

Prosecutors and Hate Crime Training (PAHCT)

ODIHR's Prosecutors and Hate Crime Training (PAHCT) course has been designed to tackle hate crime through effective prosecution. ODIHR has converted more than a decade's direct experience of working with national practitioners into a fully-updated and hands-on PAHCT Trainer's Manual for use in training how to recognize, charge and litigate hate crimes with consistency and in a victim-centred way.



Why does it matter?

Hate crimes send a message of rejection to those they target and their communities. If left unaddressed, hate crimes can have a wider impact on society.

Hate crimes demand more than investigation — they demand expert prosecution. The way prosecutors handle hate crimes is critical to delivering justice, upholding the rule of law and protecting victims. By ensuring hate crimes are properly investigated, charged, and prosecuted, prosecutors validate victims' experiences, promote accountability and deter future offences.

Who is the PAHCT training for?

ODIHR's PAHCT training is designed for training prosecutors, judges and criminal justice professionals.

What prosecution challenges does the training address?

- Overcoming gaps or shortcomings in national hate crime legislation.
- Ensuring accurate legal qualification of offences that reflects bias motivation.
- Gathering both direct and circumstantial evidence to prove bias.
- Maintaining consistency in the standards required to establish bias.
- Effectively engaging and supporting hate crime victims throughout the process.

Key features of the PAHCT training

- **Modular** structure — covers everything from bias indicators to applying local laws and handling complex intersections with 'hate speech'.
- **Practical** case studies — drawn from real contexts to sharpen skills in identifying, charging and evidencing hate crimes.
- **Victim-centred** approach — includes tools to understand diverse experiences and needs through intersectional perspectives.
- **Interactive and participatory** learning — includes instructions for group discussions, self-reflection and hands-on exercises.
- **Adaptable** materials — easy to customize to local law, community experiences and national context.

Thematic blocs of the PAHCT training

- Experiences from the community
- The hate crime concept
- International and regional standards
- Identifying a hate crime case
- Hate crime legislation – applying local laws
- Prosecuting hate crime at the intersection of hate crime and criminalized 'hate speech'
- The sensitive and respectful treatment of hate crime victims
- Bias Indicators and motive evidence

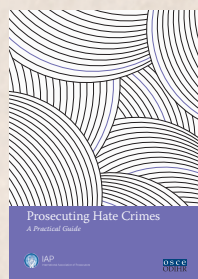
Implementation of PAHCT training

- PAHCT training can be delivered either as a full, two-day programme or through selected modules tailored to the specific needs of a requesting agency.
- National authorities should get in touch with ODIHR to request implementation, either as a comprehensive training or stand-alone sessions.
- For further information, please reach out to ODIHR's training team: hatecrimettraining@odihr.pl.

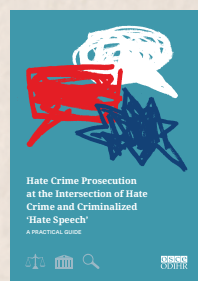
How to arrange a PAHCT course with ODIHR

1. **Initial request:** Send a request to hatecrimettraining@odihr.pl outlining the main training needs on hate crimes.
2. **Needs assessment:** ODIHR conducts a needs assessment to identify the main challenges, gaps and training needs.
3. **Customization:** ODIHR adapts the PAHCT course to the local context through consultation with national stakeholders. All training materials are then translated into the relevant languages.
4. **Delivery:** ODIHR typically delivers the training with a two/three-person team, comprising an ODIHR expert and international expert prosecutors.
5. **Evaluation:** ODIHR evaluates its PAHCT courses through questionnaires and feedback sessions. This allows ODIHR to monitor the effectiveness of the training and to make improvements.

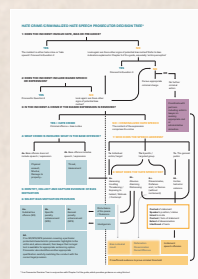
ODIHR tools for prosecutors



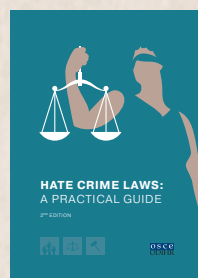
Prosecuting Hate Crimes: A Practical Guide



Hate Crime Prosecution at the Intersection of Hate Crime and Criminalized 'Hate Speech': A Practical Guide



The Prosecutor Decision Tree



Hate Crime Laws: A Practical Guide. Revised Edition

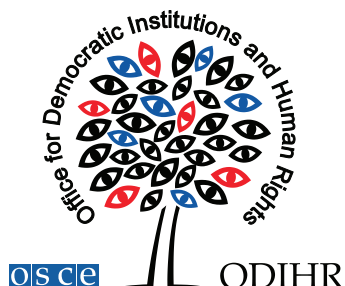
"I believe some of the cases I handled in the past I would now, having attended the course, qualify as hate crimes."

"Even the things I previously considered funny stories or jokes; I no longer see them that way."

"I am more competent in regards to distinguishing hate crimes from other criminal behaviour by using the tools that have been shown."

"This training will certainly contribute to achieving better results in combating this type of crime."

Feedback from participants in PAHCT courses delivered by ODIHR.



OSCE Office for
Democratic Institutions
and Human Rights

ul. Miodowa 10
00-251 Warsaw
Poland

Office: +48 22 520 06 00
office@odihr.pl



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