



**HATE
CRIME**

Hate Crime in Austria – Annual Report 2024

English Summary of Key Points

Vienna, 2025

This English Summary is an abbreviated version of the German Annual Report 'Lagebericht Hate Crime 2024' which was published in July 2025. Both reports and other related publications are available for download on the public website of the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior (Bundesministerium für Inneres, BMI).

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Summary

Bias-motivated crimes or hate crimes are acts punishable by law that are committed intentionally on the basis of the actual or alleged affiliation of the victim or the object of the offence to a group that the perpetrators reject (see chapter 'Definition of hate crime'). Bias-motivated crimes have a stronger impact than other crimes committed without a bias motive. In addition to the victim, these crimes affect all bearers of the same identity characteristic and possibly the society as a whole (**waves of harm**). Therefore, victims of bias-motivated crimes have an increased feeling of insecurity and the willingness to report the offences to the police is often lower than for crimes without bias motives. Further background information can be found in the **pilot report** of June 2021.¹

Austria has sufficient legal foundations for the investigation and recognition of hate crime (see chapter 'Criminal law foundations').

Since **August 2020**, the police have been comprehensively trained in recognizing and recording bias motives. On **1 November 2020**, the 'motive' tab was activated in the police logging programme (PAD) to record them according to victim groups, and since then this has become a **fixed part of the work routine** of the Austrian police. The entered data is transferred to the **judiciary** via a specially created interface with the **identifier bias motive** (**German: Vorurteilmotiv – VM**) by means of the 'Electronic Legal Traffic (ERV)' automatically.

Beginning with April 2025, the judiciary activated the possibility to automatically transfer the nine bias motives and their forms from PAD to the 'VJ' and 'EliAs' (judicial databases), a process that was not fully automated in 2024.

The **nine categories of bias motives** are 'age', 'disability', 'gender', 'skin colour', 'national/ethnic origin', 'religion', 'sexual orientation', 'social status' and 'worldview'.

In **six of the nine motive categories, subgroups/forms** have been recorded **since 2020**:

For the victim group 'religion' ('christians', 'jews', 'muslims', 'others'), 'sexual orientation' ('bisexuals', 'heterosexuals', 'homosexuals'), 'gender' ('divers/inter', 'woman', 'man', 'trans', 'others'), 'social status' ('homelessness', 'others') 'disability' ('physical/sense impairment' and

¹ *Fuchs, Walter, Pilot Report: Hate Crime in Austria—Concept, Legal Framework, Data Basis, Processing and Effects of Prejudice-Motivated Offences*, IRKS/BMI, July 2021; publicly available at: [Systematicrecording of bias motives in criminal complaints \('hate crime'\) \(bmi.gv.at\)](https://bmi.gv.at/systematicrecording-of-bias-motives-in-criminal-complaints-hate-crime/)

‘psychological/cognitive impairment’) and for ‘world view’ (‘western democracy’, ‘parties’, ‘others’) listed in descending absolute order. ‘Others’ should always be specified by the police in a free text field.



Figure 1: Victim groups – identity characteristics protected under criminal law and their recorded subgroups.

On the European Day for Victims of Hate Crime (22 July), the first Hate Crime Annual Report 2021 of the Federal Ministry of the Interior was published in 2022 and the Hate Crime Annual Report 2022 was published accordingly in 2023.² This is the English summary of the **fourth Annual Report Hate Crime 2024** which was published in July 2025 as well:

² The full German versions ('Lagebericht Hate Crime 2022', Jahresbericht 2021) and English summaries are available on the official BMI website: [Systematische Erfassung von Vorurteilsmotiven bei Strafanzeigen](https://www.bmi.gv.at/systematische-erfassung-von-vorurteilsmotiven-bei-strafanzeigen) ('Hate Crime') (bmi.gv.at). Please note that the numbering of the figures and tables of the English summaries are not consistent with the extended German versions.

In the period from January to December 2024 **6,786 bias-motivated criminal offences** were recorded by the police in Austria. Since an offence can have several bias motives, the number of documented bias motives exceeds the total number of criminal offences.

In the period from January to December **2024 7,614 bias motives** were **documented** (2023: 6,461 bias motives in 5,668 offences).³ Only those offences are included whose police investigations have already been concluded.

The key results are:

- In the period from January to December 2024, **6,786 bias-motivated criminal offences** were recorded by the police in Austria. A total of **7,614 bias motives** were documented during the reporting period. In 2024 there were significantly more bias motives recorded, 83 bias motives were documented with 74 offences per 100,000 inhabitants in Austria (2023: 71 bias motives in 63 offences).
- In 2024 (2023), the **nine bias motives** were recorded in the following order of frequency: 'worldview' **3,935** (2,706 in 2023), 'national/ethnic origin' **1,581** (1,612), 'religion' **763** (700), 'skin colour' **417** (293); 'sexual orientation' **317** (446), 'Gender' **238** (248), 'social status' **136** (136), 'disability' **125** (144) and 'age' **102** (176).
- The overall **clearance rate** of **67 percent** within the recording period is **above** the average for crimes recorded in the 2023 **Police Crime Statistics (Polizeiliche Kriminalstatistik – PKS, 53 percent)**.

Types of crimes:

- In 2024, the share of **property offences** within bias-motivated offences was **24 percent**, which is less than half of the share of all recorded property offences in Austria (61 percent).
- The proportion of offences against ancillary laws, in particular the **Prohibition Act⁴**, is for hate crimes always **far greater** compared to the total crime (41 percent vs. 9 percent).
- The markedly **increased percentage of freedom offences (9 percent)**, **public peace offences (6 percent)** and **honour offences (3 percent)** is also significant.
- Among the **top 5 offences** in general, which together accounted for **80 percent** of all recorded bias motives in 2024, almost **every second motive** concerns a violation of Section 3 g **Prohibition Act** (2.952), and every **fourth** motive concerns

³ See Figure 4.

⁴ Or other criminal ancillary laws, although in practice almost exclusively violations of the Prohibition Act were reported.

property damages (1.396). One in ten were **assaults** (661) and **incitements to hatred** (599) and eight percent were **dangerous threats** (506).

Crime Scenes

- In 2024, a quarter of the bias motives were recorded in the 'public' space (1,702) and a quarter in the 'internet' (1,969); 553 motives (7 percent) were registered in the 'private' space and 423 motives (6 percent) in the 'semi-public' space.
- The **internet** was the most frequently registered crime scene (1.969), with three quarters of all hate postings⁵ constituting violations of the **Prohibition Act** (1.460). One fifth of the total amount of crimes happened in the internet related to **offences against public peace**, mostly incitement to hatred and terrorist groups (418). A sharp increase to 1244 motives of **worldview** can be observed. One in two racist motives was recorded online, 305 motives of 'national/ethnic origin', a tripling to 189 motives of 'skin colour' and 132 motives for 'religion'.
- As one in four anti-semitic motives (81) was committed online, two thirds of the recorded anti-religious hate posts are anti-semitic and one third are anti-muslim (43). One in three anti-disability motives occurred in the internet.
- In the second most common crime scene category, 'public space' (1.702), in absolute terms, 'worldview' (703) precedes 'national/ethnic origin' (440), 'religion' (143) and 'sexual orientation' (132). Two thirds of the 'social status', one in two homophobic and one in three anti-transphobic motives happened in the public space.
- In the 'semi-public-space', 146 motives of 'national/ethnic origin', 131 motives of 'worldview' and 56 of 'religion' are significant. The first two motives account for one third each of the total.
- As in previous years, hate crime is dominated by **situational violence against life, limb and against property**, with two thirds of public or semi-public crime scenes. In total, 86 percent of bias motives recorded in the public space and 64 percent in the semi-public spaces concerned these two areas of crime.
- In **private spaces**, 175 motives of **worldview** and 153 'national/ethnic origin' motives were recorded. One in four anti-women and one in ten anti-jewish (41) and one in ten anti-Muslim (25) were recorded in the private space.
- Every second motive counted in private spaces is an **offence against property**, mostly damage to property (274). One in three bias motives recorded in private spaces were a **dangerous threat or coercion**.

5 The term 'hate postings' covers all offences with a bias motive committed online.

- Bias-motivated attacks against ‘sacred sites’ such as churches, cemeteries and monuments, which were increasingly recorded with **93 motives** in 2024, are **100 percent damages to property**. Of these, 63 are anti-religious motives, in particular **50 anti-christian motives**.
- In 2024, for ‘**institutions** (248) one in two registered motives were a **property offence**, one in three **assaults** and one in five a **liberty offence**. One third were attributed based on ‘**national/ethnic origin**’ while one **fifth each related to ‘worldview’ and ‘religion’**. In the latter category, half of the cases concerned **muslims**.

Suspects

- In offences motivated by ‘**worldview**’, suspects had the **least direct contact with victims** (30 percent), as evidenced by the predominance of violations of the Prohibition Act and incitements to hatred. This is now also the case for ‘**skin colour**’ with more than **50 percent**. On the other hand, bias-motivated, ‘**confrontational**’ offences against **life and limb, liberty, honour or sexual integrity and self-determination** are committed directly **within the victim’s sphere**. More than **90 percent** of cases involving ‘**age**’ and ‘**gender**’, more than **80 percent** involving ‘**sexual orientation**’ and ‘**social status**’, more than **60 percent** involving ‘**national/ethnic origin**’ and more than **50 percent** involving ‘**religion**’ and ‘**disability**’.
- Compared to the total number of all suspects (Police Crime Statistics [PKS]) 2024), **persons** below the age of criminal responsibility and **criminally responsible minors** were **overrepresented** among suspects in bias-motivated offences, as in previous years.
- As in the previous year, suspects were **more likely to be male** than in overall recorded crime in 2024 (86 percent vs. 78 percent). This ‘male perpetration’ was particularly prevalent in hate crimes against **homeless people and homophobic offences** (94 percent each), **as well as across all forms of offences motivated by worldview, misogyny and hostility towards christians**.
- Regarding the proportion of recorded suspects with **foreign citizenship**, the picture is again differentiated in 2024: The proportion of these **suspects** is **generally much lower** in the case of hate crimes (26 percent) than in overall crime (47 percent). Particularly in offences motivated by ‘**worldview**’ and ‘**skin colour**’, only one about one in five suspects held a foreign citizenship.

- **Austrian suspects were registered for three out of five misogynistic motives.** Only in the **case of anti-age and anti-muslim hatred** was the number of Austrian and foreign suspects **almost balanced**.

Victims of violent hate crimes

- A total of **1619 victims (63 percent male, 34 percent female)** were recorded in bias-motivated violent crime. Among the **top 5 offence** categories ranked by number of victims, comprising (serious) **assaults, dangerous threats**, and (serious) **coercion**, it is notable that **national/ethnic origin** was recorded as by far the dominant motive across all age groups. This bias motive was also most frequently recorded in combination with other motives, as the analysis of multiple victimisation/**intersectionality** showed.

Affected Groups

- In 2024, the bias motive **'age'** was again strongly captured in **public and private spaces**. In the case of **'physical disability/sensory impairment'**, property offences were less dominate than in the previous years, 2024 40 percent of offences under the **Prohibition Act** and **incitement to hatred** were recorded. In the case of **'mental/cognitive impairment'**, the same level of **assaults** and **dangerous threats** were recorded, followed by speech offences.
- In **misogynistic** crimes, **'private crime scenes'** predominated and one quarter were **dangerous threats** (49), followed by **assaults** and **insults**. The motive **'trans'** was mainly recorded in **public spaces**, mainly involving assaults (10), dangerous threats and property damages. For **'divers/inter'** incitement to hatred predominated (6). The **clearance rate** was the **highest ever** among **misogyny** (87 percent), with **58 percent of Austrian suspects** being investigated.
- Racism based on **skin colour** was most frequently recorded as offences under the Prohibition Act (143), **damages to property** (87), assaults (54), insults and dangerous threats. With a clearance rate of **86 percent** (the second highest), suspects were even more frequently **recorded as male (89 percent)** and **Austrian nationals** (84 percent). Half of the offences were committed online and one fifth in (semi-)public spaces.
- One **fifth** of the second-ranked motives, motivated by **'national/ethnic origin'**, mostly committed in **public** (28 percent) and online (19 percent), are recorded as **assaults** (318), followed offences under the **Prohibition Act** (271), incitements to hatred (235), dangerous threats (215) and property damages (207). In three

quarters of cases, the police were able to identify suspects. **Two thirds were over 25 years, 83 percent male and 71 percent Austrian.**

- In the consistently third-ranked and increasing category **'religion'** (763), most frequently recorded in connection with offences committed 'online', at 'sacred sites' or in 'institutions', **antisemitism** (347, 46 percent) again **predominated** in 2024 over anti-muslim racism (246, 32 percent). Nearly **one third of antisemitic** offences consisted of (serious) **property damages** (100) or **offences under the Prohibition Act** (96), followed by incitements to hatred (58). Suspects were **more often either under 18 or over 24** years old, 84 percent **male** and 72 percent **Austrian** nationals.
- **Muslims** were mainly **targeted** with **assaults** (45), incitements to hatred (43 VM) and dangerous threats (40), with suspects being more likely to be **over 24** years old, in **75 percent men** and **only 54 percent Austrian citizens**. **(Serious) property damages** dominated **against Christians** (45; 41 percent), followed by **assaults**.
- Of all bias motives, **'sexual orientation'** declined by 29 percent in 2024 compared to the previous year. **Homophobic motives** (272, 86 percent), mostly committed in (semi-)public spaces, being by far the most registered. Similar to offences targeting **bisexuality**, more than a quarter of **assaults** (76), a fifth of **property damages** (56) and **dangerous threats** (30). The proportion of Austrian suspects was two-thirds and the proportion of **men** was **94 %**.
- In **terms of social status**, **'homeless people'** in 2024 were mainly affected by **assaults** (10) and **dangerous threats**. Damages to **property** dominated by **'others'**. In 2024, older suspects continued to be registered in both forms.
- **'Worldview'**, which recorded the **largest increase** in 2024 **by 45 percent** (3935), was dominated (with **two-thirds**) by **violations** of the **Prohibition Act** in the forms **'western democracy'** (2.179, 74 percent) and **'others'** (149, 43 percent), followed by damages of property.
- In contrast, for **'parties'** (379, 58 percent) property damages predominated over offences under the Prohibition Act. The category **'worldview'** accounts for **63 percent of all internet crime** in this context, and every third worldview-related motive was recorded under online offences. Offences under the **Prohibition Act** accounted for **92 percent** (1,127 offences) in this area. With regard to the typically Austrian, male suspects, it is noteworthy that in cases involving rejection of western democracy, the group aged **14 to under 18** accounted for a relatively high **28 percent** (708 suspects).

Definition of HATE CRIME

As part of the project for the systematic recognition of bias motives in criminal charges, a **monitoring definition** was developed that is **based** on the internationally established **definition of ODIHR⁶ (Hate Crime = criminal offence + bias motivation)**. This definition has been both adapted to the domestic legal situation and directly with the Federal Ministry of Justice: **Bias-motivated crimes, also known as hate crimes, are judicially criminal offences that are intentionally committed due to the actual or supposed belonging of a victim or the object of the crime to a group that the perpetrators reject.** They may be directed against life and limb, other people's property, honour or other legal interests. The key for hate crimes is that the victim or the object of the crime was selected, because from the perpetrator's point of view they represent a group against which they harbour derogatory biases or which they consider to be 'undeservedly preferred'. Indications for recognising hate crimes arise from a comprehensive assessment of all the circumstances of the crime. Therefore, the attitudes of the perpetrators as well as the perspectives of victims and witnesses must be given special consideration.⁷ Consequently, the phenomenon of 'hate crime' must be understood much more broadly than that of 'politically motivated' or 'extremist' criminality, since the mostly discriminatory incidents in everyday life cannot be attributed to any 'ideological' motivations.⁸

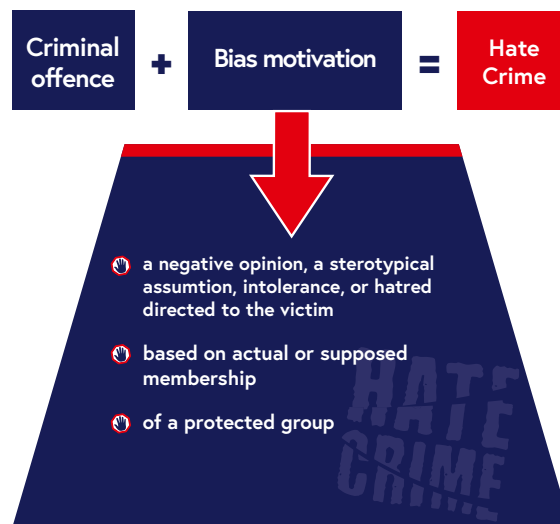


Figure 2: Monitoring definition of hate crime.

6 The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (English abbreviation: ODIHR) is an institution of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

7 The selection of a victim for the mere purpose of committing a crime is by itself not a bias, especially when it comes to sexual or financial motives in individual cases.

8 This is proven by numerous studies, upon which the relevant international legal situation is based (see chapter 'Criminal law foundations'). Hate crime is much more common than extremism because it largely overlaps with 'discrimination', which, however, is not always (judicially) punishable. Initial evaluations of the new police recognition of bias motivations also confirm this approach.

The groups rejected crime are defined by characteristics of identity (gender, ethnic/national origin, sexual orientation, religion, world views/ideology), body (age, disability, skin colour) or social status (e.g. homelessness)⁹ and are particularly protected under criminal law – especially by listing them in the offence of Hate speech (sect. 283 Criminal Code). However, the victim may also belong to several groups ('Intersectionality'), so that they may be even more affected (see figure 2). The act often sends an intimidating message of hatred to all those who have the same characteristics, so that they are also known as 'message crimes'. Not only relatives, friends or neighbors could be affected, but also people who do not even know the victim but find out about the crime from the media, for example. bias-motivated crimes trigger waves of harm. Based on this definition, police officers have been trained since August 2020 to recognize bias-motivated crimes and to record them in police data processing systems.¹⁰

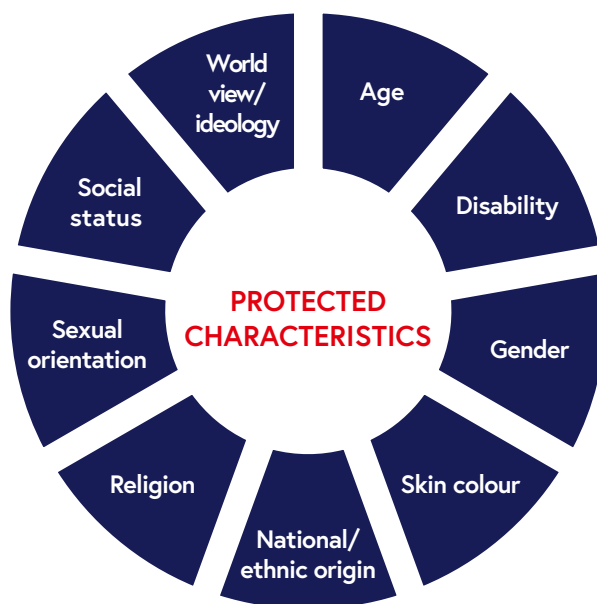


Figure 3: Victim groups – criminally protected identities, without additional subgroups.

Bias indicators were formulated for the investigative work of the police. These indicators were encapsulated as the acronym 'ERNST' (German: serious) and are comprehensibly summarized:

'Hate crime is SERIOUS and we take them SERIOUSLY. We identify and record them.'

9 The social position typically relates to marginalized segments of the population that have no lobby to represent their interests. It is essential that the negatively valued group affiliation is supposed by the perpetrators, so that basically anyone may be affected by bias-motivated crimes. Occupational groups or other characteristics that are relatively easy to change in personal terms – at least to the perception of third parties – are not recognized or prosecuted by criminal law according to other stipulations (e.g. police officers).

10 The training programme of the Federal Ministry of Justice has also adopted this definition as of mid-2021.

The five letters are:

- **E** stands for 'impressions of the victim' ('Empfindung').
- **R** stands for 'space and time' ('Raum und Zeit').
- **N** stands for 'negative messages by the perpetrators' ('Negative Botschaften der Täter').
- **S** stands for 'seriousness of the act' ('Schwere der Tat').
- **T** stands for 'perpetrator' ('Täter').

Criminal law foundations

In addition to relevant fundamental, substantive and procedural law provisions in Austria, binding international and European law sources are applicable for the unbiased identification, sanctioning and statistical recognition of bias motives and for victim support. The international legal framework comprises in particular the EU Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA on the criminal law fight against certain forms of racism and xenophobia, the prohibition of discrimination in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, the OSCE Ministerial Council Decision 9/09, and Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on minimum standards for the rights, support and protection of victims of crime and the relevant case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) which has been applicable since 2003.¹¹ Hate crimes in Austria, in addition to specific offences such as hate speech and those in the (Anti-Nazi) Prohibition Act, are generally recognized by aggravating circumstances as of sect. 33 para. 1 (5) of the Criminal Code. The most important relevant provisions in the Criminal Code (StGB) and in the Code of Criminal Procedure (StPO) have been successively developed and recently adapted:

Incitement (sect. 283 Criminal Code)

Hate speech is committed by anyone who incites violence in public or in front of many people or who calls for hatred against one of the protected groups, whose list was expanded in 2015 precisely because of the international obligations mentioned above (see Chapter 'Definition of hate crime'). This also applies, if these groups or one of their members are pejoratively insulted and/or disparaged in public. The Hate-on-the-Internet-Control Act (HiNBG) 2021

¹¹ This refers to the case of *Menson et al. vs. UK* (47.916/99; 6.5.2003). The case *Nachova et al. vs. Bulgaria* (43.577/98; 6.7.2005; Grand Chamber), established a broad and detailed judiciary line to this day.

introduced improved protection so that these offences may be prosecuted officially,¹² if the additional requirements are met.¹³

Aggravating circumstances (sect. 33 para. 1, pt. 5 Criminal Code)

In addition to hate speech and the Prohibition Act, this provision is central to bias-motivated crimes, since it is applicable to any deliberate crime. When determining the sentence, racist, xenophobic or other particularly reprehensible motives can be weighted as aggravating. The term 'particularly reprehensible' means that bias motivations targeted against one of the groups protected by sect. 283 Criminal Code or one of their members are particularly recognized. But this list is not formulated exhaustively.

Criminal offences against honour

The core area of the phenomenon of 'bias-motivated crimes' includes especially Defamation (sect. 111 Criminal Code) and Slander (sect. 115 Criminal Code). A Slander is committed if someone insults, mocks, abuses or threatens to abuse someone in public or in front of at least three people. Honour crimes are generally offences subject to private charges, but here these cases become officially pursued as prosecutable offences if primarily motivated by the affiliation of the victim with a group (sect. 283 para. 1 Criminal Code) and the if victim authorizes the police to prosecute (sect. 117 para. 3 Criminal Code, sect. 92 Code of Criminal Procedure).

Victims in need of special protection (sect. 66a Code of Criminal Procedure)

In 2016, the legal definition of 'victim' was expanded (sect. 65 Code of Criminal Procedure, StPO). The procedural rights (sect. 66 Code of Criminal Procedure) were also extended at that time and the obligatory examination of the need for special protection was introduced. Accordingly, certain victims are considered automatically in 'need of special protection'.

In addition, according to sect. 66a para. 1 Code of Criminal Procedure, all victims have the right to the earliest possible assessment of their need for special protection by the police according to the criteria of age, physical or mental health, nature, severity and specific circumstances of the offence. In an internal decree of the Ministry of Justice victims of 'hate crime' are specifically mentioned as a possible example. This status is associated with special procedural rights in accordance with sect. 66a para. 2 Code of Criminal Procedure.¹⁴

12 Quote from s 283 para. 1, pt. 1 Criminal Code: 'Groups of people defined by a church, religious community or others, according to the existing or missing criteria of race, skin colour, language, religion or belief, nationality, descent or national or ethnic origin, gender, disability, age or sexual orientation, or against a member of any such group.'

13 Judgements of the Supreme Court (OGH) since 2015 are summarized in the pilot report of the IRKS.

14 Introductory decree of the Federal Ministry of Justice dated 30/5/2016 on the Amendment to Criminal Procedure Law I 2016 (BMJ-S578.029/0006-IV 3/2016). On this occasion, the judiciary is not bound by the assessment of the police.

Process support (sect 66b Code of Criminal Procedure)

The HiNBG also extended the possibility of psychosocial and legal process support, if a 'personal consternation' was determined by means of an individual case assessment. Victims notably of incitement, defamation committed online or insults are also entitled to claims if it is 'necessary to safeguard their procedural rights' (para. 1). Since 2025, a new regulation requires the police to offer victims who may be entitled to psychological and legal support the option of having their personal data transmitted to an organization designated to provide such support during proceedings. The victim must give consent and has the right to choose the organization.¹⁵

Activity report

The BMI is aware of its responsibility to use the data collected through the systematic recording of bias-motivated crimes specifically for data-based prevention work. In addition, the necessary internalization of the victim-centered approach is being deepened continuously. Various tools are available for an internal knowledge transfer, which not only address problem areas that arise when dealing with hate crime cases, but also enable the consideration of an identified content in exchange with external experts and civil society organizations/practitioners. Within the BMI, all related units and specialist departments work closely together to improve victim protection.

In order to achieve the best possible support for victims of hate crimes, numerous (inter) national cooperations and networking activities with external stakeholders exist.

In the context of these cooperations the following events and initiatives stand out for 2024:

- Training sessions 'Stop Hate Crime! – Dealing with Bias-Motivated Offences' offered through the training programme of the Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF),
- Training sessions commissioned by the Mauthausen Memorial as well as for municipal police forces,
- Cooperation with the Jewish Community of Vienna (Israelitische Kultusgemeinde – IKG) on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding for preventive cooperation within the framework of a security partnership¹⁶,
- Cooperation as a member of the 'Hate Crime Kontern' network,

¹⁵ Commentary to the Government Bill 481, Supplement (s) to the stenographic minutes of the National Council 27. Legislative period 26; See also the decree of the Federal Ministry of Justice dated 24 December 2020 on the criminal and media law regulations of the federal law, on taking action to combat hate on the Internet (Hate-on-the-Internet-Control Act – HiNBG).

¹⁶ Further information is available at <https://www.gemeinsamsicher.at/> (4.3.2026).

- Cooperation as a member of the 'No Hate Speech' Committee,
- Exchange and networking with the National Coordinator for Digital Services,
- Exchange and networking within the framework of the Task Force 'Online Antisemitism and Disinformation' under the leadership of the Federal Chancellery,
- Exchange and networking as a member of the European Commission's High-Level Group on combating Hate Speech and Hate Crime,
- Exchange in fulfilment of responsibilities as National Contact Point for the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR),
- Exchange and networking as a member of the European 'Facing Facts' network,
- National contact point for Europol Hate Crime/Hate Speech,
- Participation in the meeting of National Law Enforcement Contact Points for Hate Crime,
- Participation in the annual round table with the LGBTQIA+ community, the Vienna Anti-Discrimination Office and Vienna Police, and
- Lectures for delegations and experts from law enforcement authorities of other countries as well as at universities on bias-motivated crime.

Projects for 2025

From October 2023 to October 2025, the department for human and federal rights within the BMI (III/S/1) is conducting, together with the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS), a quantitative and qualitative study on police-recorded and unreported crime (the 'bright and dark field') as well as on the analysis of possible preventive measures against hate crime and hate speech. The project is funded by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG).¹⁷

From September 2024 to April 2025, the department III/S/1, on behalf of the European Commission and in cooperation with international experts, developed a guideline to support national authorities in the planning, implementation and evaluation of public campaigns against hate and incitement and in favour of greater social cohesion.

In February 2025, around Safer Internet Day, an information week on the crime prevention programmes of the Police and the Directorate for State Protection and Intelligence Service (DSN) took place, coordinated by the department III/S/1. At the same time, a social media information campaign to increase personal online safety was launched, implemented in the long term through a consolidated web platform and additional information materials on hate speech.¹⁸

¹⁷ Further information is available at FFG: Hate Crime (4.3.2026).

¹⁸ Further information is available at FOI: Sicher und FAIRnetz (4.3.2026).

Furthermore, the current government programme provides for the establishment of a National Action Plan ‘Hate Crime’, ‘with the aim of stopping the significant rise in bias-motivated crimes and counteracting them preventively.’¹⁹

Police-recorded HATE CRIMES in 2024

This **fourth Hate Crime report 2024**, presents the police-collected data on bias-motivated crimes in the period from January to December 2024, with additional aspects added to the data analysis this year. The data is part of the **Police Crime Statistics (Polizeiliche Kriminalitätsstatistik – PKS)**, so that only offences for which the police **investigation has already been completed** are included. This depends on the date on which the responsible officers send their final report to the public prosecutor’s office. This date does not coincide with the time of the crime or the time of the criminal complaint. Therefore, offences that are suspected of being bias-motivated and are still under police investigation cannot be included in these statistics.

The basic characteristics of the PKS also apply to the data presented: As **statistics on crime reports** they are not complete and objective ‘barometer’ of the public security situation. Most of its content depends on the reporting behaviour of the population, but also on the investigation and documentation practices of the police. Furthermore, no statements can be made about the further outcome of the criminal proceedings.

In the following, the police-collected data on hate crime is presented based on regional distribution, bias motives and their forms, suspects, crime scenes, and victim groups. For the first time this year, the report also addresses the impact of violent crime and concludes with the top 5 offence categories.

1. Overview and regional distribution

In the period from January to December 2024, **6,786 bias-motivated crimes** were recorded by the police in Austria. This represents a significant increase of approximately 19.7 percent compared to 2023 (5,668). Since several bias motives can be assigned to one offence, the number of documented bias motives is at least equal or greater than the total amount of criminal acts with a bias motive.

¹⁹ Further information can be found in the current ‘Government Programme 2025–2029’ regarding the ‘National Action Plan (NAP) against Hate Crime’, which includes five main pillars (pp. 108 f.).

A total of **7,614 bias motives were documented** in this recording period, representing a substantial **increase of 17.8 percent** compared to 2023 (6,461).²⁰ Since bias motives always refer to the crime as a whole and more than one suspect per crime can be documented, the bias motives cannot be clearly assigned to individual offenders.

Table 1 breaks down bias motives and offences by province and it also contains the shares of attempted and **solved offences**.²¹ In absolute terms, most bias motives and bias-motivated crimes were again recorded in Vienna, Lower Austria and Upper Austria, each showing slight increases. However, the picture differs somewhat regarding the categories of suspects, violent offences and the number of victims shown in the table: Styria, now ranked third, surpassed Upper Austria despite having a significantly smaller population, and Tyrol overtook Salzburg in all categories (fifth instead of sixth place).²²

Victims are only recorded in the case of 'violent offences'. This general category of PKS covers only certain facts of the Criminal Code.²³ These statements also apply to the following tables or figures.

20 More information can be found in figures 4 and 5 below.

21 Clearance rate: A crime is considered to be 'clarified' if the police can identify a suspect to the public prosecutor's office.

22 Population figures: approximately 1.99 million residents in Vienna, 1.72 million in Lower Austria, 1.53 million in Upper Austria and 1.27 million in Styria; around 770,000 in Tyrol; around 570,000 in Salzburg and Carinthia; 410,000 in Vorarlberg; and 300,000 in Burgenland (as of 2023; source, 9 May 2025: [Bevölkerung gemäß Finanzausgleichsgesetz - STATISTIK AUSTRIA - Die Informationsmanager](#)).

23 Violent crime: § 75 StGB (murder), § 76 StGB (manslaughter), § 77 StGB (killing on request), § 78 StGB (aiding suicide), § 79 StGB (infanticide), § 82 StGB (abandonment), § 83 StGB (assault), § 84 StGB (serious assault), § 85 StGB (assault occasioning grievous bodily harm), § 86 StGB (assault causing death), § 87 StGB (serious assault with direct intention), § 91a StGB (attack on public transport workers), § 92 StGB (torture or neglect of persons under the age of 14, younger, or vulnerable persons), § 93 StGB (overexertion of persons under the age of 14, younger, vulnerable persons or invalids), § 99 StGB (deprivation of liberty), § 100 StGB (kidnapping of a mentally impaired or vulnerable person), § 101 StGB (kidnapping of a person under the age of 14), § 102 StGB (kidnapping of ransom), § 103 StGB (transfer to a foreign power), § 104 StGB (slavery), § 104a StGB (human trafficking), § 105 StGB (coercion), § 106 StGB (serious coercion), § 106a StGB (forced marriage), § 107 StGB (dangerous threat), § 107a StGB (persistent stalking), § 107b StGB (persistent use of force), § 107c StGB (cybermobbing), § 131 StGB (theft involving violence), § 142 StGB (robbery), § 143 StGB (aggravated robbery), § 144 StGB (extortion), § 145 StGB (Aggravated extortion), § 201 StGB (rape), § 202 StGB (sexual coercion), § 205 StGB (sexual abuse of a vulnerable or mentally impaired person), § 205a StGB (violation of sexual self-determination), § 206 StGB (serious sexual abuse of persons under the age of 14), § 207 StGB (sexual abuse of persons under the age of 14) § 217 (transnational prostitution trafficking), § 218 StGB (sexual harassment and public sexual acts).

	Bias motives	Criminal offences	Share of attempts	Clearance rate ²⁴	Suspects	Violent offences	Victims – violent offences
Burgenland	206	184	4	59,8 %	123	22	25
Carinthia	528	459	6	80,4 %	415	55	71
Lower Austria	1.193	1.063	32	67,9 %	896	188	236
Upper Austria	1.177	1.040	17	67,6 %	834	153	181
Salzburg	572	517	14	78,1 %	468	83	98
Styria	989	883	33	80,1 %	837	161	189
Tyrol	695	599	19	73,5 %	536	110	131
Vorarlberg	368	328	15	81,7 %	287	65	86
Vienna	1.886	1.713	127	47,9 %	1.012	537	602
Austria	7.614	6.786	267	67,0 %	5.408	1.374	1.619

Table 1: Bias motives registered by the police and related offences (with a share of attempts and clearance rate), suspects (natural persons), bias-motivated violent offences and related victims (natural and legal persons); by province; January to December 2024.

In this report multi-year comparisons are now provided in order to illustrate graphically the continuity and deviations in police recording practices. **Figure 4** below illustrates the substantial increase in 2024 in the recording of bias motives, criminal offences and suspects. In contrast, violent offences and their victims were recorded at their lowest level in the reporting year (while the number of attempts remained relatively constant).

Figure 5 presents the quantitative dynamics of bias motives broken down by province for the reporting years of 2021 to 2024. The rankings changed slightly most recently (Tyrol overtook Salzburg), and all provinces recorded, often significant increases compared to the previous year (listed in descending order according to the figures in Table 1): Tyrol +57 percent²⁵, Vorarlberg +40 percent, Styria +32 percent, Carinthia +31 percent, Burgenland +23 percent, Salzburg +14 percent, Upper Austria +14 percent, Lower Austria +12 percent, Vienna +3 percent.

In absolute terms, the largest increases in 2024 were recorded in Tyrol (+253 bias motives) and Styria (+237 bias motives), as well as in the number of recorded offences. The smallest increases compared to 2023 were observed in Burgenland and Vienna.

²⁴ Clearance rate: A crime is considered to be 'clarified' if the police can identify a suspect to the public prosecutor's office.

²⁵ Here (as in the explanations that follow), percentages are generally rounded to whole numbers for the sake of readability, whereas in the figures they are shown to one decimal place.

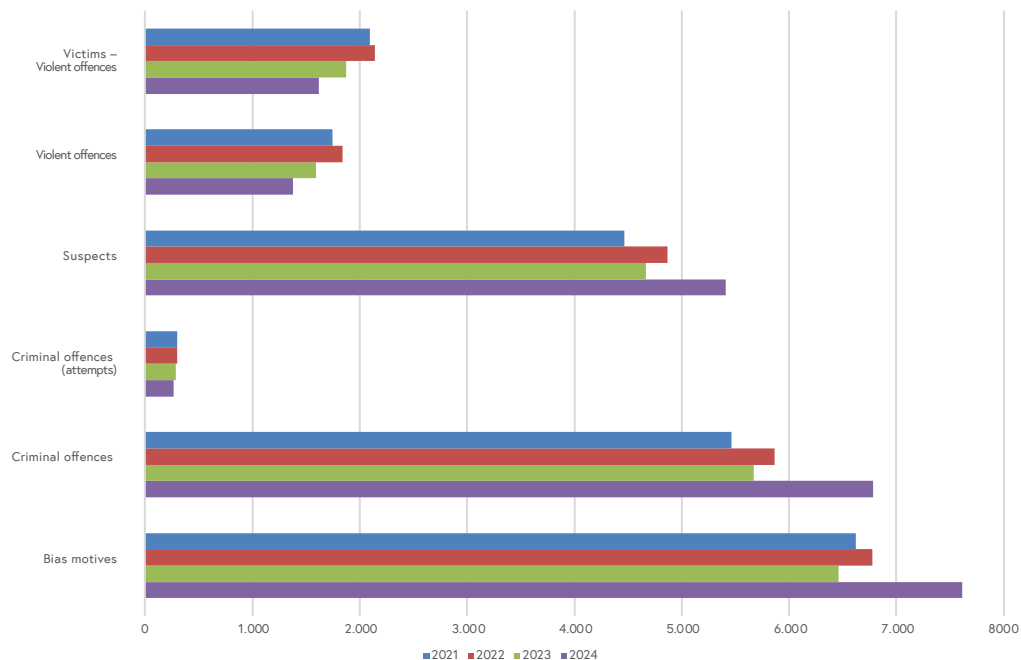


Figure 4: Comparison of police-registered bias motives, suspects (natural persons), bias-motivated violent offences and related victims (legal and natural persons) by reference years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024; January to December.

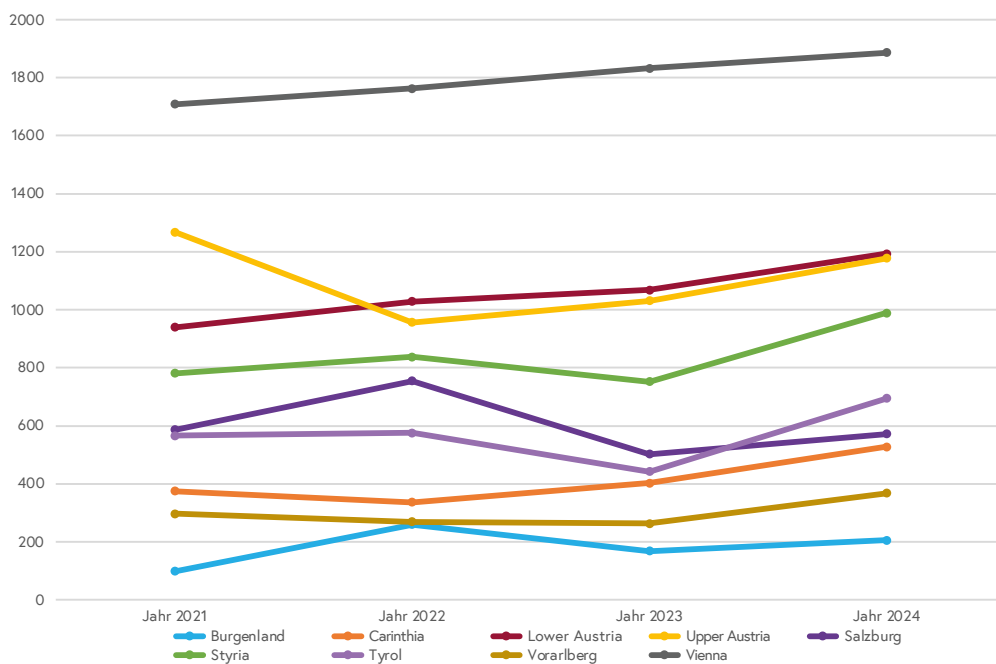


Figure 5: Comparison of police-registered bias motives by provinces and reporting years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024; January to December.

2. Bias motives, forms and offence areas

Table 2 provides a breakdown of documented bias motives, offences, attempts, clearance rate, suspects, violent offences and their victims by **sections of the Criminal Code and ancillary laws ('offence areas')** reflecting the protected legal interests infringed by hate crimes.

The **clearance rate** for hate crimes, at **67.0 percent overall**, is consistently higher than the clearance rate for overall crime in Austria (PKS 2023: 52.9 percent).

As in previous years, the highest number of recorded offences in 2024 concerned violations of **"ancillary criminal laws"**, with **2,755 offences** corresponding to 3,126 bias motives (2023: 2,006 offences and 2,334 bias motives), representing a strong increase of around 37 percent. These predominantly include violations of the National Prohibition Act. This growth trend is now evident across all expression-related offences: it was most significant in the offence category **"public peace"**, which nearly doubled in 2024 to **637 offences** (2023: 340), an increase of 87 percent, and moved from fifth to fourth place. The increase was considerably smaller (13 percent) in **offences against honour**, which ranked sixth with 234 offences (2023: 208). The **second-ranked** category, bias-motivated **property offences** (1,647 offences), also rose moderately by 18 percent (2023: 1,393 offences).

However, in some sections of the Criminal Code, the number of recorded offences **declined** compared to the previous year, most notably in offences against **life and limb** with 742 offences (2023: 843). Despite a decrease of 14 percent, this category remained in **third** place. Offences against **liberty** also declined to 623 offences (2023: 699), a reduction of 12 percent, placing them fifth in the ranking.

These trends are correspondingly reflected in the number of recorded bias motives, which are generally higher than the number of offences due to the possibility of multiple motives being assigned to a single case.

In 2024, **most offence categories continue to be dominated by a single specific offence**, with largely consistent proportions compared to previous years. In particular: in the case of criminal acts against life and limb, **assaults** accounts for around 91 percent, in the case of offences against liberty, **dangerous threats** (73 percent) and coercion predominate, in case of offences against honour, **insults** account for 87 percent, followed by defamation, in the case of property offences, property damages (including aggravated criminal damage) accounts for 87 percent, followed by thefts, in the case of public peace offences, **incitements to hatred** accounts for 73 percent, alongside offences related to terrorist groups. Offences against ancillary criminal laws relate almost exclusively **to the catch-all offence section**

3g Prohibition Act (national socialist reactivation) and to section 3h Prohibition Act (denial, trivialization, approval or justification of nazi crimes).

Criminal Code Sections	Bias motives	Criminal offences	Share of attempts	Clearance rate	Suspects	Violent offences	Victims – violent offences
I – Offences against life and limb	802	742	135	76,1 %	807	692	756
III – Offences against liberty	691	623	25	84,3 %	582	614	786
IV – Offences against honour and reputation	271	234	0	82,1 %	222		
V – Breach of privacy and of certain professional privileges	2	2	0	0,0 %			
IV – Offences against honour and reputation	1.748	1.647	74	20,4 %	497	31	37
VII – Offences against public safety and offences against the environment	8	8	4	75,0 %	10		
VIII – Offences relating to religious worship and burial sites	16	16	1	62,5 %	12		
X – Offences against sexual integrity and self-determination	59	53	3	84,9 %	47	37	40
XII – Offences against the reliability of legal documents and proof marks	15	14	0	78,6 %	13		
XIV – High treason and other offences against the state	6	6	1	100,0 %	7		
XV – Offences against senior government institutions	18	18	0	100,0 %	18		
XX – Offences against public peace	820	637	7	88,1 %	635		
XXI – Obstruction of justice	20	19	1	78,9 %	22		
XXII – Criminal violation of official duties, corruption and related offences	9	9	1	88,9 %	10		
XXIV – Interference with the relations to a foreign country	3	3	1	66,7 %	3		
Ancillary criminal law offences	3.126	2.755	14	81,5 %	2.523		
Total	7.614	6.786	267	67,0 %	5.408	1.374	1.619

Table 2: Police-registered bias motives and related offences, (with share of attempts and clearance rate), suspects (natural persons), bias-motivated violent offences and related victims (legal and natural persons); according to ‘offence areas’ (sections of the Criminal Code and ancillary criminal laws); January to December 2024.

Compared with all criminal offences recorded by the police (including attempts) and **suspects** in 2024 (**figure 6**) the typically **much lower significance of property offences** in the area of bias-motivated crimes becomes evident (24 percent compared to 61 percent).²⁶ Conversely, the share of **offences against ancillary laws** (almost exclusively violations of the Prohibition

²⁶ In the entire report percentages are mostly rounded for the sake of readability, otherwise the figures are accurate to one decimal place.

Act) is typically **higher** for bias-motivated crimes than for total crime (41 percent compared to 9 percent). Moreover, the percentage of offences against liberty (9 percent compared to 5 percent), offences against **public peace** (9 percent vs. 0.2 percent), particularly incitements to hatred, and **honour** offences (3 percent compared to 0.2 percent) has always been **far higher** than in the total crime rate since the start of the recording in 2020.²⁷

By contrast, in 2024, bias-motivated offences against life and limb were recorded less frequently.

These differences by offence category are correspondingly reflected in the number of recorded suspects.

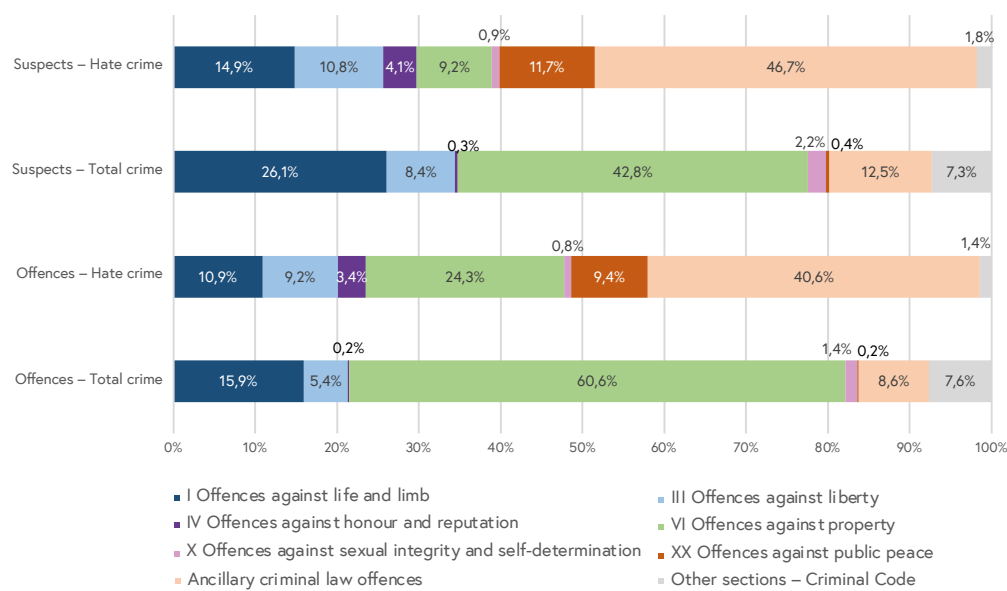


Figure 6: Distribution of ‘offence areas’ for bias-motivated offences and related suspects compared to all police-registered offences and suspects; January to December 2024.

Figure 7 now illustrates the proportional trends over the past four years. In descending order, the absolute number of bias motives recorded²⁷ shows the same ranking of top 1 to 3 as in previous years: **‘worldview’ in front of ‘national/ethnic origin’ and ‘religion’**.

²⁷ In contrast to the security report, the number of suspects in this report always includes minors under the age of 14 (the age of criminal responsibility).

However, the most common motive did not increase steadily in 2024, but rose sharply, so that now **every second bias motive is motivated by 'worldview'** (52 percent compared to 42 percent in 2023).

The motive **'skin colour'** returned significantly to fourth place (+42 percent), while **'sexual orientation'** moved clearly to fifth place (–29 percent).

As in the previous year, the motives **'gender'**, followed by **'social status'**, **'disability'** and **'age'** in 2024.

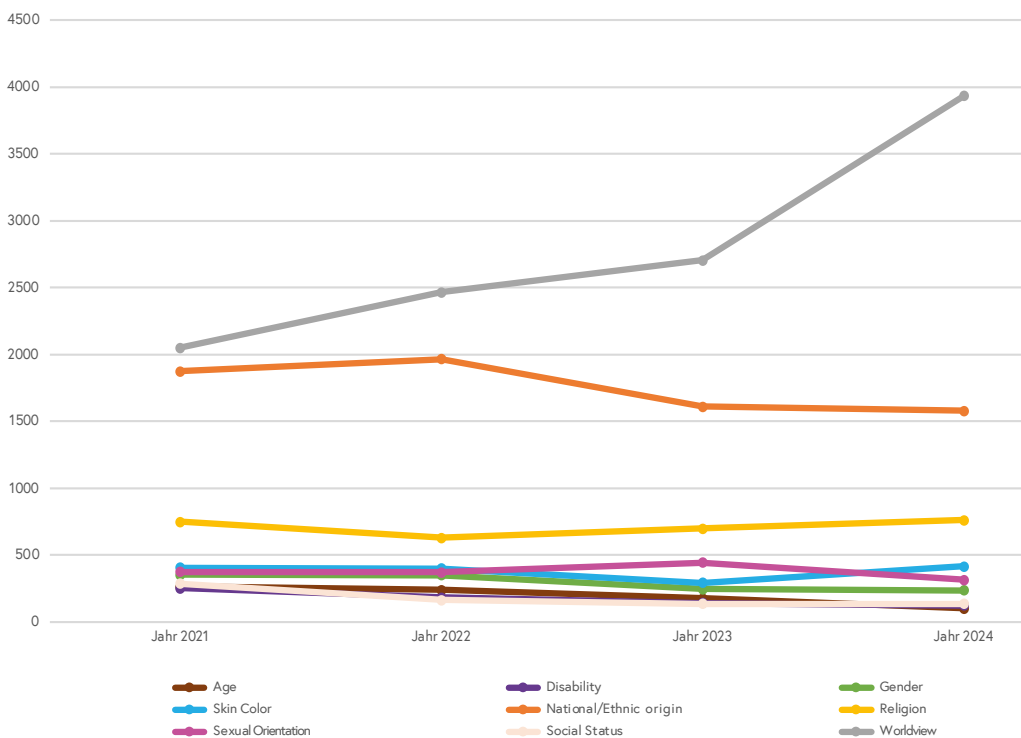


Figure 7: Comparison of police-registered bias motives, ranked by absolute number of categories and forms and reference years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Table 3 breaks down the bias motivations into the nine categories as registered in the police logging programme (PAD) 2024. Although the correct figures of clearance rates, suspects, violent offences and their victims, can be evaluated within the lines for each category of its form, the sum of the categories/forms does not result the total number of respective unit. This is based on the possibility of assigning more than one bias motive to a crime and thus

being able to record the possible multiple involvement of victims (intersectionality). Therefore the total number (except for bias motives and unlike in table 1 and 2) are not shown here.

In six of the nine motive categories, subgroups/forms have been recorded since 2020:

For the victim group ‘world view’ (‘western democracy’, ‘parties’, ‘others’), ‘religion’ (‘christians’, ‘jews’, ‘muslims’, ‘others’), ‘sexual orientation’ (‘bisexuals’, ‘heterosexuals’, ‘homosexuals’), ‘gender’ (‘divers/inter’, ‘woman’, ‘man’, ‘trans’, ‘others’), ‘social status’ (‘homelessness’, ‘others’) and for ‘disability’ (‘physical/sense impairment’ and ‘psychological/cognitive impairment’) listed in descending absolute order. ‘Others’ should always be specified by the police in a free text field.

For the consistently most frequent and sharply increasing motive in 2024, **‘worldview’ (3,935 bias motives;** an increase of 1,229) **Table 3**—since the pilot report in 2021—has presented data on the individual subcategories. The form of **‘western democracies’ (-2,936)** grew most, now dominating **75 percent** of this bias motive category and accounting for **39 percent of all** recorded motives. Compared with the previous year, this subcategory showed the most significant growth (+ 73 percent), apparently also at the expense of ‘others’ (349; minus 42 percent), which is intended as a residual motive but has been corrected in favour of the former thanks to intensified data clearing. The increase in affected **‘parties’** (650, 17 percent) is again a sign of the **strong election year** (+ 63 percent compared to 2023; see **Chapter 6** for more details).²⁸

At the same time, the report separately presents the dominance of recorded offences under the Prohibition Act, which has criminalised National Socialist (re-)activation since 1947.²⁹ The most recent amendment entered into force on 1 January 2024. A total of **2,537 motives** were recorded as violations of this constitutional law, representing **two thirds** of all 3,935 bias motives registered under the category **“worldview”**. Of these, **2,273 motives** (90 percent) were attributable to the subcategory **“western democracy”** (77 percent of that subcategory)³⁰, meaning that, as indicated in the table, **663 motives** fall under **“western democracy (excluding the Prohibition Act)”**. This distinction highlights that beyond offences under the Prohibition Act also actions were recorded that signaled a rejection of the societal consensus and the democratic constitutional state governed by the rule of law.

²⁸ Detailed explanations of all biases and forms can be found in Chapter 6, in particular on the ‘worldview’ under 6.9.

²⁹ As offences under the Prohibition and Uniform Prohibition Act currently do not count as ‘violent crime’, no information is provided. See the previous footnote to the covered offences. In 2023 and 2024, there was no record of violations of the latter penal law, which prohibits the wearing of ‘Wehrmacht’ uniforms since 1946.

³⁰ Of these, 2,179 motives were classified under section 3g Prohibition Act, and 56 motives under section 3h Prohibition Act.

Within the subcategory “**political parties**”, only 99 motives (**15 percent**) were related to the **Prohibition Act** in 2024, whereas in the subcategory “**others**”, nearly **every second** motive (165 bias motives) fell under the Prohibition Act.³¹

The recorded, presented bias motives **focus** consistently on the victim **perspective**, i.e. the rejected and protected group or protected democratic values (for example, through the rejection of equal treatment of women). This perspective therefore differs from that of the State Protection and Intelligence Directorate (Direktion für Staatsschutz und Nachrichtendienst – DSN), where the focus is placed on the (extremist) affiliation of perpetrators, and thus leads to a different counting method.³²

In the third most frequent category, “**religion**”, which increased further in 2024 to **763 motives** (2023: 700), **45 percent** were **antisemitic** and **one third anti-Muslim**; only 15 percent concerned Christian churches and their members (‘others’ remained stable).

In fourth place was “**skin colour**” with **417** bias motives (2023: 293), followed by ‘**sexual orientation**’ as fifth with **317** motives; here, homophobic motives were recorded one third less frequently in 2024 than in 2023. Almost unchanged in sixth place, misogyny accounts for 78 percent of the motive ‘**gender**’ (238; 2023: 248). The motive ‘**social status**’ (136) was recorded equally often in 2023 and 2024 and now ranks seventh instead of last, while ‘**age**’ (102) occupies the last position. The motive ‘**disability**’ (125) remained stable in eighth place.

For the **second most frequent category**, ‘**national/ethnic origin**’ (1,581 bias motives), no subcategories are recorded; it declined slightly compared to 2023 (1,612).

Regarding **suspects**, only the sharply **increased** number (+37 percent) under ‘worldview’ stands out, attributable solely to the surge in ‘western democracy’ (+69 percent) (2023: 2,163 suspects, of whom 1,491 were recorded under western democracy).

31 For ‘parties’, 92 motives were classified under section 3g Prohibition Act, and for ‘others’, correspondingly 149 motives.

32 For more information on the Office for the Protection of the Constitution report, see https://www.dsn.gv.at/501/files/VSB/180_2024_VSB_2023_V20240531.pdf (17.06.2024). Explanation of the counting method: The data basis for the statistical instrument of the state security authorities is all offences relevant to state security that come to the attention of the security authorities in a calendar year. Since criminal acts can comprise several offences, the number of offences exceeds the number of criminal acts. In addition to the quantitative scope and developments of the relevant phenomenon areas, the state security statistics also depict their qualitative parameters in order to define current and developing focal points for state security work. For example, unlike other surveys, offences that are linked in terms of time and location are statistically recorded as a serial offence according to a two-stage clearing procedure in order to be able to assign the quantitative number of offences to a phenomenon area, a group of offenders or an offender in a qualitatively undistorted manner. In this context, the consistent use of incident figures for the calendar year in question is also necessary.

A positive development can be noted in the **decline of violent offences** (2023: 222) and their victims (2023: 285), down by 24 percent and 32 percent respectively.

By contrast, within the subcategory ‘**jews**’, the number of suspects as well as violent offences and victims increased slightly (2024: 210 suspects, 31 offences and 32 victims; 2023: 197, 21 and 22 respectively). Under ‘**skin colour**’, the **increase** (+48 percent) applied only to **suspects** (2023: 296). Less pronounced increases were recorded for misogyny (+13 percent; 2023: 159) and anti-Muslim bias (+4 percent; 2023: 222). In most other categories, figures declined.

Categories/descriptions	Bias motives"	Clearance rate"	Suspects"	Violent offences	Victims – violent offences"
Worldview	3.935	65,8 %	2.973	169	195
Western Democracy	2.936	75,2 %	2.519	93	106
Parties	650	28,5 %	218	35	45
Others	349	56,2 %	236	41	44
Offences under Prohibition Act	2.537	81,6 %	2.327		
Western Democracy (without Prohibition Act)	663	48,6 %	413	93	106
National/Ethnic Origin	1.581	76,3 %	1.471	629	748
Religion	763	59,5 %	561	188	223
Jews	347	50,4 %	210	31	32
Muslims	246	78,9 %	231	109	125
Christians	111	46,8 %	77	26	38
Others	59	55,9 %	43	22	28
Skin Colour	417	85,9 %	437	85	101
Sexual Orientation	317	59,6 %	258	170	201
Homosexuals	272	58,0 %	219	139	169
Bisexuals	31	77,4 %	31	18	19
Heterosexuals	14	57,1 %	8	13	13

Categories/descriptions	Bias motives"	Clearance rate"	Suspects"	Violent offences	Victims – violent offences"
Gender	238	82,4 %	218	158	186
Woman	185	87,0 %	179	131	151
Trans	34	58,8 %	23	22	27
Divers	9	77,8 %	7	1	3
Man	6	83,3 %	5	2	2
Others	4	75,0 %	4	2	3
Social Status	136	38,2 %	66	34	37
Others	106	32,1 %	48	13	16
Homeless	30	60,0 %	18	21	21
Disability	125	74,4 %	107	41	43
Physical/Sensory impairment	80	75,0 %	72	19	19
Mental/Cognitive impairment	45	73,3 %	35	22	24
Age	102	61,8 %	76	28	51
Total	7.614				

Table 3: Police-registered bias motives, clearance rates, suspects (natural persons), bias-motivated violent offences and related victims (natural and legal persons); ranked by absolute number of categories and forms; January to December 2024.

The following **table 4** shows the **five most common intersections of victim groups**. This intersectionality of identity factors is in similar contexts as in the previous years. Combinations involving 'religion' decreased slightly, while those involving 'skin colour' increased somewhat.

Overall, in 2024 police officers documented 13 percent more offences involving more than one bias motive (2024: 693; 2023: 614). This corresponds to a **year-on-year ratio** that has remained **very stable at 10.2 percent** of the now 6,786 total offences.

It should be noted that the intersectionality presented here may extend to different elements of the facts of the case, such as various symbols, visual depictions or statements made by suspects.

The total number of offences involving multiple bias motives exceeds the five most frequent combinations shown below, which are as follows:

Combination of bias motives	offences
National/Ethnic Origin and Worldview	132
Skin Colour and National/Ethnic Origin	122
National/Ethnic Origin and Religion	85
Religion and Worldview	84
Skin Colour and Worldview	36
Total (Offences with multiple bias motives)	693

Table 4: Police-registered offences with multiple bias motives; ranked by the five most common combinations and total number; January to December 2024.

According to **figure 8** the **proportions of ‘offence areas’**, which are **sections of the Criminal Code or violations of ancillary criminal laws** differ depending on the bias motive. The distribution of ‘confrontational’ offences against life and limb, liberty, honour, or sexual integrity and self-determination differs considerably from that of **offences against public peace and violations of ancillary criminal laws** (almost exclusively offences under the Prohibition Act). Although the average share of the latter **increased** sharply (combining 52 percent vs. 43 percent), the overall picture changed relatively little in 2024 compared to 2023.

For the **bias motive ‘worldview’**, violations of the **Prohibition Act** account for the most, almost two thirds of the average (41 percent).³³

On the other hand, **‘national/ethnic origin’** offences against **life and limb, freedom and honour** amount to almost **50 percent**, with these accounting for almost 24 percent of all bias-motivated crimes. This proportion of **‘confrontational’ offences** is even **higher** only for **‘sexual orientation’** and with three quarters under **‘gender’**.

A sharply increased proportion of offences against public peace, particularly incitements to hatred, is found especially under **‘skin colour’** (36 percent) and **‘religion’** (22 percent), even more than in 2023, albeit in reversed ranking. As in 2023, the share of **offences against honour** under ‘skin colour’ is striking at 12 percent, more than three times the overall average (3.6 percent). Under the motives **‘gender’** and **‘national/ethnic origin’**, insults and

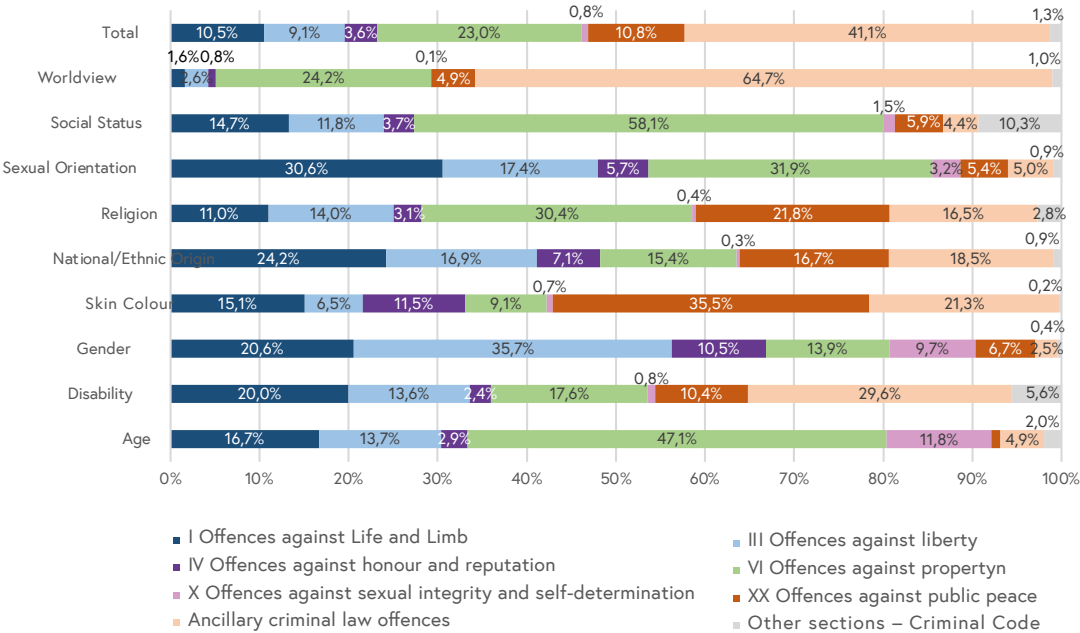
³³ The following statements are also based on the analysis of the dominant offences by offence area, which can be found above in the text before table 2. This means that §§ 3g, 3h Prohibition Act account for 97 percent of the recorded bias motives under ‘Ancillary criminal laws’.

defamation are also recorded three times and twice as often as the average, respectively. For both motives, the recording of offences against life and limb, particularly **assaults**, is also very high (21 percent and 24 percent respectively); this share is highest for **‘sexual orientation’** (31 percent). These three bias motives also rank highest in the registration of **offences against liberty**.

Finally, with regard to the distribution of the second most frequently recorded category, property offences, particularly **property damages**, it is notable that these offences shape predominantly the motives **‘social status’** (58 percent) and **‘age’** (47 percent), as in the previous year; to a lesser extent, this also applies to ‘sexual orientation’ and ‘religion’.

Accordingly, the bias motive **‘worldview’** shows the highest proportion of **indirect contact** with affected victim groups—primarily online—at **70 percent**³⁴. More recently, this also applies to **‘skin colour’**, where the figure exceeds **50 percent**.

By contrast, bias-motivated offences were recorded as having occurred **directly within the victim’s sphere** in more than 90 percent of cases involving ‘age’ and ‘gender’, in more than 80 percent involving ‘sexual orientation’ and ‘social status’, in more than 60 percent involving ‘national/ethnic origin’, and in more than 50 percent involving ‘religion’ and ‘disability’.



34 For these analyses, ‘ancillary criminal laws’ and offences against ‘public peace’ were combined in Figure 8.

3. Suspects

First of all, the trends in the number of suspects (**figure 9**) and the clearance rate³⁵ (**figure 10**) are briefly presented concerning the course of the four reporting years. As illustrated in figure 4 the total number of **suspects** (German: Tatverdächtige, TV) increased sharply in 2024 compared to the previous year (2024: 5,408; 2023: 4,665). This overall increase is primarily attributable to the **37 percent rise** in the category ‘**worldview**’ to 2,973 suspects (2023: 2,163), more specifically to the **69 percent increase** in the subcategory ‘**western democracy**’, which rose to 2,519 suspects (2023: 1,491). Otherwise, the sharp decrease in ‘sexual orientation’, in particular 28 percent, was due to 219 homophobic suspects (2023: 306), mainly compensated for by the 48 percent increase in the number of **437 racist suspects** recorded under ‘skin colour’ (2023: 296), as changes in other categories were comparatively minor.

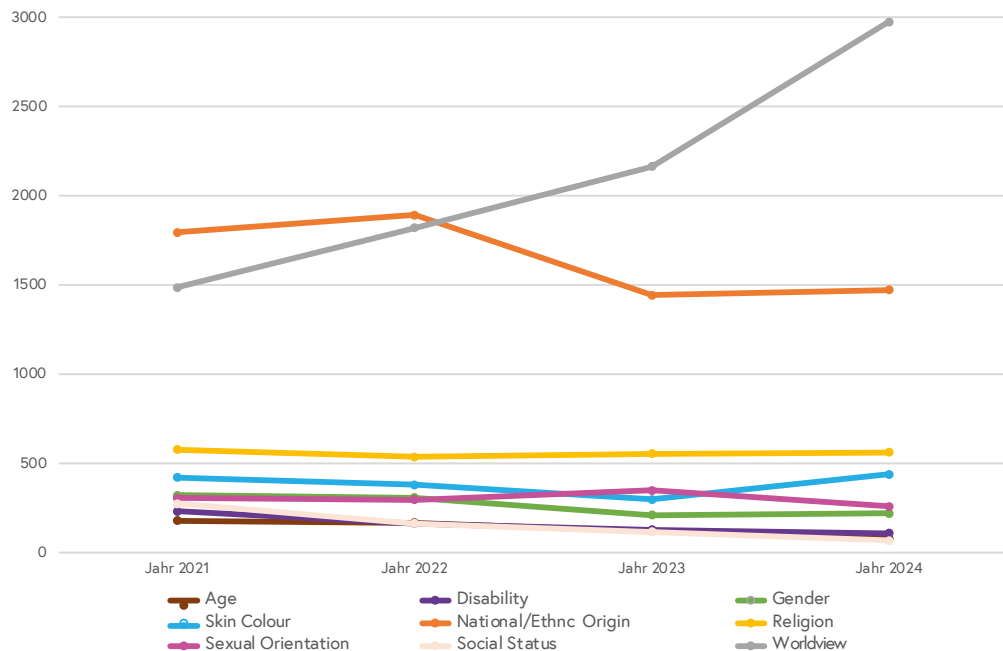


Figure 9: Comparison of police-registered suspects (natural persons), ranked by bias motives and reporting years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

³⁵ A crime is considered to be ‘clarified’ if the police have named a suspect to the public prosecutor’s office. For more information, see Fuchs, IRKS Pilot Report, p. 84.

The **clearance rate** increased in 2024 with 'skin colour' remaining in the **lead**, while '**gender**' improved to second place and '**disability**' advanced to fourth place, placing '**national/ethnic origin**' in third place almost stagnated. Although these peak values of over 80 percent and 70 percent are encouraging, these rates and their trends depend heavily on how easy or difficult it is to identify suspects; as they are typically the most resource-intensive to investigate in the case of property crimes, notably damages to property (2024: 20.4 percent – see Table 2), the decline in the bottom-ranked category 'social status' can be easily explained.

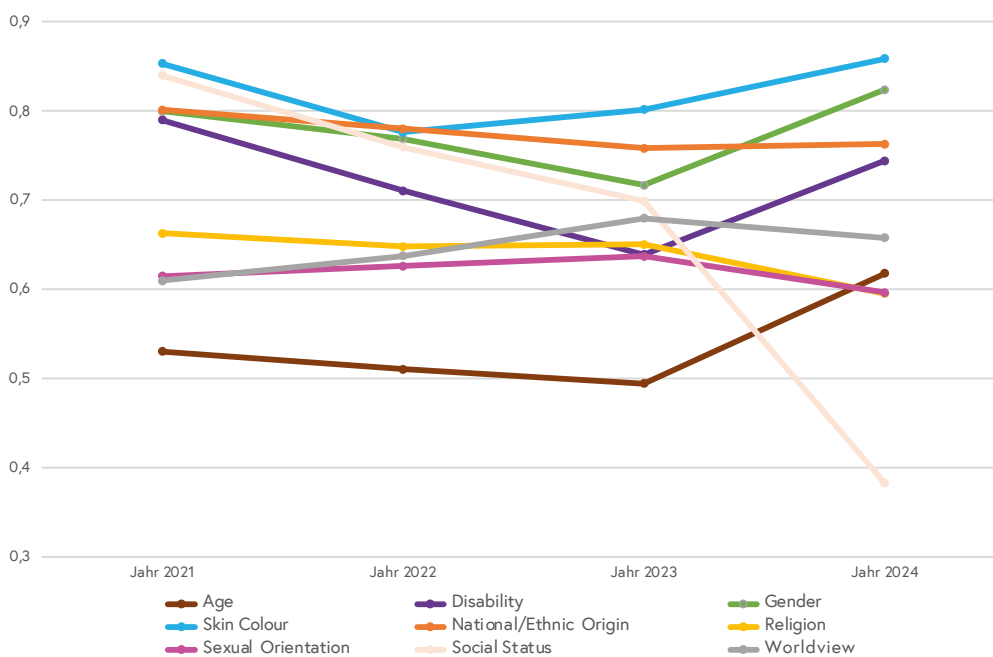


Figure 10: Comparison of police clearance rate, ranked by bias motives and reporting years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

As can be seen from a comparison in **figure 11** with all **suspects** (natural persons only) in **2024**, the criminologically usual form of the '**age crime curve**' is even more evident in hate crimes, very similar to the previous years. This is because bias-motivated offences are committed **twice as often** by persons **under the age of criminal responsibility and minors** between the ages of 14 and 18 than in the case of overall crime (**29 percent** compared to 14 percent). Together with suspects **under the age of 21** juvenile delinquency therefore accounts for a good **third** for hate crime. In **older cohorts** the pattern inverts: In case of the **overall crime** middle-aged suspects (25 to under 40 years) and the cohort aged 40 and

over together account for more than **two-thirds**, but the same age groups account only slightly more than one half in case of hate crimes.

However, the two middle groups of young adults (18 to less than 25 years old) have similar shares on both sides.³⁶

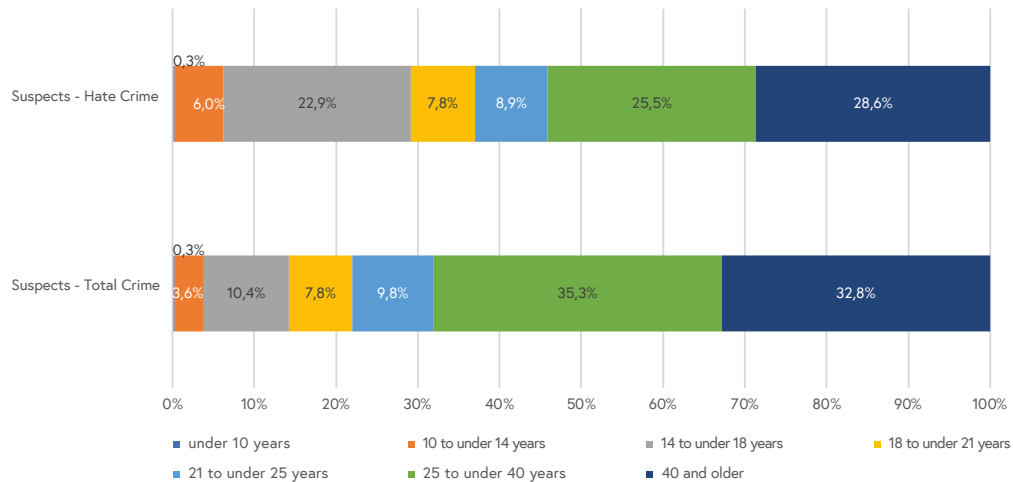


Figure 11: Comparison of the age distribution of for bias-motivated offences and for all police-registered crimes; January to December 2024.

The general proportion of **foreigners (26 percent)** compared to suspects with Austrian citizenship (74 percent) is **far lower for bias-motivated offences** than for total crime excluding hate crime (47 percent).³⁷ The **lowest** proportion of foreign nationals is found with the bias motive ‘**worldview**’, especially its form ‘western democracy’ and the bias motive ‘skin colour’ (each between 19 and 20 percent). By contrast, **every second hate crime against women** (42 percent), ‘**muslims**’ (46 percent) or ‘age’ involves at least one **foreign suspect**, as in the previous year. Conversely, **three out of four suspects are Austrians** regarding the motives ‘**disability**’ (78 percent) or ‘**social status**’ (74 percent), **anti-semitism** (72 percent), ‘**national/ethnic origin**’ (71 percent) and to a lesser extent **homophobic motives**.

In addition, in 2024 (as in the previous years) the **proportion of men** regardless of their nationality is **slightly higher** for bias-motivated crimes than for overall crime itself (**85 per-**

³⁶ With regard to the distribution by offence categories reference is made to figure 6.

³⁷ In general, these official data depend strongly on the clearance rate and the type of crime, e.g. in the case of property damage, suspects are often unknown and therefore difficult to assign due to nationality and gender.

cent compared to 77 percent). This ‘male perpetration’ was particularly pronounced in hate crimes against **homeless people, homophobia** (each 94 percent), all forms of **worldview, hostility against women and christians** (86 to 88 percent). Slightly below the average for hate crimes were ‘skin colour’ and ‘national/ethnic origin’ (83-85 percent) as well as anti-semitic and transphobic bias motives (83-84 percent). The lowest recorded proportions of male perpetrators occurred in relation to hostilities against **age** (71 percent), disability and muslims (75 percent each).

4. Crime Scenes

In the police crime statistics, certain crime scenes are recorded for offences. Since the 2021 pilot report the locations of the recorded bias motives are summarized in the **seven location categories** ‘public space’, ‘semi-public space’, ‘private space’, ‘sacred site’, ‘institution’, ‘internet’ and ‘other location’ and refer in **absolute figures** to the relevant sections of the Criminal Code (I.-XX.) as well as to ancillary criminal laws in **figure 12**.³⁸ **Figure 13** shows the same analysis with their **percentages (within the offence areas)**. In addition, **figure 14** now shows the respective **percentage of offence areas in relation to the crime scenes in total** highlighting better their respective significance.³⁹

Public and semi-public crime scenes which encompass the majority of ‘situational violence’ offline⁴⁰, are **stagnating** almost completely in absolute and proportional terms (2,125/28 percent compared to 2,069/32 percent in 2023), but now **one in four crime scenes** is registered as ‘internet’ (1,969/26 percent compared to 1,221/19 percent).

38 The location categories have not been expanded since 2022. Instead, ‘Other’ was selected in place of the detailed categories below for approximately every third bias motive, as illustrated by the ‘Total’ category in each of the following figures. Not all listed locations were actually recorded by the police as sites of bias-motivated offences in the respective reporting year. The full list is as follows: ‘**Public space**’ includes vending machines, railway stations, ATMs/cash machines, carports/garages, leisure or sports facilities, public places/streets/parking areas, public buildings, public transport/transport stops, and telephone booths. ‘**Semi-public space**’ includes antique shops/art dealers/galleries, pharmacies, medical practices, clothing stores, shopping centres, electronics stores, factories/industrial buildings/warehouses, airports/airfields, restaurants and catering establishments, financial institutions/banks/post offices, gambling venues, hotels/guesthouses/accommodation establishments, kiosks, car dealerships/workshops, jewellers, museums/exhibitions, car parks/underground car parks, political institutions, red-light establishments, other buildings, other shops, supermarkets, petrol stations, tobacco shops, and event venues. ‘**Private space**’ includes construction sites, office spaces, basement compartments, agricultural properties, single-family houses/semi-detached houses/terraced houses, residential complexes (multi-party buildings), apartments, and other forms of dwellings. ‘**Sacral site**’ includes monuments/memorials, cemeteries, and religious buildings. ‘**Institution**’ includes asylum/foreign accommodation, detention facilities (police detention centres, prisons, etc.), barracks/military facilities, hospitals/clinics/care facilities, and schools/educational institutions. ‘**Other**’ includes ‘unknown’ and other unspecified locations.

39 In this respect, for example, all percentage values for ‘public space’ across the offence categories—summed ‘vertically’—amount in total to 22.4 percent, which represents the full 100 percent share of ‘public space’ shown in the first bar. Therefore, only all locations combined within the ‘Total’ bar add up to 100 percent, whereas the lower, detailed bars in this figure do not, since all percentages are referenced to this first bar; for this reason, percentage labels are omitted below.

40 For more information: [Situative Gewalt – eine besondere Herausforderung in der Opferhilfe - Weisser Ring](#) (23.06.2025). (23.06.2025).

Nevertheless in 2024 the former locations dominate with 562 bias motives (70 percent) against **life and limb** and 1,167 bias motives (67 percent) against **property**. Collectively these two crime categories account for **86 percent** of bias motives recorded in **public spaces** and 64 percent of those recorded in **semi-public spaces (figure 14)**.

Bias-motivated attacks on '**sacred sites**' (e.g. churches, cemeteries and monuments) recorded 93 motives in 2024 (compared with 78 motives in 2023) and consist entirely of property damages, although their share of all property crimes remains at five percent (**figure 13**).⁴¹

In the case of **crimes against liberty** the **(semi-)public space** predominates with 293 motives (42 percent) and – similarly to **sexual offenses** – more than **one in four crime scenes** stands out as '**private**' (173), as almost **one in three** bias motives recorded in private spaces involved dangerous **threats or coercion**. Only the proportion of **property offenses** in the total number is even higher, at just under 50 percent (comparable to 48 percent in the prior reporting period), meaning that **every second motive**, a total of 274 out of 553, represents **damages to property** in a private context (figures 12 to 14).

In the case of 'ancillary criminal laws,' almost exclusively violations of the **Prohibition Act**, the crime scene '**Internet**' is the predominant scene with **1,460 motives** (47 percent), representing an **increase of 59 percent** compared to 2023 (920 motives), and **three out of four of all hate posts**⁴² were registered here. **Offences against public peace**, predominantly incitements and terrorist groups, remain significant within the '**Internet**' crime scene with **418 motives** (21 percent of the total and 51 percent of the category), representing a strong absolute and relative increase over 2023 (17 percent, 43 percent, 201 motives). **Online crimes involving bias motives for offenses against liberty**: **one in eleven cases**, 61 total, with the overall share halving to three percent compared with the prior year (figures 12 to 14).

Finally, in the case of '**institutions**,' in particular schools, hospitals, barracks, asylum shelters or prisons, it should be noted that almost every second offense was recorded as a **property offense** (117; 47 percent of the total), every third as an **assault** (79) and every fifth as a **liberty offense** (49) (figures 12 to 14).

⁴¹ Figures 15 to 17 show that the motive 'religion' primarily affects the Christian community

⁴² The term 'hate postings' here refers to all offences with a bias motive that are committed online.

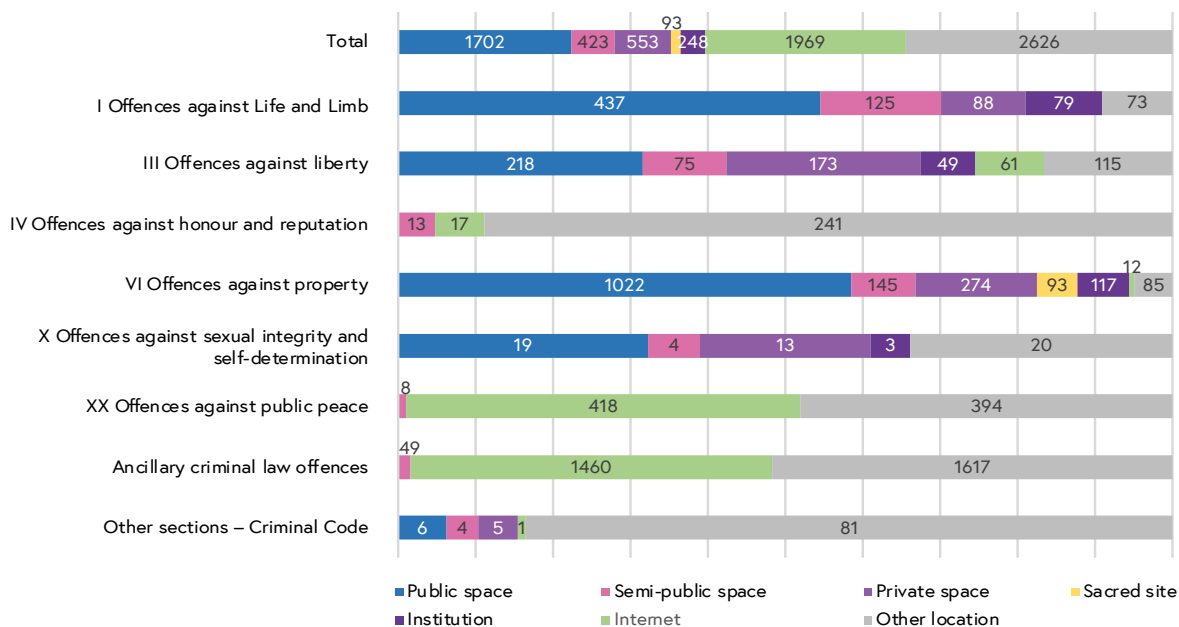


Figure 12: Crime scenes of police-registered bias motives in absolute numbers; classified according to ‘areas of offences’; January to December 2024.

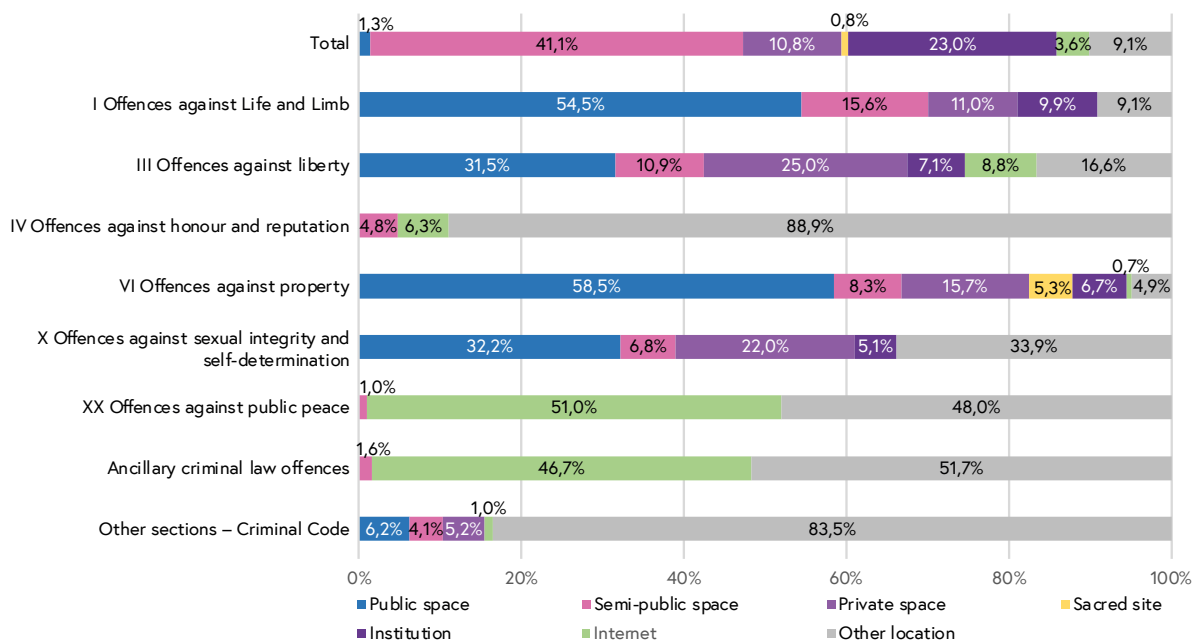


Figure 13: Crime scenes of police-registered bias motives as a percentage (proportion within ‘crime areas’); classified according to ‘offences areas’; January to December 2024.

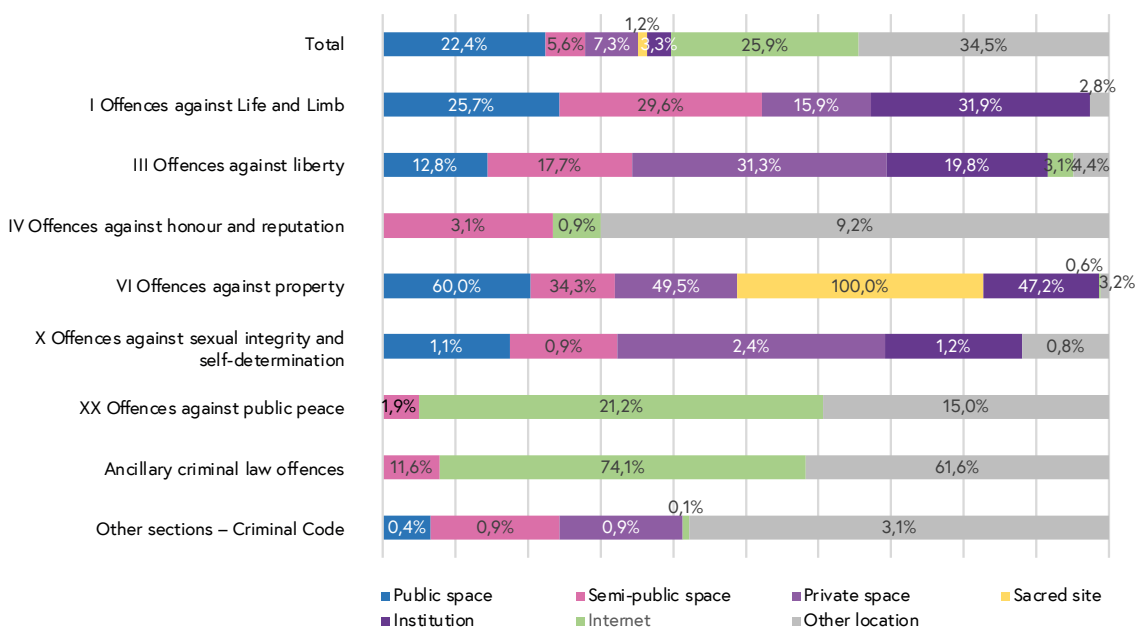


Figure 14: Crime scenes of police-registered bias motives in percent (proportion of total amount); classified according to ‘offences areas’ of; January to December 2024.

In the most frequent location category, ‘**public space**’, the motive ‘**worldview**’ ranked first in absolute numbers in 2024 (703 bias motives). It was the only motive—alongside ‘social status’—to record a **strong increase** in this location category (+72 percent). It was followed by ‘national/ethnic origin’ (440), ‘religion’ (143) and ‘sexual orientation’ (132).

According to figure 15, hostility towards political parties (406) and public homophobia (122) are particularly noteworthy within this context.

Within these motives, two thirds of offences related to ‘social status’, every second homophobic motive and every third transphobic motive⁴³ were recorded as occurring in public space.

In **semi-public spaces**, which include, for example, shops, factories, restaurants and parking garages, **146 motives** related to ‘national/ethnic origin’, **131** to ‘worldview’ and **56** to ‘religion’ were recorded. The first two motives each account for approximately **one third of the total in this location** category.

Within these motives, this location was recorded above average in cases involving ‘homeless persons’ (14 percent), ‘age’ (12 percent), **anti-Muslim** motives and **homophobia** (each between 8 and 9 percent).

⁴³ In this context, the small number of recorded locations (with ‘public space’ leading at 13 motives) does not allow for any well-founded generalisations about the recorded crime figures.

In **private space**, primarily construction sites, offices and storage cellars, **175 worldview-related motives** and **153 motives** related to **‘national/ethnic origin’** were recorded, along with **46 misogynistic** and **41 antisemitic** motives. The largest contributors to the overall size are **‘worldview’** (32 percent) and **‘national/ethnic origin’** (28 percent).

Within the categories, every fourth misogynistic motive (46) and every fourth age-related motive (24) was recorded in private space, as well as more than one in ten antisemitic (41) and anti-Muslim motives (25).

‘Institutions’ were recorded **more frequently** in 2024, with 248 motives (2023: 210), most commonly in connection with **‘national/ethnic origin’** (84 motives, 34 percent of the total), followed by **‘religion’** and **‘worldview’** (54 and 53 motives, each 22 percent of the total); in this context Muslims were particularly affected (52 percent; 28 motives).

Under the location category **‘sacred site’**, **93 motives** were recorded (2023: 74). Of these, **63 anti-religious motives** accounted for **68 percent of the motives** registered at sacred sites, while 16 worldview-related motives accounted for 17 percent, although such locations represent only one percent of all recorded locations overall. Within this context, **50 motives** (80 percent) were directed against **Christians** (2023: 51). Almost every second motive recorded in this manifestation at a sacred site involved **criminal damage**.

Finally, **internet crime** remains the **most frequent crime location** (**1,969 motives**). The **sharply increased number** of **1,244 worldview-related motives** not only accounts for almost **two thirds of the total** in this category, but also represents **nearly one third of all motives within the ‘worldview’ category** itself. Of these, **92 percent** (1,127 motives) concerned violations of the **Prohibition Act**, meaning that **every second motive** involving nazi offences was recorded as a **hate posting**.⁴⁴

In addition, **305 motives** of **‘national/ethnic origin’**, **189** of **‘skin colour’** (almost one in two within the motive) and 132 on **‘religion’** (81 motives, every fourth antisemitic motive) and every third motive targeting **‘disability’** (46 motives) were committed **online**.

It should be noted in this context (see **figure 17**) that **two thirds** of recorded **anti-religious** hate postings were **antisemitic**, while **one third** were **anti-muslim** (43 motives). This is also reflected in the large number of online incitements to hatred and ‘memes’, particularly targeting Jews and people on the basis of their skin colour (see figure 8), which were shared on social media platforms and via messaging services.

44 This is particularly significant when compared to the rejection of ‘western democracy’ without reference to the Prohibition Act, which was hardly recorded as hate postings. Accordingly, reference should be made to figure 8, which shows that under the category ‘worldview’, suspects have the least direct contact with those affected.

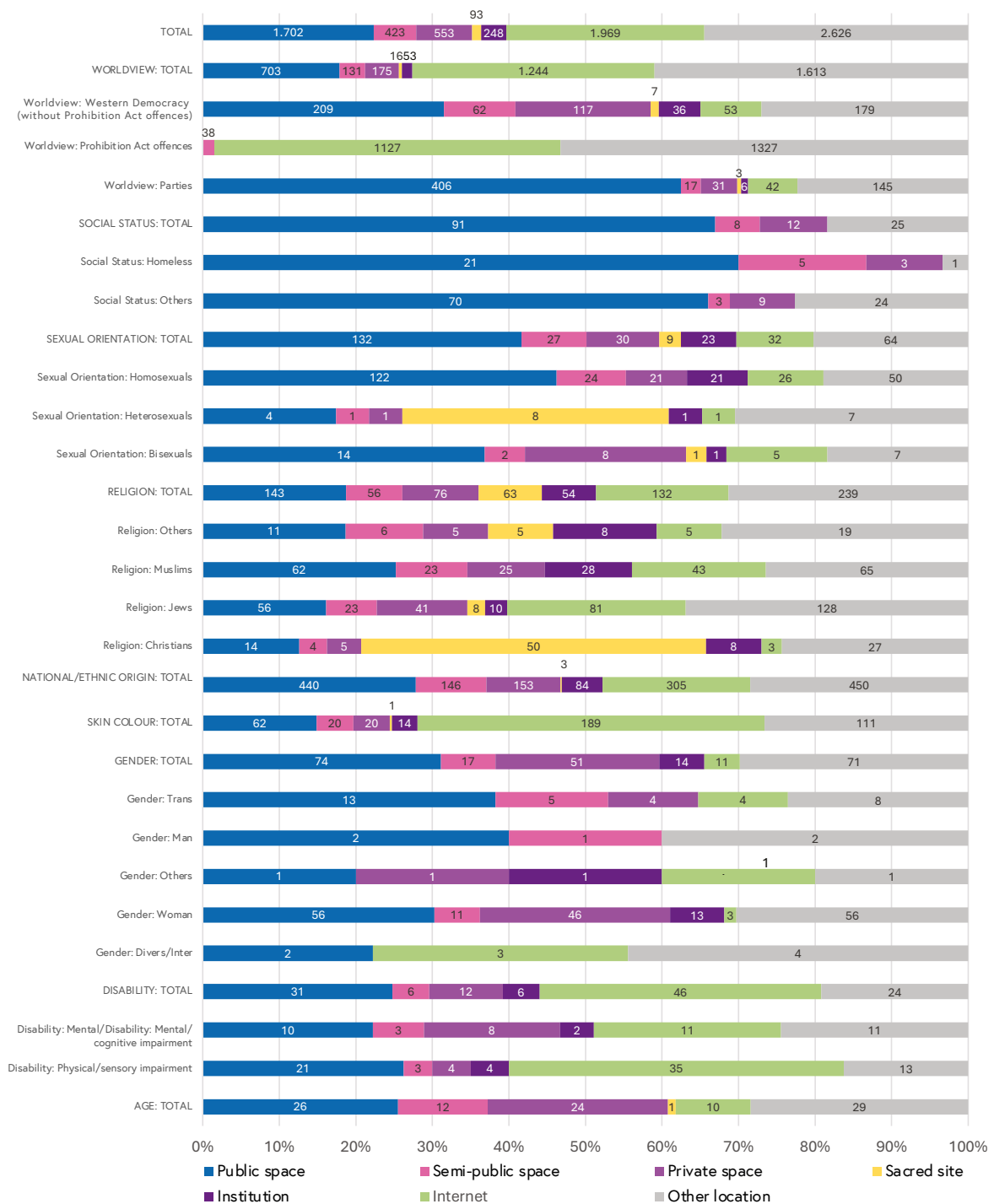


Figure 15: Crime scenes of police-registered bias motives in absolute numbers; classified according to bias motives and their forms; January to December 2024.

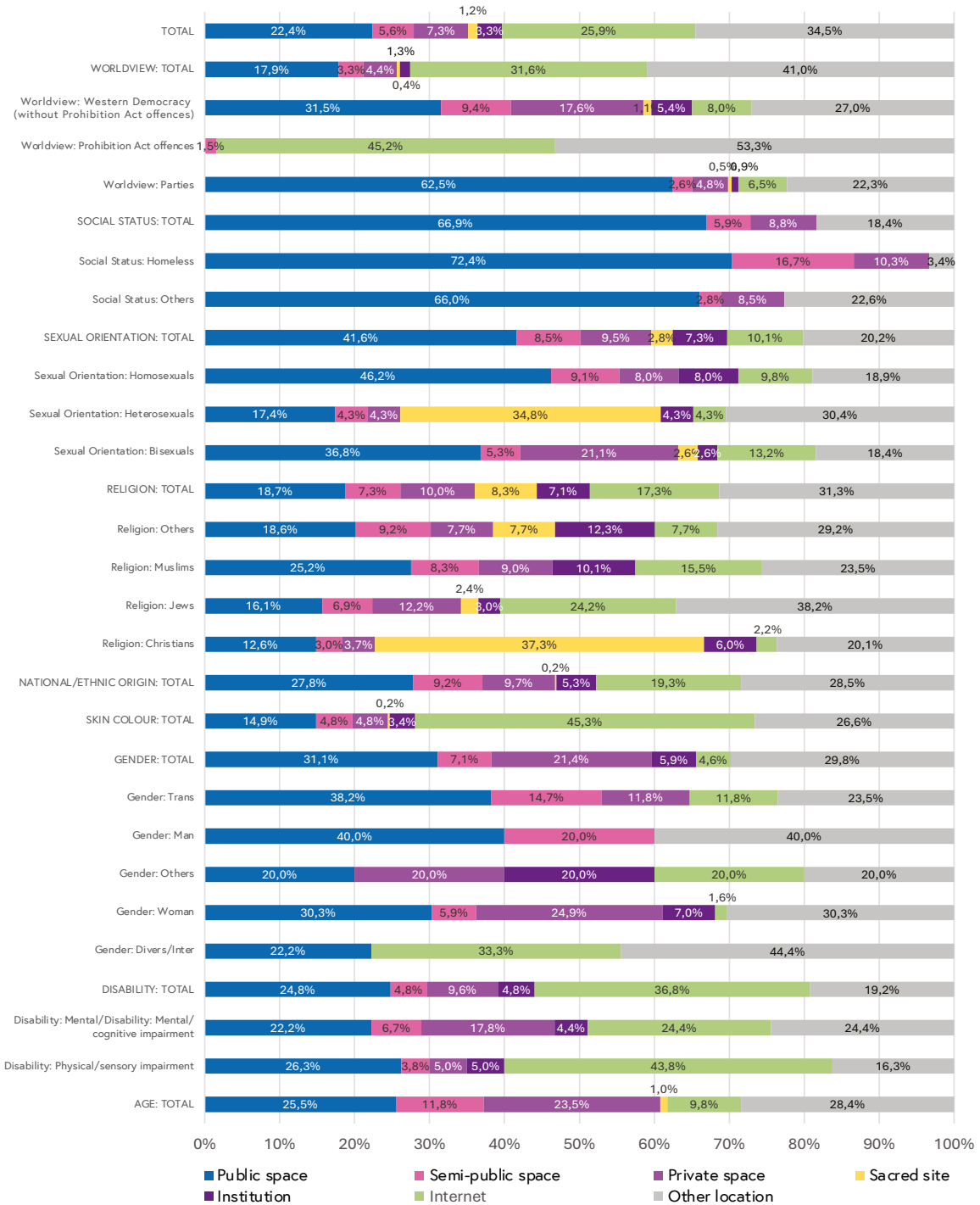


Figure 16: Crime scenes of police-registered bias motives as a percentage (share within bias motive); classified according to bias motives and their forms; January to December 2024.

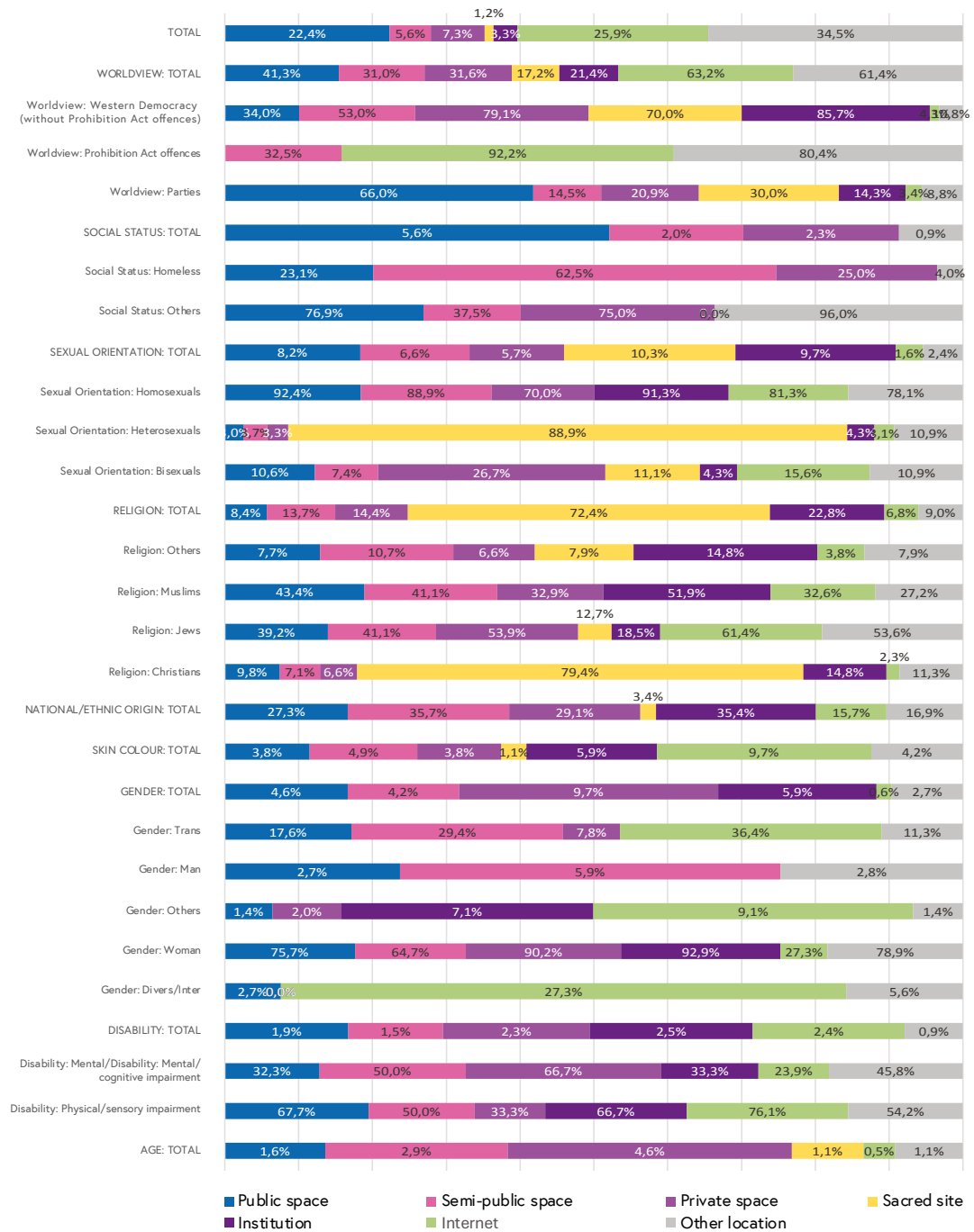


Figure 17: Crime scenes of police-registered bias motives as a percentage (proportion of total quantity) classified according to bias motives and their forms; January to December 2024.

5. Bias motivated violent crimes

As noted above under chapter1, **victim data** is published **only** in **cases of violent crime**. This category includes only specific offences defined in the Criminal Code.⁴⁵

In this context, the **top five offences** with the **highest number of victims** are presented here for the first time (**figure 18**), followed by **demographic characteristics** such as age and gender. Finally, the combination of **multiple bias motives** is presented in this context. However in some cases bias motives may be counted multiple.⁴⁶

A total of **1,619 victims** were recorded in bias-motivated violent crimes⁴⁷. Of these, **1,013** were **men** (63 percent) and **547** were **women** (34 percent); 1.2 percent fell under **other genders** and 2 percent to **legal entities**. In 1.4 percent of cases, gender was unknown.

Figure 18 shows, male victims predominating in line with the overall figures above. Only in the last of the top five offences (serious) coercion (Sections 105 and 106 of the Criminal Code) the numbers of male and female victims are approximately balanced.

45 Violent crime: § 75 StGB (murder), § 76 StGB (manslaughter), § 77 StGB (killing on request), § 78 StGB (aiding suicide), § 79 StGB (infanticide), § 82 StGB (abandonment), § 83 StGB (assault), § 84 StGB (serious assault), § 85 StGB (assault occasioning grievous bodily harm), § 86 StGB (assault causing death), § 87 StGB (serious assault with direct intention), § 91a StGB (attack on public transport workers), § 92 StGB (torture or neglect of persons under the age of 14, younger, or vulnerable persons), § 93 StGB (overexertion of persons under the age of 14, younger, vulnerable persons or invalids), § 99 StGB (deprivation of liberty), § 100 StGB (kidnapping of a mentally impaired or vulnerable person), § 101 StGB (kidnapping of a person under the age of 14), § 102 StGB (kidnapping of ransom), § 103 StGB (transfer to a foreign power), § 104 StGB (slavery), § 104a StGB (human trafficking), § 105 StGB (coercion), § 106 StGB (serious coercion), § 106a StGB (forced marriage), § 107 StGB (dangerous threat), § 107a StGB (persistent stalking), § 107b StGB (persistent use of force), § 107c StGB (cybermobbing), § 131 StGB (theft involving violence), § 142 StGB (robbery), § 143 StGB (aggravated robbery), § 144 StGB (extortion), § 145 StGB (Aggravated extortion), § 201 StGB (rape), § 202 StGB (sexual coercion), § 205 StGB (sexual abuse of a vulnerable or mentally impaired person), § 205a StGB (violation of sexual self-determination), § 206 StGB (serious sexual abuse of persons under the age of 14), § 207 StGB (sexual abuse of persons under the age of 14) § 217 (transnational prostitution trafficking), § 218 StGB (sexual harassment and public sexual acts).

46 As soon as more than one victim is recorded for an offence or a case number in the 'PAD' system, all bias motives (VM) are assigned to each victim. It is not possible to assign 1 motive only to victim 1 and motive 2 only to victim 2; instead, both victim 1 and victim 2 are automatically assigned both motive 1 and motive 2.

47 Due to the anonymization of victim data, multiple counting may occur: the same victim is counted again for each offence. Consequently, an individual may be recorded as a victim multiple times within a single year.

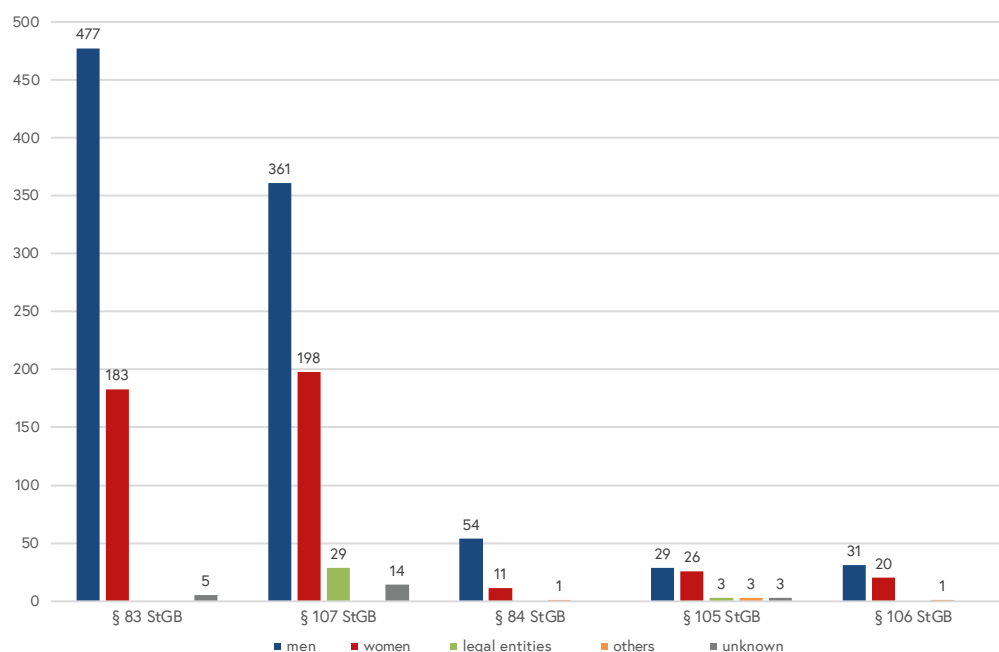


Figure 18: Number of victims of bias-motivated violent crimes; distribution across the top 5 offences; victims by gender, January to December 2024.

Looking at age groups⁴⁸ (table 5) victims of violent hate crimes are predominantly 25-64 years old, **mostly victims up to 39 years old**.

Age groups	Number of victims
legal entities	33
less than 6 years	20
6 to less than 10 years	22
10 to less than 14 years	94
14 to less than 18 years	191
18 to less than 21 years	133
21 to less than 25 years	169
25 to less than 40 years	491
40 to less than 65 years	398
65 and over	44
age unknown	24

Table 5: Number of victims of violent hate crimes, age groups; January to December 2024.

⁴⁸ The age groups used are standard for police crime statistics and are cited in the same way in the following chapters, e.g. '14 to under 18 years.'

Across all victim groups, **national/ethnic origin** emerges as the **predominant** bias motive.

Among victims aged 25 to 39 the most frequent motives are national/ethnic origin, sexual orientation and gender.

In older age groups, national/ethnic origin again ranks first, followed by religion and worldview.⁴⁹

When **comparing** the **top five offences** of bias-motivated violent crimes (see above) with the corresponding bias motives, it becomes evident that, for each offence, persons were primarily victimized on the basis of their **national or ethnic origin**.

In descending order of frequency, this is followed by **sexual orientation** (in cases of assaults pursuant to Sections 83 and 84 of the Criminal Code), **religion** (in cases of serious coercion and dangerous threats pursuant to Sections 106 and 107 of the Criminal Code), and **worldview** in cases of coercion (Section 105 of the Criminal Code).

The following **table 6** examines victims of bias-motivated violent crimes and **intersectional overlaps**.⁵⁰

Top 3 combinations bias motives	Number of victims bias motivated violence crime
national/ethnic origin, colour	36
national/ethnic origin, religion	29
national/ethnic origin, worldview	15

Table 6: Intersectional overlaps in bias-motivated violent hate crimes with regard to the number of victims; January to December 2024.

Examples illustrating the most frequent combination, ‘**national/ethnic origin**’ and ‘**skin colour**’, include: violently pushing and choking an uniformed person while stating that people from Africa are called ‘N*gger’; insulting someone as a ‘burnt-out foreigner’ in a bar, followed by a physical assaults, threats of ‘stabbing’, and demands that people should return to ‘their’ country.

49 The younger victim groups are not described in detail due to the low number of cases.
50 Only victims with more than one bias motive were considered. The three most frequent combinations were selected, as other combinations showed lower case numbers. If an offence involved more than one victim, each victim was included. The number of victims results from the total number of victims associated with the specified combinations of bias motives.

For the combination ‘**national/ethnic origin**’ and ‘**religion**’, the following cases may serve as examples: walking woman was insulted as ‘sh*tty Jew/foreigner/Palestinian’, forced to the ground, struck on the head with objects and kicked, sedated with substances so that a religious symbol could be carved into the victim’s body; a woman wearing a burqa was attacked without any cause in a shopping centre and threatened with the words, ‘I will cut you down — we don’t need people like you in this country.’

The combination ‘**national/ethnic origin**’ and ‘**worldview**’ was recorded, for example, in the following incidents: degrading treatment of individuals in the hospitality sector (‘all foreigners are sons of b*tches’), followed by a Nazi salute and physical assaults involving punches; insulting children in a neighbourhood context (using a derogatory slur for immigrants telling them to ‘shut their mouths’ and threatening to kill them), accompanied by shouting (‘I am the Führer, H*il Hitler’).

6. Hate Crimes by Affected Groups

The criminal phenomenon of ‘hate crime’ pursues a victim-centered approach that focuses on those affected. This is a significant difference from the classic criminal justice system which historically focuses on the perpetrators.

In 2024, the section ‘Hate Crimes by affected groups’ is included for the second time. This section further enhances the visibility of the impact for individual victim groups and allows more targeted statements in this context.

6.1 Age

The bias motive ‘age’ includes people of **all ages**, since in principle anyone can be the victim of a bias-motivated crime. Experience has shown that older people are particularly affected, but occasionally also minors under the age of 18. But **exploiting the vulnerability or defenselessness** of another **does not constitute a bias-motivated crime**, e.g. on the basis of an enrichment motive (e.g. ‘nephew trick’, pickpocketing or theft by withdrawal with stolen payment information).⁵¹

In such cases, there is usually no general hostility toward persons because of their age; rather, a person’s vulnerability or helplessness is exploited for financial gain.

⁵¹ *Fuchs*, pilot report. Hate crime in Austria, p. 12 (see FN 1). Therefore, police entries in the database are also checked very consistently and numerous deletions of the bias motive have been initiated for quality assurance purposes since data collection began in 2020.

However, if other indicators are added, these may be exceptional hate crime cases, in particular because of negative messages from the perpetrators (N) or the particular seriousness of the crime (S), which indicates a derogatory, negative attitude towards this group of victims.

⁵²As in previous years (since 2021), ‘age’ remains one of the **least frequently recorded** bias motives in 2024, with **102 motives** (one percent of all recorded motives) (2021: 266; 2022: 241; 2023: 176). Compared to the previous year, 42 percent fewer bias motives based on age were registered.

The top **five offences** in 2024 (**figure 19**) account for **53 percent** of the total. Of these, one in eight offences was fraud (13 motives), one in nine was assault (11 motives) or theft (11 motives), followed by dangerous threats (10 motives) and child abuse material or sexually explicit depictions of minors (9 motives).

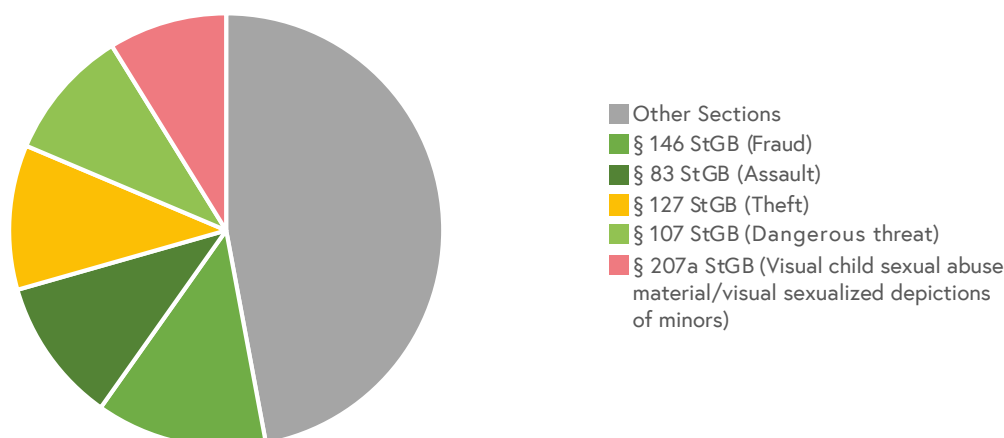


Figure 19: Bias motive ‘age’; distribution of the top 5 offences, including others; January to December 2024.

Among the **76 suspects**, **older suspects** clearly **predominate**. The group **aged 40 and above** accounts for nearly **half** (49 percent), followed by those aged 25 to 39 (24 percent). Overall, **Austrian** nationals constitute the **majority** of suspects (54 percent), and suspects were predominantly **male** (71 percent). In 62 percent of cases, suspects were successfully identified.

52 The acronym ‘ERNST’ of the bias indicators is explained in detail here: BMI, Hate Crime in Austria. Pilot report – short version, 2021, p. 19; Fuchs, Pilot Report, p. 65 et seq.; see above summary.

The motive ‘age’ was recorded primarily in **public spaces** (26 motives) and **private spaces** (24 motives)⁵³, with approximately one quarter of the recorded bias motives (26 percent and 24 percent respectively) attributable to each of these locations.

Examples from 2024 include the following cases: deliberately pushing an elderly person from behind and subsequently punching them in the face; slapping children playing football because they were perceived as too cheeky; throwing stones at children playing in a park; and attacking a newborn baby in a stroller. In addition, broken glass was scattered in a children’s playground, tablets were distributed in a play area, and sugar was spread in sandboxes. In one case, a vehicle was driven towards a baby stroller, accompanied by the threat to next time run over the victim.

6.2 Disability

‘Disability concerns people who have a physical, mental or cognitive disability or a sensory impairment that makes participation in life in society more difficult in the longer term’. This **monitoring definition** is based on Article 1 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Section 3 of the Disability Equality Act and guides the police as mouse-over text in the database. The police distinguish between **two subcategories** within the bias motive ‘disability’. The form ‘**physical disability/sensory impairment**’ includes offences committed on the basis of visual, hearing, mobility or speech impairments, or chronic illness. The form ‘**mental/cognitive disability**’ covers degrading acts committed on the basis of mental health conditions or cognitive impairments.

According to current studies, this large victim group is affected by violence more frequently and often more invisibly than the general population.⁵⁴ The police-recorded data is therefore also intended to contribute making the group and its vulnerability more visible.

As in 2023, the bias motive ‘disability’ ranked **second to last** in 2024, with a total of **125 bias motives** (2021: 252; 2022: 183; 2023: 144).

⁵³ This corresponded to around 1.5 percent of all locations recorded as ‘public’ and 4.3 percent of all ‘private’ locations.

⁵⁴ According to the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, around 760,300 people with a ‘registered disability’ (including holders of disability ID cards, recipients of care allowance, etc.) currently live in Austria. Further information is available at People with Disabilities in Austria (sozialministerium.at). More information on the comprehensive study Experiences and Prevention of Violence against People with Disabilities can be found at Disability and Violence in Austria (sozialministerium.at) (13 June 2025).

The subcategory ‘**physical disability/sensory impairment**’ was recorded approximately **twice as often** in 2024 (80 motives) as ‘**mental/cognitive disability**’ (45 motives).⁵⁵

The **top five offences (figure 20)** account for **74 percent** of all recorded bias motives in this area and are distributed as follows:

For ‘**physical disability/sensory impairment**’, violations of the **Prohibition Act** were most frequent (29 motives; 36 percent of all motives within this form), followed by property damages (10 motives), assaults and incitements to hatred (Sections 83 and 283 of the Criminal Code; 8 motives each), suppression of documents (4 motives).

For ‘**mental/cognitive disability**’ (figure 21), **assaults** were most frequently recorded (12 motives; 27 percent of all motives within this form), followed by violations of the Prohibition Act (6 motives), dangerous threats (6 motives), incitements to hatred (5 motives), aggravated theft (3 motives). Together, these top five offences account for 71 percent of all recorded motives in this form.

Since more than **one third of ableist** bias motives (38 percent) constitute **violations of the Prohibition Act**, it may be assumed that persons with disabilities are frequently targeted in **digital spaces**, particularly through **memes** shared in WhatsApp groups and on social media platforms.

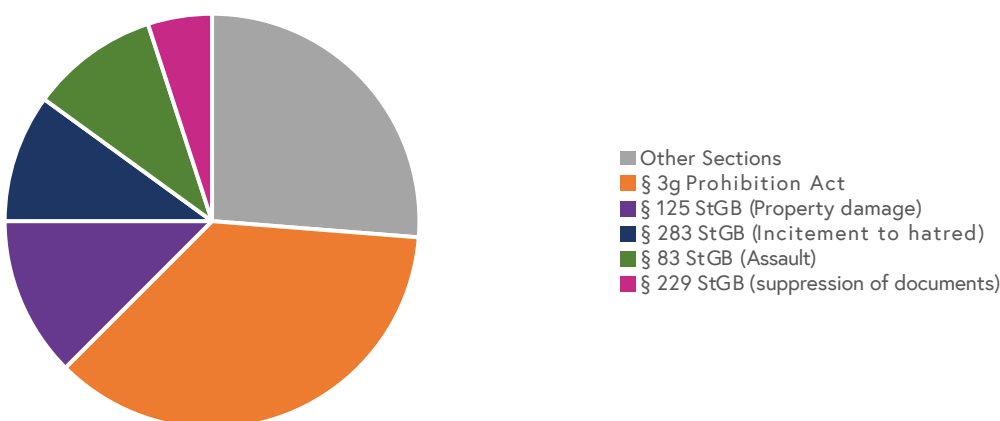


Figure 20: Bias motive ‘disability’ – form ‘physical disability/sensory impairment’; distribution of the top 5 offences, including others; January to December 2024.

⁵⁵ The gap between the two subcategories has narrowed over the years, which can also be attributed to improved recording accuracy: in 2021, ‘physical disability/sensory impairment’ still accounted for 166 motives, in 2023 for 78 motives, and most recently for 80 motives. ‘Psychological/cognitive impairment’ decreased from 86 to 66 and most recently to 45 motives.

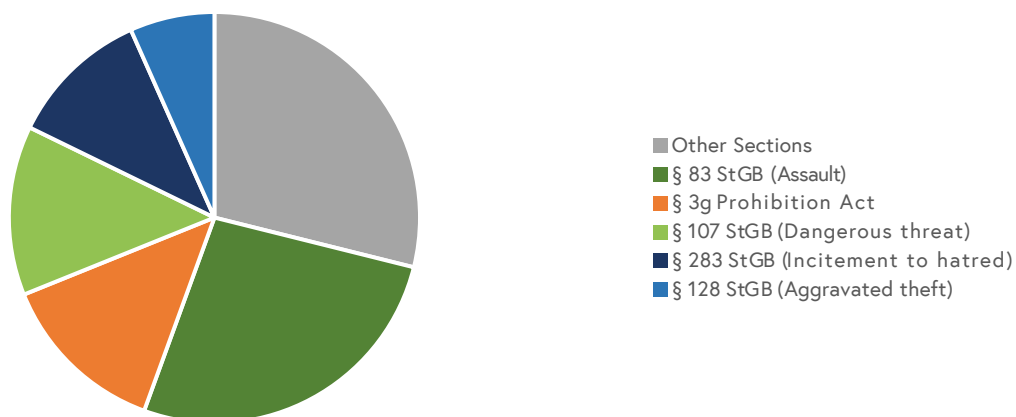


Figure 21: Bias motive 'disability' – form 'mental/cognitive impairment'; distribution of the top 5 offences, including others; January to December 2024.

In both forms, **juvenile suspects** (aged 14 to 18) predominate, followed by suspects aged 40 and above. In cases involving victims with physical disabilities and sensory impairments, 31 juvenile suspects (43 percent) were recorded; in the second form, 14 juvenile suspects (19 percent) were documented.

In both forms, the proportion of **Austrian suspects** is similarly high (78 percent and 80 percent respectively), which is also reflected in comparable clearance rates (75 percent and 73 percent). Investigations predominantly identified male suspects.

Within the bias motive 'disability', **more than one third** (37 percent) of offences were recorded as having occurred on the '**internet**'.

The form 'physical disability/sensory impairment' was documented more frequently online (44 percent) and also comparatively often in public spaces (26 percent) as well as in institutional settings (figure 16).⁵⁶

Several **cases** from the 2024 **police database** illustrate these figures:

Numerous assaults were recorded, for example against a person with a disability accompanied by a caregiver, who was spat on in the metro and kicked after getting off the train; or against a person who was forced out of a disabled toilet and subsequently beaten.

Violations of the Prohibition Act and the incitements to hatred related in 2024 as well to mocking, National Socialist–glorifying, ableist memes. In multiple cases, persons were threatened with being killed in connection with their disability. Deliberate acts of property damages were also documented, including a damage to a doorbell installed specifically for a deaf resident in a multi-unit building, electronic hand controls for persons with hearing and visual impairments, wheelchairs, and vehicles lawfully parked in designated disabled parking space

6.3 Gender

The category ‘gender’ comprises the official civil status categories (man, woman, diverse/inter). Since 1 January 2024, the form ‘trans’ (for transgender persons) has been included in the recording system.

Under ‘others’, the police specify additional gender identities or gender roles in a free-text field. This category primarily records bias motives against persons whose appearance or behavior does not conform to prevailing societal expectations. Those affected may include, for example, drag performers who present themselves artistically in various female gender roles, or drag queens/kings who embody typically a permanent artistic persona.

For a **misogynistic bias motive** to be recorded by the police, such a motive must be identifiable and may not be assumed in every case involving a female victim, particularly in the context of domestic violence.⁵⁷ If hostility towards gender equality and, consequently, towards western values is identified, the appropriate bias motive to be selected is ‘worldview’/form: ‘western democracy’.

In total, **238 motives** were recorded under the category ‘**gender**’ in 2024 (185 ‘woman’, 34 ‘trans’, 9 ‘diverse’, 6 ‘man’ and 4 ‘other’).⁵⁸ Taking into account that hate crime targeting persons on the basis of trans identity has been recorded separately under the form ‘trans’ since 2024, the overall distribution presents a picture similar to that of the previous year.

Hate crime directed against **women and transgender persons** accounts for over **90 percent** of all bias-motivated offences recorded under the motive ‘gender’.⁵⁹

57 *Fuchs*, Pilot Report, pp. 24–27. Fuchs refers in particular to the specific aggravating circumstance under Section 33(2) of the Criminal Code in the context of implementing the Istanbul Convention, as well as to the practical difficulty of proving a ‘purely’ misogynistic motive.

58 Due to this small data set, no further analysis is provided for ‘others’ and ‘male’, as case-specific details would distort generalized conclusions too strongly.

59 Of these, 78 percent are attributed to the subcategory ‘female’ and 14 percent to the subcategory ‘trans’.

The **top five offences** against women (figure 22) account for a total of **70 percent** of cases. Every fourth misogynistic offence (49 motives) involved a **dangerous threat**, every seventh case (27 motives) involved assaults, and a further 21 motives concerned insults, 18 property damages, and 14 degrading forms of sexual harassment.

In 2024, as in previous years, criminal acts **against women** were again frequently characterized by a **direct, confrontational** nature.

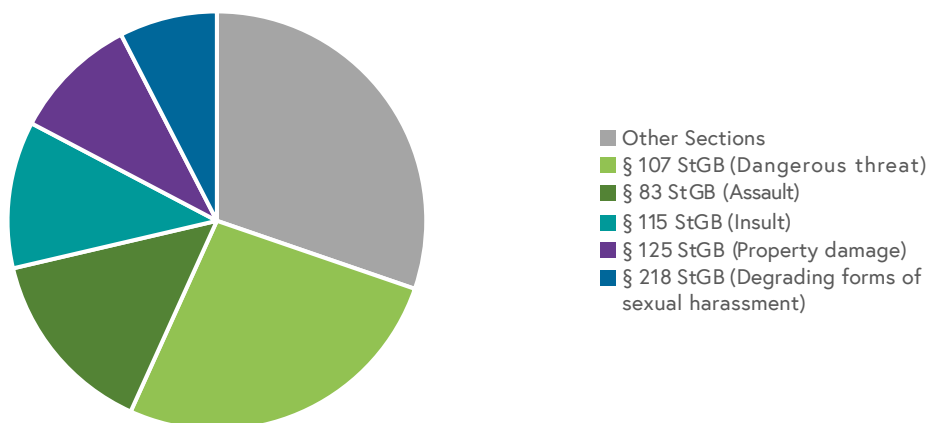


Figure 22: Bias motive 'gender' – form 'woman'; distribution of the top 5 offences, including others; January to December 2024.

Regarding the **five most frequent offences** related to **trans identity** (figure 23) in 2024 it's the first time separate statements can be made. A total of 10 motives were recorded in connection with **assaults** (both minor and aggravated), 7 motives involved **dangerous threats**, 5 **property damages**, and 2 insults.

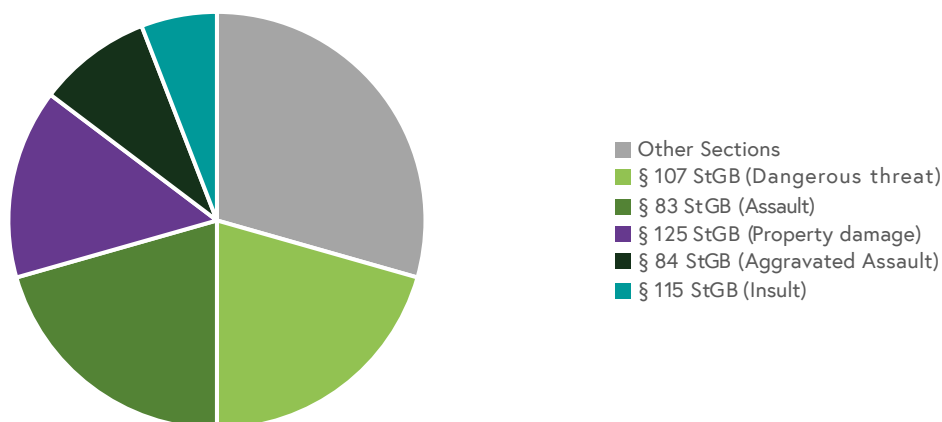


Figure 23: Bias motive 'gender' – form 'trans'; distribution of the top 5 offences, including others; January to December 2024.

For the form **‘diverse/inter’**, **incitements to hatred** (6 motives) were most frequently documented by the police.⁶⁰

The distribution of **suspects** in 2024 shows that, within the new form **‘trans’**, cases are spread broadly across **all age groups**, with roughly equal representation. 59 percent of suspects were identified, and **53 percent** were **Austrian nationals**.

In cases involving **‘women’**, the 179 suspects were predominantly in the age groups **25 to 39** (59 suspects; 33 percent) and **40 and above** (67 suspects; 37 percent). A total of 87 percent of these suspects were identified. In 2024, this represents the **highest clearance rate** among all bias motives and forms. **58 percent** of the suspects were **Austrian male nationals**.

In the form **‘diverse/inter’**, only these two older age groups were represented among the seven registered suspects.

The crime locations **‘private space’** (21 percent) and **‘public space’** (31 percent) together accounted for **more than half** of all recorded locations under the bias motive **‘gender’** in 2024, as in the previous year.

Of all bias motives related to **‘gender’** recorded in **public space**, **76 percent** (56 motives) concerned **misogyny** and 18 percent (13 motives) transphobia. In **private spaces**, **misogynistic** motives accounted for **90 percent** of recorded cases. In semi-public spaces—such as shopping centres, restaurants, event venues and similar locations—misogyny was likewise dominant (46 motives).

Examples of transphobia in 2024 include: **Incitements to hatred**, such as describing ‘LGBTQ tr***s’ as ‘mentally ill men’ who sexually abuse children, claiming they would ‘degenerate’ through their ‘perversion’ and were a weapon of communists, including public calls for the killing of transgender persons. **Property damages**, including the destruction of rainbow flags and defamatory graffiti.⁶¹ **Assaults**, for example attacking a trans person after they stated that they identified with a gender different from their sex assigned at birth; unprovoked verbal aggression such as ‘What are you, a man or a woman?’ followed by physical assaults. **Insults**, using degrading slurs (‘dirty tr***’). **Dangerous threats**, for example threats involving the use of a stun gun.⁶²

60 In the absence of meaningful figures, a more in-depth analysis of ‘diverse/inter’, ‘other’ and ‘male’ is not warranted.

61 The destruction of the rainbow flag, as well as hate crimes against members of the LGBTIQ+ community in general, may also fall under the bias motive ‘sexual orientation’.

62 A factually less precise police classification of a small number of individual cases as ‘diverse’, ‘gender/other’ or ‘trans’ cannot be entirely ruled out, despite the most rigorous possible quality assurance.

Examples of misogyny include: Property damages, such as graffiti ‘tags’ containing vulgar misogynistic insults. **Dangerous threats**, for example directed at women in public service, often involving threats to kill, such as by ‘hanging’ or ‘stabbing with a knife’. **Insults**, including terms such as ‘dirty wh***’, ‘slt’, or ‘b*tch’, sometimes combined with derogatory statements relating to religion or origin. **Assaults**, including bias-motivated attacks such as pulling a woman by her hair.

6.4 Skin Colour

Offences out of rejection due to the skin colour are recorded by the bias motive ‘skin colour’. ‘Skin colour’ refers to visible **physical traits**. Under this category, all cases directed against Black, Indigenous and People of Colour are documented. In practice, for police officers it is often necessary to make the intersectional dimension of an act visible by selecting other motives such ‘ethnic/national origin’.

In 2024, ‘skin colour’ ranked **fourth** in absolute terms with **417 bias motives** (6 percent of all motives), reflecting a significant **increase of 42 percent** compared to the previous year—the second strongest increase overall. As in 2021 and 2022, the category thus returned to fourth place. With the exception of the previous year, the number of recorded bias motives has remained almost consistently stable since systematic recording began.

The **top five offences** (figure 24), accounting for a total of **88 percent** of all recorded motives, comprise the same criminal offences as in the previous year. However, in 2024 nearly three times as many cases of **incitements to hatred** were recorded (143 motives; 34 percent) and twice as many **violations of the Prohibition Act** (87 motives; 21 percent). **Assaults** (54 motives) accounted for 13 percent, and insults (48 motives) for 12 percent. The number of recorded bias motives involving property damages remained comparatively stable at 35 motives (8 percent).

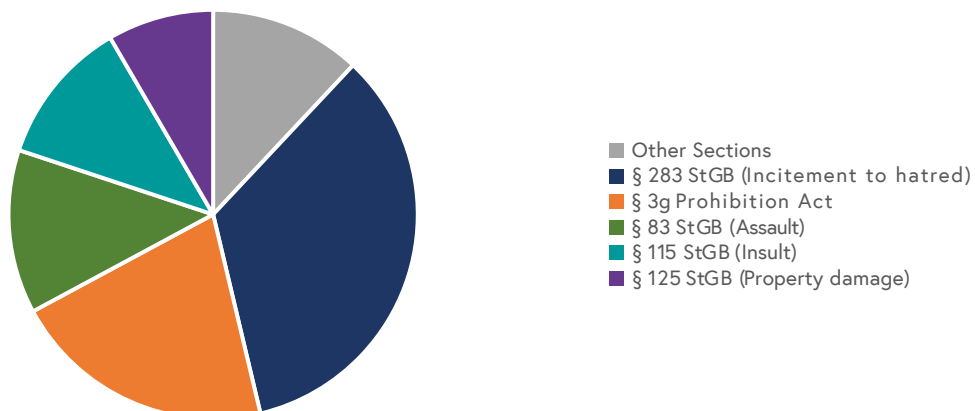


Figure 24: Bias motive ‘skin colour’, distribution of the top 5 offences including others; January to December 2024.

The figures on the **age distribution** of the **437** identified **suspects** (with the second-highest clearance rate at 86 percent) show an even distribution in 2024 between the age groups **14 to under 18** (116 suspects; 27 percent) and **40 and above** (117 suspects; 27 percent). Suspects aged 25 to under 40 were also frequently recorded (87 suspects; 20 percent).⁶³

The proportion of suspects holding **Austrian** citizenship was 81 percent, and 85 percent were **male** (371 of 437 suspects).

The increased registration **online** bias-motives for 'skin colour' correlates in 2024 with the rise in **incitements to hatred** committed online (189 motives; **45 percent**). 15 percent (62 motives) were recorded in public space, and 5 percent each (20 motives) in semi-public and private spaces.

Examples from 2024 show that documented cases of assaults were frequently preceded by (repeated) racist statements, including insults using the N-word⁶⁴ or other vulgar, degrading expressions (e.g. 'Black bastard', 'black a*****', 'slave'). In some instances, individuals were deliberately and without reason attacked, for example by a passing cyclist punching them or by being rammed with a shopping trolley. Such incidents were often accompanied by explicitly discriminatory treatment, including towards taxi drivers with Black skin colour or schoolchildren with a migration background by teachers.

Both real-world and online acts denied members of this victim group equal human dignity, for example through statements such as 'You N*****', 'You belong in slavery', or 'Go back to your country'. Extremist racial narratives, such as alleged inferiority based on skin colour or comparisons with animals, were documented, sometimes expressed through graffiti or other forms of property damages. Numerous contents were recorded from, for example, WhatsApp groups, including highly problematic and defamatory 'memes', stereotypical depictions of Black persons, and fantasies of violence.

National Socialist ideology was frequently evident, for example in calls to 'gas' Black people or in the phrase 'successful integration' referring to manipulated images showing a Black person wearing a T-shirt with a swastika.

⁶³ Other age groups each account for approximately 8–9 percent.

⁶⁴ Ni**er.

6.5 National/Ethnic origin

The category 'national/ethnic origin' is a category under which bias-motivated crimes can be recorded because of their (lack of) nationality as well as because of external, linguistic or cultural similarities between people and groups.

The number of bias motives related to 'national/ethnic origin' remained stable compared to the previous year. Since the introduction of systematic recording, this victim group has **consistently** ranked **second** among the most affected groups. In 2024, **more than one fifth** of all recorded bias motives (1,581 motives; 21 percent) were attributable to this category.

Figure 25 below shows that the **top five offences** account for **more than three quarters** of the total (79 percent; 1,246 motives).

Of these, 20 percent (318 motives) were recorded as **assaults**, closely followed by **violations of the Prohibition Act** with 271 motives (17 percent). **Incitements to hatred** was the third most frequent category (235 motives; 15 percent), followed by dangerous threats (215 motives; 14 percent) and property damages (207 motives; 13 percent).

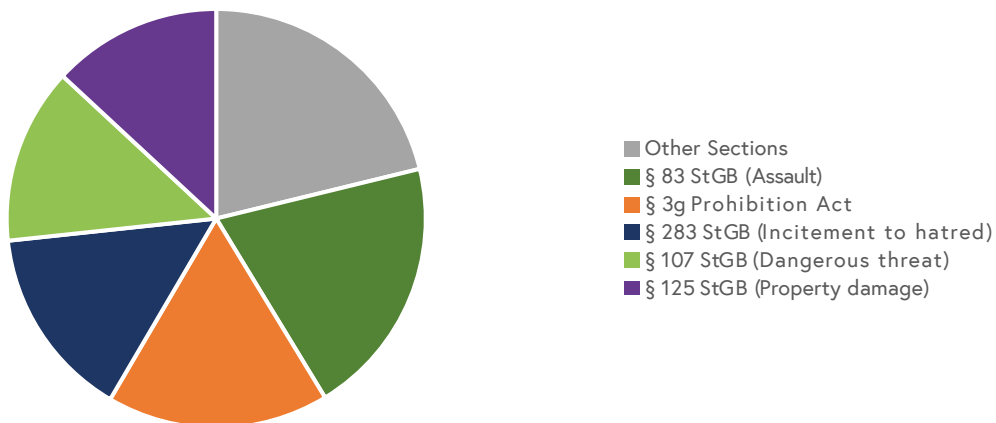


Figure 25: Bias motive 'ethnic/national origin', distribution of the top 5 offences including others; January to December 2024.

As in the previous year, **suspects aged 40 and above** account for **more than one third** (38 percent; 553 of 1,471 suspects), while 27 percent were aged 25 to under 40 (391 suspects). Approximately 83 percent of the identified suspects were **male** (1,223 of 1,471), and 71 percent were **Austrian nationals**. The clearance rate was 76 percent.

Bias motives for 'national/ethnic origin' were predominantly recorded in **public space** (440 motives; 28 percent) and for **internet** (305 motives; 19 percent). With regard to bias-motivated crime overall, this category accounts for 26 percent of all motives recorded in public space.

A similar pattern is observed in **semi-public spaces** (146 motives; 35 percent of all motives recorded in semi-public spaces) and for **institutions** (84 motives; 34 percent of all motives recorded in institutions). In these two location categories, no other bias motive accounted for a higher number of recorded cases.

Examples include numerous documented cases of **assaults** that were often preceded by **insults** such as 'sh*** [nationality]' or '[foreigner]', including the use of the slur 'Zig****', as well as numerous **dangerous threats** ('I will shoot you all with a pump gun', '...you are all dead', 'I will beat you to death...', 'I will cut your throat if you don't leave the country!', 'You'll be the first to die if you don't go'). In some cases, individuals were threatened by a group of another nationality with knives and a machete; healthcare staff of non-Austrian origin were threatened with being killed with a knife if they reentered a patient's room. These incidents were characterized by stereotypical language, explicit racist connotations, and a pronounced hostility toward persons of non-Austrian origin, which also manifested in arbitrary spitting at individuals in public.

There were also attacks in which the perpetrators first inquired about the victim's specific origin ('Are you ...?'). In other cases, individuals were insulted and assaulted in a xenophobic manner based solely on a perceived 'foreign appearance.' Incidents also occurred in close social contexts, such as neighbourhood disputes rooted in different national backgrounds. In school settings, xenophobic remarks were documented not only among pupils but also by a teacher, who made degrading jokes about children with migration and refugee backgrounds.

Political and ethnic conflicts again played a significant role in 2024.

Property damages frequently involved xenophobic graffiti in public spaces and vandalism at deliberately selected locations such as association buildings. Vehicles with non-Austrian licence plates were targeted, for example by slashing tires and spraying slogans such as 'Sh*** Turks BMW' or 'Sh*** Jug* car.' In some cases, private entrance doors were smeared with faeces.

Incitements to hatred were documented primarily online (on social media platforms and messaging services), but also publicly in the streets, for example through the adaptation of the song 'L'amour toujours' into the chant 'Foreigners out, Germany for Germans.'

The bias motive was also recorded in 2024 in connection with the dissemination of National Socialist and racist imagery in WhatsApp groups, as well as in right-wing extremist slogans sung offline.

6.6 Religion

In the context of bias-motivated offences based on religion, the forms ‘christians’, ‘jews’, ‘muslims’ and ‘others’ are available. The decision to create separate categories only for selected religions is based on the fact that these religious groups are predominantly affected in Austria. However, the category ‘others’ makes it possible to record hate crime against other religions, whereby the term ‘religion’ is by no means limited to recognized religious communities. In 2024, for example, bias-motivated crimes against Sikhs, Buddhists and Jehovah’s Witnesses were recorded.

The motive ‘**christians**’ is to be selected where there is a recognisable rejection of christianity. This may manifest, for example, in equating christianity with backwardness, oppression or moral decay. Such offences may take the form of degrading behaviour directed against christians, their property, christian institutions or places of worship.

For the motive ‘**jews**’, orientation must be guided by the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism.⁶⁵ According to this definition, antisemitism is a certain perception of jews, which may be expressed as hatred in words or actions and may be directed against jewish or non-jewish individuals and/or their property, as well as against jewish institutions or religious facilities. Criticism of Israel may be antisemitic where it is disproportionate, not comparable to criticism directed at other countries, or where Israel is demonised as representing ‘the collective Jews’.

The motive ‘**muslims**’ is to be selected in cases involving hostility towards Islam and the contextualisation of this religion with terrorism, violence, danger or alleged lack of morality. Degrading behaviour directed against members of the muslim faith (muslims) must likewise be recorded.

The category ‘**others**’ allows, through a free-text field, the recording of hate crimes directed against adherents of other religions such as buddhism, hinduism, shamanism, sikhism, etc., or against non-believers.

⁶⁵ The Council of Ministers adopted this working definition of antisemitism in 2021. Further information is available under [Arbeitsdefinition von Antisemitismus - IHRA](#) – IHRA (16 June 2025).

In total, **10 percent** of all recorded bias motives in **2024** (763 motives) were attributable to ‘**religion**’, placing this victim group in **third position** for the fourth consecutive year.

Compared to other bias motives that also **increased** (such as ‘skin colour’ and ‘worldview’), the rise in the category ‘religion’ was comparatively moderate at 9 percent. Only in 2021 were anti-muslim bias motives recorded most frequently; since 2022 anti-semitic motives have clearly predominated.

Hostility towards christians declined significantly in 2024 (–26 percent), while a sharp increase in anti-semitic motives (+32 percent) and a slight rise in anti-muslim motives (+7 percent) were recorded (figure 26).

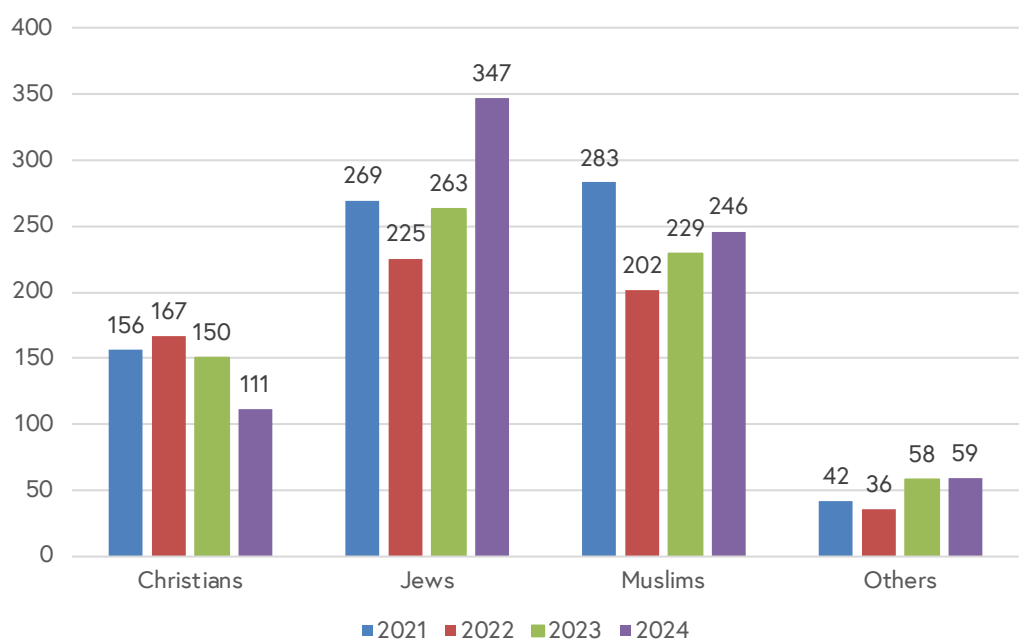


Figure 26: The number of bias motives registered by the police, all forms of the category ‘religion’; January to December 2024.

Within the bias motive ‘religion’, nearly **half** of all recorded motives concerned the victim group ‘**jews**’ (347 motives; 46 percent).⁶⁶

More than **one quarter** of the offences (figure 27) were recorded as **violations of Section 3g Prohibition Act** (28 percent; 96 motives), followed by **property damages** (78 motives;

⁶⁶ Out of the total number of recorded bias motives for the victim group ‘religion.’

23 percent), incitements to hatred (58 motives; 17 percent), serious property damages (22 motives; 6 percent), and dangerous threats (15 motives; 4 percent).

Together, these **top five offences** accounted for 78 percent of all recorded motives in this form.

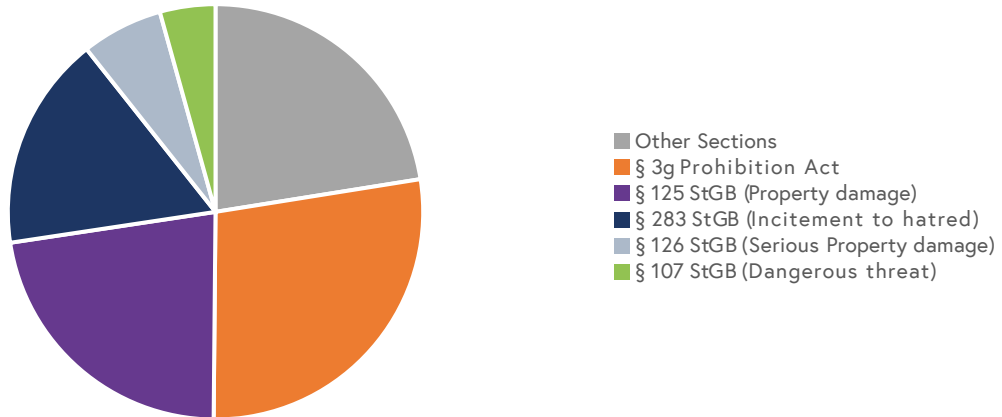


Figure 27: Bias motive 'religion' – form 'jews'; distribution of the top 5 offences, including others; January to December 2024.

Differently, bias motives against the second most affected group of '**muslims**' (**246 motives, 32 percent; figure 28**) were dominated by **assaults** (45 motives , 18 percent), followed by **incitements to hatred** (43 motives, 18 percent), **dangerous threats** (40 motives, 16 percent), **property damages** (37 motives 15 percent), and **insults** (15 VM, 6 percent).

Together, these **top five offences** account for **73 percent** of the recorded motives in this form.

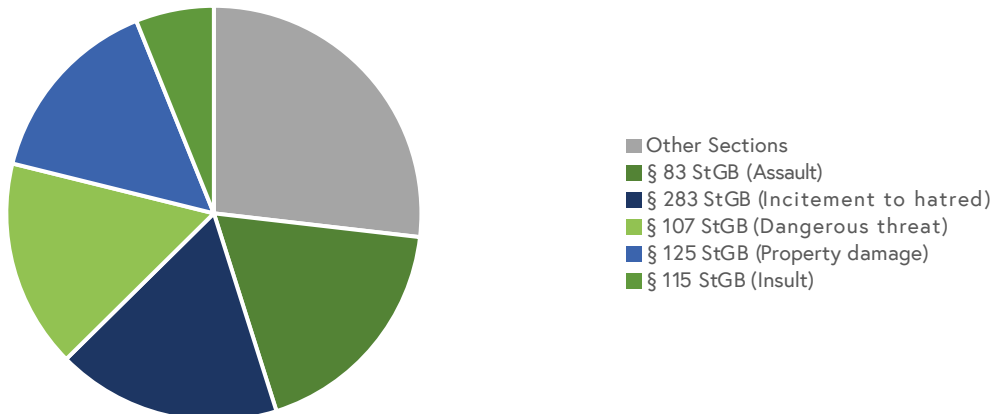


Figure 28: Bias motive 'religion' – expression 'muslims'; distribution of the top 5 offences, including others; January to December 2024.

Offences against '**christians**' again most frequently involved (serious) **property damages** (45 motives; 41 percent overall) (figure 29), followed by **assaults** (12 motives), aggravated theft (10 motives), and dangerous threats (8 motives).

Together, the **top five offences** accounted for **78 percent** of the recorded motives in this form.

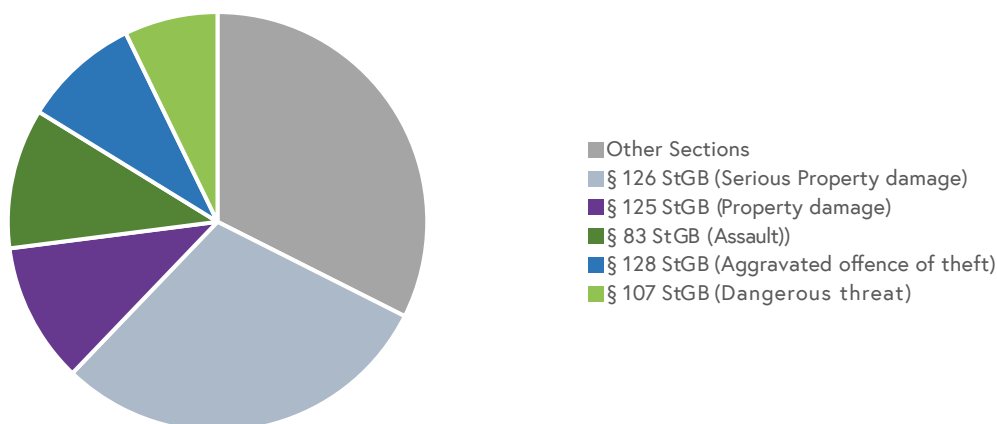


Figure 29: Bias motive 'religion' – form 'christians'; distribution of the top 5 offences, including others; January to December 2024.

Within the form '**others**', 8 percent (59 motives) of all bias motives recorded under 'religion' were documented. **Property damages** were the most frequently registered offences (17 motives; 29 percent).

In the 763 bias-motivated cases because of religion, **561 suspects** were recorded. Suspects were identified in 60 percent of cases (clearance rate).

In cases involving the subcategory '**jews**', suspects were predominantly aged **14 to under 18** (59 suspects; 28 percent), followed by those aged 25 to under 40 (44 suspects; 21 percent) and 40 and above (42 suspects; 20 percent). The clearance rate in this subcategory was 50 percent.

Suspects in cases involving '**muslims**' were more frequently **aged 40 and above** (96 suspects; 42 percent) and 25 to under 40 (48 suspects; 21 percent), followed by those aged 14 to under 18 (50 suspects; 22 percent). The clearance rate here was 79 percent.

Among cases involving the victim group '**christians**', 23 percent of suspects (18 suspects each) were **aged 14 to under 18 and 25 to under 40** respectively. The comparatively low clearance rate of 47 percent is likely related to the high number of criminal damage offences, in which a link to suspects could often not be established.

A gender-neutral view of the nationality of suspects shows that **Austrian** nationals accounted for **51 percent** of cases involving '**christians**', **54 percent** in cases involving '**muslims**', and **72 percent** in cases involving '**jews**'.

In **anti-christian** cases, the proportion of **male suspects** was 87 percent (67 suspects). A similarly high proportion of male suspects (84 percent; 176 suspects) was also recorded in **anti-semitic cases**. In cases involving '**muslims**', the proportion was somewhat lower at approximately 75 percent (172 suspects). Thus, across these three victim groups, **Austrian male** suspects predominated.

Within these religion-based bias motives, the location '**internet**' accounted for **61 percent** of cases in the form '**jews**', slightly less than in the previous year. For anti-religious motives overall, however, the internet ranked second **after public space** (19 percent compared to 17 percent), and within the form '**jews**' itself, the internet accounted for the largest share (23 percent).

As in the previous year, the trend continued in 2024: 68 percent of offences recorded at '**sacred sites**' were attributable to the bias motive '**religion**'. Of these, 79 percent were directed against **christians** (50 of 63 motives).

In **public space**, **anti-muslim** motives were most frequently recorded, accounting overall for 43 percent of all locations recorded under anti-religious motives. For institutions⁶⁷, these motives accounted for 52 percent.

As part of the quality check of the police files, numerous cases were examined concerning the dissemination and **glorification** of National Socialism through videos and images shared via social networks and messaging services. These frequently involved denial or approval of atrocities committed against persons of jewish faith. Numerous anti-semitic acts of

⁶⁷ 'Institution' includes asylum/foreign accommodation, detention facilities (police detention centres, prisons, etc.), barracks/military facilities, hospitals/clinics/care facilities, as well as schools/educational institutions.

property damages and **dangerous threats** were also documented, for example directed at the Israeli embassy or involving damage to memorial plaques and concentration camp memorial sites (e.g. graffiti using the letters 'A' and 'H' or smashed windows), the display of the Hitler salute and corresponding slogans ('He** Hi***', 'All Jews should be gssed', 'Gas the j*w'), as well as **insults** ('dirty jew', 'jew-beat*r'). **Incitements** offences were frequently committed through online comments, and in some cases anti-semitic leaflets were distributed in residential buildings.

Anti-muslim attacks included **physical assaults** such as forcibly removing religious clothing, insults and **dangerous threats** ('Sh** headscarf woman, you should all be shot', 'Sh** Muslims', 'F**k Islam').

Anti-christian acts were often manifested in **property damages** to churches or other buildings, including glass display cases, for example at a plague cross, as well as through graffiti ('F**k Jesus Christ/Mary'), the smearing of faeces in or on churches, and urinating in holy water fonts.

6.7 Sexual orientation

Hate crimes for 'sexual orientation' are recorded in the forms 'bisexuals', 'heterosexuals' and 'homosexuals'. Perpetrators often generalize specific dislikes towards all members of the LGBTIQ+ community, so that for example in the case of damage to a rainbow flag or of an incorrect designation, the affected groups 'divers/inter' or 'others' has to be documented under 'gender' on a case-by-case basis.

The category 'sexual orientation' refers to sexual behaviour or sexual roles in society and encompasses asexual, homosexual, bisexual, heterosexual and other conceivable sexual orientations.

A total of **317 motives** related to '**sexual orientation**' were documented in 2024. With an overall share of 4 percent of all bias motives, this category ranks **fifth** in 2024, consistent with all years of systematic recording except for the previous year. In **six out of seven cases** (86 percent), the recorded offences were homophobic in nature. Approximately 10 percent were attributed to the form 'bisexual' and 4 percent to 'heterosexual'.

In 2024, the bias motive ‘sexual orientation’ **decreased** by 29 percent (**figure 30**).

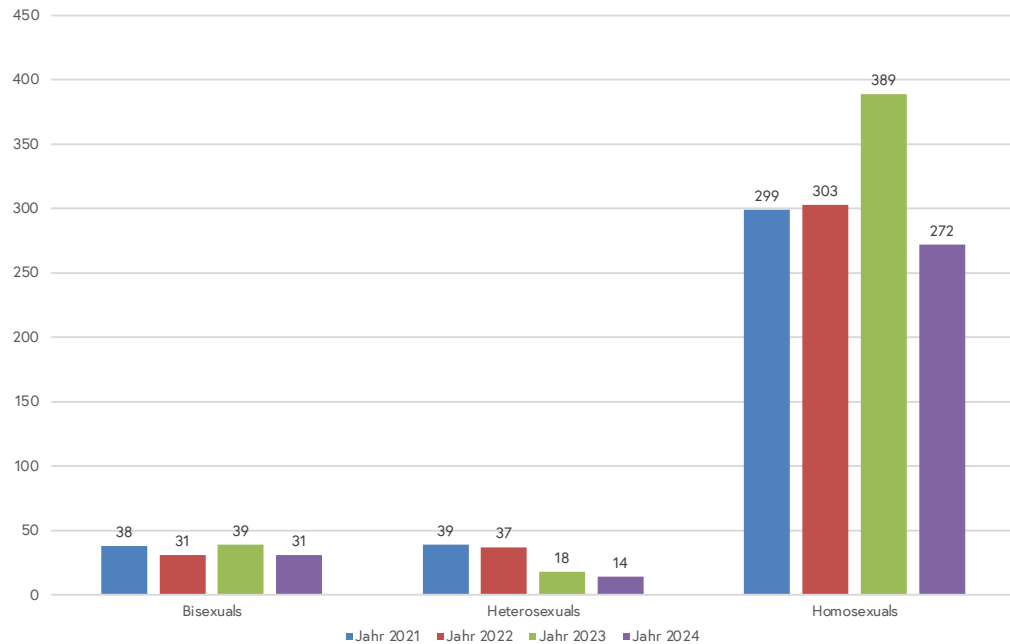


Figure 30: the number of police-registered bias motives, all forms of the category ‘sexual orientation’; January to December 2024.

The **top five offences** (figure 31) among the 272 **homophobic** bias motives are led by **assaults**, which accounts for more than one quarter of cases (28 percent; 76 motives).

Every fifth offence involved **property damages** (21 percent; 56 motives), followed by **dangerous threats** (11 percent; 30 motives), theft (8 percent; 21 motives), and insults (6 percent; 17 motives).⁶⁸

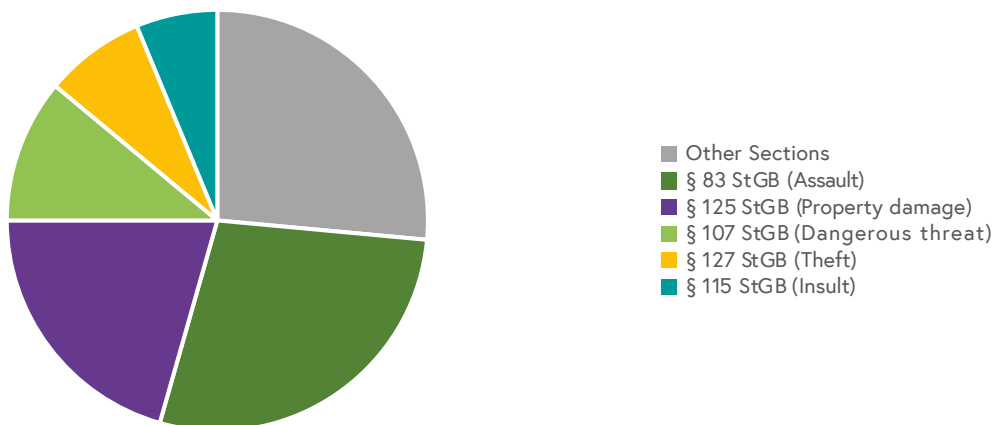


Figure 31: Bias motive 'sexual orientation' – form 'homosexual', distribution of the top 5 offences including others; January to December 2024.

In 2024, the **top five** offences recorded in cases involving **bisexuality** remained in the single-digit range; the ranking of offence categories is therefore presented only briefly (figure 32): assaults (6 motives), dangerous threats (6 motives), incitements to hatred (5 motives), property damages (5 motives), and extortion (2 motives).

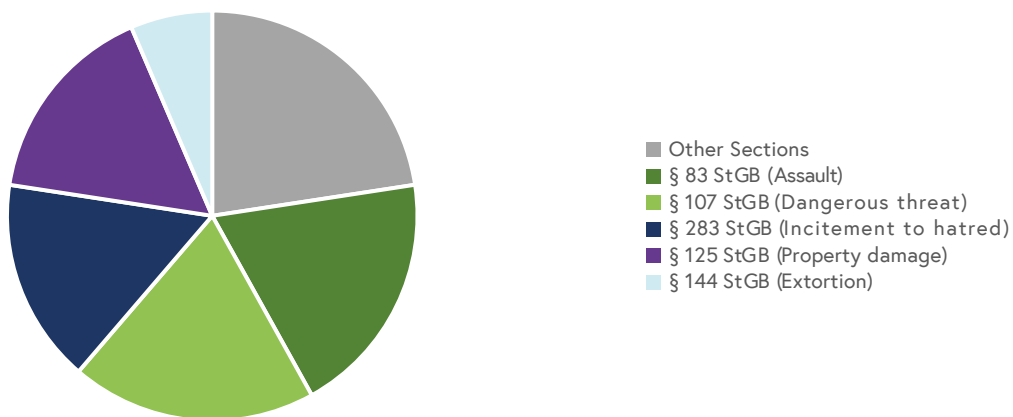


Figure 32: Bias motive 'sexual orientation' – form 'bisexual', distribution of the top 5 offences including others; January to December 2024.

Together with the 317 bias motives related to 'sexual orientation', **258 suspects** were recorded. In 2024, suspects were identified in 60 percent of cases (clearance rate). Suspects in cases involving **homophobic** bias motives were somewhat more frequently aged **14 to under**

18 (62 suspects; 28 percent), but were otherwise relatively evenly distributed across the age groups 40 and above (51 suspects) and 25 to under 40 (49 suspects), each accounting for approximately 22 to 23 percent.

The proportion of **male** suspects in homophobic cases increased slightly compared to the previous year, reaching **94 percent**. Bias motives related to 'sexual orientation' in general and specifically to homosexuality were recorded in **64 percent** with **Austrian** suspects. In cases involving bisexuality, male Austrian suspects likewise predominated.

'**Public space**' accounted for **42 percent** of all cases regarding the motive 'sexual orientation'. When combined with semi-public spaces (9 percent), it becomes clear that hate crimes against this victim group in 2024 predominantly occurred in (semi-)public settings. Persons targeted because of their **homosexual** orientation were particularly affected in public space, 92 percent of cases and in semi-public space, 89 percent were attributable to this group (figure 16).

Incidents involving **bisexual** persons most frequently occurred in private spaces, accounting for 26 percent of all locations recorded in this form.

As reported in the media since March 2025⁶⁹ numerous **brutal and systematically carried out cases** of hate crimes based on the homosexual orientation were the subject of investigations in 2024⁷⁰ and coordinated police raids. Behind these offences was a large network referring to itself as '**pedo- hunters**', which, under the pretext of vigilante action against persons with alleged pedophilic tendencies, deliberately committed criminal acts, including such against homosexual men. Victims were mostly lured into ambushes disguised as confidential meetings by means of a same-sex decoy, then severely physically assaulted, insulted, and further humiliated through the publication of video recordings. In some cases, victims were forced to falsely confess to pedophilia.

The visible display of the rainbow flag again served as a trigger for physical attacks and insults in 2024. Such incidents also took the form of graffiti responses ('LGBT is sh**', 'murderers and scum'), as well as the damaging or theft of flags (for example tearing down flagpoles to destroy flags or stealing flags from associations displaying them). Objects serving as visible signs of acceptance of the LGBTQIA+ community such as a rainbow-painted bench or a glass display case of a church bearing the symbol of a homosexual initiative were deliberately destroyed.

⁶⁹ See, for example, [Berichte aus der LPD Steiermark](#).

⁷⁰ And 2025.

Hate crimes also manifested in expressions of disgust toward homosexual persons in public transport as well as in unprovoked physical and verbal confrontations and dangerous threats (e.g. the use of homophobic slurs, threats such as ‘I will cut your throat’, or extinguishing a cigarette on a victim’s hand).

6.8 Social status

The recording of the category ‘social status’ is based on the **open wording and the objective of the aggravating circumstance** sect. 33 para. 1 no. 5 Criminal Code stipulating a demonstrative list of reprehensible, not only racist or xenophobic motives⁷¹ Under the bias motive ‘social status’ the forms ‘**homeless**’ (because of their vulnerability and exposure according to experience) and ‘**others**’ (with a mandatory free text field for a more detailed description) are available. Criminal acts are often directed not only against homeless persons themselves, but also against items essential to them, such as sleeping bags, food, tents and similar belongings.

Within the form ‘others’, a **specification** must be provided in a free-text field. In principle, any group that perpetrators perceive as clearly distinguishable may constitute a social group. Such acts are to be recorded as hate crimes where perpetrators target a person, because that person represents a clearly identifiable, rejected social group.

In 2024, cases recorded under ‘others’ primarily concerned **hostility** based on a **perceived higher financial status or possession of property**. In the context of ‘social status’ questions of definability and the specific protection of social groups arise in a particularly pronounced manner.⁷²

In 2024 the motive ‘social status’ was recorded with **136 motives**, the same number as in the previous year. However, unlike in 2023 and 2022, it ranks no longer last among the recorded bias motives.⁷³

A closer look at the **top five** offences in 2024 regarding the motive ‘**homeless**’ (30 motives) (figure 33) shows that approximately **half** (53 percent) consisted of **assaults** (10 motives) and **dangerous threats** (6 motives).

71 *BMI*, Hate Crime in Austria. Pilot report – Short version, 2021, pp.11 f. Fuchs, Pilot report. Hate Crime in Austria, pp. 22 ff.

72 Since the police enjoy a special level of protection as a group due to their exposed position, objectively justified by certain so-called criminal law ‘privileges’, the classification of offences against them as hate crimes based on this motive is almost entirely excluded. However, in cases involving hostility toward ‘western democracy’ circumstances may arise that justify recording such acts as bias-motivated crimes.

73 ‘Social status’ ranks seventh, followed by ‘disability’ and ‘age.’

The number of recorded bias motives in other offences was comparatively low, though in some cases serious in nature: criminal damage (4 motives), murder (3 motives), and theft (3 motives).

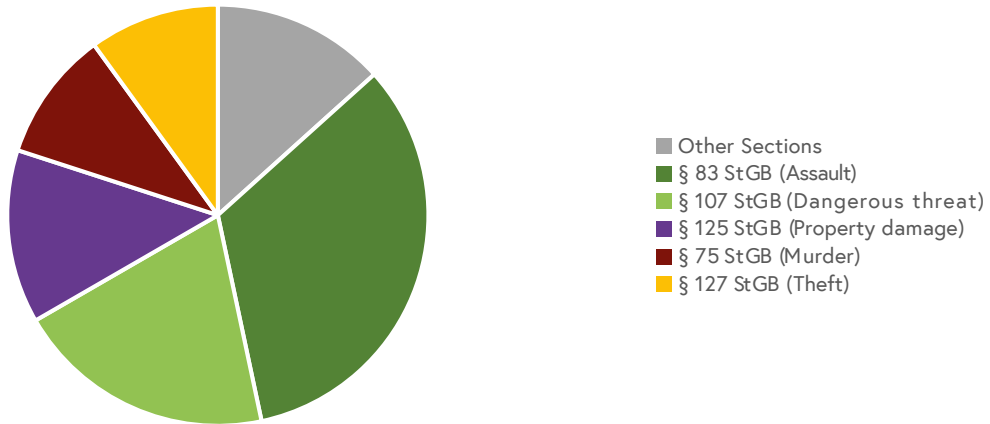


Figure 33: Bias motive 'social status' – form 'homeless'; distribution of the top 5 offences, including others; January to December 2024.

The **top five offences** in 2024 against 'social status': '**others**' (figure 34) account for 78 percent of all recorded bias motives, with **63 percent** attributable to **property damages** (67 motives).

Only a small number of other offences were documented, including violations of Section 3g of the Prohibition Act (5 motives), theft and dangerous threats (4 motives each), and assaults (3 motives).

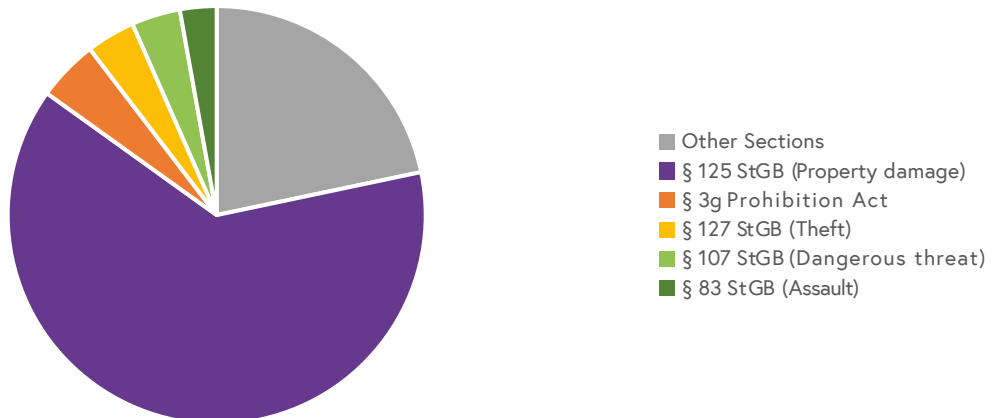


Figure 34: Bias motive 'social status' – form 'others'; distribution of the top 5 offences, including others; January to December 2024.

In 2024, **older suspects** were again more frequently recorded in both forms. In each case, the age groups 25 to under 40 and 40 and above accounted for more than two thirds of suspects ('homeless': 67 percent [25 to under 40: 7 suspects; 40 and above: 5 suspects]; 'others': 63 percent [25 to under 40: 19 suspects; 40 and above: 11 suspects]).

Male suspects clearly predominated ('homeless': 17 suspects; 94 percent; 'other': 37 suspects; 77 percent), as did **Austrian** nationals ('homeless': 13 suspects; 72 percent; 'other': 36 suspects; 75 percent). The clearance rate was 60 percent in cases involving 'homeless' and 32 percent in cases under 'others'.

In **no other** bias motive is the **proportion of recorded offences** committed in **public space**, relative to the total number within the respective group, as **high** as for '**social status**'. Of the 91 motives (67 percent) related to social status that occurred in public space (figure 22), 21 concerned homeless persons and 70 concerned victims classified under 'others'. In semi-public spaces, five motives were recorded in cases involving homeless persons and three under 'others'.

Illustrative **examples** from 2024 include **assaults** against homeless persons, for example through **arson** committed in a derelict building in which homeless individuals were living, or the assault of a homeless person who intended to sleep in a park beaten with a stick by juveniles.

Property damages were documented in the form of degrading graffiti targeting the profession 'sex worker', anarchist symbols or tags sprayed on allegedly expensive cars expressing hostility toward property in general or calling for 'hunting the rich'. Deflating the tires of expensive vehicles was also frequently recorded.

6.9 Worldview

The category '**worldview**', like most other bias motives, is derived directly from the exhaustive list of protected characteristics of victim groups set out in the offence of incitements to hatred (Section 283(1)(1) of the Criminal Code). In this context, 'worldview' encompasses non-religious convictions as an overall understanding of the world, a coherent, serious and consistent perspective, and personal beliefs (e.g. life attitudes, political worldviews, ideological positions such as pacifism or veganism).

Within the bias motive 'worldview' the form 'parties' is to be selected in cases involving offences directed against (members of) political or parliamentary parties which are primarily affected through targeted vandalism (e.g. damage to election posters or graffiti on party

offices). The form ‘western democracy’ concerns at its core the documentation of hostility towards the societal consensus and the democratic constitutional state governed by the rule of law often summarized as ‘western values’, whereby ‘those who think differently’ are attacked as a protected victim group (e.g. dissemination of National Socialist content, rejection of gender equality, or expressions of sympathy for terrorist groups). The form ‘others’ allows additional worldview-based offences to be recorded via a free-text entry.

Since the beginning of systematic recording ‘worldview’ has been the **most frequently recorded** bias motive. In 2024, however, a sharp **increase of 45 percent** was registered (rising to 3,935 motives; 2023: 2,706) in comparison to the previous year. This corresponds to more than double the growth from 2021 to 2022 (20 percent) and nearly five times the increase from 2022 to 2023 (10 percent). The gap to the second-ranked motive, ‘national/ ethnic origin’, widened further (figure 7).

This increase is predominantly attributable to the rise in the form ‘**western democracy**’, which **grew by 73 percent** to 2,936 motives (2021: 692; 2022: 1,058; 2023: 1,700). The recording of this form has thus increased by at least more than 50 percent each year.

By contrast, within the form ‘worldview: others’, a continuous decline has been observed, most recently by 42 percent compared to the previous year. The victim group ‘parties’ shows a fluctuating development: since the introduction of recording, figures have varied over the four years, with an increase in the second year, a decline in the third, and a renewed rise to 650 motives in 2024 (2022: 545; 2023: 400).

The analysis of ‘**offences under the Prohibition Act**’ introduced with the publication of the pilot report in 2021 allows for specific statements to be made regarding the widespread dissemination of National Socialist–inspired messages. In **2024, 65 percent** (2,537 motives) of all worldview-related motives concerned violations of the Prohibition Act. Of these, **2,273 motives** were directed against the form ‘**western democracies**’.

At the same time, the reference category ‘**western democracies (excluding the Prohibition Act)**’ makes it possible to illustrate those expressions of **hostility toward the societal consensus** (e.g. gender equality, tolerance toward dissenting views, freedom of conscience) and the Austrian legal order (2024: 663 motives) that involve other non-National Socialist content.

The 551 motives recorded under '**parties**' without reference to the Prohibition Act, compared to 99 motives recorded as such violations, demonstrate that this form was the **least associated with National Socialist connotations**.

The following analysis of the **top five offences** refers to the criminal offences under the Criminal Code and ancillary criminal law.

For the form '**western democracy**' and '**others**', violations of the **Prohibition Act** (specifically Section 3g) were again the most frequently recorded offence in 2024. In contrast, under '**parties**', **property damages** clearly **predominated** (379 motives; 58 percent), followed in second place by violations of Section 3g of the Prohibition Act (92 motives).

Within '**western democracy**' (figure 35), violations of **sect. 3g Prohibition Act** accounted for **74 percent** of all recorded offences (2,179 motives). Despite the doubling of recorded motives in this form, the percentage remained unchanged compared to the previous year. 12 percent (359 motives) concerned **property damages**, followed by 71 motives related to **terrorist groups**, 59 motives involving **incitements to hatred**, and 56 motives involving violations of **sect. 3h Prohibition Act**.

Similarly, in the form '**others**' (figure 36), violations of Section 3g **Prohibition Act** accounted for 43 percent (149 motives), followed by property damages in second place (98 motives; 28 percent). Aggravated **property damages** (12 motives) ranked fourth. 12 motives were recorded as dangerous threats, and slightly more cases involved assaults (20 motives).

Under '**parties**' (figure 37), 49 motives were recorded as **theft**, while 16 motives each concerned **dangerous threats** and the public insult of a constitutional representative body, the Federal Armed Forces or a public authority. The large number of property damages offences directed against parliamentary parties is primarily linked to the '**super election year**' 2024 (national parliamentary elections, European Parliament elections, several provincial elections and municipal elections), during which numerous election posters and advertising displays were damaged or defaced in public spaces.

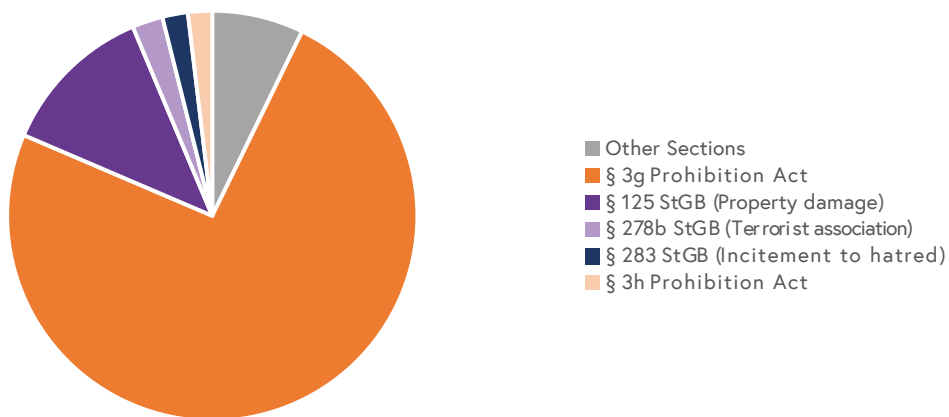


Figure 35: Bias motive 'worldview' – form 'western democracy'; distribution of the top 5 offences, including others; January to December 2024.

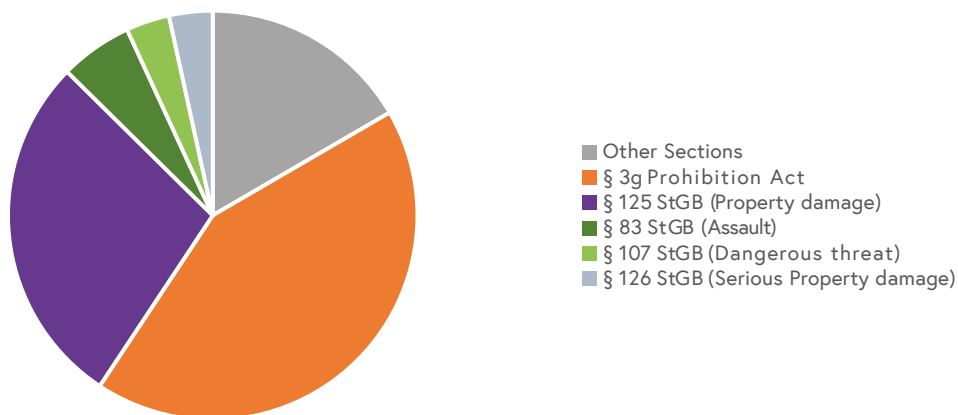


Figure 36: Bias motive 'worldview' – form 'others'; distribution of the top 5 offences, including others; January to December 2024.

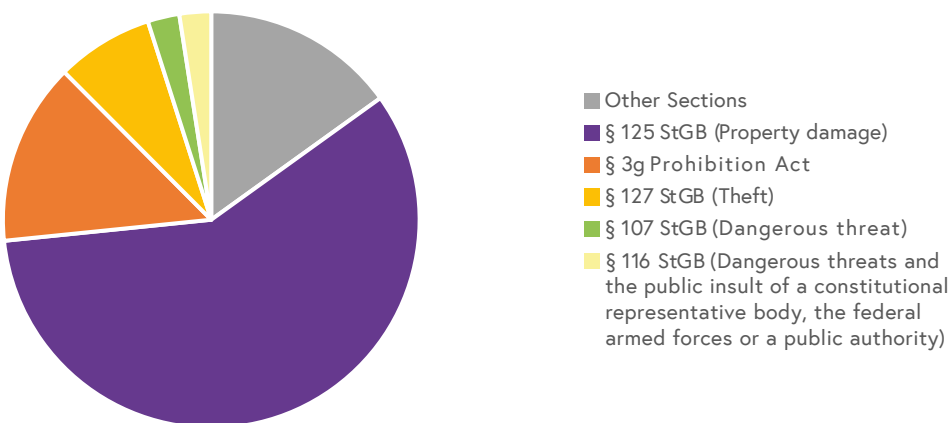


Figure 37: Bias motive 'worldview' – form 'parties'; distribution of the top 5 offences, including others; January to December 2024.

Overall, the number of **suspects** recorded under the bias motive ‘worldview’ **increased by 38 percent**, with this rise attributable exclusively to the form ‘western democracy’ (increase of 69 percent).

Across all forms, the age distribution is concentrated predominantly in the three age groups **14 to under 18, 25 to under 40, and 40+**, with the latter two groups consistently accounting for around 50 percent of all recorded suspects. Accordingly, the majority of suspects were over 25 years old.

Ages 25 to under 40: parties: 45 of 218 suspects; others: 76 of 236 suspects; western democracies: 631 of 2,519 suspects.

Ages 40 and over: parties: 83 of 218 suspects; others: 58 of 236 suspects; western democracies: 574 of 2,519 suspects.

Just among **suspects** associated with hostility toward **western democracy** the **14 to under 18** age group stands out, accounting for 28 percent (708 of 2,519 suspects), a comparatively high proportion.

Across all forms, **Austrian male** suspects predominate without exception. Overall, they account for **72 percent** of all suspects **documented under ‘worldview’**. Their share amounts to 74 percent under ‘parties’, 60 percent under ‘others’, and as much as 73 percent under ‘western democracies’. In total, Austrian male suspects thus represent 72 percent of all suspects recorded under the bias motive ‘worldview’. The clearance rate was 75 percent for ‘western democracy’, 29 percent for ‘parties’, and 56 percent for ‘others’.

After ‘skin colour’ and ‘disability’, the category ‘worldview’ shows the **highest proportion of internet-related** offences, at **32 percent** overall, and accounts for **63 percent of the total** volume of offences committed in the internet. **Violations of the Prohibition Act** represent **92 percent** (1,127 motives)⁷⁴ of these online cases. Under ‘parties’, only 42 motives were recorded online and 99 motives in total were classified as violations of the Prohibition Act, while under ‘others’ the number was somewhat higher (165 motives).

⁷⁴ The 92 percent refers to the share of this subcategory within the total number of offences recorded at the location ‘internet’ under ‘worldview’. In total, 2,273 motives under ‘western democracy’ were recorded as such violations (see Chapter 2, table 3).

Examples⁷⁵ from 2024 include numerous National Socialist–related contents such as statements like ‘A.H. is our leader’, ‘Sieg he*I’, posts about ‘his’ dish ‘Eiernockerl’ on 20 April, the wearing of Thor Steinar clothing with NS references, tattoos featuring swastikas and other symbols, shaving a swastika into the hair, the online sale of nazi memorabilia, and National Socialist memes glorifying Hitler, denying the Holocaust, or depicting atrocities in pseudo-humorous ways.

These cases also include property damages such as the destruction of election posters and graffiti with National Socialist, anarchist or political references as well as references to the conflicts in Ukraine or the Middle East. Numerous cases of incitements to hatred were recorded, for example by playing the song ‘L’amour toujours’ by Gigi D’Agostino with the chant ‘Germany for the Germans, foreigners out’, sometimes accompanied by the Hitler salute. Other examples include threatening women who were considered by the perpetrators to be dressed too provocatively, accompanied by derogatory ideological remarks, or expressions of sympathy for terrorist organization’s such as the PKK or ISIS.

Recording offences under the category ‘worldview’ presents **particular challenges** for the police. On the one hand, there is relatively little case law defining the concept of ‘worldview’, and there is often uncertainty about how (new) phenomena should be subsumed under this category. On the other hand, large numbers of National Socialist images are frequently circulated in WhatsApp groups. These not only require criminal law assessment, but each individual image must also be evaluated in terms of identifying the relevant victim group.

6.10 Top Five Offences Overall

The following section presents the **five most frequent offences**⁷⁶ recorded in connection with hate crime during the reporting year.

The analysis includes all relevant bias motives and shows which offences occur most frequently across different victim groups. It is noteworthy that the **6,114 offences** shown in **figure 38** account for **80 percent** of all recorded bias motives. **Nearly every second** motive within this leading group concerns a **violation of section 3g Prohibition Act** (2,952 motives), while roughly every fourth motive relates to **property damages** (1,396 motives). **11 percent** of the recorded motives (661) involve **assaults**, **10 percent** (599 motives) involve **incitements to hatred**, and **8 percent** (506 motives) involve **dangerous threats**.

⁷⁵ Most examples stem from the subcategory ‘western democracy’, but also from ‘others’ (e.g. political worldview) and ‘political parties’ (especially election posters).

⁷⁶ The top five offences presented here refer to all offences recorded in connection with hate crime. For the analysis of the top five offences in bias-motivated violent crime, see Chapter 5.

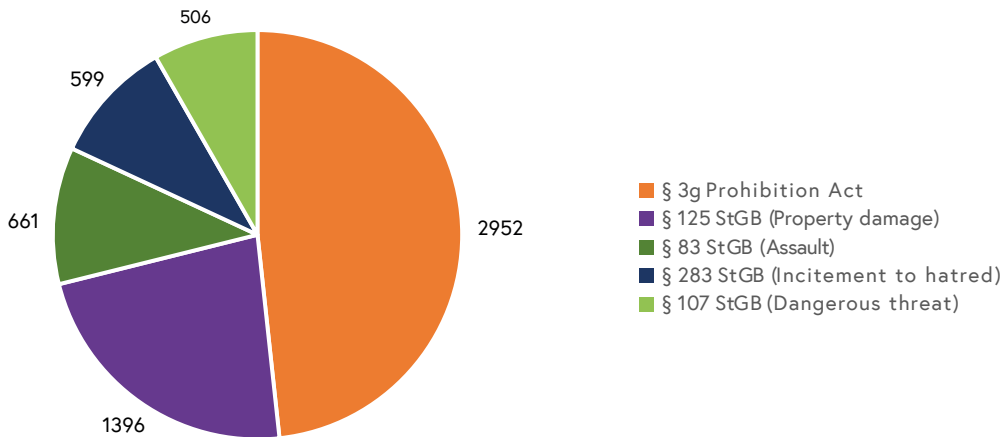


Figure 38: Bias motives – all victim groups; distribution of the top 5 offences; January to December 2024.

In a comparison of the **four reporting years (2021–2024)** it can be noted in conclusion that the first two recorded offence, **violations of the Prohibition Act and property damages**, have **increased significantly**. For the **former** the number has **nearly doubled** since 2021, while **property damages** have increased by at least **one fifth** on average over the period.

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