

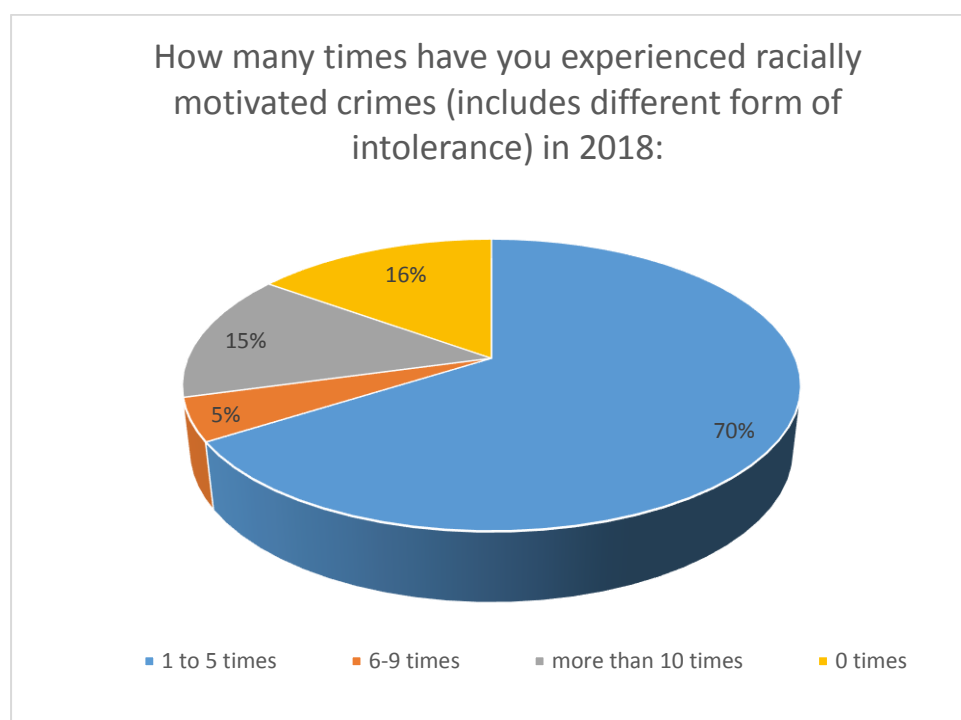
Results of a survey of foreign students about hate crimes and other forms of intolerance (January – February 2019)

The number of foreign students in 2017/2018 was 8,806 or 11% of all Latvian students. Foreign students constitute 23% of the student population at Riga Stradins University.¹

Survey of foreign students and migrant organisations conducted by the Latvian Centre for Human Rights (LCHR) in 2016² indicated high level of intolerance among the Latvian population towards visibly different migrants, Muslims, other non-Christian religions and occasions of hate crimes – verbal and physical insults, threats and violence. However, most of hate crimes cases remained underreported.

In order to track the most recent situation the International Students Association of the Riga Stradins University in January and February 2019 conducted a survey of foreign students about hate crimes and other forms of intolerance. 169 students took part in the anonymous survey.

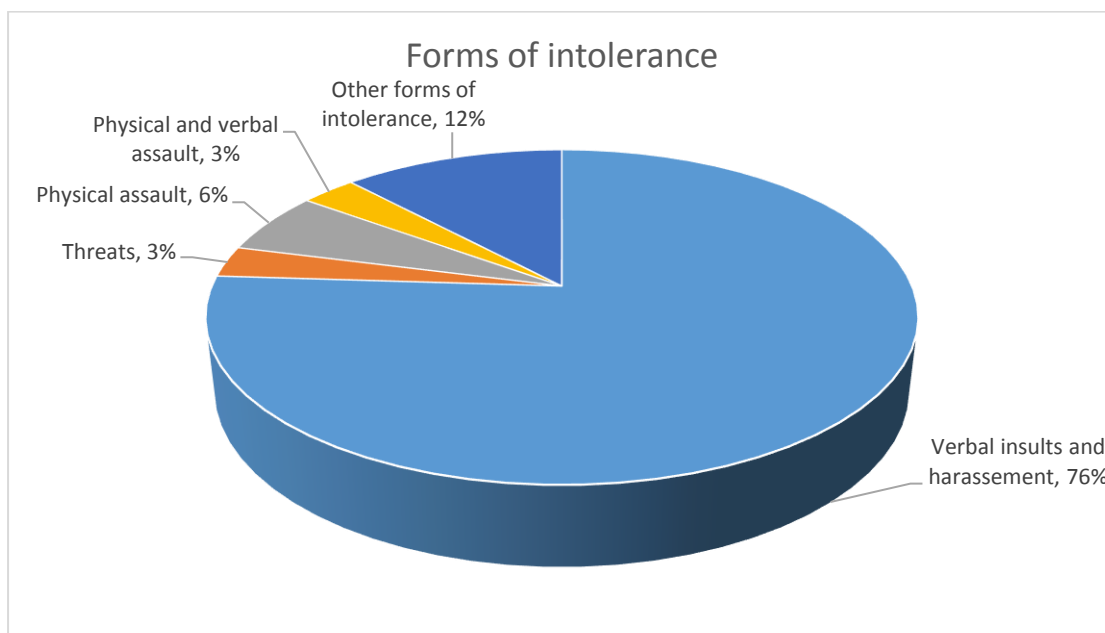
According to the results of the survey, 70% of respondents faced different forms of intolerance 1 to 5 times, 5 % 6-9 times, but 9% more than 10 times while residing in Latvia.



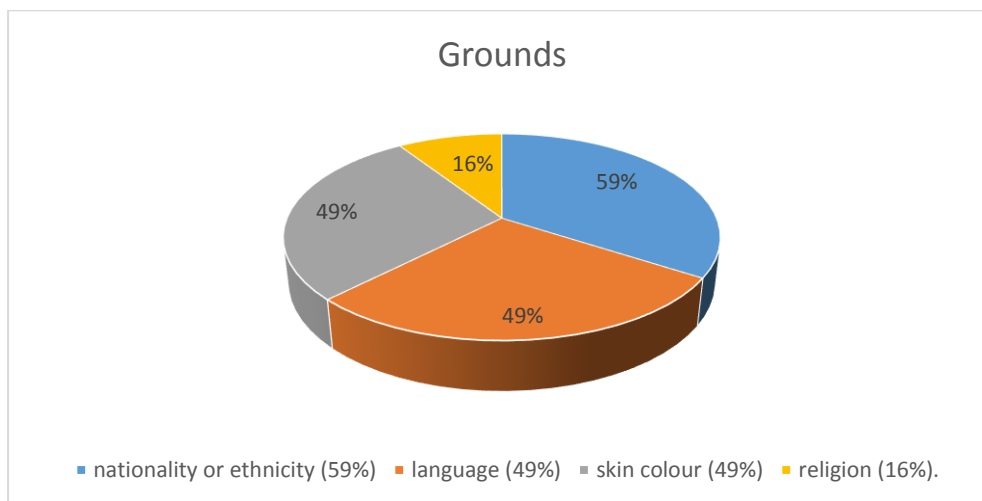
¹ Ministry of Education and Science, Statistics about higher education in 2017/2018 https://www.izm.gov.lv/images/statistika/augst_izgl/All_2017_parskats.pdf

² Latvian Centre for Human Rights (2016), [Results of foreign student and migrant survey on manifestations of intolerance in Latvia](http://cilvektiesibas.org.lv/en/news/results-of-foreign-student-and-migrant-survey-on-m-429/), <http://cilvektiesibas.org.lv/en/news/results-of-foreign-student-and-migrant-survey-on-m-429/>

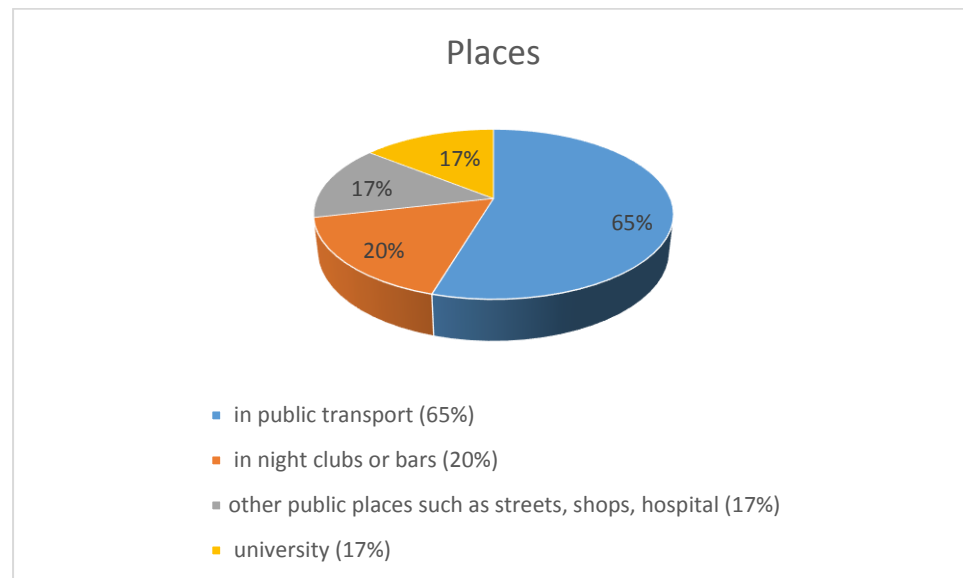
76% experienced verbal insults and harassment due to their skin colour, ethnicity, nationality, religion, and language. 6% experienced physical assaults such as punching and spitting; 3% experienced threats; 3% both physical and verbal assaults. 12% experienced other forms of intolerance such as discriminatory attitude.



Most often foreign students are targeted due to their nationality or ethnicity (59%), language (49%), skin colour (49%), religion (16%). In many cases respondents indicated two or more bias grounds– e.g., language, skin colour and nationality or ethnicity, religion and ethnicity.



Most often students experience intolerant attitude in public transport (65%), in night clubs or bars (20%), other public places such as streets, shops, hospital (17%) and at university (17%).



Only four cases were reported to the police.

Some quotes:

Teacher treats students differently depending on their nationality and how they look. If you're darker then some teachers will not be discreet by showing their dislike of you.

I was called "dirty Jew"

I have a scarf on my head called hijab. When I entered Maxima, a guy looked strangely and with a disgusted face on me and called me a terrorist. "A terrorist... so many terrorist here".

Group of student spoke in German and drunken man screamed Nazi phrases and things against Germans and said that we should leave Latvia

*Sitting with other students in the bus and talking German; Russian people started to yell: you fuc**** Nazi, showed the Hitler-greeting, started to spit at us, yelling in Russian.*

Old lady tried to attack and spit on me in the middle of the street during daytime, I managed to avoid the insult, but got spitted on my face.