



Anti-Racial Discrimination Section
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Ministry of Justice

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Combatting racism and hate crime is an important priority in Denmark.

Denmark has taken numerous steps in the fight against hate crimes. The financial agreement (2021-2023) for the Danish police and the Danish Prosecution Service contains new initiatives aimed at strengthening the efforts of the police and the Prosecution Service towards victims of hate crimes. Currently, all police recruits are trained in the subject of hate crime as part of their mandatory police training. The new initiatives include strengthening the supplementary training of police officers in the subject of hate crime with a special focus on improving the handling of victims of hate crime. As of 2022, supplementary training sessions for police officers has been implemented. Specifically, the existing training course has been updated and expanded from a one-day course to a two-day course. A key principle behind the training is to involve civil society actors. Cooperating partners in this training are the Danish Prosecution Service, ActionAid Denmark, the Muslim Council, the Jewish Community in Denmark, and LGBT+ Denmark.

Additionally, the initiatives include the development of new information material aimed at victims of hate crimes, including hate speech, and key stakeholders in the field. In 2022, the Danish National Police published an information leaflet on "Advice and Guidance to persons who work with victims of hate crimes". The leaflet was written in cooperation with the Danish Prosecution Service and the following NGO's: the Muslim Council, the Jewish community in Denmark, LGBT+ Denmark and Disabled People's

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Organization Denmark. The leaflet is aimed at organizations who advice and help victims of hate crimes. Among other things, the leaflet provides information about the legal process e.g. the role of the police and the prosecution service as well as information on the different ways to report a hate crime to the police. The purpose of this information material is, among other things, to inform potential hate crime victims about what constitutes hate crime and hate speech in a judicial sense, which hopefully will increase the reporting of these offences.

Moreover, in 2022, the Danish National Police established a new digital/virtual police unit (“the Police Online Patrol”) in order to strengthen its online presence. The digital unit patrols on social media through visible police presence in open groups. Thereby, the police are able to combat different forms of internet related crimes more effectively – for example, online sexual harassment or racist motivated hate crimes and hate speech. Additionally, it is possible for citizens to submit an online tip on, among other things, hate crimes to the online patrol via e-mail or the online messaging app Messenger

A national action plan against racism is currently under development. The aim of the action plan is to fight and prevent racism broadly across the Danish society through a variety of concrete initiatives. The action plan against racism is currently under preparation and is expected to be completed within 2023.