



SOAR

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




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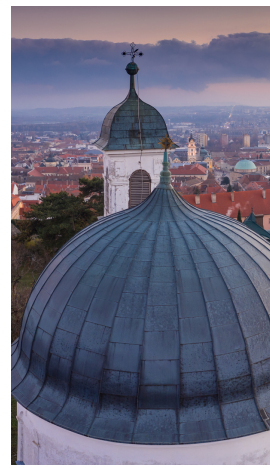
SOAR PROJECT - CONTACT

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Working to Keep Places of Worship and Communities Safe in Europe



Editorial Note

We are pleased to present to you our February Newsletter!

Our team has worked extra hard this month looking to advance the protection and safeguarding of places of worship across the EU. This newsletter showcases our latest efforts and events, as well as recent developments in the field of EU security. We are proud to have completed a number of training events in our pilot countries and thoroughly enjoy meeting the diverse faith communities present there.

In keeping with our monthly tradition, this edition also includes a list of media documented attacks against places of worship and related incidents. As always, we highlight our commitment to support keeping all faiths and faith 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**

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International Day of Human Fraternity

On 21st December 2020, the General Assembly resolution 75/200 proclaimed 4th February the International Day of Human Fraternity.

The resolution further encourages *"activities aimed at promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue in order to enhance peace and social stability, respect for diversity and mutual respect and to create, at the global level, and also at the regional, national and local levels, an environment conducive to peace and mutual understanding"*.

We take this opportunity to also reaffirm our efforts of supporting interfaith dialogue and keeping communities safe.

SOAR aims to increase the awareness of, and capacity to respond to physical and human security threats to places of worship.

European Day for Victims of Crime

22nd February marks the European Day for Victims of Crime. According to the European Commission, on a yearly basis, 15% of people in the European Union become victims of crime. Thus, there are a number of instruments in place to protect victims' rights in the EU. An example of such instruments is the Victims' Rights Directive that sets *"minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime and ensures that persons who have fallen victim to crime are recognised and treated with respect."*

The SOAR project also aims to strengthen the security and resilience of at-risk religious communities, thus deterring crime and creating safer communities.



22/02/22

**'EUROPEAN
DAY FOR
VICTIMS OF
CRIME'**





SOAR Strasbourg Regional Event



Where: Strasbourg, France

When: 03 February 2022

The SOAR project has delivered a regional training event on the 3rd of February 2022, in Strasbourg, France. In attendance were various faith leaders, faith institution management, volunteers and regional officials.

The regional event consisted of a series of collectively delivered presentations, highlighting key objectives and resources of the SOAR project, throughout the event. They were joined by regional officials and the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations (UNAOC).

The SOAR Project was also pleased to host Mr. Abdel Karim Ramadane, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg and Mrs. Catherine Zuber, former Regional elected Official, who also presented and engaged with the community members present.

REGIONAL EVENT
WWW.SOARPROJECT.EU

Frankfurt Regional Event



Where: Frankfurt, Germany

When: 04 February 2022

The SOAR project has delivered a regional training event on the 4th of February 2022, in Frankfurt, Germany. The SOAR Project was pleased to host these speakers, who also presented and engaged with the community members present. The regional event consisted of a series of collectively delivered presentations, highlighting key objectives and resources of the SOAR project, throughout the event. The presenters were joined by regional officials and the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations.



REGIONAL EVENT
WWW.SOARPROJECT.EU



Training Event - Halle



Where: Halle, Germany

When: 11 February 2022

The SOAR project successfully delivered a Protective Security training event on 11th February 2022, in Halle Germany. The attendees, which included various faith leaders, faith institution management, and volunteers learned about such topics as the principle of "Security by Design", and how to conduct a risk assessment. The event was also attended by government officials including Serap Güler, Mitglied des Deutschen Bundestages, and Christian Albrecht, Landtagsabgeordneter für Halle.

If you would like to register for our upcoming events, please do so via this link: soarproject.eu/events/.

To request a training event in your location please do so via the following link: soarproject.eu/event-request/.

Training Event - Frankfurt



Where: Frankfurt, Germany

When: 19 February 2022

The SOAR project successfully delivered a training event in Frankfurt, Germany on 19th February 2022. The event was attended by faith leaders, faith institution management, and volunteers.

The SOAR training is designed to help attendees understand the wide range of security risks for Places of Worship, enabling them to undertake & implement risk reduction measures.



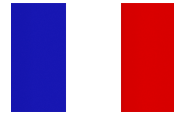
Protective Security Training



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



Training Event - Strasbourg



Where: Strasbourg, France

When: 24 February 2022

The SOAR project delivered a training event on 24th February 2022 in Strasbourg, France. The event discussed topics around the security of places of worship and shared knowledge on the protection of these sensitive sites.

Our team was excited to meet the members of various faith communities and to work collaboratively towards our common goal of strengthening the security and resilience of at-risk religious sites and communities.

If you would like to register for our upcoming events, please do so via this link: soarproject.eu/events/.

To request a training event in your location please do so via the following link: soarproject.eu/event-request/.

Training Event - Hamburg



Where: Hamburg, Germany

When: 27 February 2022

The SOAR team has successfully delivered a training event in Hamburg, Germany on 27th February 2022. We were excited to meet with various faith leaders, management, and volunteers and receive positive feedback regarding our work. After the training program, each participant was awarded a certificate of having successfully completed their training.



Where to find us next!



Training Event - Wuppertal

Where: Wuppertal, Germany

When: 06 March

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

Registration available here: <https://soarproject.eu/event/training-event-wuppertal/>.



Training Event - Nürnberg

Where: Nürnberg, Germany

When: 12 March

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

Registration available here: <https://soarproject.eu/event/training-event-nurnberg/>.



Training Event - Copenhagen

Where: Copenhagen, Denmark

When: 13 March

The SOAR Project is delighted to announce our upcoming training event in Copenhagen, Denmark!

Registration available here: <https://soarproject.eu/event/training-event-copenhagen/>.



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.

Call For Best Practice Examples



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): <https://bit.ly/SOARcall>.



الاعلامية ليلى بن حمودة تستضيف كل من:

و داليا جويش
مستشارة التدريب لمشروع SOAR

عبد الصمد اليزيدي
الأمين العام للمجلس الأعلى للمسلمين في ألمانيا

في لقاء حواري بعنوان:
"أمن دور العبادة ومسؤولية تحصينها"
وذلك يوم الخميس 17.02.2022 الساعة الرابعة بعد الزوال
بحسب توقيت ألمانيا على تردد FM99,2 Freies Radio für Stuttgart راديو الفريوز

كما سيكون البث مباشر على قناة اليوتيوب اذاعة الفريوز بثوثفارت

Freies Radio für Stuttgart LIVE STREAMING

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

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SOAR ON AIR!



On 17th February, 2022, the SOAR Project team discussed the SOAR Project's efforts to protect at-risk religious sites and communities in Germany and Europe on Freies Radio für Stuttgart 99.2Mhz.

Our SOAR Training Coordinator, Dalia Gawish, along with Mr. Abdassamad El Yazidi of Zentralrat der Muslime in Deutschland, had a fruitful discussion around the security issues and threats to places of worship and highlighted SOAR's efforts to support the protection of all at-risk religious sites and communities across Europe.

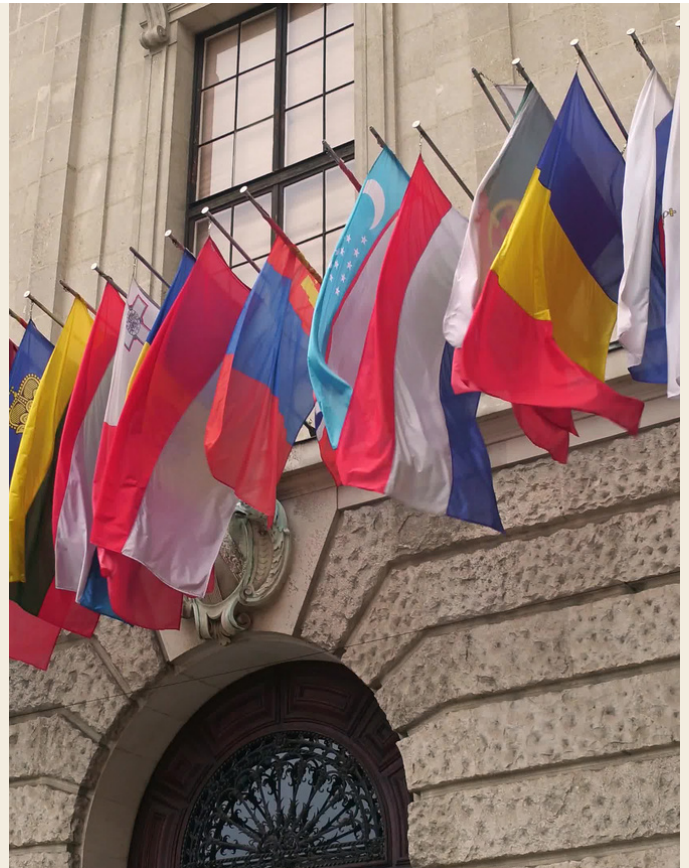
UNAOC Group of Friends Meeting



After more than two years the UNAOC Group of Friends was finally able to meet in person. During the meeting UNAOC highlighted its commitment to **"prioritize its engagement with faith actors and religious leaders across the faith spectrum"**.

Furthermore, the UNAOC confirmed that progress is made in two of the main recommendations of the UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites. These recommendations are the mapping of religious sites and the global communication campaign.

The meeting also discussed programming activities, advocacy and policy initiatives, and institutional developments.





Call for Registration: Training for Civil Society on Addressing Anti- Christian Hate Crime



Where: Online

When: 08-10 March

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights is organising a training event for 20 civil society representatives. The attendees can also include representatives from "faith-based organizations and religious or belief communities, on recording and reporting hate crimes motivated by bias against Christians." The training aims to provide participants with skills to "identify, record and report anti-Christian hate crime crime".

OSCE leaders call for greater efforts to combat anti-Semitism across the OSCE region



Where: Warsaw, Poland

When: 08 February

A two day conference was held in POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews. The conference was attended by OSCE leaders and hundreds of other participants. The event discussed ways of combating anti-Semitism, xenophobia, and discrimination.

The conference also called for greater efforts to combat antisemitism across the OSCE region.





European Council renews terrorist list



On 3rd of February 2022, the European Council renewed the terrorist list. The list aims to combat terrorism and includes persons, groups, and entities. It was set up on 11th September 2001 by the UNSC Resolution 1373/2001 and is reviewed at regular intervals.

A total of 13 individuals and 21 groups and entities now on the list will have their funds and other financial assets frozen.

Media Documented Attacks Against Places of Worship and Related Incidents: 23 January-20 February

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.

Germany

February: Shots at church.

02 February: Church vandalism.

04 February: Cemetery vandalism.

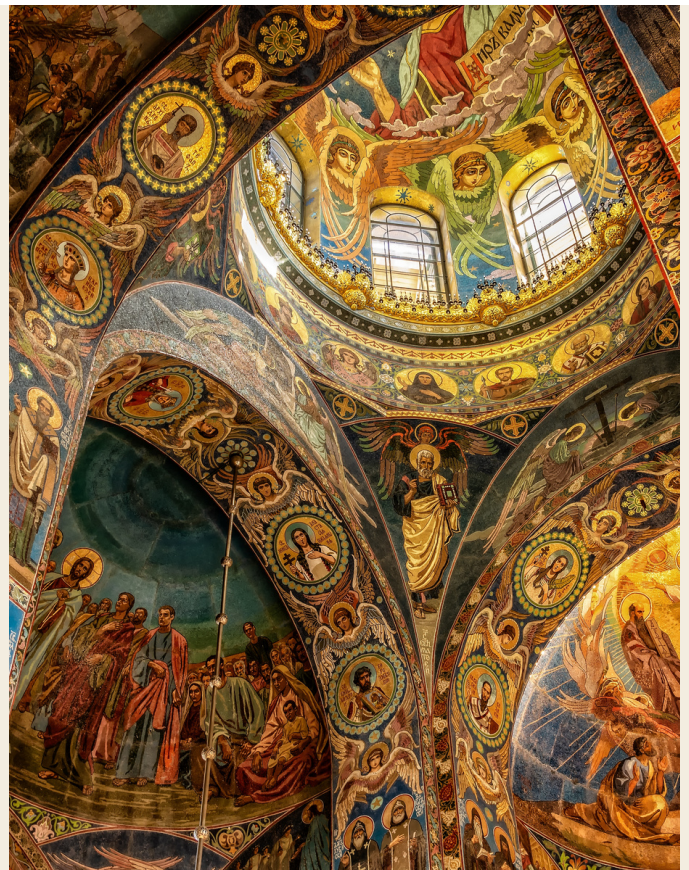
8-9 February: Mosque daubed.

13-14 February: Attempted church robbery.

Austria

02 February: Mosque vandalised.

09 February: Mosque attack.





France

23 January: Church tagged.

25-26 January: Cemetery theft.

25 January: Man with a knife arrested at Basilica.

27 January: Cemetery theft.

29 January: Cemetery vandalism.

February: Cemetery theft.

02 February: Cemetery theft.

05 February: Cemetery robbery.

5-6 February: Church theft.

08 February: Cemetery theft.

10 February: Four churches tagged.

20 February: Mass disruption.



Ireland

February: Church vandalism.



Belgium

February: Mosque targeted three times in two weeks.



Greece

31 January: Anti-Islam banner hung in front of a mosque.

08 February: Arson attack against an religious society.



Ukraine

January: Church fire.



UK

23-24 January: Swastika painted on church.

24 January: Church theft.

26 January: Church vandalised.

29 January: Orthodox Jews targeted while leaving synagogue.

3-4 February: Church theft.

04 February: Synagogue vandalism.

8-9 February: Church break-in.

13 February: Church arson.

16 February: Church theft.

16-17 February: 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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<https://twitter.com/SOARProjectEU>



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