

**TOGETHER  
AGAINST  
HATE**



# Shadow report III

# 2023

# TABLE OF CONTENT

<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SHADOW REPORT III</b>	<b>6</b>
- INTRODUCTION	6
- THE PLATFORM	7
- THE DATA	7
<b>RESULTS</b>	<b>9</b>
- CATEGORISATION OF INCIDENTS	9
- PERSON REPORTIN	10
- TARGETING OF HATE CRIMES	10
- PLACE OF INCIDENT	11
- PERPETRATOR	11
<b>INCIDENTS RELATED TO RACISM</b>	<b>13</b>
- RACISM TARGETING PEOPLE RACIALISED AS NON-WHITE	13
- RACISM TARGETING ROMA PEOPLE	14
- RACISM TARGETING PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT	15
- RACISM TARGETING JEWISH PEOPLE	15
- RACISM TARGETING MUSLIMS	16
- RACISM TARGETING MULTIPLE GROUPS	16
- RACISM TARGETING OTHER GROUPS	16
<b>INCIDENTS RELATED TO OTHER DISCRIMINATORY ACTS</b>	<b>17</b>
- INCIDENT TARGETING MULTIPLE GROUPS	17
- INCIDENTS TARGETING GENDER, GENDER IDENTITY GENDER EXPRESSION AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION	17
- INCIDENTS TARGETING DISABLED AND NEURODIVERGENT PEOPLE	18
- INCIDENTS TARGETING SWEDISH SPEAKERS	18
- REPORTING HATE INCIDENTS TO AUTHORITIES	19
<b>CONCUSION</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>GLOSSARY</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>MORE INFORMATION</b>	<b>25</b>

# SUMMARY

This third Together Against Hate Shadow Report presents an analysis of hate incidents reported in 2023 on the Together Against Hate hate incident monitoring platform. The platform was created in the Facts Against Hate project (2019–2021) and was developed further in the current Capable project (2021–2023). Both projects were funded by the European Commission's Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) program.

The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the authors and should not be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission. The latest version of the hate incident report of 2023 is funded by ENAR's

(European Network Against Racism) Empowerment and Resilient Funds of 2023.

The reported incidents were categorised into three categories: hate speech, acts of hate or discrimination, and graffiti or similar objects. Similar to the year 2022, the vast amount (53%) of the incidents were classified as hate speech followed by second most commonly (40%) hate incidents or discrimination. The percentage of graffiti or similar objects had dropped from the study of 2022 to only 6,7%.

The most common, more than 65% of the cases, incident type reported was racist in nature. Second most reported were incidents targeting gender identity, one in every six responses,

followed by incidents targeted at a spectrum of disabilities, 13,4%. Smaller but still significant numbers of responses dealt with hate incidents targeting sexual orientation, fatness, religion, as well as neurodivergence. Finally, some responses also discussed incidents of discrimination based on language.

Incidents reported on the platform were rarely reported to the authorities. Only 8 per cent responded that they had reported or would report the incident. In the cases where the respondent had indicated whether they had reported the incident they had done so to the space specific management. As noted in previous shadow report II (Antiracist Forum, 2023) the study

showed that in 2022 most incidents were not reported to the authorities, as the trust towards any type of resolution was low or respondents were unsure of how or where to report the incidents. The respondents who reported the incidents approached the company or management of the space where the incident happened more often than reporting to the police or other governmental authority.

The results presented in this report support the importance of the possibility to report hate incidents easily and with a low threshold as this is important for accumulating knowledge on hate incidents and their changing nature and venues. This is especially important in cases that would

not necessarily be reported to the authorities or elsewhere.

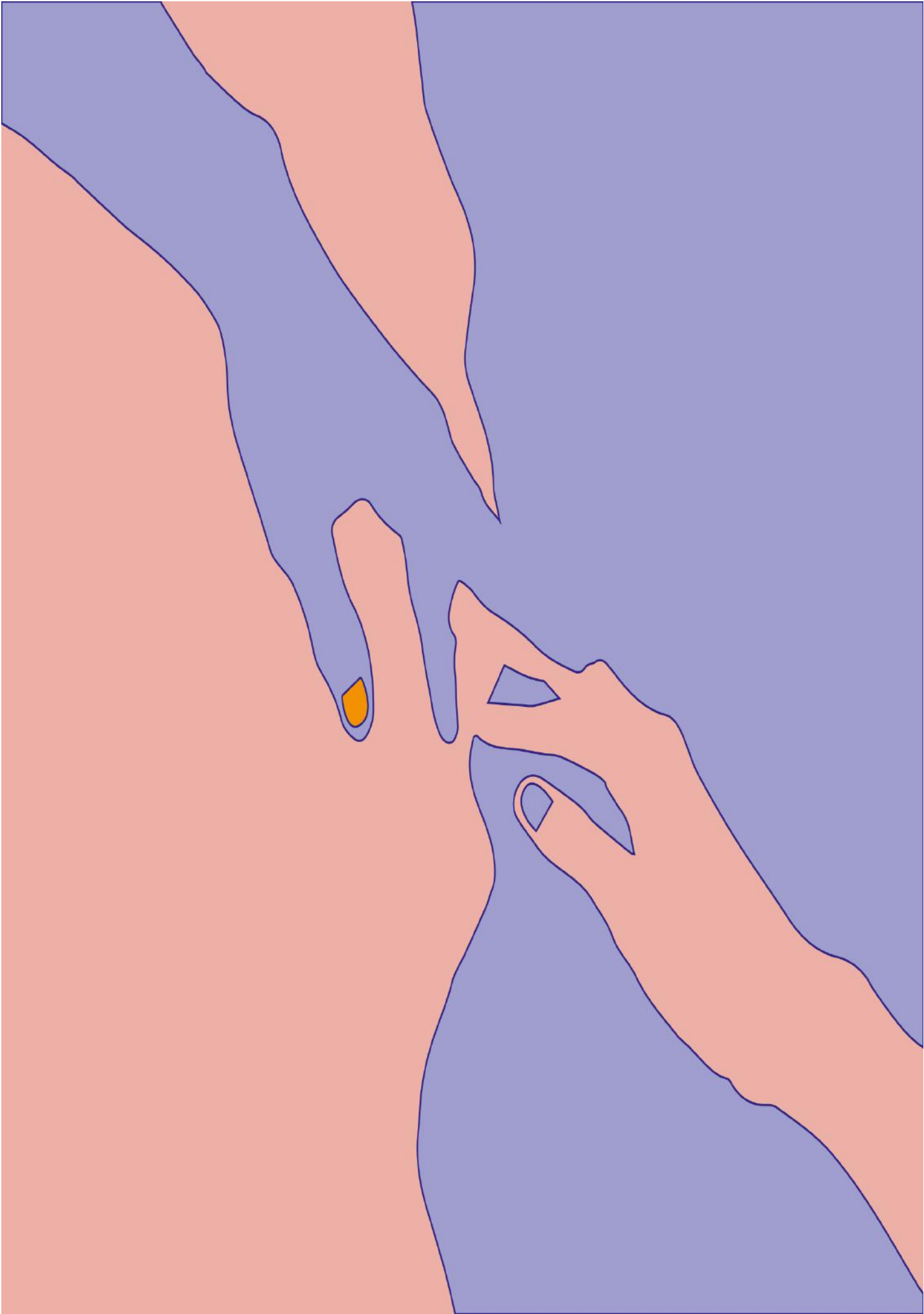
Hate incidents take place in many forms and under many kinds of circumstances and target different groups in different ways. Also, it is important to pay attention to intersectionality: that different aspects of a person's identity can expose them to overlapping and intermeshed forms of discrimination.

Additional concluding points must be drawn from the infrequency of reporting hate incidents to the authorities in the responses. First, information on where and how to report hate incidents needs to be effectively disseminated to the public. Second, many hate incidents reported to the authorities received unsatisfactory

responses or were reported to another operator more relevant to the incident than the authorities. Thus, authorities and professionals need expertise on how to deal with (reports of) hate incidents and venues to report them further in order to accumulate information on the phenomenon.

Finally, separating reporting hate incidents from potential criminal proceedings is important as it provides information on incidents where the episode does not constitute a crime, where the victim is unable or unwilling to pursue criminal proceedings, or where there is no possibility to identify the perpetrator(s).

# #TOGETHERAGAINSTHATE





# SHADOW REPORT III

## Introduction to the Project

The Together Against Hate hate incident monitoring tool was developed in the Facts Against Hate project (12/2019–11/2021). The objective of the Facts Against Hate project was to “improve the effectiveness of work against hate crime and hate speech” by “develop[ing] data collection related to hate crime and hate speech, improv[ing] local cooperation practices, and produc[ing] material to support work against hate crime and hate speech” (Finland's Ministry of Justice, 2019). The Facts Against Hate project received funding from the European Commission's Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) program. The monitoring tool was further developed with the support of Capable project (4/2021–3/2023) that continued the work of the previous Facts Against Hate project by “strengthening work against hate crimes and harassment especially through developing the

competence of professionals in various fields” (Finland's Ministry of Justice, 2021).

The current funding for the monitoring tool was granted by ENAR (European Network Against Racism) through the Empowerment and Resilient project funds 2023-2024.

With the funds “The proposed project will benefit all racialised communities in Finland, as non-official data collection and monitoring is necessary in order to make visible the extent of racial discrimination that exists, to better advocate for anti-racist measures, policies, and legislation.”

This report is part of a proposal which aims to develop data collection on hate incidents and will continue promoting the monitoring tool developed for reporting hate incidents. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the authors and should not be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission or ENAR. In the year

2023 the platform was able to collect significantly less reports, almost 90% less than the years 2021 and 2022. This is due to lack of funds to simultaneously upkeep, market and monitor the platform. Coordination of the platform would require a full time employee which the organisation has not been able to provide. The future plan for the platform is to maintain it and find resources for a full time coordinator.

## The Platform

This shadow report is based on incidents reported in 2023 on the yhdessavihaavastaan.fi website's online platform for reporting hate incidents\*. The platform is available in Finnish, Swedish, and English. When reporting an incident, respondents are first prompted to categorise the incident as Hate speech, Graffiti, or Hate incident or Discrimination.

When reporting an incident, respondents are asked to provide what they can of the following information: when/where the incident took place; whether they were a witness or the target of the incident; what group(s) the incident was targeting; a description of the incident, the target(s), and the perpetrator(s); why the respondent thought the incident was a hate incident; if they reported the incident to the authorities, and if yes, what happened; and whether they

wanted their contact information to be forwarded to Victim Support Finland (Rikosuripäivystys RIKU). The respondent could also provide their contact details, a web address if the incident took place online, or upload file(s) providing more information on the incident. Aside from categorising the incident, no other fields were required for submitting the response.

## The Data

The material on which the report is based has been reported on the hate incident reporting platform between January 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

The material consists of reports of hate incidents. A hate incident, when used in this report, refers to a hostile situation, which may or may not constitute a crime, but in which the perpetrator has a detectable motive of hatred towards a person's or group's actual or assumed racialized\* characteristics, ethnic\* or national origin, religion or conviction\*, disability\*, sexual orientation\*, or gender identity or gender expression\*, or another personal characteristic.

Some responses, 7 altogether, were removed from the data during processing. Reason for removal was the missing information of the incident such as where the incident occurred or elaboration of what had happened. Unlike previously noted by the reports, Anti-Racist Forum, 2021 and 2022, in 2023 there were no reportable cases of harassment towards the platform. From the reports submitted of and in 2023 only one response had information provided in a language unrecognisable to conduct sufficient analysis. The total number of incidents included in the material was 28. In 2023, responses were in Finnish, English or Swedish.

Some words are marked with an asterisk (\*) when they first appear in the report. These words are explained in the glossary found at the end of the report.

This report includes quotations from the material. These quotations have been translated into English (if reported in Finnish) and condensed. Additionally, potentially recognizable details have been omitted. When percentages are given, they are based only on the responses where the information was provided.



# RESULTS

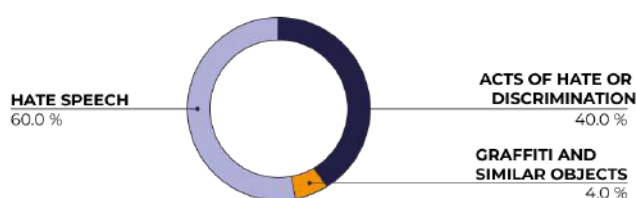
## Categorization of Incidents

The reported incidents were categorised into one of three categories: hate speech, acts of hate or discrimination, or graffiti and similar objects. Of all incidents, the most reported category was hate speech, which encompassed approximately half of all responses. The second most common category, acts of hate or discrimination, made up approximately one third of all reported incidents. Finally, graffiti or similar objects were reported in one fifth of the incidents. In multiple cases, the responses included features of different types of incidents: for example, a hate act where hate speech was also used.

Majority of all of the incidents were categorised as hate speech, which exceeded more than half of the responses with 58,6%. Second most common cases were hate incidents or discrimination with 38,5%, followed by graffiti or similar objects, 6,9%. In multiple cases, the responses included features of different types of incidents: for example, a hate act where hate speech was also used.

Incidents of hate speech included shouting abuse at people in public, hate messages and comments on social media, use of derogatory terms, questioning people's right to exist (in Finland or in public), stereotyping\*, making inappropriate statements based on a person's (assumed) ethnic or national background, sexual orientation, or gender, as well as loudly discussing a person's (assumed) characteristics in public in an attempt to ridicule and shame them. Some respondents described national incidents of hate speech,

## Classification of act

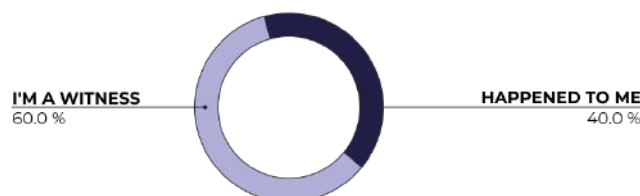


where a person residing in Finland was reported as inciting hatred towards other ethnic or religious minorities in the country. Hate speech was also often used in conjunction with acts of hate or discrimination.

Acts of hate or discrimination were also varied in nature. Responses filed in this category described witnessing ethnic profiling\* and discriminatory language at a workplace. Denying or being denied service or providing inappropriate service was also a major theme in these responses. Different acts of hate described in the responses included threatening behaviour, following and continuous or repeated harassment. Included in the responses were also threats of physical violence or death threats, and assault. Responses describing discrimination included incidents of discrimination in the job market, in education, and in the housing market. In some cases there was damage to property. Additionally, lack of accessibility\* in both services and physical spaces were reported, as were incidents of discriminatory bullying\*.

Responses filed in the category of graffiti included, in addition to typical graffiti and other forms of written or symbolic communication.

## Relation to incident



## Person reporting

Majority of the incidents, 60%, were reported by a witness while 40% of the cases were reported by the victim themselves. This follows the pattern of the previous shadow reports of 2021 and 2022 (Antiracist Forum) where the number of responses by witnesses was recognisably higher than the number of responses by individuals targeted by hate incidents. Only in two respondents wanted their contact details to be forwarded to Victim Support Finland (Rikosuhripäivystys RIKU)

## Targeting of hate Incidents

Most typically, the hate incident reported was racist in nature. Second most reported were incidents targeting gender, gender identity, and gender expression as well as incidents of sexual orientation, followed by targeting multiple groups. Smaller but still significant numbers of responses dealt with hate incidents targeting, as well as fatness, religion, disability or neurodivergence\*, speaking Swedish, and immigrancy\*. Finally,

some responses also discussed incidents based on conviction or opinion.

## Place of incident

When reporting graffiti or other similar objects on the platform, respondents were prompted to enter the region where it was located. Even though most of the incidents were reported as being located in the Uusimaa region in Southern Finland, there were cases reported in Finnish cities such as Turku and Oulu.

The most prevalent incidents were reported as happening on social media. Social media platforms such as Instagram were mentioned most often. Similarly to the previous Together Against Hate -shadow report II (Anti-Racist Forum, 2023), a few individual incidents were reported from online discussion forums. In addition to direct (addressed directly to the target) harassment or hate speech online via direct comments, many responses discussed unmoderated comment sections, where an individual, organisation, or corporation had posted something related to a group targeted.

The second most prevalent places where hate incidents took place were public spaces, such as streets, parks, outside or near one's home, or at public events held outside. In public spaces, one especially prevalent space was public transportation: buses, trams, trains, the metro, as well as their stops and stations.

Third most common place where hate incidents occurred was one's place of

work or study. At work and education specific places were not mentioned but respondents were all witnesses. In education, incidents were reported as bullying.

Finally, fourth most common space incidents were reported as happening in were services where the respondent and target were customers. Incidents took place in public services, such as social and healthcare services.

## Perpetrator

Following the trend of other studies, such as SETA's (2024) report on hate incidents at Pride events in Finland 2023, the typical profile of a perpetrator, when identified in the responses, was middle-aged, white, and assumed male. In 15% of the cases the perpetrator was evaluated between 40 to 50 years of age. Whiteness was mentioned in 10% of the cases, other ethnicities or races were not mentioned. In more than 20% of the cases the perpetrators gender was mentioned from which 100% were reported as male. Only in 10% of the cases was the perpetrators nationality mentioned and, which was in all cases assumed Finnish. When it comes to language in more than 10% of the cases the perpetrator's language was also added to the victim/ witness statement. These languages were Russian and Finnish.

Typically, the perpetrator was a previously

unknown individual to the respondent and the target of the incident. Almost 40% could describe the perpetrator but did not claim proximity to them, these cases included individuals conducting their work, e.g. drivers of public transportation, security at a supermarket or an airport. Less than 8% of the victims / witnesses had proximity with the perpetrator as they were a familiar or colleague or in similar position. A little over 20% of the respondents were able to name the perpetrator and more commonly the named perpetrators were public figures such

as party leaders, members, artists, or journalists. In almost 18% of the cases the perpetrator was, at the time of the incident, in a professional role as a customer service representative while the respondent was a private individual. From these cases 40% of the cases the perpetrator was identified not as an individual, but as an organisation, company, or institution.

Close to 30% of the respondents did not add any details of their perpetrators while over 7% the victims or witnesses were not able to identify the perpetrator.

# INCIDENTS RELATED TO RACISM

A total of 65% of the incidents reported dealt with racist hate incidents. In the next part, incidents of racism are analysed in more detail to show the differences in racism targeting different groups.

## **Racism targeting people racialized as non-white**

In addition to racism levelled at specific groups, 65 % of responses described incidents more generally targeted towards people racialized as non-white. Racialization\* refers to a process in which “society links certain people with hierarchies, assumptions, stereotypes and prejudices - - because of, for example, their skin colour or assumed ethnic background” (The Finnish Non-Discrimination Ombudsman, n.d.): for example, when people are assumed to be immigrants in Finland based on their skin colour, ethnicity, religion, or culture, even if they had been born in Finland. In many responses, the targeting was based on racialization: the perpetrator did not know whether the person targeted was, for example, an immigrant or not, but treated them as such because of their skin colour or other features.

Reports of racism towards people racialized as non-white most often described incidents perpetrated by previously unknown individuals, but at times also people in professional roles, such as service providers. The incident often took place in a public space, especially on public transportation.

Hate speech often took the shape of emphasised excluding for example telling people to “go back to their home countries”, stereotyping, and assuming migration histories or ethnic identities, as well as other kinds of xenophobic\* and racializing commentary. Additionally, hate speech was also reported as harassment or verbal abuse.

Responses discussing discrimination mostly reported ethnic profiling, where surveillance practices were targeted solely towards people racialized as non-white while their white Finnish counterparts were not monitored.

*"I went to the security check with my husband who looks Finnish, and whose luggage went right through unlike mine, someone who does not look Finnish, which was put into special inspection. I spent an hour and almost missed my flight because of the security inspection. They opened and unpacked my luggage several times and took it through the X-ray screening numerous times."*

## **Racism targeting Roma people**

Of all responses related to racist hate incidents, third most often, in 8,1 %, the group targeted was Roma people. In these incidents, ethnic profiling was thematically the most significant issue reported. All incidents involving Roma people were reported by witnesses; Roma people did not themselves report any incidents. This can result from many aspects, such as, for example, lack of awareness or trust of the possibility to report incidents, belief that reporting is not useful, becoming accustomed to discrimination, or lack of proof of discriminatory practices.

Most incidents reporting racism targeting Roma people described the respondent observing acts of ethnic profiling conducted by security guards on Roma families in public and private service spaces.

The observations would happen through the respondent noticing overt acts such as security following or surveilling the Roma in shops or other establishments. Roma people were also witnessed as without cause having been denied service altogether, for example by escorting them out of places of business or by denying them entrance.

In addition to ethnic profiling, Roma people were also, but to a lesser extent, targeted by hate speech. This hate speech was, in the responses, indirect in that it was not uttered directly to Roma people and was most often perpetrated by either previously unknown individuals or people in the same work community as the respondent.

*"We were in the shop with my spouse doing grocery shopping. We noticed a group of people (two adults and several children) who were doing their shopping normally. I would have not noticed anything special if it wasn't for the security guards, who usually go unnoticed, following these people. The guards followed the Roma all the way to the escalators that take you to the parking lot."*



## Racism targeting people of African descent

Second most often, in almost 8 % of incidents related to racism, hate incidents targeted people of African descent. According to the Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey (EU-MIDIS II) Being Black in the EU, people of African descent living in Finland had encountered racist harassment in the last five years most often among the 12 countries included in the survey (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2018).

Frequent use of the N-word both in incidents of hate speech featured prominently in these responses. Most often, the reported incidents dealt with hate speech and acts of hate that were perpetrated by previously unknown individuals and took place in public spaces. The respondent was often a witness and not the target of the hate act. The persons targeted by racism towards people of African descent were at times described as being absent from the situation and being referred to with racist language. In addition to indirect (not addressed directly to the target) use of the N-word, responses described direct hate speech and use of derogatory terms towards individuals of African descent.

In addition to hate speech and acts of hate, people of African descent were also

reported as being subjected to ethnic profiling in the form of being “randomly” selected for security checks where these checks were not usually conducted at all.

*“Two middle aged white men were using horrible words of black and brown people, for example using the n-word. They were telling how these people were only \*n-words\* to them and will always be.”*

## Racism targeting Jewish people

Hate incidents targeting Jewish people specifically were scarce in the response 4,1 % of racist hate incidents targeted Jewish people. Hate incidents targeting Jewish people were reported as hate speech and as part of incidents targeted at multiple groups simultaneously. Responses targeting Jewish people discussed incidents of hate speech included reports of aggressive and discriminatory behaviour, and making explicitly antisemitic\* statements.

*“I experienced antisemitic verbal harassment while sitting on a bench near the tower in Koff Park. A man passed by me and said something in Finnish. I said “I’m sorry, I do not speak Finnish.” And he said angrily, “I*

*hate Jewish people. They are cowards.” Then he spit on the ground in my direction while glaring at me, he then walked away in the same direction he came from. ”*

## **Racism targeting Muslims**

Similar to the incidents targeted at Jewish people, the hate incidents targeting Muslims were few, making up only 4.1 % of all racism-related incidents. Incidents were categorised as targeting (assumed) Muslims when the act referred specifically to Islamic faith. However, it should be noted that the concepts of Muslim and immigrant are often used interchangeably in racist rhetoric in Finland: immigrants are thought of as Muslims and Muslims are thought of as immigrants. Hate incidents targeting Muslims often included disparaging Islam, use of Islamophobic\* derogatory terms targeted towards Muslims, and harassment of (assumed) Muslim women wearing religious clothing.

## **Racism targeting multiple groups**

Almost ¼ of the responses described incidents where multiple groups were targeted

by racism. These included incidents targeting people of African descent, Asian people, Muslims, Jewish people, refugees and asylum seekers, people racialized as non-white, and Roma people. Responses describing incidents targeting multiple groups included hate speech and discrimination.

## **Racism targeting other groups**

Altogether 5 % of responses described incidents targeting other groups not previously discussed in this report. These incidents targeted the following groups: refugees and asylum seekers, people of Asian descent, people of Arab descent, and Sámi people. These incidents included examples from all categories: hate speech and acts of hate or discrimination. The small number of responses is likely due to the specificity of the categorizations: incidents involving people of Arab descent, for example, were also likely reported under broader categories such as racism targeting people racialized as non-white or incidents concerning multiple groups.

# INCIDENTS RELATED TO OTHER DISCRIMINATORY ACTS

23 % of responses dealt with incidents where multiple groups were targeted. Mostly, these responses described incidents where both sexual and gender minorities were targeted together with religious minorities, fatness and immigration status.

## Incidents targeting multiple groups

Incidents where both sexual and gender minorities were targeted together mostly consisted of online spaces and forums. Responses concerning racialised minorities were also categorised as targeting multiple groups if the respondent did not specify the individual incident as targeting a specific group and mostly included incidents concerning structural and political issues such as politicians speaking of immigration. Some responses also described situations where several aspects of minoritised communities were targeted, such as sexual orientation and racially minoritised people. Also included were situations where the same perpetrator(s) targeted different groups, such as sexual minorities and people of African descent.

Singular cases of discrimination based only on fatness, immigration status or religious conviction were not submitted concerning the year 2023.

## Incidents targeting gender, gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation

6,7 % of incidents targeted gender, gender identity, and gender expression. Most commonly, these incidents described hate speech and acts of hate targeted towards individuals who were (assumed to) be transgender\*. Responses most often described hate speech by previously unknown individuals in public online spaces. Hate speech was most often related to mental health of transgender people included public harassment and using derogatory terms and transphobic\* speech. Hate speech was also reported as taking place on social media, where unmoderated comment sections were described as being filled with hate speech targeted towards transgender people. Similarly to non-heterosexuality, being transgender was often described as a mental illness in hate speech on social media.

Simultaneously incidents connected to

sexual orientation were linked to transgender people and their position in the LGBTQI+ community. For example, in one of the reported incidents the perpetrator accused transgender people of causing issues within the LGBTQI+ community by simply being added to the group.

*“In the Facebook group Puskaradio in Oulu a group of men are spreading hate towards transgender people claiming that they are mentally ill as if being transgender is a mental health issue. They also compare transgender people to dogs and spread false info of the trans law.”*

## **Incidents targeting disabled people and neurodivergent people**

12,3 % of incidents targeted disabled people and neurodivergent people. These incidents consisted of hate speech and discrimination. Hate speech targeting disabled people and neurodivergent people included use of ableist\* language, whereas discrimination included bullying.

*“ -- making a ”joke” writing ”if a blind person sees this, I’m sorry” I think public figures, as well as everyone else, has responsibility to be sensitive towards people and especially as public figures show an example,*

*knowing that for example many young ppl can look up to you and mimic your behaviour.”*

## **Incidents targeting Swedish speakers**

During the year 2023, 10% of the reported hate incidents were classified as discrimination towards Swedish speaking Finns. In the data, the incidents were classified as discrimination at work or school, denial of services as well as harassment. The reported incidents mostly mentioned direct and indirect use of a Finnish-language derogatory term targeted towards Swedish speaking people, harassment of people speaking in Swedish in public, and (statements of) refusing service to Swedish speaking people.

*“InterCity 972 (train) from Kuppis (Turku) to Helsinki on the 18th of December in 2023. At Karis the train made an emergency stop and all passengers were evacuated from the train, but during this emergency situation the conductor failed to communicate with us (the Swedish speaking) and the train left without informing us.”*

## **Reporting hate incidents to authorities**

Incidents reported on the platform were rarely reported to the authorities. Around 60% of respondents did not report the incident to the authorities. Reasons not to report to the authorities included not knowing who to report to, not trusting the process of reporting and being unsure of the impact of the reporting as well as the respondent did not know they could report or where and how to report. In 36% of the cases the respondent

had indicated that they had reported the incident and of those more than half did not file a police report. In many cases where the incident was not reported to authorities, it was, however, reported to someone. Respondents indicated they had reported the incident to another operator more relevant to the incident, such as a boss or a service provider, or a maintenance company, for example by leaving feedback to the services providers or other instances such as management of the establishment.

# CONCLUSION

The results presented in this report support the importance of the possibility to report hate incidents easily, anonymously and with a low threshold. This is important for accumulating knowledge on the changing nature and venues of hate incidents, especially ones that might not otherwise be reported to authorities or anywhere else.

Hate incidents take place in many forms and under many kinds of circumstances and target different groups differently. Also, it is important to pay attention to intersectionality: that different aspects of a person's identity can expose them to overlapping and intermeshed forms of discrimination.

Additional concluding points must be drawn from the infrequency of reporting hate incidents to the authorities in the responses.

First, information on where and how to report hate incidents needs to be effectively disseminated to the public. Second, many hate incidents were not reported to the authorities because of lack of knowing how to and who to report to but the reports were done to another operator more relevant to the incident than the authorities. Thus, authorities and professionals need expertise on how to deal with (reports of) hate incidents and venues to report them further in order to accumulate information on the phenomenon.

Finally, separating reporting hate incidents from potential criminal proceedings is important as it provides information on incidents where the episode does not constitute a crime, where the target is unable or unwilling to pursue criminal proceedings, or where there is no evidence or no possibility to identify the perpetrator(s).

# #togetheragainsthate



# GLOSSARY

## **Ableism**

Ableism is a system in which people or groups of people are held to be inferior on the basis of disability or what is thought to be a disability.

## **Accessibility**

Accessibility refers to equitability\* in accessing physical spaces and immaterial services. An accessible space or service is one that everyone can use equitably: where people's individual and variable needs are taken into account and people are not segregated based on ability.

## **Antisemitism**

Antisemitism refers to fear, hatred, or prejudice towards Jewish people or Judaism, or towards people, groups, or communities who are assumed to be Jewish.

## **Conviction**

A conviction is a firm, stable belief or opinion, usually on some fundamental issue.

## **Disability**

Disability refers to having a condition or chronic illness that makes it more difficult to do certain activities or interact with the world. Through social and physical barriers, such as negative attitudes or lack of accommodations, disabled people are often denied equitable access within society.

## **Discrimination**

Discrimination refers to treating a person or a group less favorably than others or affording them a disadvantaged status due to a personal characteristic without an acceptable reason. Discrimination takes various forms.

## **Discriminatory bullying**

Discriminatory bullying refers to bullying based on social marginalization. Groups that are socially marginalized, such as people racialized as non-white, transgender people, non-heterosexual people, or disabled people, are disproportionately targeted by bullying. In discriminatory bullying, individuals or groups are targeted based on belonging to one or several marginalized groups.

## **Equity**

Equity refers to the equal value of all people regardless of racialization, gender, gender identity or gender expression, age, ethnic or national origin, citizenship, social class, language, religion or conviction, opinion, disability, medical condition, sexual orientation, or other personal characteristics.

## **Ethnicity or Ethnic group**

Ethnicity or ethnic groups refer to groupings of people who share some common attributes, such as, for example, cultural heritage, language, religion, history and/or appearance.

## Ethnic profiling

Ethnic profiling, when used in this report, refers to security and surveillance measures targeting individuals based on characteristics such as skin color, language, or (perceived) ethnicity, nationality, or religion.

## Gender, gender identity and gender expression

Gender is not a binary of being a man or a woman, but a continuum consisting of different genetic, physical, social, psychological, and cultural characteristics. Gender identity refers to how a person perceives their own gender. Gender expression, on the other hand, is how a person chooses to express their gender, for example, through clothing, appearance, speech, and bodily gestures.

## Hate crime

The Criminal Code of Finland does not provide a definition of a hate crime. However, a motive of hatred may serve as an aggravating factor in sentencing; therefore, in principle, any action defined as a crime in the Criminal Code of Finland can be a hate crime if motivated by prejudice or hostility towards a person's or group's actual or assumed ethnic or national origin, religion or conviction, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or gender expression. In Finland, the vast majority of hate crimes reported to the police are racist in nature (Finland's Ministry of the Interior, n.d.).

In this report, we do not assess whether a reported incident constitutes a hate crime but discuss reported incidents as hate incidents, instead.

## Hate incident

A hate incident, when used in this report, refers to a hostile situation, which may or may not constitute a crime, but in which the perpetrator has a detectable motive of hatred. A hate motive can be related to an individual's or group's actual or assumed racialization or ethnicity, gender, religious affiliation, appearance, disability, or sexual orientation, among others. A hate incident can manifest in many ways: for example, as hate speech, graffiti, threats, social media comments, or physical assault.

## Homophobia

Homophobia refers to fear, hatred, or prejudice towards non-heterosexual people, or towards people, groups, or communities who are assumed to be non-heterosexual.

## Immigrancy

Immigrancy, when used in this report, refers to a person having immigrated to Finland.

## Islamophobia

Islamophobia refers to fear, hatred, or prejudice towards Muslims or Islam, or towards people, groups, or communities who are assumed to be Muslim.

## Neurodivergence

Neurodivergence refers to congenital or developmental atypicality in the human brain

and cognition, i.e., information processing. It describes differences in, for example, sociability, learning, attention, mood, and other mental functions.

### **Racialization, Racialized people**

Racialization refers to a societal process in which “society links certain people with hierarchies, assumptions, stereotypes and prejudices [...] because of, for example, their skin color or assumed ethnic background” (The Finnish Non-Discrimination Ombudsman, n.d.).

An example of racialization is when people are assumed to be immigrants in Finland based on their (non-white) skin color or (assumed) ethnicity, religion, or culture, even if they had been born in Finland.

### **Sexual orientation**

Sexual orientation indicates whom a person feels sexual and/or romantic attraction towards. For example, a heterosexual person feels attraction towards people of another gender, while a homosexual person feels attraction towards people of their own gender. Bi- and pansexual people feel attraction towards multiple genders or regardless of gender.

### **Stereotype**

A stereotype is a generalizing and oversimplified idea of a particular group of people.

### **Transgender**

Transgender is an umbrella term for people who identify as some gender other than the one they were assigned at birth. A

transgender man is a man who was assigned female at birth but identifies as a man. A transgender woman is a woman who was assigned male at birth but identifies as a woman. People may also identify, for example, as non-binary or agender.

A person who identifies as the gender they were assigned at birth is cisgender.

### **Transphobia**

Transphobia refers to fear, hatred, or prejudice towards transgender people, or towards people, groups, or communities who are assumed to be transgender.

### **Xenophobia**

Xenophobia refers to fear, hatred, or prejudice towards anything or anyone perceived to be foreign or strange.

# REFERENCES

**Anti-Racist Forum. (2021).** *Together Against Hate -shadow report.* [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c61e3977980b3278f57db6e/t/61ccab3ce30d5d5fb14fd853/1640803133935/togetheragainsthate\\_anti\\_rasict\\_forum\\_A4\\_eng.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c61e3977980b3278f57db6e/t/61ccab3ce30d5d5fb14fd853/1640803133935/togetheragainsthate_anti_rasict_forum_A4_eng.pdf)

**European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. (2018).** *EU-MIDIS II: Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey. Being Black in the EU.* **Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union**

**Finland's Ministry of Justice. (2019).** *Facts Against Hate.* Retrieved February 2, 2024 from <https://oikeusministerio.fi/en/project?tunnus=OM043:00/2019>

**Finland's Ministry of Justice. (2021).** *Capable project.* Retrieved February 7, 2024 from <https://oikeusministerio.fi/en/project?tunnus=OM023:00/2021>

**Finland's Ministry of the Interior. (n.d.).** *Racist crimes account for most hate crimes.* Retrieved February 7, 2024 from <https://intermin.fi/en/police/hate-crime>

**The Finnish Non-Discrimination Ombudsman. (n.d.).** *Racism.* Retrieved February 10, 2024 from <https://syrjinta.fi/en/racism>

**Report from SETA**  
**Shadow report 2023**

# MORE INFORMATION

## SUPPORT AND INFORMATION ON HATE INCIDENTS AND DISCRIMINATION

Non-Discrimination Ombudsman: <https://syrjinta.fi/en/front-page>

Victim Support Finland: <https://www.riku.fi/en/>

Equality.fi (database maintained by the Finnish Ministry of Justice): <https://yhdenvertaisuus.fi/en/hate-crime-and-hate-speech>

## RESEARCH RESULTS RELATED TO HATE INCIDENTS AND DISCRIMINATION IN FINLAND

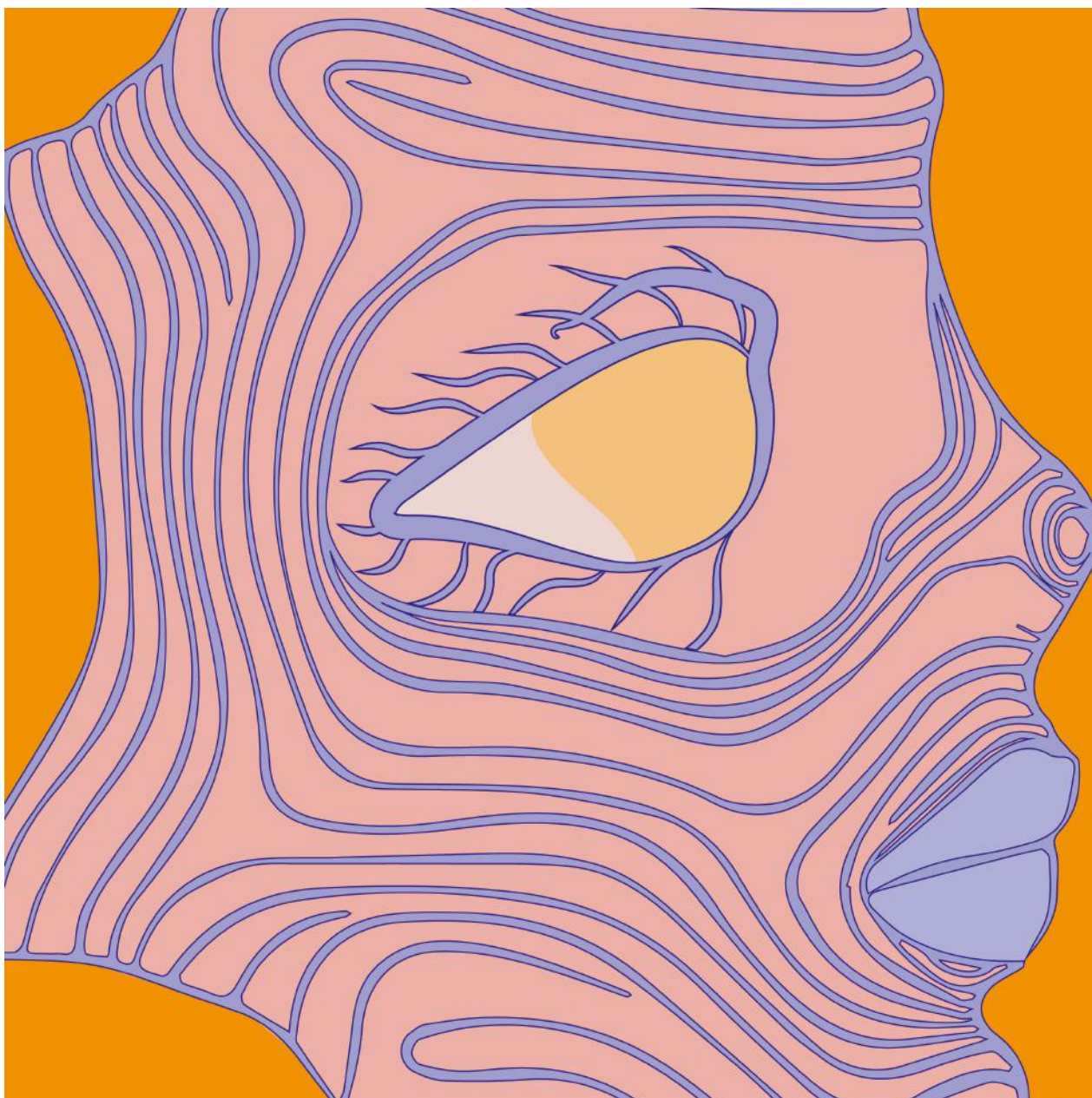
The Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey (EU-MIDIS II) Being Black in the EU (2018): <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/second-european-union-minorities-and-discrimination-survey-main-results>

The Stopped—Ethnic Profiling in Finland research report (2018): [https://helda.helsinki.fi/bitstream/handle/10138/239649/The\\_Stopped\\_Ethnic\\_Profiling\\_in\\_Finland.pdf?sequence=1](https://helda.helsinki.fi/bitstream/handle/10138/239649/The_Stopped_Ethnic_Profiling_in_Finland.pdf?sequence=1)

Suspected hate crimes reported to the police in Finland in 2020 (Police University College of Finland, 2021). Report in Finnish with English abstract. [https://www.theseus.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/506683/POLAMK\\_Katsauksia19.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://www.theseus.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/506683/POLAMK_Katsauksia19.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

Victim's experiences of hate crimes in Finland 2014–2018 (Victim Support Finland and CORE Forum, 2019): <https://www.riku.fi/binary/file/-/id/79/fid/2142>





**Publisher of the Shadow report Anti-Racist Forum ry 2024**

**Report: Monica Gathuo**

**Visuals: Shareef Askar**

**Layout: Monica Gathuo**