



Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe

BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

On 16 November, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the principal institution of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation (OSCE), published its hate crime data for 2019. In 2020, 39 OSCE participating states submitted information to ODIHR and 19 of these included statistics on the number of recorded hate crimes targeting LGBT people.

Civil society organisations and other non-state groups reported 1,272 anti-LGBT hate crimes that were reported in 2019, in 35 states [2019: 27]. These include 797 violent attacks, 401 threats and 74 attacks against property.

In November, ODIHR highlighted that documenting hate crimes and offering support to those affected is a key to ensuring the security of individual victims, their communities, and society as a whole. ODIHR also emphasised that a large number of states did not provide police and prosecutors with the tools and knowledge they need in order to recognise, record and effectively investigate such crimes. This frequently deprives hate crime victims of the opportunity to access much-needed specialist support.

On 2 and 3 December, the International Network for Hate Studies together with the ODIHR, and the University of Plymouth organised a two-day conference on 'Hate, Democracy, and Human Rights'. Representatives of governments, academic institutions and civil society gathered to discuss the ways in which human rights and democracy are challenged by hate.