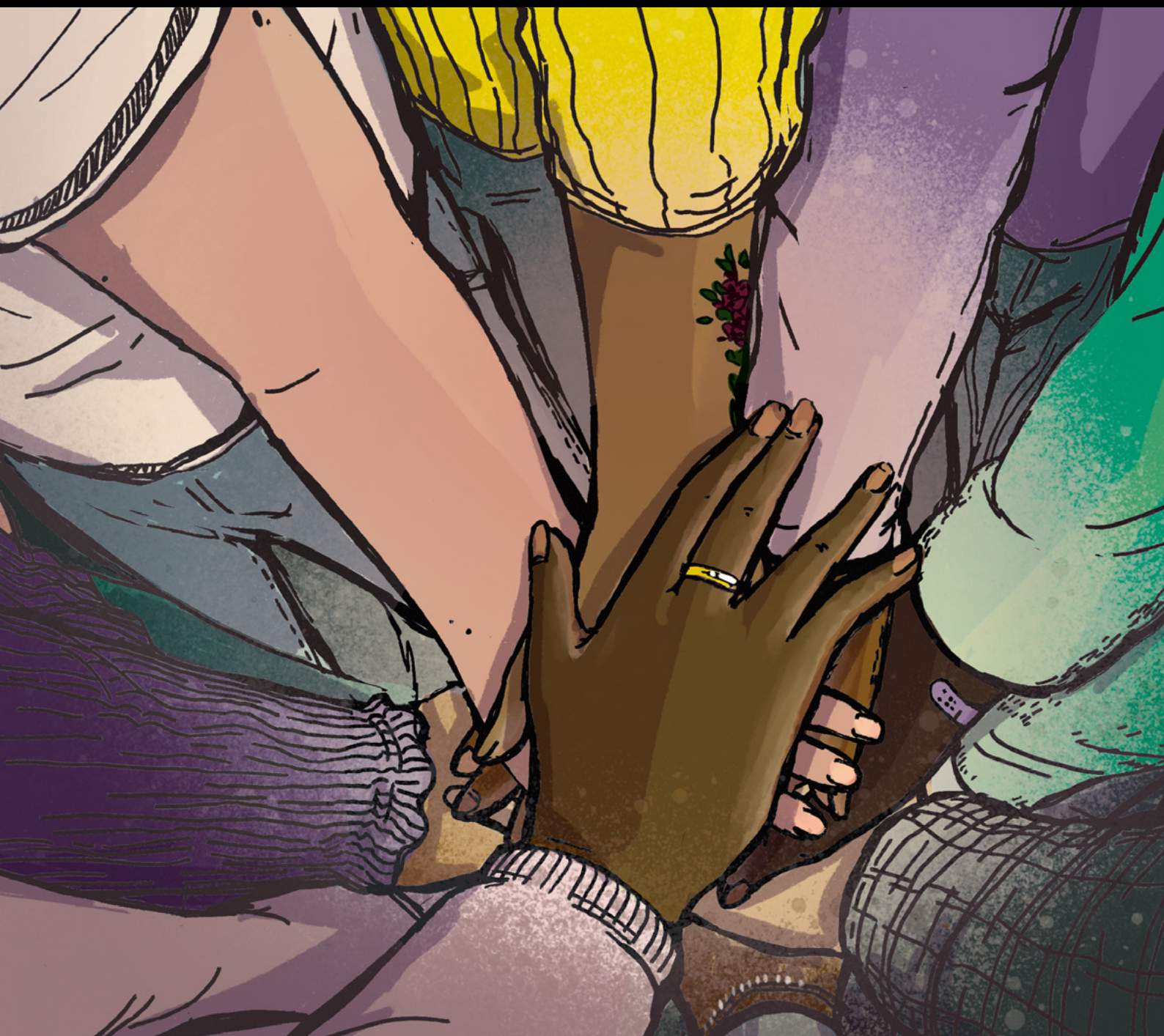


2022



Together Against Hate Shadow Report II



Together
against hate



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The Capable project has received funding from the European Commission's Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme (2014–2020).

SUMMARY

This second Together Against Hate Shadow Report presents an analysis of hate incidents reported in 2022 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 reported incidents were categorized into three categories: hate speech, acts of hate or discrimination, and graffiti or similar objects. Most responses, approximately half of all responses, described incidents of hate speech. Second most common were acts of hate or discrimination, which comprised around one third of all reported incidents. Finally, graffiti or similar objects were reported on in one fifth of the incidents.

Most typically, in a little over half of all responses, the hate incident reported was racist in nature. Second most reported were incidents targeting sexual orientation as well as incidents targeting multiple groups, which each represent around one in eight responses. Smaller but still significant numbers of responses dealt with hate incidents targeting gender, gender identity, and gender expression, as well as fatness, religion, disability or neurodivergence, Russian nationality or speaking Russian, or immigrancy. Finally, some responses also discussed incidents of harassment based on conviction or opinion.

Incidents reported on the platform were rarely reported to the authorities. In the

cases where the respondent had indicated whether they had reported the incident also to the authorities, only 8 per cent responded that they had reported or would report the incident.

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. 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 evidence or no possibility to identify the perpetrator(s).

INFORMATION ON THE REPORT

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 current Capable project (4/2021–3/2023) continues 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 Capable project is also funded by the European Commission’s Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) program, and consists of five work packages. This report is part of work package 5 which aims to develop data collection on hate incidents and will continue promoting the monitoring tool developed for reporting hate incidents.

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THE PLATFORM

This shadow report is based on incidents reported in 2022 on the yhdessaviihaa-vastaa.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 categorize 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 categorizing the incident, no other fields were required for submitting the response.

THE MATERIAL

The material on which the report is based has been reported on the hate incident reporting platform between January 1st and December 31st, 2022.

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, 17 altogether, were removed from the data during processing. In contrast to the previous report (Anti-Racist Forum, 2021), which discussed frequent harassment targeted at the platform, in 2022 there was only one case of harassment towards the platform. This case was recognizable by content and language. Also removed were eight responses where the information provided was not sufficient to analyze. Some of these responses included links to material online which had since been removed, and therefore the response could not be analyzed unless the material was described by the respondent. Also not included in this report were eight responses based on claims of “reverse racism”: that racism was targeted towards white Finnish people. These were removed as no indica-

tion of discrimination was found in these cases, which typically portrayed individuals and organizations engaging in anti-racism as discrimination towards white Finns. The total number of incidents included in the material was 213. In 2022, all responses were in Finnish or English.

Some words are **bolded** and 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 categorized 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 on 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.

The most commonly reported incident was hate speech. In the responses, hate speech took many different shapes. Incidents of hate speech included shouting abuse at people in public, hate messages and comments on social media, hate speech disseminated in private conversations, use of derogatory terms, questioning people's right to exist (in Finland or in public), **stereotyping***, asking inappropriate questions 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 transnational incidents of hate speech, where a person residing in Finland was reported as inciting hatred towards other ethnic or religious minorities in their country of origin via social media¹. Hate

1 These responses were mostly related to a Nigerian-Finnish individual residing in Finland who is, on their own admission, the leader of an armed separatist rebel group operating in south-east Nigeria.

speech was also often used in conjunction with acts of hate or discrimination.

Acts of hate or discrimination were also varied in nature. Most typically responses filed in this category described witnessing **ethnic profiling*** and receiving orders or instructions to discriminate at a workplace. Denying service or providing inappropriate service was also a major theme in these responses. Different acts of hate described in the responses included threatening behavior, spitting, following or filming people, damaging property, and continuous or repeated harassment. Included in the responses were also threats of violence or death threats, shoving people or restricting their movement, and assault. Responses describing discrimination included incidents of discrimination in the job market, in education, and in the housing market. 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, stickers, banners, scorings, and other forms of written or symbolic communication. Most typically these responses mentioned extreme right stickers, swastikas, and racist graffiti present in public spaces. Many responses also discuss a large, publicly displayed permanent banner of an organization protesting the rights of sexual and gender minorities.

PERSON REPORTING

Two thirds of the incidents were reported by witnesses, who had heard or seen someone else being targeted by a hate act incident, while one third were reported by the person who had experienced a hate incident themselves. This is similar to the previous *Together Against Hate* shadow report, where the num-

Distribution of responses **by type of incident**



ber of responses by witnesses was slightly larger than the number of responses by individuals targeted by hate incidents (Anti-Racist Forum, 2021). Only three per cent of the respondents wanted their contact details to be forwarded to Victim Support Finland (Rikosuhripäivystys RIKU).

TARGETING OF HATE INCIDENTS

Most typically, in a little over half of all responses, the hate incident reported was racist in nature. Second most reported were incidents targeting sexual orientation as well as incidents targeting multiple groups, which each represent around one in eight responses. Smaller but still significant numbers of responses dealt with hate incidents targeting gender, gender identity, and gender expression, as well as fatness, religion, disability or **neurodivergence***, Russian nationality or speaking Russian, and **immigrancy***. Finally, some responses also discussed incidents based on conviction or opinion.

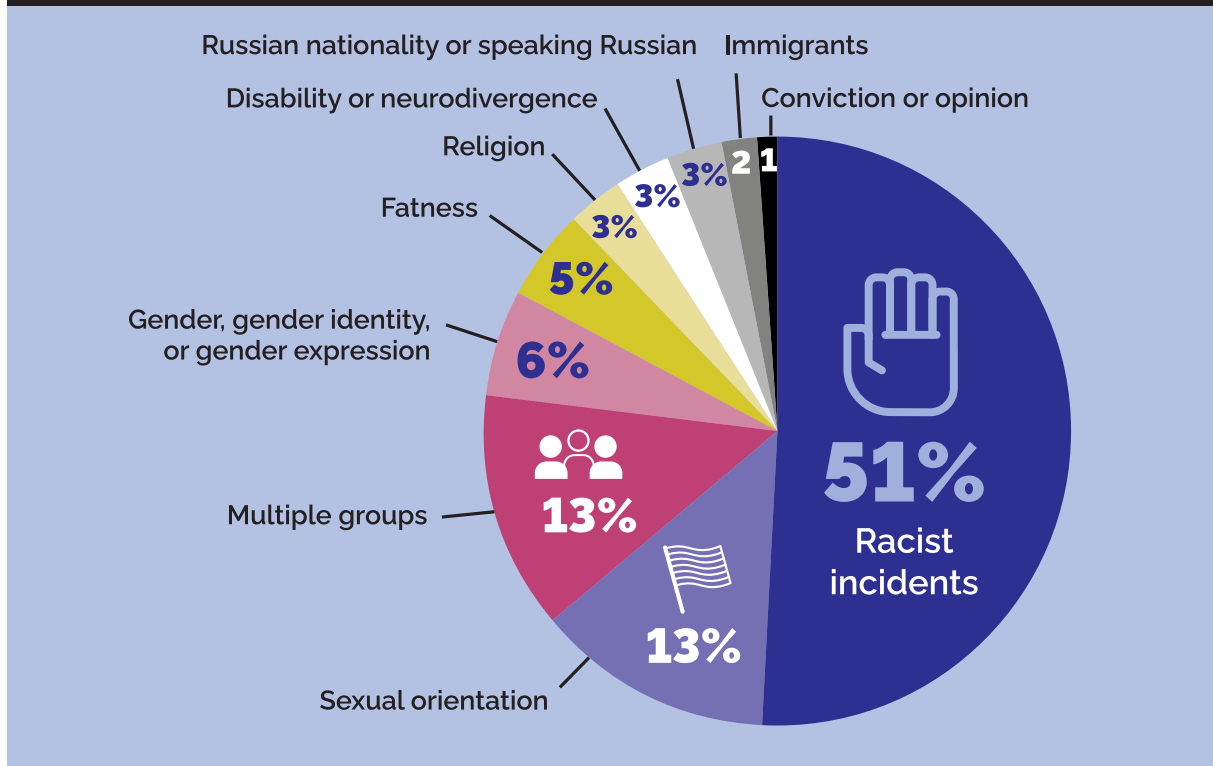
PLACE OF INCIDENT

When reporting graffiti or other similar objects on the platform, respondents were prompted to enter the region where it was located. Three quarters of graffiti and similar objects were reported as being located in the Uusimaa region in Southern Finland.

The 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.

The second most prevalent place of hate incidents was one's place of work or study. At work, hate incidents were reported as having taken place in meetings, training, breaks, and customer service situations. In education, incidents were reported from lessons, guidance meetings, and recess. This shows that in workplaces and schools, hate incidents take place in both formal and informal contexts.

Distribution of responses by motivation



Thirdly, incidents were reported as happening in services where the respondent and target were customers. Incidents took place in both private services, such as stores, restaurants, and bars, as well as public services, such as social and healthcare services.

Finally, fourth most incidents were reported as happening on social media. Social media platforms, such as Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and TikTok, were mentioned most often. In contrast to the previous Together Against Hate -shadow report (Anti-Racist Forum, 2021), only very 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 and private messages, many responses discussed unmoderated comment sections, where an individual, organization, or corporation had posted something related to a group targeted by discrimination and abstained from moderating the discussion to remove inappropriate comments.

PERPETRATOR

The typical profile of a perpetrator, when identified in the response, was middle-aged, white, and assumed male. Of all reported perpetrators, around two thirds were assumed male and one third assumed female. Perpetrators of all ages were included in the responses. They were described most often as middle-aged, and after that, as children and youth, then as elderly people, and finally, as young adults aged around 20–30. Almost all perpetrators, when their skin color or ethnicity was mentioned, were described as white Finns—in only a few individual cases the perpetrator was described as non-white or non-Finnish.

Typically, the perpetrator was a previously unknown individual to the respondent and the target of the incident. In a significant proportion of these cases, the perpetrator was described as being inebriated. Second most often, the perpetrator was part of the same

work or study community as the respondent, such as a boss, a colleague, a classmate, or a security guard at a location where the respondent worked. Third most commonly, the perpetrator was, at the time of the incident, in a professional role as an employee or customer service representative while the respondent was a private individual. In these responses, professional roles included public transportation drivers, store employees, security guards, and doctors. Fourth most often, the perpetrator was identified not as an individual, but as an organization, company, or institution. These responses discussed materials distributed by bigoted organizations as well as discriminatory practices in companies or institutions. Finally, in a few incidents the perpetrator was described as a close acquaintance of the respondent, such as a family member or relative.

INCIDENTS RELATED TO RACISM

A little over half of the incidents reported, 51 %, dealt with racist hate incidents. All but one of the incidents reporting physical violence were racist in nature. In the next part, incidents of racism are analyzed 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, 19 % 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 color 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 color, 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 color 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 employees or service providers. The incident often took place in a public space, especially on public transportation.

Hate speech often took the shape of telling people to "go back to their home countries", stereotyping, and asking inappropriate questions based on assumed migration histories or ethnic identities, as well as other kinds of **xenophobic*** and racializing commentary.

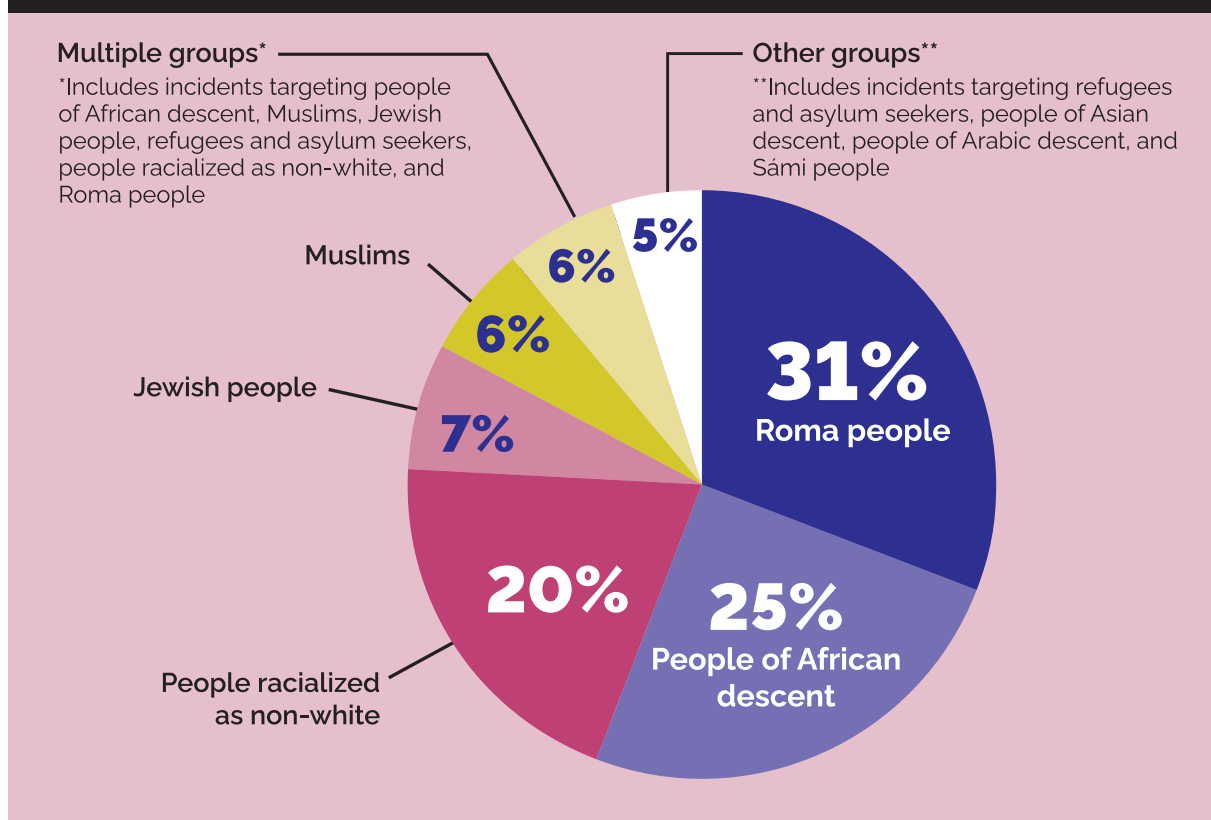
Responses discussing discrimination mostly reported ethnic profiling, where surveillance practices were targeted solely towards people racialized as non-white while their white Finnish counterparts were not monitored. Additionally, discrimination was also reported as taking place in employment and in the housing market. In some incidents, employers were reported on as refusing to hire people racialized as non-white and justified this by stating that their customers would not approve. Additionally, some respondents reported knowing people who refused to rent apartments to people with non-white-sounding names.

"The targeted person was my relative, who is Finnish, but their father is not, and they look like their father. The police stopped my relative and checked their backpack. They said they were looking for drugs in the backpack of this youngster who was in junior high school. Other young people walking down the same street were not checked."

"A person I know owns several rental apartments but avoids potential tenants with non-white-sounding names. They only rent to a 'foreigner' if they can't find a native Finn or a neat west-European person."

"An aggressive security guard was needlessly strongly holding onto a skinny young racialized person. The use of force towards the child was excessive. The child asked what they had done and said they wanted to go home."

Distribution of racism-motivated incidents by group(s) targeted



Racism targeting Roma people

Of all responses related to racist hate incidents, most often, in 31 %, 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 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 privately receiving orders or instructions at their workplace to discriminate against Roma people. Thus, the discrimination would not be communicated to the people targeted

by these discriminatory incidents. Typically, these orders or instructions to discriminate included orders to follow Roma people closely in a place of business or to alert a security guard if Roma people entered the premises. The perpetrators were most often people who belonged to the same work community, such as a boss, a fellow employee, or a security guard. Incidents were also reported where security guards closely followed Roma people around in stores. 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.

"When I was working in a store, I was told by my boss to call the security guard when Roma people came in."

"When working at a hotel, I was told to always tell Roma people that we were already fully booked."

"My coworkers were talking about Roma people in a very racist way. One said that they didn't let their children play with the Roma children who lived next door. The others agreed and said that all Roma people steal."

Racism targeting people of African descent

Second most often, in 25 % 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 as well as in graffiti featured prominently in these responses. Most often, the reported incidents dealt with hate speech and acts of hate, up to and including physical assault. Most often, the hate speech and acts of hate 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 in a professional role during the incident, such as public transportation drivers. 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. Some respondents described hate acts using graffiti, where the

N-word had been graffitied on the door of a person of African descent. Additionally, hate speech towards persons of African descent was also directed at white Finnish women who had relationships with or had had children with men 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, being the only ones asked for their identification when entering a bar, or being followed around by personnel or security guards in stores.

"A bus driver was targeted by hate speech when working. The drunken perpetrators started shouting at the driver and calling them names as they left the bus. The perpetrators used the N-word and referred to the driver's religion and that they were an immigrant. The perpetrators exited through the front doors so that they could stop to harass the driver, who could do nothing but wait for the perpetrators to leave."

Racism targeting Jewish people

7 % of racist hate incidents targeted Jewish people. Hate incidents targeting Jewish people were reported as graffiti and other objects as well as hate speech. Most responses targeting Jewish people discussed graffitiing and displaying swastikas, while incidents of hate speech included reports of doing the Nazi salute, admiring Nazism, and making explicitly antisemitic* statements.

"A person explained loudly in our class that their spouse 'hates Jewish people [...] and has good reason to.'"

"I noticed a swastika outside a public library. It is a symbol of white supremacy and is upsetting and threatening symbol not only for Jewish people but all ethnic minorities."

Racism targeting Muslims

Hate incidents targeting Muslims specifically were scarce in the responses, making up only 6 % of all racism-related incidents. Incidents were categorized 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.

"A woman wearing a hijab was getting off a bus and was walking down the aisle towards the doors. An elderly man purposefully put his cane in the way so that she would trip and fall. When the woman spoke up, the man verbally abused her."

Racism targeting multiple groups

6 % of responses described incidents where multiple groups were targeted by racism. These included incidents targeting people of African descent, Muslims, Jewish people, refugees and asylum seekers, people racialized as non-white, and Roma people. Responses describing incidents targeting multiple groups included racist stickers, hate speech, and discrimination.

"There were at least ten stickers with texts inciting hatred towards Muslims and Somali people on a garbage can at a tram stop."

"When working at a store, I was told to follow and keep an eye on Roma people, Russian-speaking people, and everyone who doesn't look like a native Finn."

Racism targeting other groups

Altogether 5 % of responses described incidents targeting other groups not previously discussed in this report. These incidents tar-

geted the following groups: refugees and asylum seekers, people of Asian descent, people of Arab descent, and Sámi people². These incidents included examples from all categories: hate speech, acts of hate or discrimination, as well as graffiti or similar objects. 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.

"A woman started shouting at me in public and told me that I have no right to be here and that I should go back to where I came from. When I told her to calm down, she imitated me with sarcasm while also making discriminatory expressions [targeted towards people of Asian descent]."

INCIDENTS TARGETING SEXUAL ORIENTATION

After incidents related to racism, incidents targeting based on a person's (assumed) sexual orientation as non-heterosexual were the second most common incident reported: 13 % of all responses, tied with incidents targeting multiple groups. Most often incidents targeting sexual orientation were incidents of public harassment conducted by previously unknown perpetrators in public spaces. The targeting of specific people for harassment was often based on recognition or assump-

² There were individual reports of hate speech targeting Forest Sámi. The Forest Sámi identify as one of the Sámi groups in Finland; however, they are not recognized by the Sámi Parliament, which is the supreme political body of the Sámi people in Finland. The Supreme Administrative Court of Finland has previously accepted people as Sámi persons against the Sámi Parliament's will. Recent discussions related to a proposed law which would grant the Sámi Parliament the right to decide who is recognized as Sámi—and therefore included in the electoral register of the Sámi Parliament—and who is not have sparked public controversy related to the position of the Forest Sámi.

tion of sexual orientation based on wearing or carrying a rainbow flag (or a pin or accessory with a rainbow symbol), holding hands with a partner, or appearance deemed atypical for the assumed gender of the person targeted.

Most typically, these responses described hate speech in different forms: using derogatory terms and **homophobic*** language, verbal abuse, shouting, and asking inappropriate questions based on (assumed) sexual orientation. In addition to hate speech in public spaces, hate speech was also reported as taking place on social media. In social media comments, non-heterosexuality was often portrayed as a mental illness.

In addition to incidents of hate speech, responses described hate acts based on sexual orientation, which included damage to property, discriminatory bullying, physical violence and threat thereof, and death threats.

Additionally, one of the most reported incidents in the category of graffiti altogether included a publicly displayed permanent banner of an organization opposing same-sex marriage.

"A man came to harass my friend when we were in the park because my friend had a rainbow flag with them. The man's behavior was aggressive, he was using homophobic language, and he tried to wrench the flag away from my friend. When I went to get the police for help, the man physically attacked my friend."

INCIDENTS TARGETING MULTIPLE GROUPS

13 % of responses dealt with incidents where multiple groups were targeted. Mostly, these responses described incidents where both sexual and gender minorities were targeted together, as well as incidents concerning the extreme right.

Incidents where both sexual and gender minorities were targeted together mostly consisted of reports on the public presence of an organization protesting the rights of sexual and gender minorities. Several responses also discussed the organization's large, publicly

displayed permanent banner. Additionally, a number of responses described hate speech targeting both sexual and gender minorities together.

Responses concerning the extreme right were also categorized as targeting multiple groups if the respondent did not specify the individual incident as targeting a specific group. Responses concerning the extreme right mostly included far right stickers.

Some responses also described situations where several aspects of one person's identity were targeted, such as sexual orientation and neurodivergence. Also included were situations where the same perpetrator(s) targeted different groups, such as sexual minorities and people of African descent.

"We were out collecting signatures for a petition to stop hate speech. A man came over and started asking about the petition, and finally he said that because of the Bible sexual and gender minorities shouldn't be tolerated or given the same rights as others."

"A group of students at my school use the N-word and use hate speech targeting disabled people and gay people."

INCIDENTS TARGETING GENDER, GENDER IDENTITY, AND GENDER EXPRESSION

6 % 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 spaces. Hate speech was most often related to appearance deemed atypical for a person's (assumed) gender or a person's gender expression and included public harassment and using derogatory terms and **transphobic*** speech. Incidents of gender stereotyping were also reported. 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. Reports of discrimination at work and education facilities were also present in the material. In these cases, discrimination manifested as gender discrimination at work—for example, by assigning tasks and privileges based on a person's gender—and as lack of gender-related accessibility: for example, as lack of gender-neutral bathrooms and changing rooms.

"I didn't have a bathroom or a dressing room I could use at the school. We have mandatory classes for which we have to change into our gym clothes. Sometimes I waited in line to get changed or use the toilet in the accessible restroom because it isn't gendered, but then I was late for class because the line was so long as many people used the bathroom when they 'wanted privacy.'"

"I was completing voluntary military service for women and experienced discrimination and belittling because of my gender. I had to try harder and be better than the men to receive equal treatment from my peers and the commanding officers. When my performance was average, I was belittled."

INCIDENTS TARGETING FATNESS

5 % of incidents targeted fatness. Incidents targeting fatness typically addressed hate speech committed by previously unknown perpetrators. The incidents took place in public spaces both outdoors and indoors, such as in the street or in changing rooms, as well as on social media. Hate speech related to fatness manifested as direct verbal abuse and inappropriate commentary. Some respondents also described discrimination in health care services.

"I went to see a doctor because of a prolonged period. The doctor stated I was 'morbidly obese' as soon as I stepped in and pointed me to the scale, though stated that the scale probably wouldn't even weigh me because I'm so big. It didn't. This felt humiliating to me. The

doctor said they couldn't examine my uterus because of my belly being in front of it. They didn't examine and just gave me pills meant to stop my period. The medication didn't work, and I had to go see another doctor."

"I was in a changing room and another person started loudly talking about the dangers of eating sugar and gave me unpleasant looks. I'm recovering from an eating disorder, so it was a very difficult experience and almost made me cry. I'm nervous about going back to my hobby that I've already paid for because the person might be there and do it again."

INCIDENTS TARGETING RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

3 % of incidents reported on the platform discussed hate incidents based on religious affiliation. Islamophobia (prejudice towards [assumed] Muslims or Islam) and antisemitism (prejudice towards [assumed] Jewish people or Judaism) have been previously discussed under incidents related to racism as they are examples of racialization based on (assumed) religious affiliation.

Incidents targeting religious affiliation other than Islam or Judaism consisted of incidents of hate speech. Respondents described negative stereotyping of former or current members of Christian minority communities.

"I've been belittled and called names because of my religion. I've been bullied at school and left out of friend groups because of it."

INCIDENTS TARGETING DISABLED PEOPLE AND NEURODIVERGENT PEOPLE

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 denying care or service or providing inappropriate care or service as well as discriminatory bullying.

"I went to a doctor to ask for help with my aching knee. I was using a wheelchair then. Several doctors refused to help me because of my disability. I was told it's not worth it to treat me because there were lots of non-disabled people waiting for treatment who had a better chance of staying healthy. I was told it was clear from the start that I would end up in a wheelchair and have pain. The doctor portrayed my diagnosis as a progressive condition even though it's not."

"A taxi I ordered refused to take me in because of my wheelchair. The driver didn't even say anything, just started shaking their head when they saw me. I told and showed the driver that I can get up by myself and that my wheelchair can be folded to fit into a very small space. The car was big, and my wheelchair takes up less space than a big suitcase when folded up. The driver just shook their head rudely, drove away, and canceled the ride from the app. I complained to the company, but they just gave me an offhanded apology for 'the ride being canceled.'"

INCIDENTS TARGETING RUSSIAN (-SPEAKING) PEOPLE

After the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Finnish media reported on several incidents of harassment and discrimination towards Russian civilians in Finland. In the data, however, surprisingly few incidents, 3 %, reported discrimination towards Russian(-speaking) people. The reported incidents mostly mentioned direct and indirect use of a Finnish-language derogatory term targeted towards Russian(-speaking) people, harassment of people speaking in Russian in public, and (statements of) refusing service to Russian people.

"I was talking with my sister in Russian in a public place. A passer-by sped up, came right towards us, and screamed at us in the middle of our conversation using a derogatory term targeted at Russian people. Ever since this incident, me and my sister haven't talked in Russian."

INCIDENTS TARGETING IMMIGRANTS

2 % of responses dealt with incidents specifically targeting immigrants. Immigrants were specifically discriminated against based on language skills (refusing service due to lack of Finnish language proficiency), in services (stereotyping based on national origin or migrancy), and in the housing market (refusing to rent apartments to immigrants).

"When I called the number that was listed as the English language service number of my Finnish trade union, the person who answered immediately hung up when I spoke English. I asked my Finnish friend to call the number, and they answered and continued to talk. My friend asked for the English service, and the person replied that I should speak Finnish and asked why I would have any business with a trade union if I don't speak Finnish."

INCIDENTS TARGETING CONVICTION OR OPINION

1 % of responses dealt with incidents targeting conviction or opinion. These incidents included disparaging and threatening social media comments as well as public harassment based on participating in a political event.

"I posted a video about colonialism in Finland on social media. In the comments, people insinuated that I have mental health issues and said they wished I would be killed."

CONSEQUENCES OF HATE INCIDENTS

Respondents were not expressly asked to describe the consequences of the hate incidents they reported, but some respondents did so, nonetheless. Mostly respondents described experiencing emotional distress as the consequence of having experienced, and at times having witnessed, a hate incident. Descriptions of emotional distress included mentions of fear, anxiety, and vulnerability. Some respondents described how the hate incident they experienced reactivated previous traumatic memories and caused their

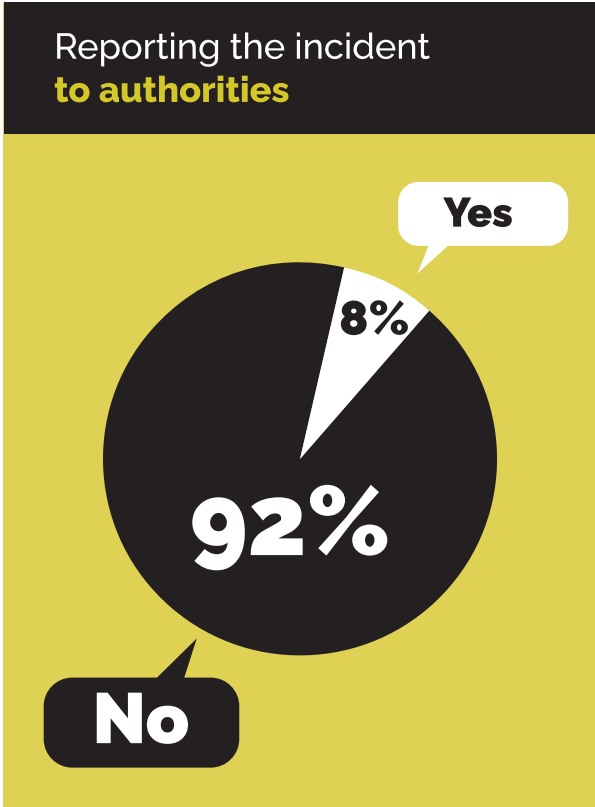
mental health to deteriorate. Some respondents also described feeling paranoid: doubting whether the incident had actually happened or if it had been “all in their head”. Some witnesses to hate incidents described regret and shame over witnessing but not intervening in incidents or not reporting them.

In some cases, the hate incident forced the person targeted to leave a location or service. Additionally, some respondents also described more permanent behavioral changes brought about by the hate incident: for example, avoiding certain places or actions altogether. At times respondents described hate incidents or incidents of discrimination also producing material consequences: being left without service, a job, or an apartment.

REPORTING HATE INCIDENTS TO AUTHORITIES

Incidents reported on the platform were rarely reported to the authorities. In the cases where the respondent had indicated whether they had reported the incident also to the authorities, only 8 per cent responded that they had reported or would report to the authorities. In those 8 per cent of cases, only very few respondents were satisfied with the response of the authorities.

In cases where the respondent had reported to the authorities, most answers described inadequacy on the part of the authorities in responding to the incident. In several cases, the authorities’ response was described as (too) slow: the authorities had arrived at the scene after the incident was over and/or a long time after it. In some cases, respondents stated that investigation into the incident had begun several weeks after it had been reported to the authorities. According to the responses, at times the authorities had responded to attempts at reporting by stating that they would not investigate the incident. Some respondents described that the authorities “had done nothing” in response to their reporting. Some respondents also described victim-blaming committed by the authorities: respondents had been blamed for the incidents, only told to remove themselves from the scene to avoid further harassment, or



asked why they had gone to a place where they might be targeted. In a few cases, however, respondents indicated they would report the incident to the authorities despite their previous bad experiences in dealing with them.

In 92 per cent of responses, the respondent indicated they had not or would not report the incident to the authorities. In these responses, the most common response was to only state that they had not reported the incident to the authorities without giving a reason or further explanation for not reporting. When reason was given, it was often that the respondent did not know they could report or where and how to report. Additionally, many respondents described that they did not trust the authorities enough to report the incident or that they had previously reported an incident and had been disappointed with the process or its outcome. In some cases, witnesses of hate incidents did not report because they were afraid that the authorities would accuse the person targeted in the hate incident.

In many instances, respondents described

the circumstances of the incident as preventing them from reporting. Emotional responses to the incident, such as shock, sadness, or trauma, as well as becoming accustomed to facing hate incidents, were discussed in the responses as reasons for not reporting. Also, some respondents described their own position preventing them from reporting, such as their young age, fear of revenge from the perpetrator(s), or fear of consequences, for example, to their employment.

In many cases, not reporting the incident to the authorities was a result of the respondent linking reporting to criminal proceedings. Many respondents did not report the incident because they described it as not being a crime, being "too small" to report, or because they assessed that nothing would be done about it. Respondents also indicated that they did not report the incident because they were not sure they could identify the perpetrator(s) or because they lacked evidence. In some cases, respondents stated that they did not report the incident to the authorities because they did not need acute assistance: the perpetrators had left the scene, or the situation had ended or been resolved.

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 teacher, a service provider, or a maintenance company, for example. Several respondents also reported having themselves acted in the situation by, for example, removing or covering up graffiti, or intervening in hate speech or acts of hate.

CONCLUSIONS

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 reported to the authorities but 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 target is unable or unwilling to pursue criminal proceedings, or where there is no evidence or no possibility to identify the perpetrator(s).

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 differences in the human brain and cognition, i.e., information processing. It describes difference 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.

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WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

SUPPORT AND INFORMATION ON HATE INCIDENTS AND DISCRIMINATION

The website of the 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

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

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>



**Together
against hate**



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