OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2024 Hate Crime Report.
For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/slovakia

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

2024

Summary

Slovakia regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Slovakia has implemented ODIHR's Training Against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) programme since 2017 and the Prosecutors and Hate Crime Training (PAHCT) programme since 2018. In 2018, the Ministry of Interior co-organized with ODIHR and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights a workshop on understanding and improving hate crime recording and data collection, based on ODIHR's Information Against Hate Crimes Toolkit (INFAHCT). There is a high degree of hate crime specialization in both police and prosecutor structures in Slovakia. In 2023, ODIHR delivered online training sessions for employees of crime victim information offices from across the country, focusing on the sensitive and respectful treatment of hate crime victims, particularly on the specific needs of vulnerable victims, such as Roma and Sinti and LGBTI+ community members.

The Committee for the Prevention and Elimination of Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism, and Other Forms of Intolerance acts as a government advisory body. The Committee has established working groups on hate speech on the Internet and anti-Semitism, in line with the Memorandum on Co-operation between the Ministry of the Interior and the Federation of Jewish Communities of Slovakia. The working groups include representatives of the police and the Prosecutor's Office, as well as civil society organizations focusing on human rights, anti-Roma racism, and anti-Semitism.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Slovakia's efforts to enhance cooperation between law enforcement and victim support organizations. In addition, ODIHR observes that Slovakia would benefit from further developing its victim support system to ensure effective access to justice, assistance, and protection for hate crime victims.

Official Data

Police data refer to the number of initiated police investigations or charges brought for a particular crime involving bias indicators, pursuant to Article 140 (e) of Slovakia's Criminal Code. Sentencing figures represent the number of persons sentenced for offences where a 'specific hate motive' was indicated, pursuant to Article 140(e) of Slovakia's Criminal Code.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2024	11	5	4

Police data by bias motivation

The breakdown below presents the number of bias motivations and not the number of incidents recorded (one incident can involve more than one bias motivation).



Police data by type of crime

The breakdown below presents the number of bias motivations and not the number of incidents recorded (one incident can involve more than one bias motivation).

15

Other

This category presents the crime of "violence against a group of inhabitants", which encompasses threats of physical harm, use of violence, or causing damage due to protected characteristics.

National Developments

In 2024, Slovakia launched a pilot project to incorporate victim feedback mechanisms into hate crime investigations, aiming to better assess victims' experiences of the criminal justice process and improve procedural responsiveness. This initiative involves co-operation between law enforcement agencies and victim support organizations.

Slovakia has developed a conceptual framework for countering radicalization and extremism by 2024, which includes activities to address negative stereotypes about minorities and to raise awareness of groups targeted by radicalism and extremism. Civil society organizations participate in preparing a monitoring report on the state of extremism in Slovakia, which also monitors the implementation of the conceptual framework and proposes new activities.

In 2024, Slovakia continued its work to clarify the definitions of hate crime in the country's Penal Code and to harmonize judicial approaches to hate crimes.

Incidents reported by civil society

For 2024, ODIHR received reports of hate incidents in Slovakia from the following civil society organizations:

- Human Rights League
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- The Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe (OIDAC)
- Islamic Foundation in Slovakia

To learn more about these organizations, visit the Contributors page.

All incidents submitted by the above organizations have been analysed by ODIHR. Those that were 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 2024, ODIHR received reports of seven incidents that took place in Slovakia in the following bias motivation categories: racist and xenophobic, and anti-Christian.

ODIHR observes that two of the racist and xenophobic incidents reported in Slovakia targeted Ukrainian refugees, while a third targeted an Asian victim and linked them to the Covid-19 pandemic. Three of the anti-Christian incidents targeted Jehovah's Witnesses.

It should be noted that ODIHR did not receive any reporting on Slovakia related to anti-Roma, anti-LGBTI, gender-based, or disability hate incidents. This indicates potential gaps in the information reported here.
Please note that incidents reported here are based on voluntary civil society submissions and as such might not reflect the actual number of incidents or the most targeted communities in Slovakia.

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

To export an Excel sheet with summaries of all incidents from Slovakia click here and search by year and country.

View civil society incidents for Slovakia, 2024