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/spain

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

2024

Summary

Spain regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Spain publishes annual reports on hate crimes.

The Ministry of Interior has a dedicated protocol that regulates how law enforcement handles hate crime cases and sets out the specific rights of hate crime victims. Within the Ministry, the Spanish National Office Against Hate Crimes (ONDOD) is responsible for the Hate Crime Action Plan (adopted for 2019-2021, 2022-2024 and 2025-2028). Currently, the Action Plan covers the areas of victim support, hate crime prevention, training and awareness raising, co-ordination among state authorities, civil society and the private sector, development of a monitoring and co-ordination system for hate crime investigation, and the allocation of adequate human resources for the National Police and the Civil Guard.

In 2023, Spain implemented a new national Strategic Framework against racism and xenophobia.

In 2019, Spain implemented ODIHR's Training Against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) programme, and the Prosecutor General's Office has established a network of dedicated hate crime prosecutors across the country. A regional TAHCLE was implemented in Valencia in 2016.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Spain's efforts to enhance the capacity of national and local police to address hate crimes. However, based on the available information, it observes that Spain's hate crime statistics do not sufficiently distinguish hate crimes from other crimes. Further, ODIHR observes that Spain would benefit from strengthening collaboration with and facilitating the efforts of civil society working to address hate crime and support hate crime victims.

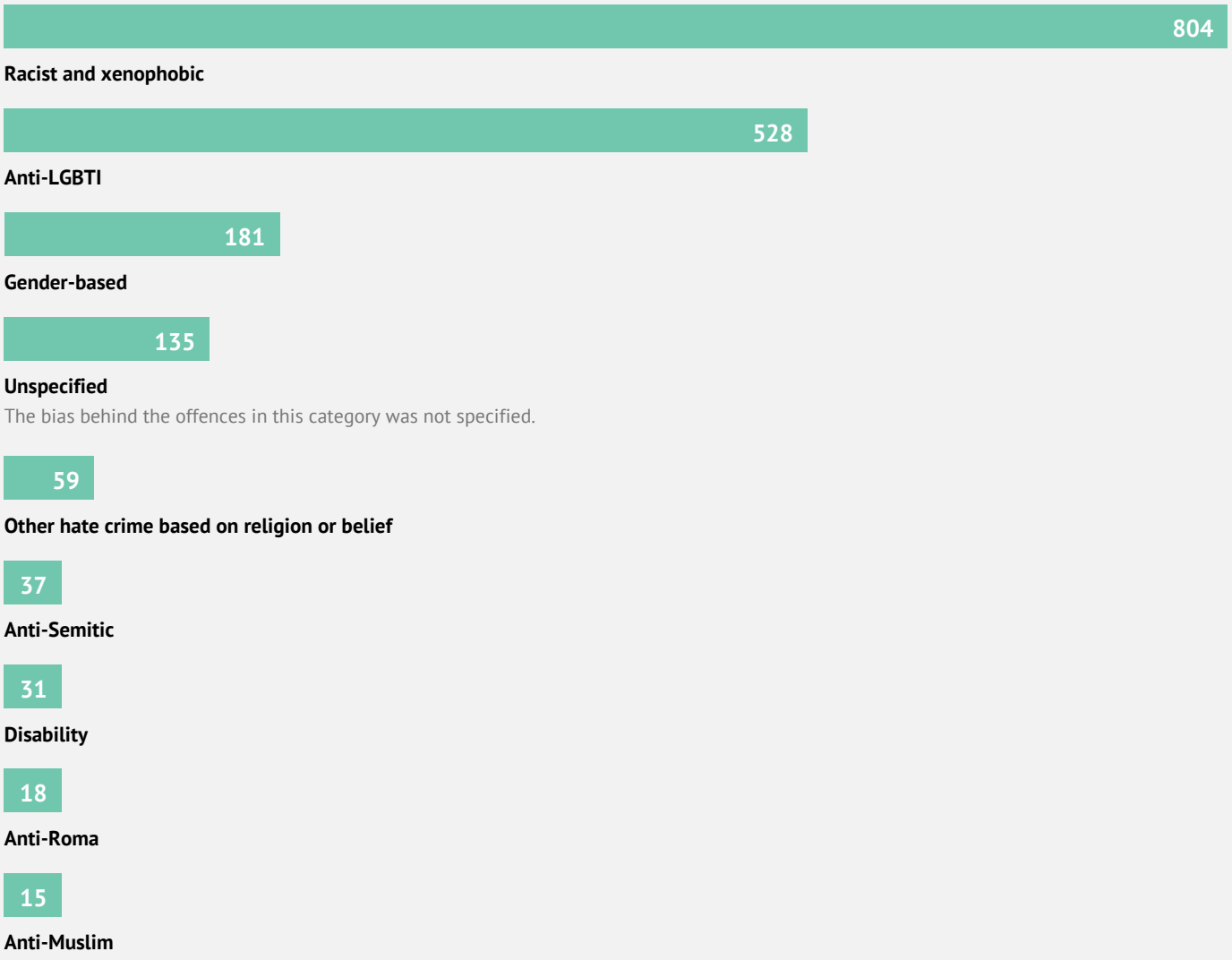
Official Data

Police figures presented here include offences that fall outside the OSCE hate crime definition, such as incitement to hatred or slander, but which could not be excluded from the total. An additional 147 hate crimes motivated by ideology were initially reported but were excluded from the police figure above as falling outside the OSCE hate crime definition. Prosecution figures refer to the number of indictments. The sentencing number includes both first instance (149) and second instance (24) judgments.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2024	1,808	299	173

Police data by bias motivation

The breakdown below does not include 147 offences motivated by ideology.



Police data by type of crime

The breakdown below does not include 147 offences motivated by ideology.



Other

National Developments

In 2024, OBERAXE established a partnership with the European Commission to hold Training Days on Counter-Narratives and Alternative Narratives in Spain with the objective of training civil society representatives with expertise on hate speech to develop alternative and counter-narratives as a tool to combat hate speech online and offline.

In 2023-2024, Spanish authorities co-operated with civil society organizations to implement the CISDO project, which aims to enhance the capacity of national and local police to prevent, identify and respond to racist and xenophobic incidents, as well as hate crimes. The project improves mutual knowledge and builds bonds of trust in order to prevent hate crimes from going unreported, as well as strengthen the support provided to victims of such crimes. On 11 November 2024, the final conference of the CISDO project was held (titled 'Inter-police and Social Cooperation against Hate Crime'.

In 2024, ONDOD carried out a hate crime victimization survey in collaboration with the University of Salamanca. Its objective was not only to study the cases of victims of hate crimes but also to investigate the role and perspective of witnesses to hate crimes. The University of Salamanca conducted a preliminary research to determine the elements of interest. The survey was launched in the first half of 2024 on a website with an easy-to-read format, thus ensuring that it was accessible to all users.

Incidents reported by civil society

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

- Union of Islamic Communities of Spain
- Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG)
- Observatory for Freedom of Religion and Conscience (OLRC)
- European Association of Jehovah's Witnesses
- International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF)
- The Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe (OIDAC)

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

In addition, ODIHR also received reports of incidents from the Holy See as part of their ongoing monitoring.

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 126 incidents that took place in Spain in the following bias motivation categories: anti-Christian, anti-Muslim, anti-Roma, and racist and xenophobic. In addition, several incidents involved multiple biases, in particular racist and xenophobic and anti-Muslim, as well as anti-Christian and gender-based, anti-Muslim and disability, and racist and xenophobic and gender-based.

ODIHR observes that more than 70 per cent of incidents reported in Spain were anti-Christian, a majority of which involved damage to community property such as vandalism of churches or cemeteries. However, in several other anti-Christian incidents, priests were subjected to violent threats and intimidation. A series of acts of threatening/harassing behaviour targeting Catholic communities and involving the same group of perpetrators was also reported. In two anti-Muslim incidents, a mosque and a Muslim prayer room were desecrated with urine. Several of the anti-Semitic incidents reported involved a link to the conflict in the Middle East. ODIHR notes a number of racist incidents involving armed hate group members attacking victims due to their skin colour. Several anti-Muslim incidents were also observed to have an additional racist or xenophobic bias.

It should be noted that ODIHR did not receive any reporting on Spain relating to anti-LGBTI incidents and a low number of reports on gender-based and 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 Spain.

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

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

View civil society incidents for Spain, 2024