

Ireland Hate Crime Report 2021

Information contained in this report was compiled as part of ODIHR's 2021 Hate Crime Report.

For more information, including on previous years' reporting, please visit: hatecrime.osce.org/ireland

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

Summary

Ireland regularly submits hate crime data to ODIHR. Ireland's annual hate crime statistics can be accessed [here](#).

The [Diversity and Integration Strategy 2019-2021](#) of the National Police Force addresses the police response to hate crime. The Strategy's implementation is monitored by the National Diversity Forum, established in 2020 and comprising civil society and community groups. The police works also closely with civil society to address hate crimes targeting Roma and Travellers, migrants and LGBTI persons, as well as in relation to hate crime training and hate crime investigations.

In July 2021, the Garda launched an online hate crime reporting system. In February 2020, Ireland 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](#)) programme, the workshop resulted in a number of recommendations for relevant state authorities.

In April 2022, the Garda took part in ODIHR's Online [Training on Sensitive and Respectful Treatment of Hate Crime Victims](#). Also in 2022, a comprehensive and mandatory Online Hate Crime Training Programme for Garda officers was launched.

[Hate crime data collection in Ireland](#)

[Support for hate crime victims in Ireland](#)

[Hate crime capacity building in Ireland](#)

[Ireland's hate crime legislation](#)

ODIHR's Key Observation

ODIHR recognizes Ireland's efforts to improve its hate crime recording mechanisms. Ireland is encouraged to also report data to ODIHR on hate crimes recorded by the prosecution and judiciary. In addition, ODIHR observes that Ireland would benefit from reviewing its existing legal framework to ensure that bias motivations can be effectively acknowledged and appropriate penalties can be imposed on the perpetrators.

Official Data

There is no information on the number of prosecuted or sentenced hate crimes as there is currently no hate crime legislation on the basis of which hate crimes could be monitored within the judiciary.

Year	Hate crimes recorded by police	Prosecuted	Sentenced
2021	448	not available	not available

Police data by bias motivation

297

Racist and xenophobic hate crime

This category includes hate crimes committed because of "race", colour, nationality, and ethnicity. One anti-Roma and seven anti-Traveller hate crimes were also recorded under this category, and another 43 non-crime hate incidents were monitored.

77

Anti-LGBTI hate crime

This category includes anti-gay, anti-lesbian, anti-bisexual, anti-heterosexual, anti-male, anti-female, anti-transgender, anti-intersex, and other gender-based hate crimes. This includes 64 hate crimes motivated by bias against sexual orientation, and 13 by bias against gender identity. A further nine non-crime hate incidents motivated by bias against sexual orientation and four such cases motivated by bias against gender identity were monitored under this category.

18

Anti-Muslim hate crime

The sexual assault under this category was an act of indecency. Five non-crime hate incidents were also monitored under this category.

15

Disability hate crime

A further two other cases were monitored under this category, which could constitute non-crime hate incidents or offences of child welfare referral and child pornography.

14

Unspecified

5

Anti-Semitic hate crime

One non-crime hate incident was monitored under this category.

3

Anti-Christian hate crime

2

Other hate crime based on religion or belief

Police data by type of crime

153

Disturbance of the peace

122

Physical assault

Physical assaults include assaults causing harm, minor assaults, harassment, and endangerment.

51

Threats/ threatening behaviour

Threats include threats to kill and menacing phone calls (recorded in Ireland under public order offences).

44

Damage to property

24

Incitement to violence

16

Unspecified

12

Theft/ robbery

6

Arson

3

Sexual assault

National Developments

In April 2021, ODIHR conducted an online training on sensitive and respectful treatment of hate crime victims for staff and officers of the **An Garda Síochána (the National Police Force of Ireland – the Garda)**. Diversity Officers, Diversity Inspectors and Garda Victims Office Staff from across the country participated in the event and learned about the impact of hate crimes, the needs of hate crime victims, and the importance of applying a victim-centred approach.

In July 2021, to encourage victims to report hate crimes, the **Garda** launched an [online hate crime reporting system](#). The launch of the system was accompanied by the publication of a leaflet available in 19 languages, an internal communications plan and a public information campaign.

In November 2021, the Garda conducted a Hate Crime Awareness Training for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Throughout 2021, a comprehensive Online Hate Crime Training Programme was developed by the Garda in conjunction with Facing Facts and the Irish Network Against Racism. The training lasts four hours and is mandatory for all Garda members and Garda staff (civilians) with public-facing roles. Furthermore, training for Garda Diversity Officers was carried out in 2021 and an online needs-based hate crime training was held in a number of Garda divisions to address local policing issues.

In December 2021, the **Garda** policy and procedures on "Responding to Hate Crimes and Non-Crime Hate Incidents" were introduced. The policy document is publically available on the [Garda website](#), while the internal procedures document provides detailed instructions on identifying, reporting, recording, investigating and prosecuting hate crimes. It also outlines the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved in the process.

A new Criminal Justice Bill (Incitement to Violence or Hatred and Hate Crime) 2022 is currently at the final drafting stage in the Attorney General's office, and is scheduled to be introduced to parliament in autumn 2022.

Notable case:

In June 2021, a Georgian man and his friend were beaten by a group of six men in Dublin City Centre. A hate crime investigation was launched against all suspects.

Incidents reported by civil society

Total 8 incidents



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.