



## In This Issue

Editorial Note	1
International Day to Combat Islamophobia	2
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	2
EU Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism	3
EU Network Dialogue on Security by Design	3
EU-level Network Dialogue on Security by Design Online Event	4
Wuppertal Event	4
Copenhagen Event	5
Mulhouse Event	5
Lille Event	6
Forbach Event	6
Nancy Event	7
Cologne Event	7
Montpellier Event	8
Call For Best Practice Examples	8
SOAR Interview Call	9
Media Documented Attacks Against Places of Worship	9
Practitioner Network	12
SOAR Security Training	12

## SOAR PROJECT - CONTACT



[info@soarproject.eu](mailto:info@soarproject.eu)



[www.soarproject.eu](http://www.soarproject.eu)



## Working to Keep Places of Worship and Communities Safe in Europe



## Editorial Note

The SOAR March 2022 Newsletter is here!

We are happy to bring to you our 9th issue of the SOAR Newsletter. Our March Newsletter marks the beginning of spring and presents the most important events that took place this month.

Firstly, we would like to bring to your attention our Call For Best Practice Examples which invites architectural practices to submit their best built project of places of worship (from any faith) which demonstrate the application of Security By Design concepts.

Secondly, we are saddened to inform our readers that we were able to identify over 60 attacks against places of worship between February 20 and March 26. Furthermore, Ukraine state bodies declare that at least 59 spirituals sites have been destroyed in the country.

Lastly, we wish to reaffirm our commitment of supporting all faiths and faith institutions to keep safe and secure across Europe.



Finn Church Aid



**Disclaimer:** The content of this document represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.



## International Day to Combat Islamophobia



**United Nations**

On 15 of March 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming 15 of March the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. The resolution was unanimously adopted and seeks to "expanded international efforts to create a global dialogue that will encourage tolerance and peace centred on respect for human rights and the diversity of religions and beliefs."

While the resolution has been well received, there were still issues raised by France around lack of agreed definition of Islamophobia in international law. Furthermore, the representatives of the European Union, as an observer, discussed EU's opposition against all forms of "hostility and violence".

On this occasion, we would like to show our support of the resolution and highlight our commitment to contribute to the strengthening of places of worship and communities across Europe.

## International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination



**United Nations**

The 21st of March marks the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The theme of the 2022 edition is dedicated to "Voices for Action Against Racism".

We would like to reiterate SOAR's commitment to stand against all forms of racial discrimination. We need to ensure that justice and equality prevail and that people are heard, supported, and protected against all forms of injustice and discrimination.







# EU Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism



11 of March marks the EU Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism. The day was established after the bombing on 11 of March 2004 that took the lives of 193 people.

EU is committed in providing support for victims of crime and addressing the threat of terrorism. As proof of this commitment we would like to point to the EU-wide compensation scheme, the Victims' Rights Directive, the Directive on Combating Terrorism, and EU Strategy on victims' rights (2020- 2025).

We would also like to praise the work of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) that supports victims rights and their experiences.

Furthermore, we would like to emphasize SOAR's work to protect places of worship and communities from terrorist attacks, hate crimes, and other forms of hate.

## EU Network Dialogue on Security by Design



Where: Brussels, Belgium

When: 16 March 2022

The SOAR project held a EU level Network Dialogue event on 16th March in Brussels. In attendance were selected representatives of the partnership and their networks and key agreed stakeholders- including the EU Commission, national government representatives, private and public sector architects and planners, religious leaders, and public authorities. Together the attendees identified challenges and opportunities for security by design for religious sites.





## EU-level Network Dialogue on Security by Design Online Event



Where: Online

When: 29 March 2022

The SOAR project held a EU-level Network Dialogue on guidance and standards for Security by Design on 29 of March. In attendance were various faith leaders, researchers, architects, law enforcement, and EU Commission representatives.

Speaking at the event were representatives from Enhancing Faith Institutions (EFI), Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), Joint Research Centre (JRC) European Commission, Dr. Csaba Szabo (Hungarian Ministry of the Interior), and Security by Design expert Hans Scheving (Bertelsen & Scheving).

## Protective Security Training Event - Wuppertal



Where: Wuppertal, Germany

When: 06 March 2022

On 06 March 2022, the SOAR project delivered a Protective Security Event in Wuppertal, Germany. The event was attended by various faith leaders, volunteers, law enforcement, and faith institution management.

The event aimed to provide the attendees with a protective security training and introduce the Security by Design principle and its importance in protective security.







# Protective Security Training Event - Copenhagen



Where: Copenhagen, Denmark

When: 13 March 2022

On 13 March 2022, the SOAR project delivered a Protective Security Training Event in Copenhagen, Denmark. As per our audience in attendance were various faith leaders, volunteers, law enforcement, and faith institution management.

If you would like to find more about our Copenhagen engagement follow us on Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube.

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

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



# Protective Security Training Event - Mulhouse



Where: Mulhouse, France

When: 20 March 2022

The SOAR project has delivered a Protective Security Training event on the 20th of March, 2022, in Mulhouse, France. In attendance were various faith leaders, faith institution management, law enforcement collaborators, community members and volunteers from Places of Worship. The SOAR project engaged with at risk communities to ensure that places of worship and congregations are protected by providing FREE security training and resources.



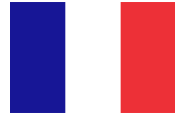
## MULHOUSE

20TH MARCH 2022

[WWW.SOARPROJECT.EU](https://www.soarproject.eu)



# Protective Security Training Event - Lille



Where: Lille, France

When: 26 March 2022

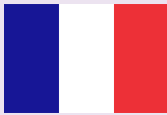
The SOAR project has delivered a Protective Security Training event on the 26th of March, 2022, in Lille, France. In attendance were various faith leaders, faith institution management, law enforcement collaborators, community members and volunteers from Places of Worship.

SOAR project's Lille protective security training included an innovative principle called Security by Design (SBD) and free risk assessments to places of worship across Lille.

The training lasted a total of 5 hours, and all Faith Leaders, Volunteers, Teachers, caretakers and wider faith institution staff members were offered certificates upon successful completion of their Training.



# Protective Security Training Event - Forbach



Where: Forbach, France

When: 08 May 2022

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

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

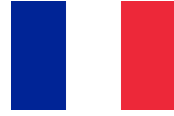
To request a training event in your location please do so via the following link: [soarproject.eu/event-request/](https://soarproject.eu/event-request/).







# Protective Security Training Event - Nancy



**Where:** Nancy, France

**When:** 15 May 2022

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

Increased attacks on religious institutions and communities across Europe have prompted a focus on the vulnerability of places of worship, and the need for focused support and training, which the SOAR project provides.

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

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

# Protective Security Training Event - Cologne



**Where:** Cologne, Germany

**When:** 28 May 2022

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

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

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







# Protective Security Training Event - Montpellier



**Where: Montpellier, France**

**When: 29 May 2022**

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

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

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

## 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>.







## 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](mailto:marko.juntunen@kirkonulkomaanapu.fi).

## Media Documented Attacks Against Places of Worship and Related Incidents: 20 February-26 March

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. The indicated dates represent either the date of the incident or the date of discovery of the incident.

### France

February: Church theft.

20 February: Mass disruption.

21-22 February: Church vandalism.

23-24 February: Church vandalised.

24 February: A man steals a handbag during funeral.

24 February: Church vandalized.







24-25 February: Parish tagged.  
 25 February: Tags discovered on the Russian cathedral.  
 26 February: Car-ram attack on mosque.  
 27 February: A man spits on a priest after a mass.  
 28 February: Tags discovered on the Russian cathedral.  
 March: Cemetery theft.  
 March: Cemetery theft.  
 11 March: Death threats at Russian Cathedral.  
 12 March: Church vandalism.  
 14 March: Church theft.  
 14 March: Cemetery Theft.  
 16 March: Church vandalised.  
 16 March: Attempted arson.  
 19 March: Cemetery theft.  
 21 March: Tags on church.

 **Belgium**  
 March: Church vandalised.  
 01 March: Cemetery vandalised.  
 15 March: Church vandalised.  
 18 March: Theft of religious object.

 **Latvia**  
 20 March: Church fire during live event.

 **Italy**  
 February: Church smeared.

22 March: Church theft.

 **Germany**

02 March: Muslim establishment daubed.

12 March: Attack near synagogue.

19 March: Muslim wash house in cemetery smeared.

15 March: Church vandalised.

 **Spain**

March: Attempted break-in.

March: Church robberies and damage.

20 March: Attempted break-in and damage.

15 March: Forced church door.

08-17 March: Church vandalism.

 **Austria**

01 March: Church theft and damage.

16 March: Hacker attack at church.







## Romania

March: Church theft.

14 March: Church fire.

24 March: Church theft.

## The Netherlands

March: Saint Nicholas of Myra Church in Amsterdam defaced.

March?: Groningen church receives threats.

March?: Nijmegen church defaced.

## 09 March: Russian Orthodox church vandalised.

### United Kingdom

26-27 February: Church daubed with runic symbols.

03 March: Church theft.

08 March: 16 years old stabbed near church.

12 March: Russian Orthodox church ransacked in burglary.

16 March: Church vandalism.

16-17 March: Church damage.

17-19 March: Cemetery vandalism.

## Ukraine

The State Service of Ukraine for Ethnopolitics and Freedom of Conscience reported that "Russia's war against Ukraine damaged and ruined at least 59 spiritual sites in at least 8 regions of Ukraine" which on average is two places of worship affected per day.

March: Church damaged.

01 March: Russia bombs Babyn Yar Holocaust memorial site.

05 March: Russia attacks church.

06 March: Church damaged.

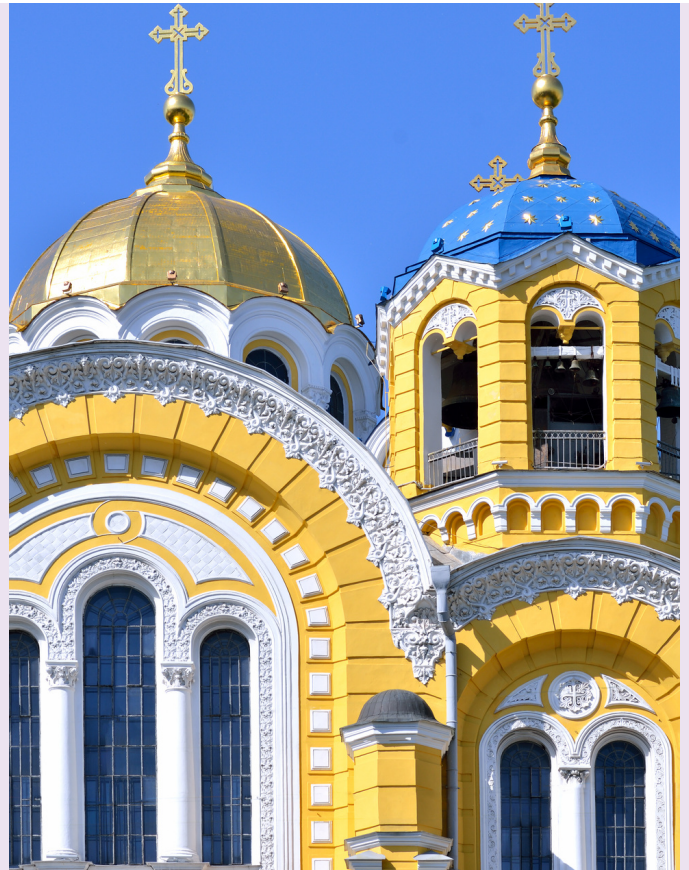
07 March: Two churches destroyed, and two damaged.

12 March: Russia shells mosque.

15 March: Yeshivah/synagogue hit by Russian rocket.

19 March: Another church bombed by Russia.

26 March: Holocaust memorial destroyed by Russia.





## 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@soarproject.eu)  
<https://soarproject.eu/join/>



## Follow Us



<https://www.facebook.com/SOAREurope>



<https://twitter.com/SOARProjectEU>



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

Disclaimer: The content of this document represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.