OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2020 Hate Crime Report.
For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/switzerland

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

1 2020

Summary

Switzerland regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR. Switzerland's Criminal Code contains no hate crime provision, and hate crimes are addressed under anti-discrimination criminal provisions. The Federal Commission against Racism partners with the association 'humanrights.ch' in the Counselling Network for Victims of Racism, which publishes annual analytical reports on cases of racism reported to the Network.

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

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Switzerland's efforts in reporting on hate crime regularly to ODIHR. However, based on the available information, it observes that Switzerland's hate crime recording and statistics do not sufficiently distinguish hate crimes from other crimes. In addition, ODIHR observes that Switzerland would benefit from reviewing the existing legal framework in order to ensure that bias motivations are effectively acknowledged and appropriate penalties can be imposed on the perpetrators.

Official Data

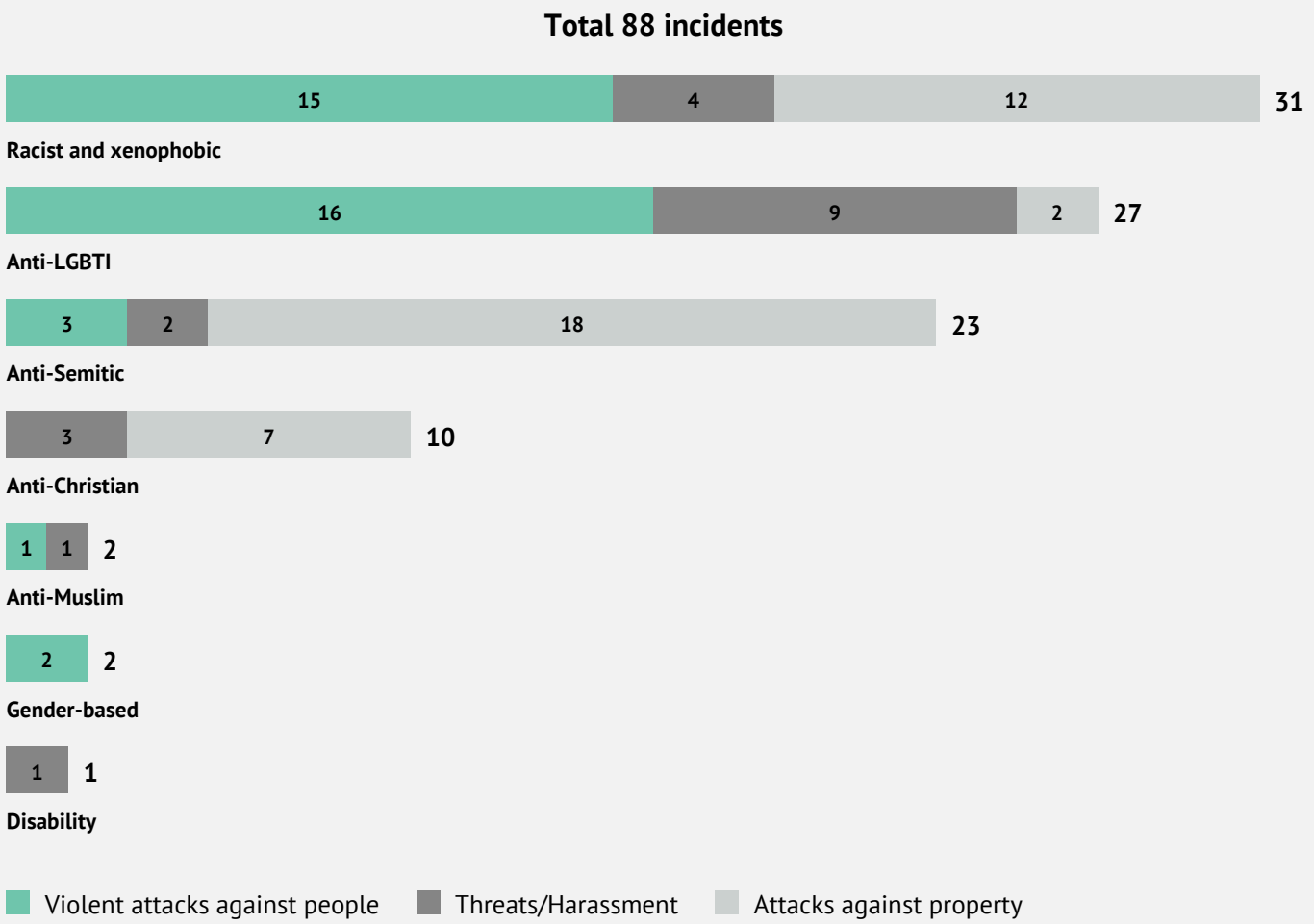
Figures consist of hate crimes committed in public, crimes of incitement to hatred and crimes involving discrimination. As such, many of the incidents listed here fall outside of the OSCE's hate crime definition. A breakdown of sentencing judgments by bias motivation was reported to ODIHR. The figure for sentenced cases was updated in October 2024 as per the official request to reflect the changes in the official statistics due to more cases added once judgements became legally binding. The number of sentenced cases was retrospectively updated in November 2026.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2020	257	not available	57

National Developments

In 2020, Article 261bis of the Criminal Code of Switzerland, which provides, among others, for offences of bias-motivated violence committed in public, was amended by extending the list of protected characteristics with sexual orientation. The amendment entered into force in July 2020.

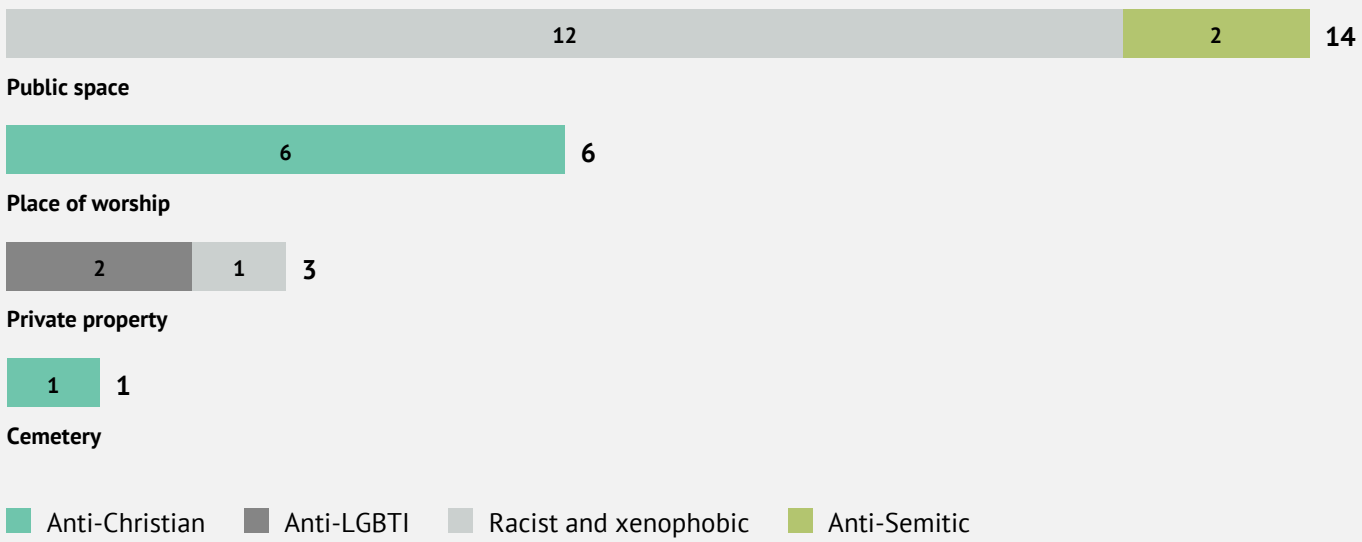
Incidents reported by civil society



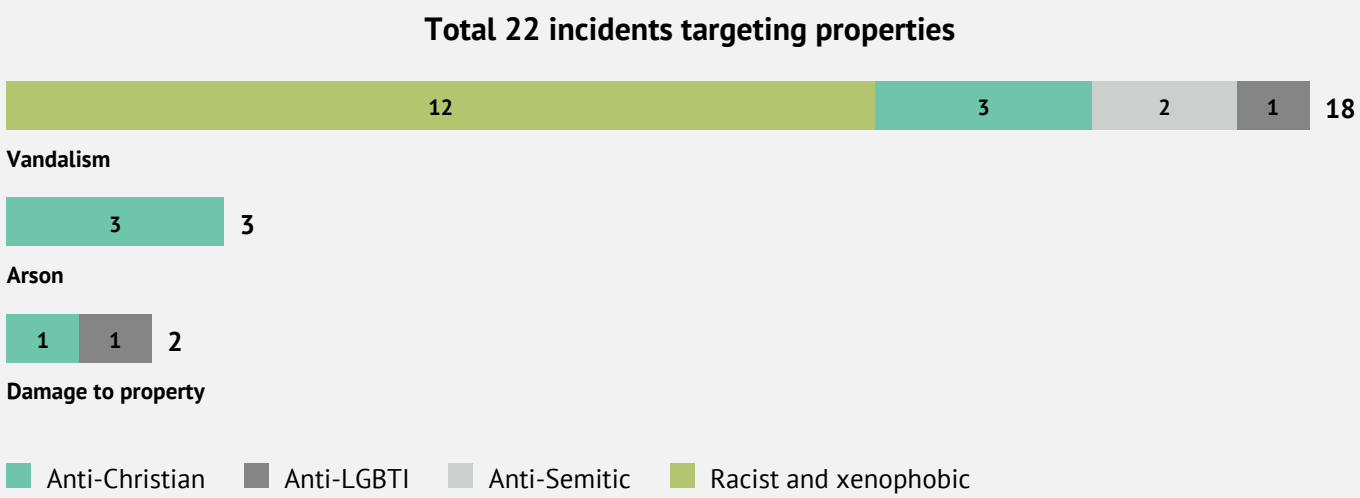
Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

In addition to incidents summarized below, this graph includes the following numbers of hate incidents reported as statistics: 16 reported by SIG; and 3 reported by Kantor Center.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for Switzerland, 2020