

REPORT ON RESEARCH STUDY ABOUT HATE CRIMES

Profile of people sentenced to hate crime, in
prison and in alternative measures programs

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In recent years, society and public institutions have increasingly taken a strong stance against hate crimes, leading to various actions and the implementation of specific laws to combat this troubling phenomenon. As a result, there has been a notable rise in reported incidents and subsequent convictions for such offenses. The field of prison administration has also been deeply concerned with addressing this issue, aiming to provide and tailor intervention programs that consider the unique characteristics and specific risk factors of convicted individuals.

As part of this effort, the "Diversity Program: Promoting Equal Treatment and Non-Discrimination, and Combating Hate Crimes" has been recently developed. However, for this intervention program to be truly effective, it is crucial to have a comprehensive understanding of the criminal profiles involved.

"For all these reasons, the main objective of this report is to understand the most common profile of offenders for hate crimes in prison or those under alternative measures in the community. To achieve this, the sociodemographic, criminological, and psychological characteristics of a sample of 33 individuals convicted of hate crimes have been analyzed and compared with a control group of 38 people convicted of other types of crimes. Additionally, we have examined how prejudices influence the aggressiveness of hate crime perpetrators and explored possible typologies among individuals who have committed this type of offense. The main results of this study are as follows:

1) Regarding the most common profile of people convicted of hate crimes:

- Sociodemographic profile: They are generally younger than the general prison population, primarily nationals, single, living with their family of origin, have a basic educational level, and lack paid work and sufficient income.
- Criminological profile and criminal history: Many have a family history of hate ideology and are affiliated with or related to an organized group that promotes hate ideology (e.g., neo-Nazis, extreme left, soccer ultras, etc.). Without the presence of usual protective factors, most lack a partner or stable job, and their friendships tend to reinforce their prejudices and racist attitudes.
- They exhibit violence, particularly towards unknown individuals and those outside their close social circle (outgroup). While they may have been involved in multiple assaults and group fights prior to their current conviction, most of these incidents have not led to legal proceedings and subsequent convictions.

- Psychological profile: They are more prone to risk-taking (fewer specific fears), demonstrate greater reactivity in their aggression, and exhibit higher levels of subtle prejudice.
- 2) Subtle prejudices explain their heightened aggressiveness. This finding has significant implications for the treatment programs that should be implemented, with a focus on reducing these prejudices as a fundamental aspect of therapeutic activities.
- 3) Three homogeneous groups have been identified in relation to types of hate crimes:
- A minority group exhibiting greater severity in psychological variables (difficulties in identifying feelings, externally oriented thinking style, alexithymia, reactive aggressiveness, psychopathy, and risk level), corresponding to the misión typology.
 - A majority group that closely resembles the first in severity, but with higher scores in specific attitudes of prejudice (overt prejudice, homophobia, negative attitudes towards people with disabilities, and prejudiced attitude), aligning with the typology of thrill-seekers.
 - A smaller group, clearly less serious than the other two in both psychological and attitudinal variables, but scoring higher in intrinsic motivation to lead, opposition to equality, and the cognitive component of prejudiced attitudes. This group may correspond to a more defensive typology.

Therapeutic work with these three groups should address their distinctive characteristics:

1. For the thrill-seekers profile, therapy should focus more on psychological variables, emotional and cognitive difficulties, and addressing their aggressiveness, considering their relatively low commitment to prejudice and higher probability of social reintegration.
2. For the vengeful and defensive typologies, which may have a poorer therapeutic prognosis, it is essential to work intensively on prejudices and racist attitudes to prevent future hate crimes."



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