



SOAR

STRENGTHENING THE SECURITY AND RESILIENCE
OF AT-RISK RELIGIOUS SITES AND COMMUNITIES



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SOAR PROJECT - CONTACT



info@soarproject.eu



www.soarproject.eu

Working to Keep Places of Worship and Communities Safe in Europe



Editorial Note

We are delighted to present this November's Newsletter Issue!

Firstly, we would like to thank you for following the SOAR Project's journey through our monthly Newsletters. We are consistently working towards our goal- to protect places of worship and at-risk religious communities all across Europe.

This month's Newsletter presents the latest events that the SOAR project hosted and organized; significant publications from leading institutions within the security sector; relevant International Days and our traditional list of media documented attacks against places of worship.

The SOAR Project continues to advance and promote the protection & safeguarding of places of worship across Europe.

EFI Enhancing
Faith Institutions
PLACES • PEOPLE • PROGRAMMES

FCA

Finn Church Aid

Architects' Council of Europe
Conseil des Architectes d'Europe
ACE
CAE
EU

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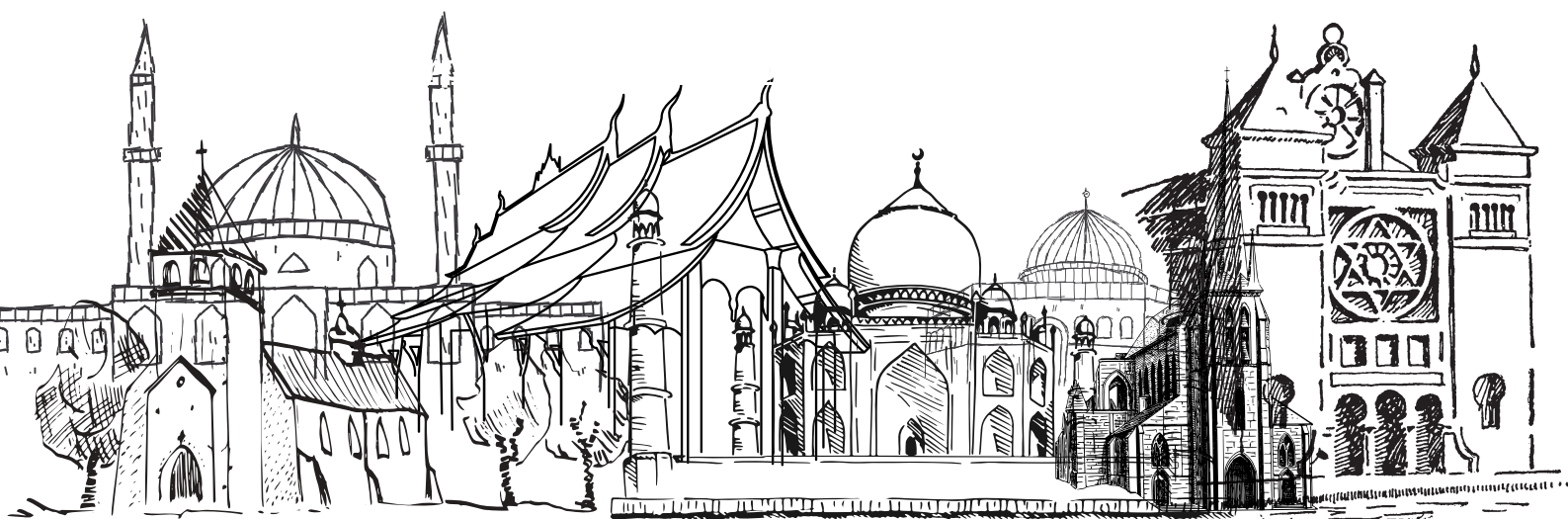
QUESTIONNAIRE



YOUR INPUT MATTERS!

We encourage you to participate in our survey to identify the security concerns of religious sites and communities across 7 EU countries.

: Call to Action :



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

International Day for Tolerance

Every year, on the 16th of November, the world celebrates the International Day for Tolerance.

The Declaration of Principles on Tolerance was adopted in 1995. Article 1 states: *"Tolerance is respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human. It is fostered by knowledge, openness, communication, and freedom of thought, conscience and belief. Tolerance is harmony in difference. It is not only a moral duty, it is also a political and legal requirement. Tolerance, the virtue that makes peace possible, contributes to the replacement of the culture of war by a culture of peace."*





SOAR - Germany Regional Event

This November, the SOAR regional event took place in Cologne, Germany. The SOAR Project Consortium partners lead by Enhancing Faith Institutions (EFI), including Finn Church Aid (FCA), Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) and The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, were joined by representatives of the European Commission, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), and the State Criminal Police Office of Nordrhein-Westfalen in delivering presentations highlighting the important of protecting religious sites. The audience was introduced to a new knowledge base and informed about access to trainings, guides, resources & best practices in protective security for places of worship.

To find out about our next engagements please visit our [Events](https://www.soarproject.eu/events) page: www.soarproject.eu/events

Launch Event Köln 23rd November 2021



Protecting places of worship and faith communities in Europe



STRENGTHENING THE SECURITY AND RESILIENCE OF AT-RISK RELIGIOUS SITES AND COMMUNITIES ACROSS 7 EU MEMBER STATES



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'Train the Trainer' Event

The SOAR Team was excited to meet in Paris, France, for our 2-day 'Train the Trainer' event this November. This event aims to provide critical information and training for our Community Development Officers (CDOs) who are eager to connect with religious institutions and communities in our seven EU pilot countries: Germany, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Denmark, Hungary, and Austria.

This event was of special importance to the entire team, as it was one of those rare occasions of face to face engagement in these challenging Covid times.

To find out about our next engagements please visit our Events page: www.soarproject.eu/events



Operators' Forum for the protection of public spaces

When: 02 December 2021

Where: Online

As part of the EU Action Plan for the Protection of Public Spaces, the European Commission is organising the 7th virtual Operators' Forum for the protection of public spaces.

The event will discuss the implementation of the EU Counter Terrorism Agenda. Participants will be exchanging their knowledge and insight on issues related to Security. We are eager to participate in this important event and share out input in these critical discussions. The SOAR Project, led by Enhancing Faith Institutions, will deliver a presentation discussing security issues in the field of the protection of places of worship. We will touch upon recent policy developments and share our assessment of the current landscape in protecting at-risk religious sites and communities.





Antisemitism: Overview of antisemitic incidents recorded in the European Union 2010-2020



The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) published their report titled "*Antisemitism: Overview of antisemitic incidents recorded in the European Union 2010-2020*" on November 9th, 2021.

The publication includes European countries' national data on Antisemitism. It also considers data from countries such as Albania, North Macedonia, and Serbia. Additionally, the FRA discusses national strategies, action plans, and measures to combat and prevent Antisemitism. The report not only observes official data but also includes the data recorded by unofficial or non-state actors.

It covers the period between 01 January 2010 to 31 December 2020 and is the 17th edition of the report.

Directive (EU) 2017/541 on combating terrorism — Impact on fundamental rights and freedoms



On November 18th 2021, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) published their report titled "*Directive (EU) 2017/541 on combating terrorism — Impact on fundamental rights and freedoms*".

The report analyses the Directive (EU) 2017/541 and its impact on fundamental rights and freedoms: non-discrimination, protection and assistance of victims, and the rule of law. The report focuses on Germany, Belgium, Greece, Spain, France, Hungary, and Sweden. The study is not meant to be representative, but offers significant insight in the researched topic that could be beneficial for both- member states individually and EU as an entity.



Marking the
International Day
for Tolerance,
OSCE ODIHR
released hate
crime data for
2020.

OSCE ODIHR Hate Crime Reporting Data 2020

Each year on the 16th of November, the OSCE ODIHR Hate Crime Reporting publishes hate crime data. The information released is provided by "OSCE participating States, civil society and international organizations about hate crime."

OSCE ODIHR, aside from its many tasks, also acts as a "collection point for information, statistics and legislation on hate crime, and to help develop effective responses to the problem".

Who submits the data?

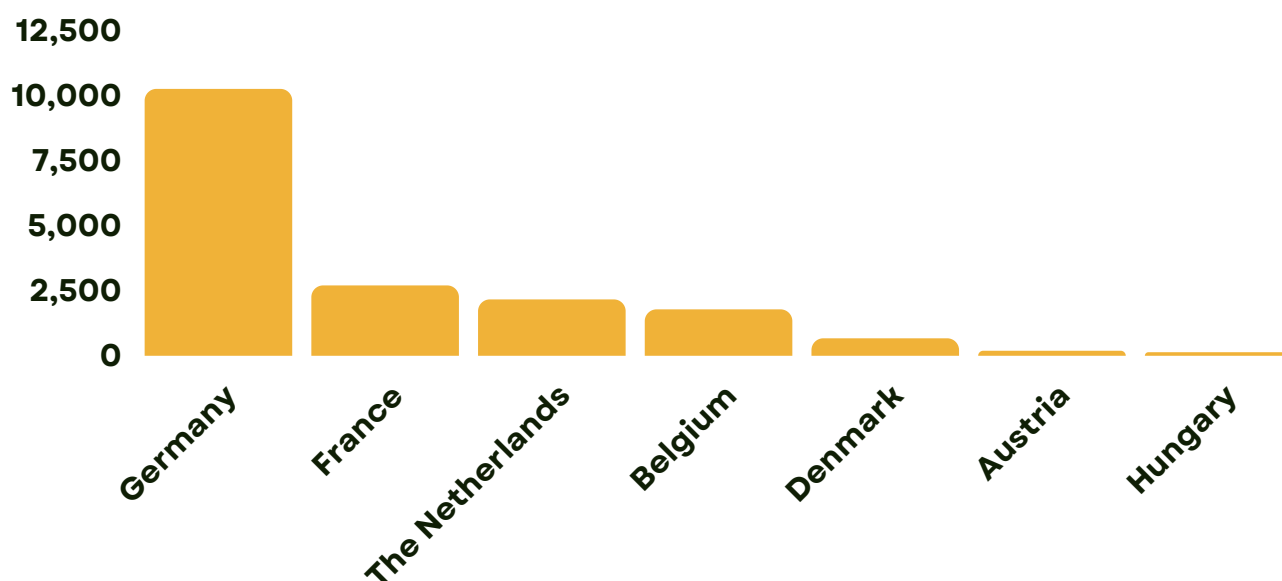
Information on hate crime incidents is provided by participating states and non-state actors.



Contributors in numbers

- 42 states contributions.
- 36 states submitted official statistics.
- 22 police statistics by bias motivation.
- 136 Civil society contributions.

HATE CRIME IN OUR 7 PILOT COUNTRIES (POLICE)



We would like to point to the different methods of hate crime recording by country and also size of the population.

**SHAPING BALANCED POLITICAL DISCOURSE
AND CONSTRUCTIVE NARRATIVES ON MIGRATION:**

Guidance and Good Practice from the OSCE Region



Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Migrants and Refugees



When: December 17th, 2021

Where: Online

On the occasion of the International Migrant Day, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RfM), the OSCE Secretariat and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are organising the event on "Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Migrants and Refugees". As a consolidation point for this event we would like to highlight the OSCE ODIHR recent publication titled *"Shaping Balanced Political Discourse and Constructive Narratives on Migration"*.

Improving support to the victims of hate crimes at the heart of OSCE efforts in South-East Europe



When: 23 November 2021

A regional conference was held by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The conference discussed *"best practices in providing support to the victims of hate crimes in South-East Europe"*.

The conference is an excellent example of regional cooperation and exchange of ideas and good practices. According to OSCE *"[t]his event was dedicated to developing tangible domestic initiatives, and helping prevent potential cross-border spill over of hate crimes based on ethnicity or religion."*

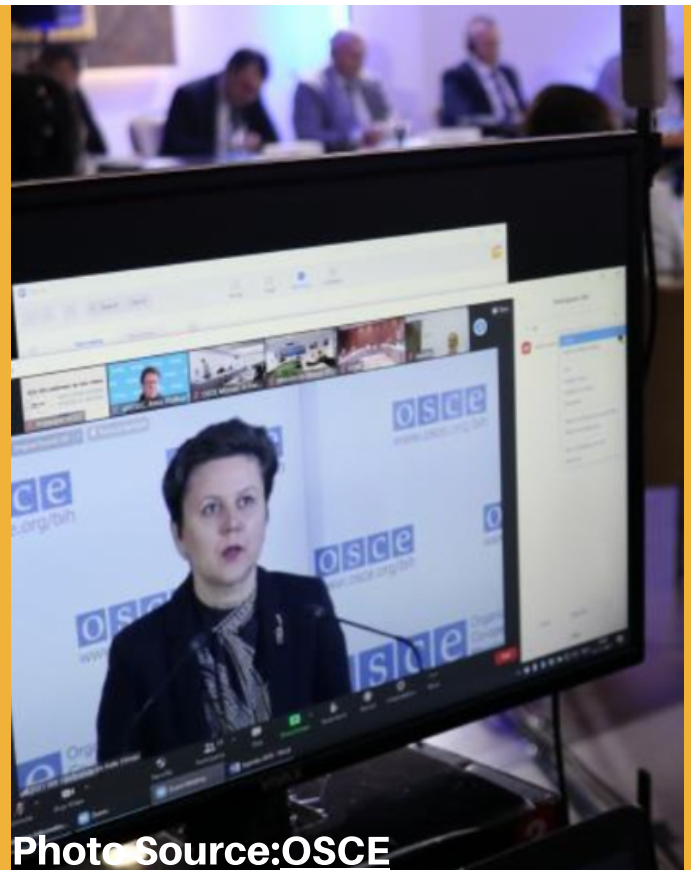


Photo Source: OSCE



Photo Source: [KAICIID](https://www.kaiciid.org/)

KAICIID Dialogue Centre:

Muslim Jewish Leadership Council Calls on European Policymakers to Protect the Practice of Religious Rights During Mission to Slovenia



KAICIID DIALOGUE CENTRE

On November 5th 2021, the KAICIID Dialogue Centre published a fascinating article discussing a three-day outreach mission to Slovenia that involved talks between a delegation of Muslim and Jewish religious leaders and senior politicians. The event included more that *"thirty religious leaders from twenty countries"* and political leaders including President Pahor, Prime Minister Janez Janša, and Mayor of Ljubljana Zoran Janković.

The mission of the Muslim Jewish Leadership Council (MJLC) has been commended by a *"leading European Policymaker"*.

Tabletop exercise: disrupting terrorist content online



When: November 5th, 2021

Europol in cooperation with the European Commission organised the tabletop exercise of disrupting terrorist content online. The exercise was attended by "law enforcement representatives from EU Member States and third party countries, online service providers, the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT), the Christchurch Call, the Aqaba Process, as well as policy makers from governments, EU bodies and international organisations."





Media documented Attacks Against Places of Worship and Related Incidents: 23 October -23 November 2021

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



Germany

- 25-26 October: Church vandalism.
- 28 October: Church vandalism.
- 29 October: Church vandalism.
- 31 October: Vandalism at church.
- 19 November: Attempted arson of Mosque.



France

- 24 October: Church vandalism.
- 24 October: Church damage.
- 01 November: Cemetery vandalism.
- 02 November: Church attempted theft.
- 04 November: Teenager arrested after waving knife in front of French Jewish school.

- October-November: 3 Mosques vandalised.



Norway

- October: Man ravages 1000-year-old church.



Malta

- 07 November: Church vandalised.



Spain

- 12 November: Jewish monument vandalised.



Poland

- 07 November: Church Arson.



Austria

- 12 November: Church theft.



Russia

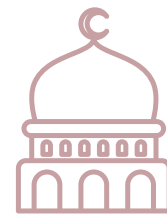
- November: Mosque attack.





United Kingdom

- 31 October: Swastika found on Synagogue.
- 01 November: Assault after returning from synagogue.
- 09 November: Church arson.
- 11 November: Church vandalised.
- 16 November: Church damage
- November: Gravestones vandalised.
- 23 November: Funeral service of Sir David Amess. (Sir David Amess was a Southend West MP who was attacked at Belfairs Methodist Church in October 2021).



Join the Practitioner Network

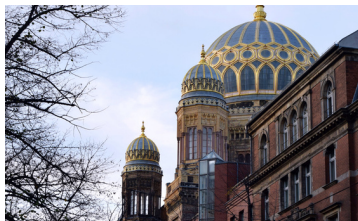
- Do you have a security background?
- Are you involved with security in a place of worship or linked to a religious institution?
- Are you involved in the management and leadership of your place of worship and interested in learning about security?

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.



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Book Your FREE Security Training

If you are a faith group with a place of worship based in either Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Hungary, Austria and/or France, the following training will be available (subject to availability):

Training topics include-

- 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

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



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

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