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/romania

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

1 2023

Summary

Romania regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. The Ministry of Administration and Interior, the Police, the Prosecutor's Office and the Superior Council of Magistracy collect hate crime data.

Amendments to the Criminal Code introduced in 2023 set out the constituent elements of hate crimes and the protected grounds therein.

In 2016, Romania implemented ODIHR's Training Against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) Programme. A specialized hate crime unit was created in the Romanian Police in 2021.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Romania's efforts to enhance the capacity of the police and prosecutors to address hate crime. However, based on the available information, it observes that Romania's hate crime recording and statistics do not sufficiently distinguish hate crimes from other crimes. In addition, ODIHR observes that Romania would benefit from ensuring that hate crimes are addressed in a comprehensive manner, including by introducing a co-ordination mechanism.

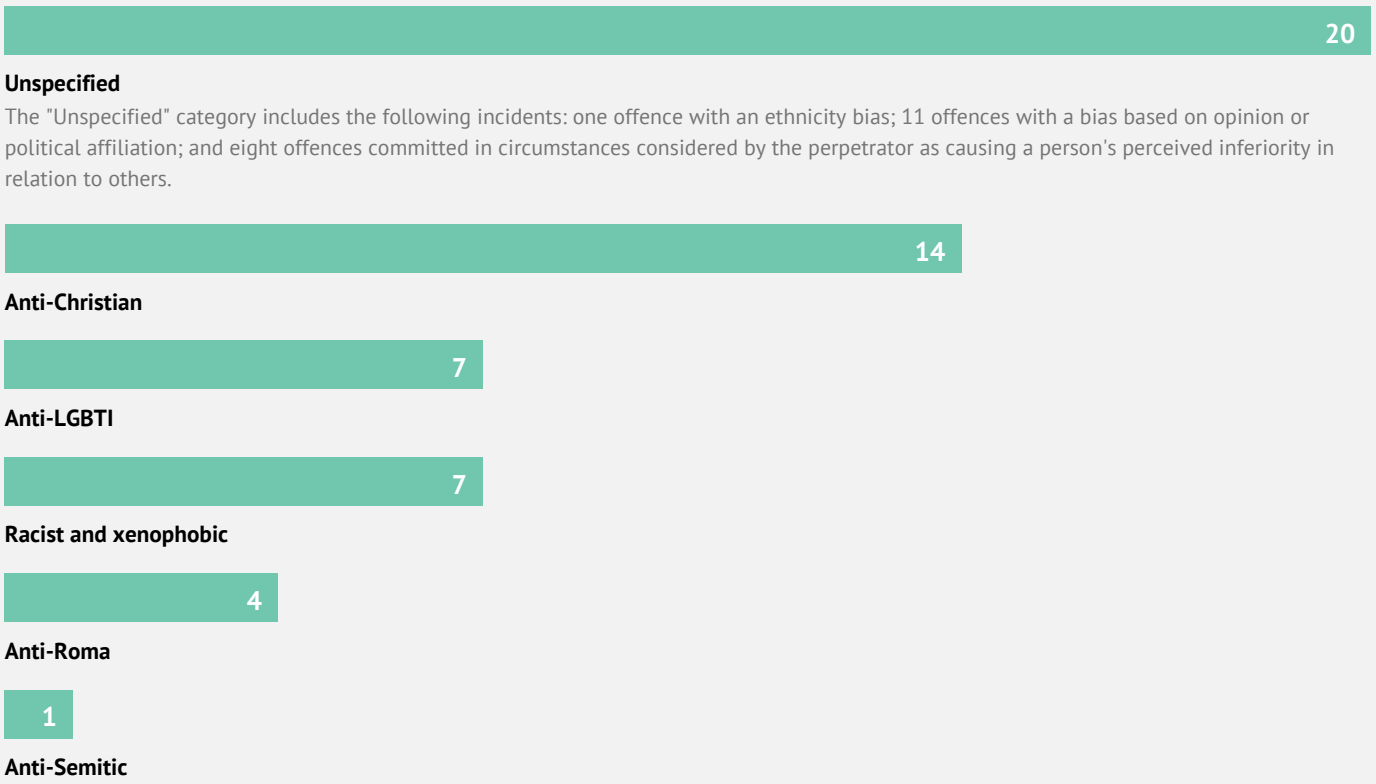
Official Data

Police figures represent the number of hate crime cases recorded. Police recorded a further 70 incitement speech offences that fall outside the OSCE's definition of hate crime. Prosecution figures represent the total number of hate crimes pending in the prosecutor's offices as of 31 December 2023. A further 82 cases registered by the prosecution authorities and reported to ODIHR fall outside the OSCE's definition of hate crime. Figures on sentencing represent the number of cases committed with a bias motive (according to Article 77 (h) of the Criminal Code) that were settled on merits.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2023	95	252	239

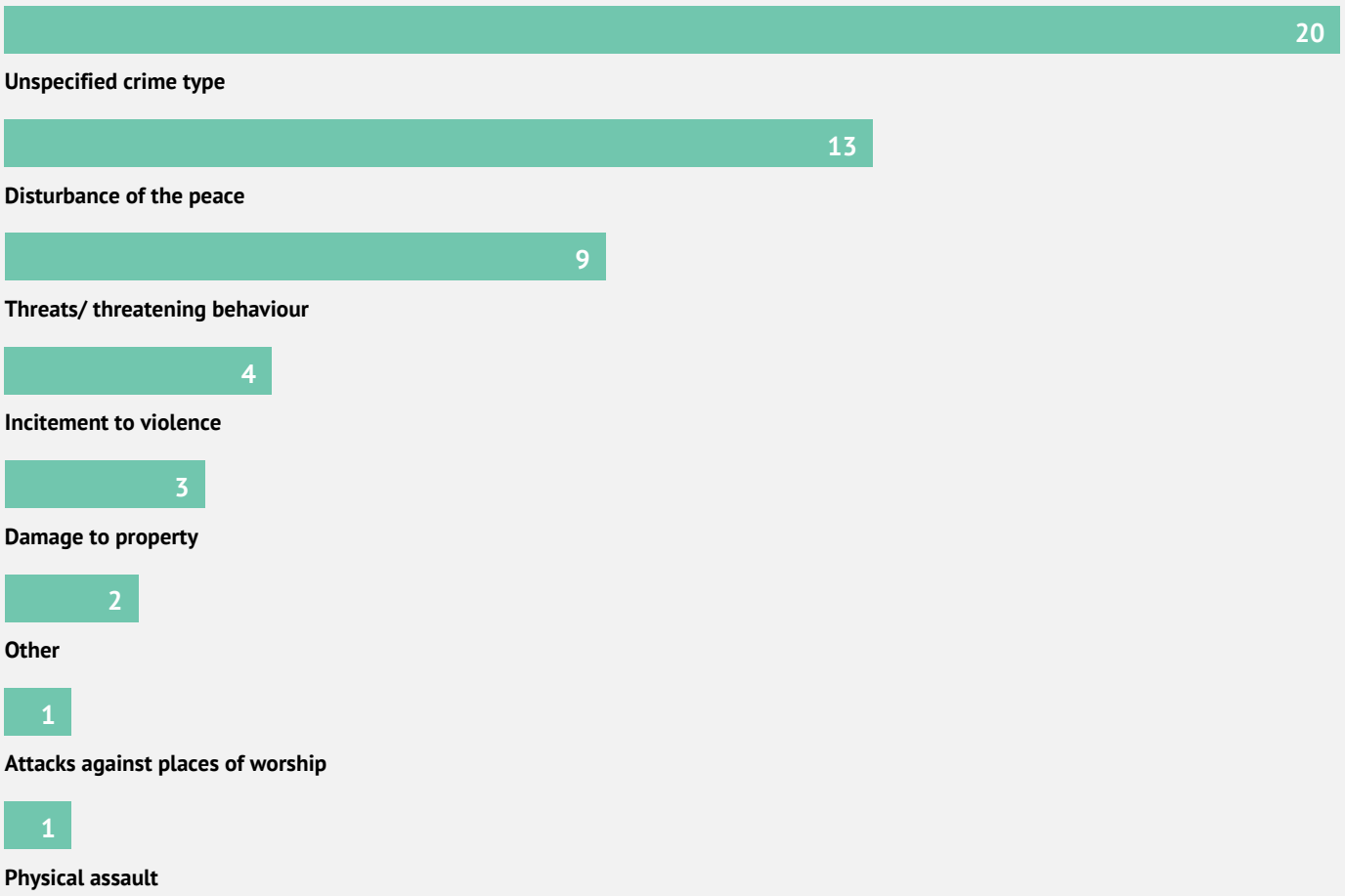
Police data by bias motivation

Offences that fall outside the OSCE's hate crime definition, such as of hate speech and discrimination, are excluded from the breakdown below.



Police data by type of crime

Offences that fall outside the OSCE's hate crime definition, such as of hate speech and discrimination, are excluded from the breakdown below.



National Developments

In 2023, the Romanian Police's Criminal Investigation Directorate carried out training activities on hate crime investigation in co-operation with the Council of Europe and the Norwegian National Police.

In 2023, prosecutors participated in training activities on hate crimes, including on Holocaust denial, organized by the National Institute of Magistracy (NIM) in co-operation with the German Ministry of Justice and the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (IRZ). A new event on "Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust - history, memory and legislation" was also held online with the support of the 'Elie Wiesel' National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania. The NIM also carried out a series of training seminars on combating hate crime.

In collaboration with the ACCEPT Association, training sessions were held to address issues of gender-based discrimination against LGBTI persons.

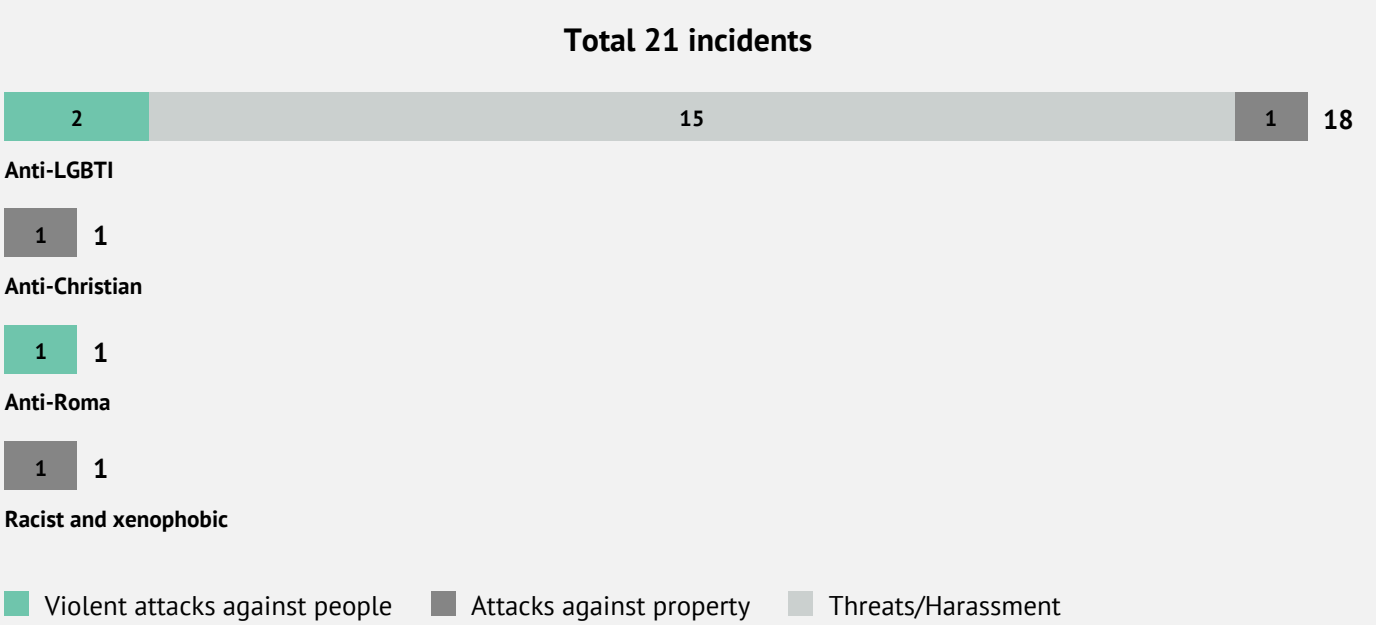
In 2023, the Romanian Police collaborated with civil society organizations to deliver workshops and a campaign on victimization and human rights of the Roma community.

The National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Antisemitism, Xenophobia, Radicalization, and Hate Speech was updated for the period 2024-2027 to promote education for inclusion and to support the knowledge of Jewish culture nationally and internationally.

Also during 2023, the Prosecutor General approved a new guidance document on the investigation of hate crimes, including a methodology used to harmonize and standardize activities and improve interactions with hate crime victims. The document is a working tool for prosecutors but also provides methodical guidance on investigation standards in supervising criminal investigations carried out by criminal police bodies. The document also mentions indicators used by criminal investigation bodies to detect the bias motivation.

The Romanian Police has obtained funding through the Norwegian Financial Mechanism towards the establishment of a specialized unit for investigating hate crimes at the level of the Criminal Investigation Directorate.

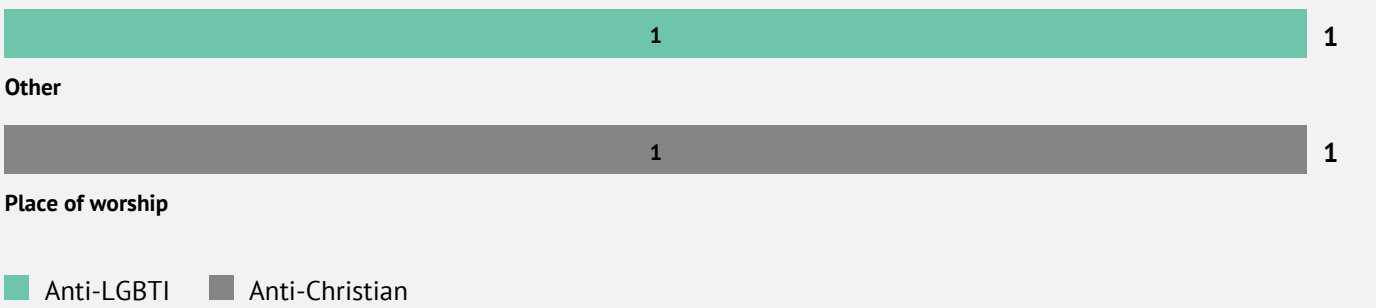
Incidents reported by civil society



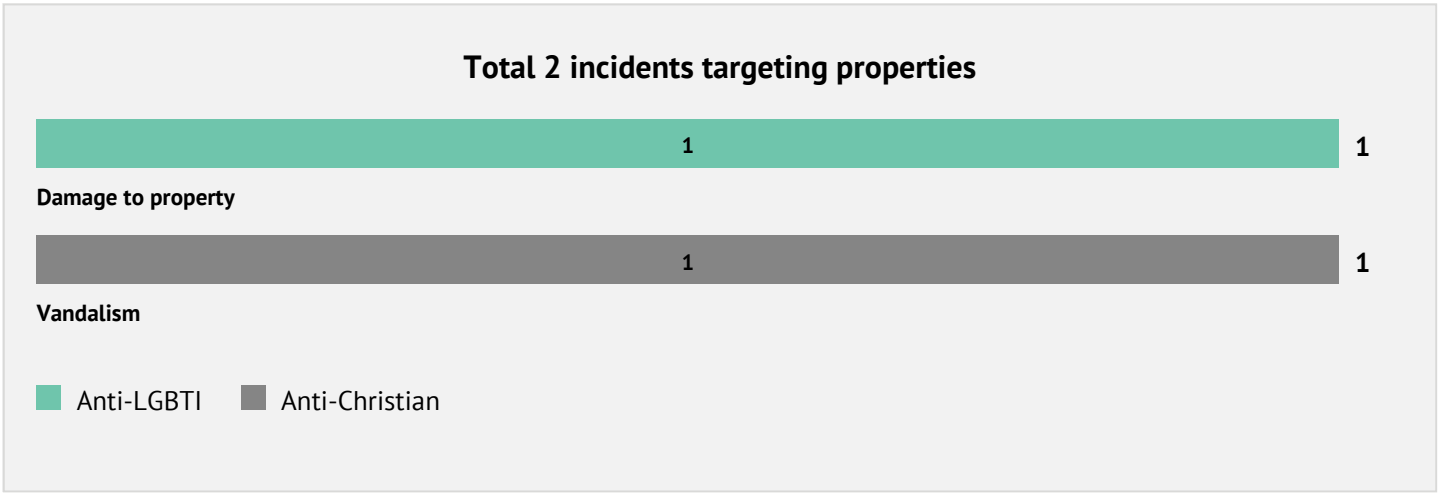
Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

In addition to incidents submitted with detailed descriptions, this chart includes 12 anti-LGBTI incidents and 1 racist and xenophobic incident reported as statistics by the ACCEPT Association.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Romania, 2023