

**How members of
multiple minority
groups experience
hate-motivated acts**



To the reader

To better understand the seriousness of hate-motivated acts as a social problem, the phenomenon must also be examined from a broader perspective than individual grounds for discrimination.

A hate-motivated act is an act that causes damage or harm and has a hate motive like hate crimes and hate speech, but it is not known whether the act constitutes an offence. In hate acts, the victim is not selected by chance but because of an actual or assumed personal characteristic. These characteristics include, for example, assumed or actual ethnic or national background, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, gender expression and disability.

People belonging to multiple minority groups are more likely than others to be the subject of hate-motivated acts, hate speech and harassment. Gender and age can also be contributing factors in the selection of victims.

One respondent comments in a recent follow-up report by the Ministry of Justice: “Hate speech and harassment have included audism [discrimination against the deaf and hard of hearing], microaggressions [involuntary comments or acts that reinforce and perpetuate discriminatory stereotypes], and public humiliation that have been similar in effect to psychological violence. At times, it has targeted more than one of my characteristics at the same time (such as gender identity as a woman, deafness, sign language, physical traits and young age).”

The effects can be particularly burdensome for the individual when experiences of hate acts add up based on many different aspects and in different areas of life. People belonging to multiple minority groups also report on experiences of hate speech or harassment less often. In other words, they are at particular risk of being left alone with their experiences.

This publication focuses on the effects of hate-motivated acts on people belonging to multiple minority groups. The publication is based on the report titled “Hoping for a Concrete Intervention: Follow-up Survey on Hate Speech and Harassment and Their Effects on Different Minority Groups” (2022) by the Ministry of Justice and previously unpublished material in the report.

Key concepts

Multiple discrimination

Multiple discrimination means that an individual faces discrimination because of two or more different characteristics. Gender is also often one of the contributing factors in multiple discrimination. For example, a non-binary person with a disability may face discrimination on the basis of both their disability and gender.

Three forms of multiple discrimination can be distinguished: sequential, additive and intersectional discrimination.

Sequential multiple discrimination

Discrimination on different grounds on separate occasions

Sequential multiple discrimination refers to a situation in which a person faces discrimination on **different grounds on separate occasions**.

For example, a person may face discrimination in a public place because of their sexual orientation and online harassment based on their gender.

Additive multiple discrimination

Discrimination on multiple grounds on the same occasion

In additive multiple discrimination, a person experiences discrimination on **multiple grounds on the same occasion**.

Additive multiple discrimination may occur, for example, in a job-seeking situation where a person faces discrimination both as a woman and as a Roma.

Intersectional discrimination

Multiple grounds intersect

In intersectional discrimination, **multiple grounds intersect with each other** to produce distinct and specific grounds for discrimination.

For example, the discrimination young Muslim men face is not purely based on religion, age or gender but a combination of all of them.

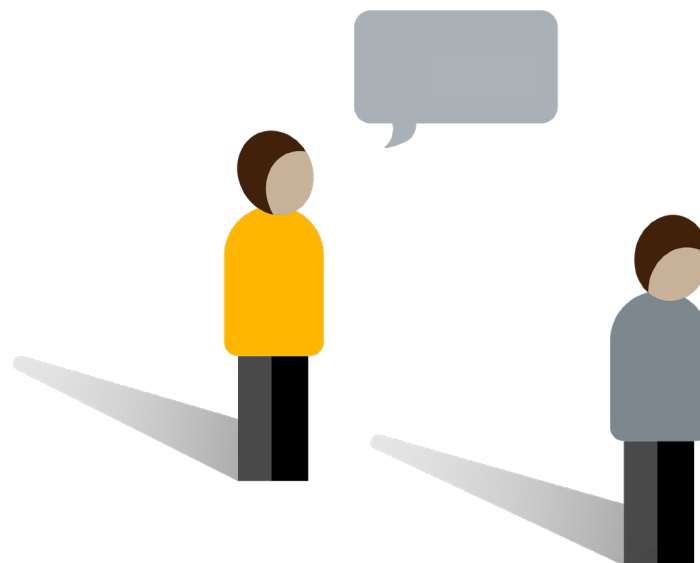
Manifestation of harassment and hate speech

According to the follow-up survey, the most common forms of hate speech or harassment are verbal insults, harassment or humiliation.

Among the Sámi, silencing or restricting societal participation is more common than for other minority groups. For example, the Sámi may experience belittling or aggressive behaviour when expressing shortcomings related to the rights of the Sámi. LGBTIQ+ people, on the other hand, face more gender-based verbal insults than other minority groups covered by the survey.

According to the follow-up survey, women face verbal insults, harassment or humiliation at a greater frequency than other genders. Non-binary people experience physical harassment, gendered degradation, being subjected to malicious laughter, threats and threatening behaviour more often than other respondents. Men, in turn, face more bullying, targeting and threat of smearing or ruining the person's reputation.

54% of respondents who said they belonged to more than one minority group felt that they had faced harassment or hate speech because the perpetrator assumed that the victim belongs to the LGBTIQ+ community.



Have you been the target of harassment or hate speech in the last 12 months?

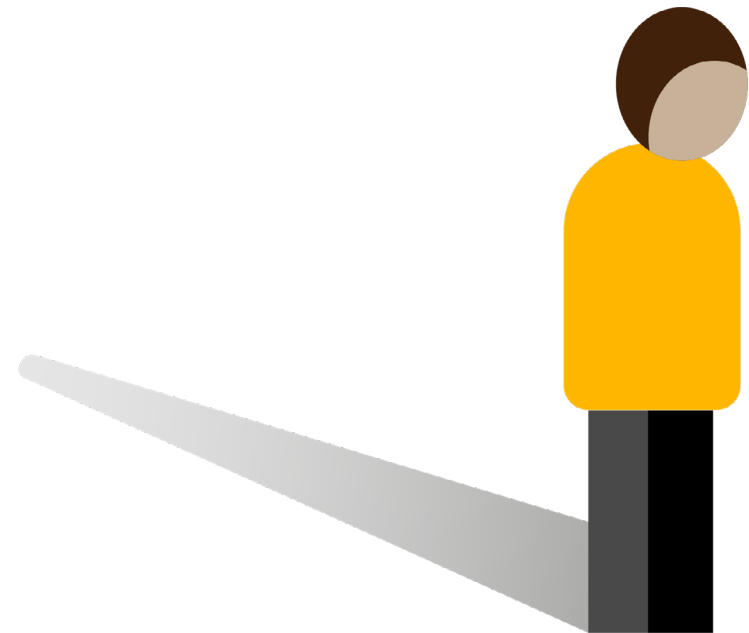
People belonging to multiple minority groups



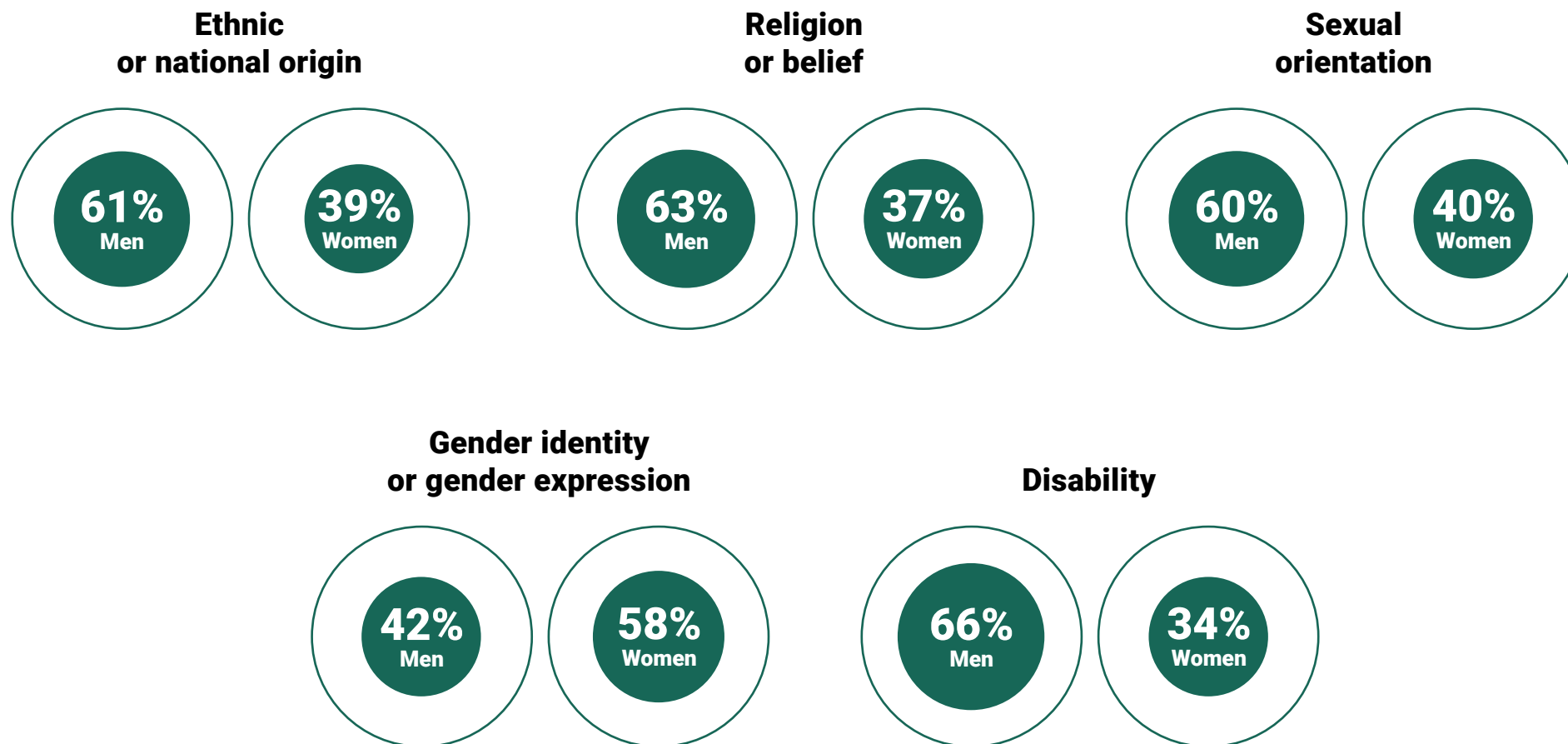
All respondents



Non-binary people are more likely to be the target of hate speech or harassment than men or women. A total of 41% of non-binary people said they had been subjected to hate-motivated acts at least once a month, compared to 34% of women and 32% of men.



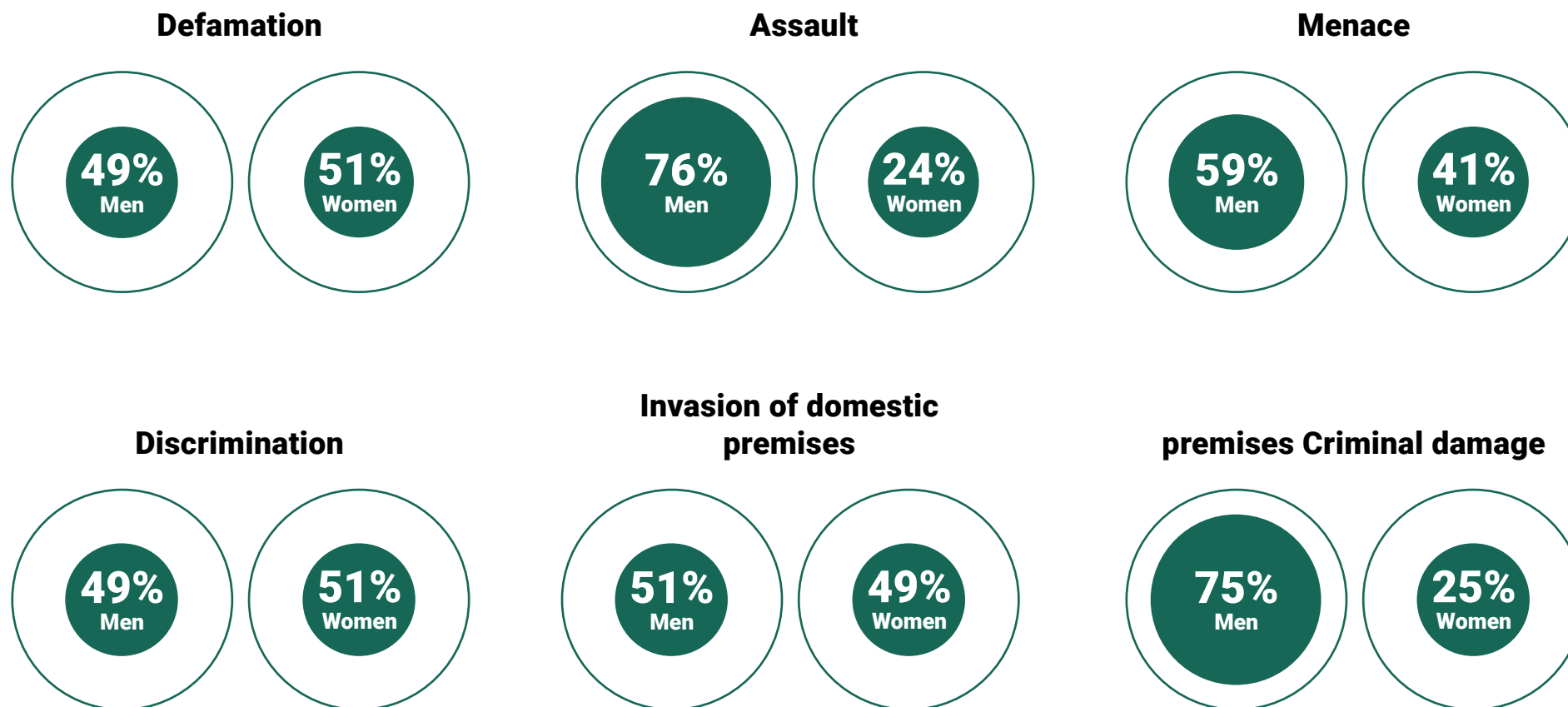
Suspected hate crimes against men and women, by grounds of discrimination



Source: [Poliisin tietoon tullut viharikollisuus Suomessa 2021 \(in Finnish, Hate crimes reported to the police in Finland 2021\)](#). Police College of Finland 2022.

The data is based on police reports of offences in which gender is reported in accordance with the person's social security number.

Suspected hate crimes against men and women, by type of offence



Source: Hate crimes reported to the police in Finland 2021 (unpublished table). Police College of Finland 2022. The data is based on police reports of offences in which gender is reported in accordance with the person's social security number.

Places where incidents occur

Hate-motivated acts can happen anywhere, including online, on the street and in workplaces, cafés and public transport. In 2022, hate speech and harassment were most commonly encountered online and second most public places.

As many as 73% of people belonging to multiple minority groups reported that they avoid certain places for fear of facing harassment or hate speech due to belonging to a minority group.



I avoid certain places for fear of facing harassment or hate speech due to belonging to a minority group

73%

People belonging to multiple minority groups

64%

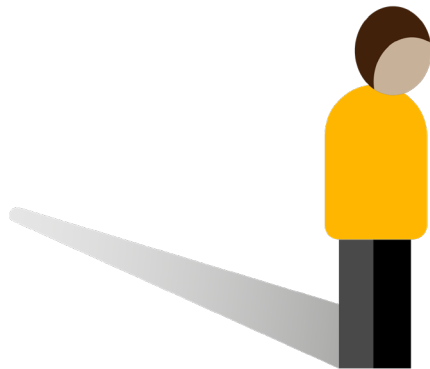
All respondents

Source: [“Hoping for a Concrete Intervention”. Follow-up Survey on Hate Speech and Harassment and Their Effects on Different Minority Groups \(in Finnish\). Ministry of Justice 2022.](#)

Effects of hate-motivated acts

The effects of hate-motivated acts on the victim are diverse and often long-lasting. Hate-motivated acts can have an impact on, for example, the person's sense of security, mental health, participation in social discussion, trust in the authorities, work and studies, and family relations.

People belonging to multiple minority groups are more likely than others to be the subject of hate-motivated acts. The effects can be particularly severe and all-encompassing when experiences of hate acts accumulate on several grounds and in varied areas of life. For example, 77% of respondents belonging to multiple minority groups said that the hate speech or harassment they have experienced had an impact on mental health and overall sense of security.



Which of the following areas of life have been affected by the hate speech or harassment you have experienced?

Mental health

77%

People belonging to multiple minority groups

68%

All respondents

General sense of security

77%

People belonging to multiple minority groups

70%

All respondents

Which of the following areas of life have been affected by the hate speech or harassment you have experienced?

Use of social media or online content

56%

People belonging to multiple minority groups

52%

All respondents

Participation in social debate

49%

People belonging to multiple minority groups

44%

All respondents

Trust in the authorities

44%

People belonging to multiple minority groups

37%

All respondents

Work or study

41%

People belonging to multiple minority groups

36%

All respondents

Activeness in general, such as the desire to leave the house

40%

People belonging to multiple minority groups

32%

All respondents

Friendships

39%

People belonging to multiple minority groups

31%

All respondents

Which of the following areas of life have been affected by the hate speech or harassment you have experienced?

Family relations

30%

People belonging to multiple minority groups

21%

All respondents

Hobbies

28%

People belonging to multiple minority groups

20%

All respondents

Choice of place of residence

27%

People belonging to multiple minority groups

21%

All respondents

Use of public transport

26%

People belonging to multiple minority groups

18%

All respondents

Physical health

18%

People belonging to multiple minority groups

15%

All respondents

Practice of religion or life philosophy

14%

People belonging to multiple minority groups

10%

All respondents

Of the respondents in the follow-up survey, young people aged 13 to 24 have experienced more gendered degradation and name-calling than other age groups. Respondents over 25, on the other hand, have experienced more silencing or restriction of participation in societal discussion than those aged 13 to 24.

Reporting hate speech and harassment

Of all the the respondents to the follow-up survey, 30% of those who had been victims of hate speech or harassment in the past 12 months had reported the incident. People belonging to multiple minority groups report hate speech or harassment less often: 26% responded that they had reported the matter.

Young people reported on experiences of hate speech and harassment less often than other age groups. Of respondents aged 13 to 24, 69% did not report the acts to anyone.

Of all respondents, only 35% felt that they had received enough support when reporting hate speech or harassment.

A total of 47% of respondents belonging to multiple minority groups did not know where hate acts could be reported. Among all respondents, the figure was 39%.

Respondents who have reported hate speech and harassment



Respondents who have reported hate speech and harassment, by age group



Reporting hate-motivated acts

The most important thing is to tell someone about the incident.

In urgent situations, call **the emergency number 112.**

If you suspect a crime, file a police report. You can file a police report even if you are unsure whether the act is an offense. It is important to tell about the hate motive. The court can increase the severity of the punishment in the case of a hate crime. In addition, telling about the hate motive may provide the authorities with information on the scope of hate-motivated acts. More information on how to report an offence: <https://poliisi.fi/en/report-a-crime>

Victim Support Finland (RIKU) provides support and counselling for victims of crime and their close ones, as well as for persons who suspect they have been the victim of a crime. www.riku.fi

The **Non-Discrimination Ombudsman** provides assistance if you have experienced or observed discrimination on the basis of age, nationality, language, religion, disability, sexual orientation or some other grounds. www.syrjinta.fi

The **Ombudsman for Equality** provides advice and instructions in situations of discrimination related to gender, gender identity and gender expression. www.tasa-arvo.fi

Other low-threshold support and counselling services can also provide assistance in situations where the perceived hate-motivated act does not necessarily constitute an offence. These services include **helplines and occupational health care.**

Sources



[“Hoping for a Concrete Intervention”. Follow-up Survey on Hate Speech and Harassment and Their Effects on Different Minority Groups \(in Finnish\). Ministry of Justice 2022.](#)



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[Good practices for identifying and preventing acts of hatred : A guide for police officers and stakeholders. Ministry of the Interior 2021.](#)



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