OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

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/portugal

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

1 2021

Summary

Portugal regularly reports information on hate crimes to ODIHR. Hate crime data is collected by Portugal's Ministry of Justice and the Prosecutor's Office.

Portugal has launched a series of action plans in recent years to combat discrimination, including a plan to combat racism (PNCRD 2021-2025), the National Strategy to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion, the National Strategy for Equality and Non-Discrimination (2018-2030), the National Implementation Plan of the Global Compact for Migration, the National Roma Communities Integration Strategy (2013-2022), and the National Programme on Holocaust Remembrance.

In 2018, the Ministry of Justice, ODIHR and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights co-organized a workshop to improve hate crime recording and data collection, based on ODIHR's Information Against Hate Crimes Toolkit (INFAHCT). The workshop resulted in a set of recommendations for relevant state authorities.

Hate crime data collection in Portugal
Support for hate crime victims in Portugal
Hate crime capacity building in Portugal
Portugal's hate crime legislation

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Portugal's efforts to review its hate crime legislation and the parliament's initiative to ensure a comprehensive approach to address hate crime, including through improved recording and data collection. Portugal is encouraged to extend these efforts as, based on the available information, ODIHR observes that law enforcement agencies have not recorded the bias motivations behind hate crimes. In addition, ODIHR observes that Portugal would benefit from raising awareness among and building the capacity of criminal justice officials to address hate crime.

Official Data

Police-recorded figures refer to the crime of racial or religious discrimination only, and include incidents of discrimination and incitement to hatred, which fall outside of the OSCE's definition of hate crime. Records on prosecuted and sentenced cases were not available at the time of publication of ODIHR's 2021 Hate Crime Report.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2021	150	5	3

National Developments

In January 2021, the **Office of the Secretary of State for Citizenship and Equality** set up a multidisciplinary Working Group to prevent and combat of racism and discrimination. The Working Group consists of state authorities, including the High Commissioner for Migration, the Office of the Secretary of State for Integration and Migration, and the Office of the Secretary of State for Citizenship and Equality, as well as representatives of civil society and academia. The Working Group aims to contribute to the systematization of information on discrimination and racism in Portugal; reflect on the European and national anti-discrimination mechanisms and the future Independent Observatory on Hate Discourse, Racism and Xenophobia; and identify priority areas and intervention needs, including by presenting proposals for measures to be included in the National Plan to Combat Racism and Discrimination.

Portugal's Resolution No. 265/2021, approved by the **Parliament** in October 2021, recommended that the Government implement public policies to effectively combat hate crime in Portugal. Such policy recommendations include restructuring the operational procedures of criminal police bodies, the appropriate use of mechanisms to record incidents, promoting the collection and public dissemination of statistical data on hate crimes, the close and active co-operation between police and judicial authorities and civil society organizations, and ongoing hate crime training for professionals in the justice system and criminal law enforcement agencies

The new National Plan to Combat Racism and Discrimination, 2021-2025, announced the revision of Article 240 of the Portuguese Criminal Code in line with the international binding instruments to which Portugal is a party. The revision is aimed at extending the list of protected grounds under the provision. The Ministry of Justice has continued preparing the draft amendment.

In 2021, the **Foundation for Science and Technology** (FCT), along with the **Secretary of State for Citizenship and Equality**, and with the support of the **High Commission for Migrations and the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality** (CIG), granted special support to projects and initiatives that facilitate and disseminate information about actions to tackle hate crime.

Notable case:

In March 2020, a Ukrainian citizen died in the facilities of the Portuguese Border and Immigration Services at Lisbon airport. The case caused great social unrest due to its atypical nature and contours. In July 2022, the Supreme Court of Justice upheld the nine-year prison sentences handed down by the **Lisbon Court of Appeal** to the three perpetrators convicted for the crime of aggravated assault.

Incidents reported by civil society

Total 1 incidents



Anti-LGBTI

Violent attacks against people

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 Portugal, 2021