OSCE ODIHR
HATE CRIME REPORTING

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2016 Hate Crime Report.
For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/united-kingdom

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

1 2016

Summary

The United Kingdom regularly reports hate crime data to ODIHR.

Authorities collaborate closely with civil society, including through Information Sharing Agreements concluded between the police and the Community Security Trust (CST), Galop and Tell MAMA, which enable the exchange of recorded data about incidents. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) regularly convenes an external consultation group (ECG) on hate crime, whose members include community organizations, victim advocacy groups, academics with relevant expertise and others. ECG members scrutinize CPS policies and practices, and suggest where improvements can be made.

In Northern Ireland, the Department of Justice chairs a multi-agency Hate Crime Delivery Group (HCDG) to identify strategic, cross-governmental priorities and develop new approaches to dealing with hate crime. The group meets quarterly and includes representatives of government departments, criminal justice agencies and victim groups. The Department of Justice and Northern Ireland Policing Board jointly fund Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) to engage and consult with the local community, and work with local partners to identify and prioritize local community safety and policing issues and develop initiatives and projects to address these.

In Scotland, there is Independent Police Advisory Council (IPAC). The IPAC sits at a strategic level, acting as a critical friend and partner to support Police Scotland to deliver sustainable improvements to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Human Rights outcomes across the service. The Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 became an Act of Parliament on 23 April 2021. The Act entered into force on 1 April 2024.

The UK's College of Policing has developed guidelines for police on responding to hate crime, and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has issued relevant guidance for prosecutors and published public policy statements on particular hate crime strands.

Police and prosecution data, which cover the reporting period from April to March of the following year, are regularly published by the relevant criminal justice agencies of England and Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Hate crime data collection in the United Kingdom
Support for hate crime victims in the United Kingdom

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR observes that the United Kingdom has met most OSCE commitments on hate crime data collection and reporting.

Official Data

Police data represent hate crimes recorded in England and Wales (80,393), and Northern Ireland (370). More than a half of hate crimes recorded by police represent "public order offences", some of which fall outside of the scope of the OSCE's definition of hate crime. The total numbers of police recorded hate crimes by bias motivation presented below are higher than this overall number because of cases involving more than one bias. Prosecution data breakdown is as follows: 516 in Northern Ireland, 5,325 in Scotland and 14,480 in England and Wales. All data cover the period from April 2016 to March 2017.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2016	80,763	20,321	not available

Police data by bias motivation

The police regularly exchange data about recorded incidents with the Community Security Trust (CST) and Tell MAMA, two civil society organizations. As a result, some of the incidents reported by these two organizations are also included in the official data reported by police, notably concerning incidents motivated by bias against Muslims and anti-Semitism.



The number here consists of 5,949 cases recorded in England and Wales, and 148 cases recorded in Northern Ireland. The figure for Northern Ireland consists of hate crimes motivated by bias against religion/faith, and sectarian hate crimes.

Police data by type of crime

The police regularly exchange data about recorded incidents with the Community Security Trust (CST) and Tell MAMA, two civil society organizations. As a result, some of the incidents reported by these two organizations are also included in the official data reported by police, notably concerning incidents motivated by bias against Muslims and anti-Semitism.



Disturbance of the peace

This category represents "public order offences", some of which may constitute criminal forms of hate speech.



Physical assault

This category presents "violence against persons", both with and without injury.



Damage to property

This category includes "criminal damage" and "arson".



Unspecified crime type

This category has been reported as "other notifiable offences" and includes theft, burglary, sexual offences and other.

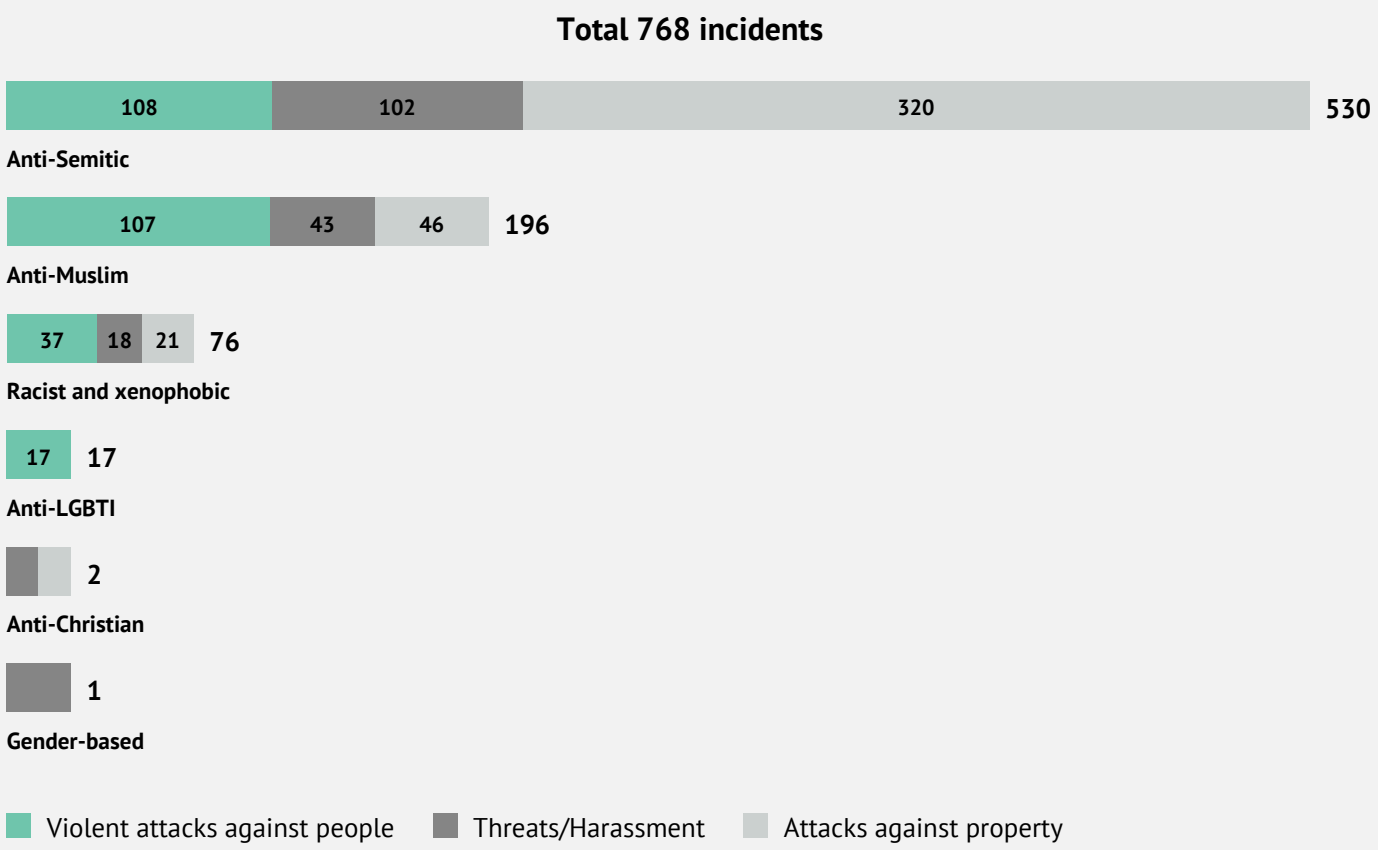
National Developments

In July 2016, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Home Office, and the Ministry of Justice published an action plan on hate crime entitled *Action Against Hate: The UK Government's plan for Tackling Hate Crime*.

In October, the Crown Prosecution Service published revised guidelines on prosecuting cases involving communications sent via social media, which now includes a section on hate crime to equip prosecutors to address these cases.

In August 2017, as part of its #HateCrimeMatters campaign, the Crown Prosecution Service published Public Policy Statements and Legal Guidance on the monitored strands of hate crime.

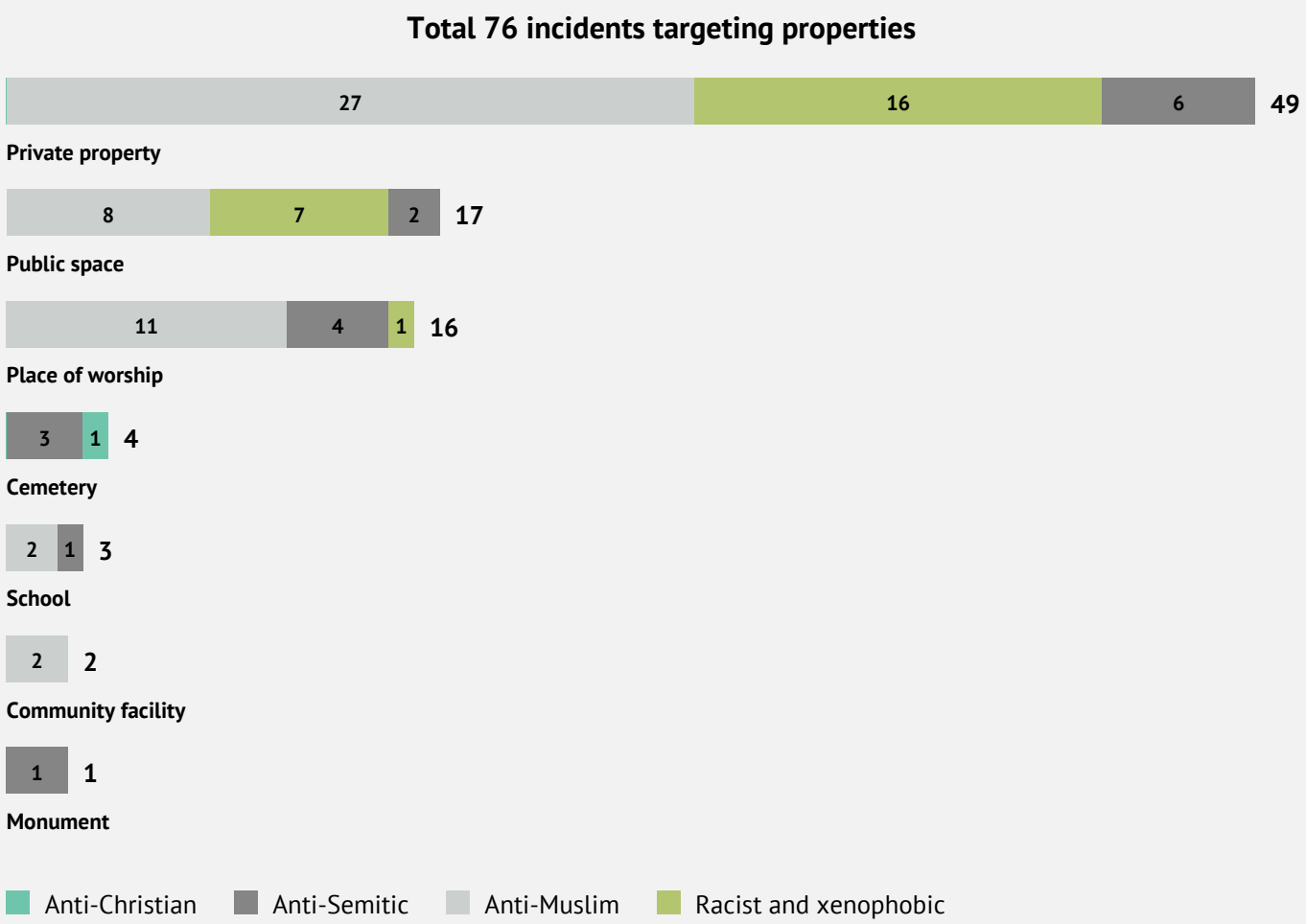
Incidents reported by civil society



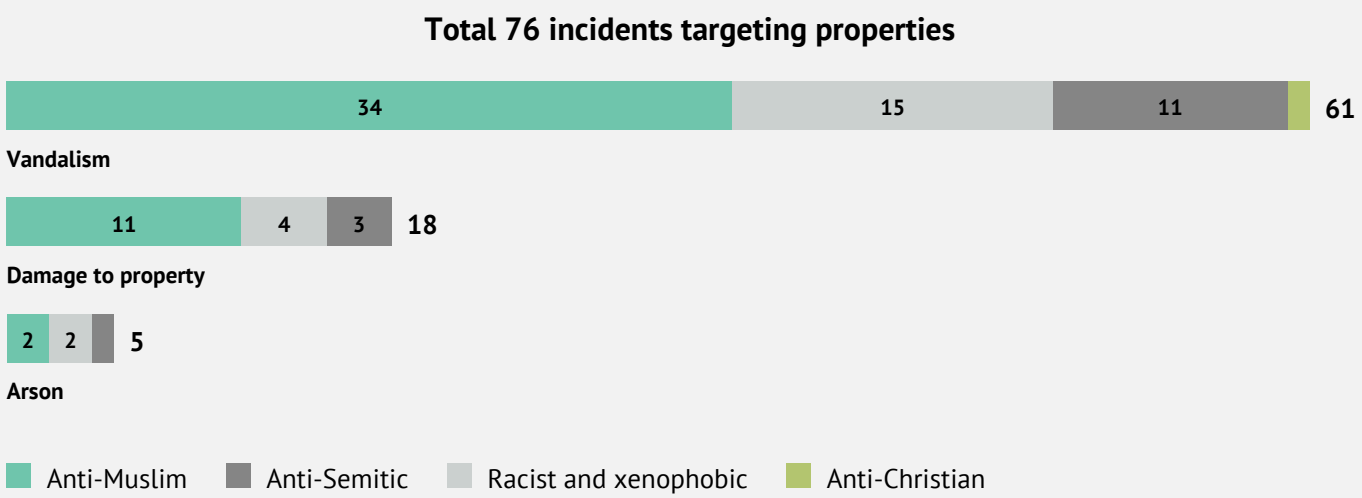
Please note that the total number of incidents may be lower than the sum of incidents presented in the breakdown chart above, as some incidents involve multiple bias motivations.

The police and two civil society organizations involved in monitoring hate incidents (Community Security Trust and Tell MAMA) are on a regular basis exchanging data about the recorded incidents. This data sharing is governed by the Information Sharing Agreements signed between the police and each of the civil society organizations. As a result, some of the information presented below as part of the civil society-reported incidents (particularly data on anti-Semitic hate crime and hate crime motivated by intolerance against Muslims) is also included in the official reporting by the police above.

Targeted properties



Type of property attack



View civil society incidents for United Kingdom, 2016