



SOAR

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



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SOAR PROJECT - CONTACT



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www.soarproject.eu

Working to Keep Places of Worship and Communities Safe in Europe



Editorial Note

We are delighted to bring to you this Newsletter for January 2022!

This Issue is extra special- it celebrates the beginning of a New Year and showcases the exciting month we had. We share the latest events that the SOAR project hosted and organized, as well as information on upcoming events. This newsletter also includes the most important publications, news items, and developments that took place in Europe & the world this month.

As it has become a tradition, we also provide a list of media documented attacks against places of worship and related incidents. Unfortunately, on this occasion we were able to identify an alarming number of incidents. Thus, we reaffirm our commitment towards keeping all faith communities & institutions safe and secure 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



Architecture for Security by Design of Places of Worship - Call for Best Practice Examples



The call for best practice architectural examples is meant as a vehicle to promote and advance the expertise of European architects in Security by Design of public spaces and in particular religious buildings in their urban context. It is also a way to enhance the ACE policy positions, for example, on the quality of architecture and urban spaces for cultural and social use.

The call for best practice examples of religious architecture as part of public space in Europe invites entries of new buildings and ensembles, as well as conservation, restoration, and interventions on existing structures. Works must have been completed under the oversight of a qualified architectural team. The submitted projects will be assessed by the professional jury appointed within the SOAR programme.

The selected projects will be exhibited and featured in a booklet of 'Best Practice Examples' and on the SOAR project website. Additionally, they will assist in developing design guidelines to improve security of religious sites.

Architectural practices of any size are welcome to join and submit their best built project (one project per firm maximum). The projects can be places of worship of any faith (synagogue, church, mosque, temple etc.), which demonstrate the application of SBD concepts and can be either new constructions or renovations. The buildings must be completed and should be located in Europe, in any country which is eligible for participation within the EU funding scheme for the SOAR programme.

For more information please following the following link:
<https://bit.ly/SOARcall>.



SOAR Interview We want to hear from you!



We encourage you to participate in our study to help identify the security concerns with regard to religious sites and communities across 7 EU countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, and Denmark).

Your participation will involve a one-hour online interview and will aid our understanding of security issues faced by religious communities. (Upon your request, participation is anonymous).

If you would like to be involved, please send an email to: marko.juntunen@kirkonulkomaanapu.fi.

International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust

27 January marks the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. *"This day was chosen by the United Nations General Assembly to mark the liberation of the Auschwitz Birkenau German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940-1945)."*

We would like to recall the EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life (2021-2030). SOAR stands against antisemitism, discrimination, racism, and other forms of intolerance. On 27 January we remember and pay tribute to victims of the Holocaust.





The Central Council of Muslims Calls for Securing Mosques in Germany



As a response to the rise of attacks on mosques and Islamic institutions, the Central Council of Muslims in Germany called on the administrations of Islamic institutions and mosques to appoint Security and Safety Commissioners to increase the security of religious sites.

The Council aims to train the newly appointed Security and Safety Commissioners in coordination with the SOAR project.

The training will be focused on diverse aspects of security for places of worship and will address the principle of Security by Design and its implementation.

Remembering David Sassoli, the European Parliament President

We are saddened to hear about the passing of David Sassoli, the European Parliament President and Italian social democrat.

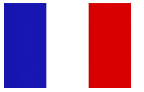
Prior to his political career, David Sassoli was a successful TV news presenter. During his presidency, he was able to direct the European Parliament during the extraordinarily difficult times of the pandemic.

We join members of the European Commission and EU Council in offering condolences to his colleagues, friends, and family.





Anniversary of Charlie Hebdo shooting and Hypercacher kosher supermarket siege



7th of January marks the Anniversary of the Charlie Hebdo shooting in Paris. Two armed brothers, entered the offices of the controversial newspaper, killed 12 people and injured 11.

9th of January marks the Anniversary of the Hypercacher kosher supermarket siege in East Paris, 2 days after the Charlie Hebdo incident. An armed man killed 4 people and took several hostages.

Our thoughts go to all victims of terrorism, all those affected by acts of terror, and we stand in solidarity with all victims and survivors.

The SOAR project dedicates its efforts towards the protection of religious sites and communities against terrorist attacks and hate crimes.

France: 4 million Euros to Better Secure Places of Worship



Gérald Darmanin, France's Interior Minister, announced the plan to release 4 million Euros to better secure places of worship against crime. The resources will mainly be focussed to the finance of video protection and be primarily directed to the Catholic Church.

The fund will be made available through the Interministerial Fund for the Prevention of Delinquency and Radicalization. Under this Fund religious associations that manage sensitive sites may apply for enhancing the physical protection of places of worship.





UNAOC Press Statement on the Attacks on Religious Sites that Took Place in 2021



The High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, strongly condemns the attacks on religious sites that took place in 2021.

According to the Press Statement released on 19th of January 2022, Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos “recalls the UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites, [...], and calls on all governments and relevant stakeholders to support the implementation of the Plan to guarantee the safety of holy sites and worshippers.”

RAN Publications

Radicalisation Awareness Network



Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) published the latest edition of the RAN Practitioners Spotlight magazine in January 2022. The magazine focuses on interviews with practitioners and Working Group leads that discuss the threat of the lone actor.

Furthermore, RAN published a short film on 13th of January 2022, that focuses on the lone actor terror threat and recent attacks in Norway and UK. The film includes discussions with the following experts: Paul Gill (Professor/Researcher at University College London), Cathrine Thorleifsson (RAN External Expert) and Philippe Vansteenkiste (Lead of RAN Victims of Terrorism Working Group).

SPOTLIGHT

JAN 2022

The Lone Actor Challenge

10 YEARS OF RAN



SOAR/Aachen Training Event



Where: Aachen, Germany

When: 23 January 2022

The SOAR Project is happy to announce the successful delivery of our training event that took place in Aachen, Germany on 23rd January 2022.

Our team shared important aspects of security for places of worship and directed the audience towards a new knowledge base that will help them better secure their religious site. The event was attended by numerous faith leaders, faith institution management, and volunteers.

The SOAR project's training and outreach is interfaith in nature, supporting all faiths and faith institutions to stay safe and secure across Europe.

We are looking forward to continuing our work in advancing the protection and safeguarding of places of worship across Europe.

Mark your calendars and do not forget to keep an eye on our [website](https://www.soarproject.eu) for more information on our upcoming Events.





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**STRASBOURG
CHEFS RELIGIEUX
ÉVÉNEMENT RÉGIONAL**

**PROTÉGER LE LIEU DE
ADORER DE LA HAINE**

LIEU:
HILTON STRASBOURG 1 AV.
HERRENSCHMIDT, 67000

**STRASBOURG
3rd FEB 2022
11:30H00 - 14:00H00**

**QUI DEVRAIT
ASSISTER À**

- Chefs religieux
- Gestionnaires
- Agents de sécurité
- Gardiens

 This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101034622.

 **S'INSCRIRE** > www.soarproject.eu/events

SOAR/Strasbourg Training Event



Where: Strasbourg, France

When: 03 February 2022

The SOAR Project is delighted to announce our upcoming training event in Strasbourg, France!

The event will take place on 03rd February 2022, 12-2 pm. The project adopts an interfaith approach in our training and outreach, supporting to keep all faiths and faith institutions safe and secure across Europe.

Registration available [here](#).

Mark your calendars and do not forget to keep an eye on our [website](#) for more information on our upcoming Events.

SOAR/Frankfurt Training Event



Where: Frankfurt, Germany

When: 04 February 2022

The SOAR Project is delighted to announce our upcoming training event in Frankfurt, Germany!

The event will take place on 04th February 2022, 4-6pm. The project adopts an interfaith approach in our training and outreach, supporting to keep all faiths and faith institutions safe and secure across Europe.

Registration available [here](#).



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**FRANKFURT
GLAUBENSFÜHRER
REGIONALE
VERANSTALTUNG**

**ANBETSPÄTZE VOR
HASS SCHÜTZEN**

PLATZ:
FRANKLINSTRASSE 65,
60486 FRANKFURT

**FRANKFURT
4th FEB 2022
11:30H00 - 14:00H00**

**WER SOLLTE
TEILNEHMEN**

- Glaubensführer
- Manager
- Sicherheitsbeauftragte
- Hausmeister

 This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101034622.

 **REGISTRIEREN** > www.soarproject.eu/events



UNAOC Symposium on Role of Religion and Faith-Based Organizations in International Affairs will Push to Combat Racism

Where: Online

When: 25 January 2022

The 8th Annual Symposium on the Role of Religion and Faith-Based Organizations in International Affairs took place on 25th January 2022. The event addressed “Mobilizing Moral Influence and Governance to End the Systemic Injustices of Racism, the legacy of Colonialism and Slavery”.

For more information please visit:
<https://www.unaoc.org/2022/01/symposium-role-of-religion-and-faith-based-organizations/>.

Raising Awareness and Building Effective Communication

Where: Online

When: 20 January 2022



WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS



OSCE

ODIHR

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the World Jewish Congress and the European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life organized the online event titled “National Security Institutions and the Jewish Community in Estonia: Raising Awareness and Building Effective Communication”.

The event aimed to raise awareness regarding the “history of Jewish life and culture in Estonia”.





Media documented Attacks Against Places of Worship and Related Incidents: 15 December 2021-23 January 2022

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.



France

December 2021: Cemetery damaged.

December 2021: Cemetery damage.

December 2021: Nativity scene vandalised.

December 2021: Cemetery theft.

December 2021: Cemetery theft.

15-16 December 2021: Three churches and a cemetery were tagged.

17 December 2021: Church vandalism.

24 December 2021: Muslim prayer room damage.

24-25 December 2021: Degradation in front of a Muslim prayer room.

26 December 2021: Nativity scene on fire in a church.

31 December 2021: Church vandalism.

January 2022: Cemetery theft.

January 2022: Cemetery theft.

January 2022: Cemetery theft and vandalism.

01 January 2022: Church vandalism.

01-02 January 2022. Theft and desecration of Church.

05 January 2022: Church vandalism.

06 January 2022: Church vandalised.

06-07 January 2022: Church vandalism.

08-09 January 2022: Theft from the basilica of Sacré-Coeur.

09-10 January 2022: Two churches vandalised.

16 January 2022: Church fire.

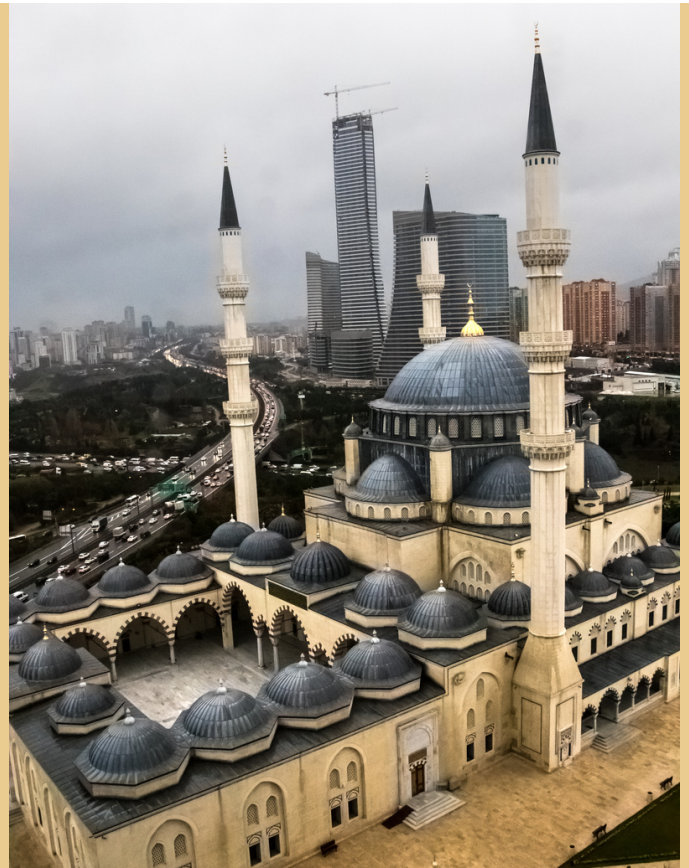
Germany

28 December 2021: Church theft.

31 December 2021: Muslim cemetery vandalised.

16 January 2022: Mosque fire.

23 January 2022: Shots at mosque.





The Netherlands

31 December 2021: Firebomb thrown at church.



Belgium

09 January 2022: Church vandalism.

03 January 2022: Animal from nativity scene at church killed.



Italy

26-27 December 2021: Church theft.

10 January 2022: Nazi flag on coffin at funeral.



Greece

01 January 2022: Explosion at church.

23 January 2022: Mosque explosion.



Poland

23 January 2022: Tourist gives Nazi salute outside gates of Auschwitz.



Switzerland

31 December 2021: Church fire.



Moldova

17 January 2022: Church vandalism.



Ukraine

December 2021: Church theft.



Serbia

06-07 January 2022: Hate call to shoot at mosques.



United Kingdom

18-21 December 2021: Church vandalised.

21 and 25 December 2021: Church vandalism.

23 December 2021: Church vandalism.

26 December 2021: Stones thrown at a Jewish school.

04 January 2022: Theft from church's nativity scene crib.

05-06 January 2022: Church theft.

22 January 2022: Two women stabbed outside church.

January 2022: Church theft.





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.

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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