



# Building a Comprehensive Criminal Justice Response to Hate Crime

## Quick facts

- **Objective:** To strengthen the comprehensive approach to addressing bias motivated violence by means of criminal law in the European Union and beyond.
- **Project duration:** From February 2017 to February 2019
- **Project donors:** The European Commission and the United States of America

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has continuously worked on countering hate crime by strengthening the role of criminal justice systems in addressing this phenomenon.

The two-year project “Building a Comprehensive Criminal Justice Response to Hate Crime” will use tailored, innovative approaches at national levels as a laboratory and source of inspiration for trans-national solutions.

### What is a hate crime?

Hate crimes are criminal acts motivated by bias or prejudice towards particular groups of people based on race, ethnicity, language, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, gender or any other fundamental characteristic. Hate crimes not only affect individuals from specific groups, but also people or property associated with a group that shares a protected characteristic, such as community centres or places of worship.

Hate crimes affect the security of individuals, their communities and societies as a whole. As such, they can pose a serious security challenge. In extreme situations and if left unchecked, hate crimes can lead to conflict within and across national borders.

**“Only a comprehensive response that co-ordinates various criminal justice actors and civil society will yield efficient results in addressing criminal acts of intolerance”**

*Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir*  
Director of ODIHR

## What will this project achieve?

The project will create and distribute a comprehensive toolkit to aid criminal justice system actors in addressing hate crime. It will tailor existing tools, such as ODIHR's Training Against Hate Crime for

Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) and the Prosecutors and Hate Crime Training (PAHCT) programmes to the needs of the project countries, as well as strengthen hate crime recording and data-collection systems at the local, regional and national levels.

In addition, the project will pilot a Respondent Driven Sampling survey on unreported hate crimes and improve co-ordination among police and prosecutors through joint training events. The lessons drawn from the activities conducted in four Member

States of the European Union (Italy, Greece, Bulgaria and Poland) will help create guidelines for a comprehensive response to hate crimes that can be used within the criminal justice systems of EU Member States and throughout the OSCE region.

## Associate partners: International Association of Prosecutors; UN High Commissioner for Refugees



### Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan

- National PAHCT training
- Local PAHCT and TAHCLE training in Lombardy
- Training for lawyers and civil society activists working with the victims of hate crime
- Study on lessons learned for the comprehensive approach to hate crime in Lombardy
- Study on hate crime data collection by the judiciary



### Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights of Greece

- National PAHCT training
- Review of joint police and prosecutor hate crime database
- National cross-government protocol on hate crime



### Prosecutor's General Office National Institute of Justice

- Joint police and prosecutors training
- Training manual for joint police and prosecutors training



### Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of Poland

- Pilot research on unreported hate crimes in Poland



### Outcomes

- Publishing a manual for joint police and prosecutors training on addressing hate crimes
- Creating a methodology for the development of national cross-government protocols against hate crimes
- Provide guidance for the regional implementation of a comprehensive approach to hate crimes
- Development of a methodology for the mapping of unreported hate crimes

## More information

For more information about the project and ODIHR's hate crime work, visit:

<http://www.osce.org/projects/criminal-justice-response-hate-crime>  
<http://www.osce.org/tolerance-and-nondiscrimination>  
<http://hatecrime.osce.org>

## OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Miodowa 10  
00-251 Warsaw, Poland

Tel: +48 22 520 0600  
Fax: +48 22 520 0605  
E-mail: [office@odihhr.pl](mailto:office@odihhr.pl)  
[www.osce.org/odihhr](http://www.osce.org/odihhr)

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