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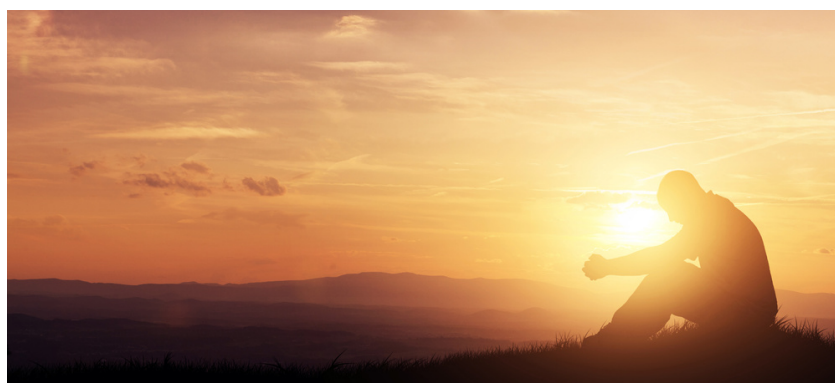
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SOAR PROJECT - CONTACT

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Working to Keep Places of Worship and Communities Safe in Europe



Editorial Note

Places of Worship have long been vulnerable targets for terrorism, hate crime, extremism, and vandalism. Attacks on places of worship is not a new phenomenon. Rather it is an increasingly worrying trend that puts our societies at risk. An attack against a place of worship is an attack against a community, against our fundamental freedom of religion or belief. The freedom of thought, conscience and religion are protected by international legal instruments, such as the UN, as well as national legal frameworks. Yet, attacks including the ones that occurred in Nice, Halle, Vendée, and many others, serve as an unfortunate reminder of the persisting cases of discrimination, intolerance, and terrorism. Our efforts are therefore directed towards the protection of religious sites and communities.

EFI Enhancing
Faith Institutions
PLACES • PEOPLE • PROGRAMMES

FCA

Finn Church Aid

Architects' Council of Europe
Conseil des Architectes d'Europe

ACE
CAE
EU

Questionnaire



Architects' Council of Europe
Conseil des Architectes d'Europe



The Network for
Religious and
Traditional
Peacemakers



Strengthening the security and resilience of at-risk religious sites and communities (SOAR), is a project aimed at identifying the security concerns of religious sites and communities in 7 EU countries. Taking part in this survey will help improve the security of religious communities and sites by giving them a chance to express their concerns and wishes on how they want to improve their safety and wellbeing, while simultaneously providing a better understanding about the security challenges religious communities face for policy makers.

Tell us what you are thinking with regards to protecting your places of worship? Help us design and shape European policy and develop an effective training programme that will be delivered across Europe.

This questionnaire is meant for faith leaders and religious site staff of all faiths.

<https://soarproject.eu/questionnaire/>



This project has received funding from the European Union's ISFP-2020- AG-Protect programme under grant agreement No 101034222

International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism 21 August 2021

The day of 21st of August was set by the UN General Assembly (A/RES/72/165 (2017)) as the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. The day aims to *"honor and support victims and survivors of terrorism and promote and protect the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms."* This year is the fourth commemoration of International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.

<https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/2021-terrorism-victims-day>



Restorative Justice Solutions for Hate Crime

WHEN : 31 August 2021, 15:00 - 16:30

WHERE : Zoom (CEST time zone)

The Restorative Justice Solutions for Hate Crime event is organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Association of Counseling Centers for Victims of Right-wing, Racist and Anti-Semitic Violence in Germany (VBRG). It seeks to explore the general understanding of the *"existing restorative justice practices and their implementation"*.

The webinar is comprised of leading experts and practitioners in field. *"Discussions will highlight the benefits and considerations in applying restorative justice solutions for hate crime and ways to ensure that victims are placed at the center of such solutions."*

<https://www.osce.org/odihr/494062>

VBRG

VERBAND DER BERATUNGSSTELLEN FÜR
BETROFFENE RECHTER, RASSISTISCHER
UND ANTISEMITISCHER GEWALT E.V.

Germany giving €35 million to fight antisemitism



Germany plans to strengthen its fight against anti-Semitism by allocating 35 million euros for research and education projects with primary focus on of understanding and combating the hatred against the Jewish community.

The initiative comes as a response to the growing anti-Semitism in the country. German authorities registered 2,351 cases of anti-Semitism for 2020, which is a 15.70% increase compared to 2019.





EU PRINCIPLES OF SECURITY BY DESIGN

Security by design for the Protection of Public Spaces

The publication provides an introduction to the Security by design concepts; followed by a wide-ranging comparison between the Security by Design concept implementation and Ad-Hoc Security Solutions, by looking at efficiency, installation, vulnerability, cost, and aesthetics. Furthermore, it illustrates the actor and roles for the security by design concept of public spaces. The application of the concept in public spaces and the European Commission efforts to promote the principle are further discussed.

Please find the publication on the following link:
<https://soarproject.eu/portfolio-items/eu-principles-of-security-by-design/>.



Join the Practitioner Network

- Do you have a security background?
- Are you involved with security in a place of worship or linked to a religious institution?
- Are you involved in the management and leadership of your place of worship and interested in learning about security?







If the answer is yes! then get in-touch and potentially be involved with the pan European security peer to peer network being facilitated by the SOAR project send an email to: info@soarproject.eu





Media documented Attacks Against Places of Worship and Related Incidents 24 July-23 August 2021

The following list does not represent the true extent of attacks against religious sites within the given time frame. Rather, it is a representation of incidents present in and covered by the media in the given period of time.

-  24 July 2021: Arson attack in Magdeburg on banner for new synagogue building. (Germany)
-  27 July 2021: Memorial for Nazi victims smeared with anti-Jewish slogans. (Germany)
-  28 July 2021: The great mosque of Bondy vandalized. (France)
-  29 July 2021: Hertfordshire church vandalised. (UK)
-  30-31 July 2021: St Mary's Church in Newtown town vandalized. (UK)
-  31 July 2021: Insulting Entry in the memorials guest book. (Germany)

-  August 2021: The memorial of the former synagogue in Hietzing, has been desecrated. (Austria)
-  August 2021: Church vandalism. (France)
-  August 2021: Attack on synagogue. (Germany)
-  August 2021: Jewish Graves vandalized. (UK)
-  02 August 2021: Thieves target a church. (Germany)
-  02 August 2021: Vandalized grave. (Ukraine)
-  02 August 2021: Hertfordshire church vandalized for the second time. (UK)





-  03 August 2021: Theft at a church. (Spain)
-  04 August 2021: Memorial stones vandalized. (Germany)
-  04 August 2021: Grave vandalized twice in three days. (UK)
-  05 August 2021: Grave desecrated in Jewish cemetery. (Greece)
-  09 August 2021: Catholic Priest killed in Vendée. (France)
-  09 August 2021: Memorial stone for the former synagogue vandalized. (Germany)
-  10-11 August 2021: Swastikas daubed on memorial to Holocaust survivor. (France)
-  13 August 2021: Church vandalism. (Spain)
-  19 August 2021: Cars outside Mosque damaged. (UK)
-  22 August 2021: Synagogue defaced. (Bulgaria)

Fourth Annual Conference of the European Academy of Religion -

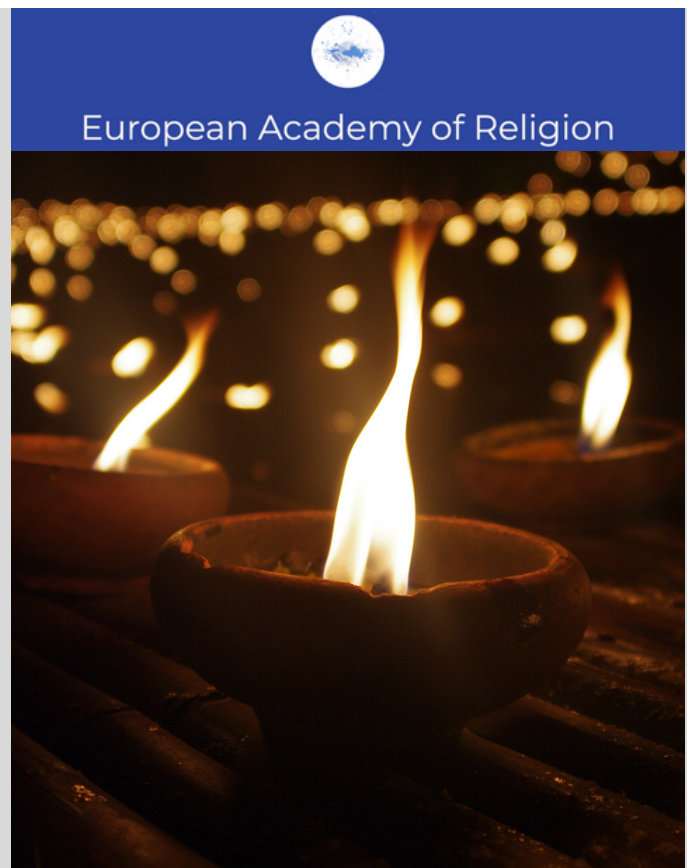
Come and meet the SOAR TEAM

30th Aug-2nd Sep 2021

MEET US at the Fourth Annual Conference of the European Academy of Religion.

The conference is organized by the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster and focuses on the topic of Religion and Change. The conference will be held in a hybrid format and will be comprised of working sessions and keynote speakers.

<https://www.europeanacademyofreligion.org/eurar2021>





Architects' Council of Europe
Conseil des Architectes d'Europe



ACE calls for Experts on Security by Design (SBD)

Work with us on the EU Project S.O.A.R. Strengthening the security and resilience of at-risk religious sites and communities. The ACE is responsible to run a EU wide competition to identify best practice architectural examples of security by design. These will be used to develop design guidelines improving security of religious sites and their associated public spaces for all congregants and visitors.

The concept of 'Security By Design' (SBD) incorporates security features into the design and fabric of the building. Experts in the fields of SBD such as public authority planners, architects, designers, engineers as well as faith leaders will be providing support and training in the seven pilot countries. National, regional and local training in these countries will be provided and include a focus on increasing collaboration and cooperation between security offices and leaders of places of worship with their wider communities and public authorities. For this work the ACE is looking for experts on security by design to join the jury of the competition and work as experts in trainings and policy meetings.

Please contact ACE, if you like to put your application forward until the 03 September at info@ace-cae.eu

Community Development Officers (CDOs)



Enhancing Faith Institutions (EFI) is seeking Community Development Officer (CDO) for places of worship security and safety scheme (Project SOAR).

EFI is working on the ground on various projects with key partners across the continent and is looking for potential personnel with relevant experience to join the team to continue to provide bespoke services and support.

Primary Purpose of the CDO Role:

Reporting to the Senior European programme coordinator for safety of places of worship (POW) programme, the Community Development Officer (CDO) will work in an operational capacity, primarily concerned with organizing training events, developing, and maintaining partnerships with leaders of places of worship. The events will be held across various regions in your assigned countries of operation. Full job description [here](#).

To apply, email your CV with a covering letter (In English) to info@efiorg.eu

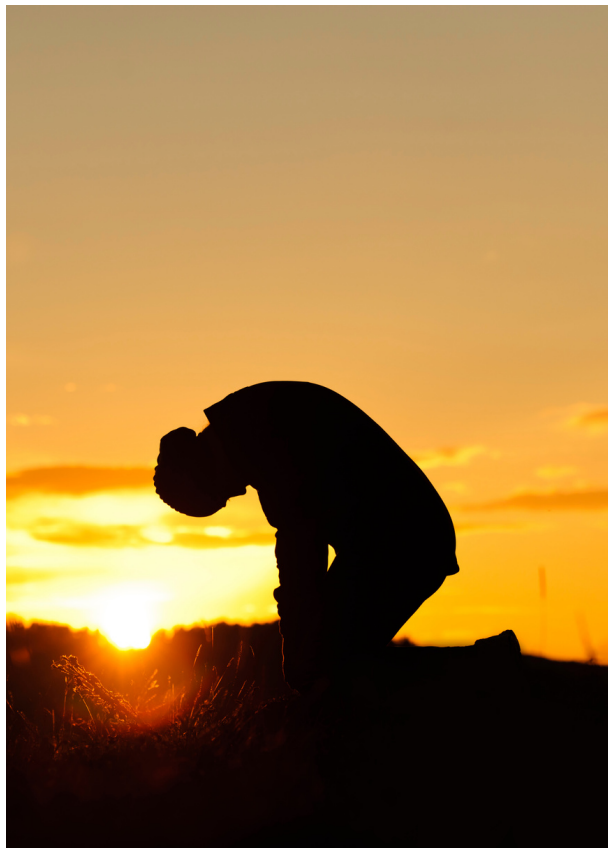
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International Day Commemorating Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief

Since the adoption of the 2019 UN General Assembly's resolution 73/296, the 22nd of August has been designated the international day to commemorate the victims of acts of violence based on religion or belief. The freedom of thought, conscience and religion are protected by international legal instruments as well as national legal frameworks. Nevertheless, people still cannot fully and freely practice their religion or belief in some parts of the world. Therefore, on this day we commemorate those who lost their lives and advocate against hatred, discrimination, and intolerance.

Book Your FREE Security Training

<https://soarproject.eu/join/>

If you are a faith group with a place of worship based in either Germany, Belgium, Netherland, Denmark, Hungary Austria or France, the following training will be available (*Subject to availability*)

Training topics :

- ***Keeping your places of worship safe***
- ***Understanding Risk***
- ***Protective security for faith leaders***
- ***Processions and events safety***
- ***Health and Safety***
- ***and much more***

■ **get in touch:** info@soarproject.eu



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