in 49 District Prosecutor's Offices (one per district, and four for the Warsaw district). The Ordinance also designated the Regional Prosecutor's Office in Warsaw as the specialized unit responsible for handling the most labour-intensive and complex cases.

To follow up on the Public Prosecutor General's guidelines of 5 March 2025, the Criminal Bureau of the National Police Headquarters sent letters to every police garrison informing them of the new procedures. The Bureau also organized a training course on investigating bias-motivated crimes attended by 170 police officers from the Warsaw Metropolitan, Pomeranian and Lower Silesian garrisons.

The Criminal Bureau of the National Police also participated in the following activities aimed at preventing and combating bias-motivated crimes:

- A meeting on the draft National Strategy to combat anti-Semitism and support the Jewish community, which took place in the Chancellery of the Prime Minister;
- A Conference on "the Future of Europe: Cross-sectoral co-operation in counteracting bias-motivated crimes", organized by the Jewish Association Czulent;
- A seminar on "A secure and resilient Europe: Narratives and Disinformation vs. the Protection of Minorities – Enhancing engagement in the fight against antisemitism";
- An awareness-raising and information campaign in public institutions, including schools and government offices, organized by the Jewish Association Czulent; and
- Trainings events for Police officers organized by the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews.

Incidents reported by civil society

For 2025, ODIHR received reports of hate incidents in Poland from the following civil society organizations:

- European Association of Jehovah's Witnesses
- International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF)
- Jewish Association CZULENT
- "Never Again" Association
- Ordo Iuris Institute
- "Pro Futuro Theologiae" Foundation
- The Gdańsk Centre for Equal Treatment (GCRT)
- Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe (OIDAC)
- We Are Monitoring Association

To learn more about these organizations, visit the Contributors page. In addition, ODIHR received reports of incidents recorded by the Holy See, while ODIHR also recorded incidents as part of its ongoing monitoring across the OSCE region.

Individual incidents submitted by CSOs have been analysed by ODIHR. Those that are broadly considered to be hate crimes within the OSCE definition (criminal offence committed with a bias motive) are listed in the tables below according to the bias motivation category. Some incidents involved multiple biases and may be listed in multiple categories.

ODIHR's insights

For 2025, ODIHR received reports of 219 hate incidents that took place in Poland targeting a total of 264 victims in the following bias motivation categories: anti-Christian, anti-LGBTI, anti-Semitic, disability, gender-based and racist and xenophobic. In addition, several incidents involved multiple biases, such as anti-Semitic and gender-based, racist and xenophobic and anti-Muslim, and anti-LGBTI and gender-based.

Anti-Christian incidents represented more than one third of the total incidents reported in Poland, with the majority involving property damage, vandalism or arson targeting mostly Catholic sites. Several anti-Christian incidents involved violent attacks and threats against Catholic clergy, congregations and Jehovah's Witnesses, while one homicide of a Catholic priest was reported. ODIHR also observes a significant number of racist and xenophobic incidents targeting Ukrainian nationals, most of which involved violent attacks and threats in transport, shops schools and public spaces, in particular when the victims were overheard speaking Ukrainian. ODIHR also received reports of several racist hate incidents targeting migrants at the Polish border, in which law enforcement officers physically assaulted, threatened or harassed the victims while subjecting them to discriminatory language, degrading treatment and the destruction of their property.

Anti-Semitic incidents made up almost one quarter of the incidents reported in Poland, and involved vandalism or damage to community property including cemeteries, monuments, and synagogues, as well as several incidents of threats, harassment or physical assault, including references to the Holocaust and Holocaust-related violence. Finally, ODIHR received several reports of incidents targeting LGBTI persons, most of which involved physical assault or harassment, including by family members and at work.

It should be noted that ODIHR did **not** receive any reporting on Poland relating to anti-Roma and other religion or belief hate incidents, and received a low level of reporting related to anti-Muslim hate incidents. This indicates potential gaps in the information reported here.
In addition, one reporting organization submitted 6 statistical incidents involving racist and xenophobic threats/harassment for which descriptions are not available in the tables below.
Please note that incidents reported here are based on voluntary civil society submissions and as such do not reflect the actual number of incidents or the most targeted communities in Poland.

To address under-reporting, ODIHR encourages any civil society organizations or groups that monitor hate incidents to report these to ODIHR at hatecrimereport@odihr.pl.

To export an Excel sheet with summaries of all incidents from Poland click here.

View civil society incidents for Poland, 2025