







## **EDITORIAL NOTE**

## WORKING TO KEEP PLACES OF WORSHIP AND COMMUNITIES SAFE IN EUROPE

We are excited to share with you our June Newsletter!

This issue contains the most important updates on the SOAR team's work, events, and publications. Furthermore, we highlight the recent antisemitism, anti-Muslim, and anti-discrimination publications released this June in EU countries such as Denmark, Estonia, Belgium, Austria, Germany, and France.

As per our ongoing tradition, we also cover the Media Documented Attacks Against Places of Worship and Related Incidents in this issue. On this occasion, we were able to identify 112 incidents across Europe.

### **CONTACT US**



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## EU-LEVEL NETWORK DIALOGUE ON GUIDANCE AND STANDARDS FOR SECURITY BY DESIGN



WHEN: 02 JUNE WHERE: ONLINE

This network dialogue meeting contributed to the development of bespoke standards in relation to Security by Design for places of worship. The meeting was attended by members. technical network experts, agreed stakeholders (e.g., EU Commission, national government representatives, and identified academic institution representatives) and covered the specific topic of Security by Design for CCTV and Entrances.





### TRAINING EVENT – BORDEAUX



WHEN: 15 JUNE

WHERE: BORDEAUX, FRANCE

On the 15th of June 2022, the SOAR Project delivered a training event on protection of places of worship in Bordeaux, France.

Attendees were informed on how to understand the security risks and principles of risk reduction for Places of Worship, enabling them to undertake and implement risk reduction measures.

If you would like to register for our upcoming events, please do so <u>Here</u>.

#### **TRAINING EVENT - PARIS**



WHEN: 20 JUNE

WHERE: PARIS, FRANCE

On the 20th of June 2022, the SOAR Project delivered a protective security training in Paris, France.

The training aims to introduce attendees to protective security concepts and enhance their knowledge of security in their place of worship.

Upon completion of the training each participant received a SOAR certificate.

If you would like to register for our upcoming events, please do so <u>Here</u>.





#### TRAINING EVENT - PARIS



WHEN: 23 JUNE

WHERE: PARIS, FRANCE

On the 23rd of June 2022, the SOAR project delivered a successful protective security training event in Paris, France.

This is the second event in Paris in the month of June. The training received high attendance and positive feedback from all attendees.

We are delighted to have received such a warm welcome and overwhelming interest in our mission to increase the security of at risk religious sites and communities.

23RD JUNE 2022

### TRAINING EVENT – GÖTTINGEN



WHEN: 25 JUNE

WHERE: GÖTTINGEN, GERMANY

On the 25th of June 2022, the SOAR project delivered a protective security training in Gottingen, Germany.

The event was attended by faith leaders, volunteers, community members, and wider faith institution staff members. The training touched upon various aspects of security for religious sites, and in particular the concept of Security by Design.

If you would like to register for our upcoming events, please do so <u>Here</u>.





EU Network Dialogue on Guidance & Standards on Security by Design

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS 28th June 2022

## **EU NETWORK DIALOGUE ON SECURITY BY DESIGN**



WHEN: 28 JUNE

WHERE: AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

On the 28th of June 2022, the SOAR project delivered the EU Network Dialogue on Security by Design in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

The aim of this network dialogue meeting was to discuss Security by Design (SBD) with the selected representatives and private and public sector architects and planners, religious leaders, and public authorities such as police and fire services.

## EU NETWORK DIALOGUE ON SECURITY BY DESIGN-VISIT TO THE PORTUGUESE SYNAGOGUE



WHEN: 28 JUNE

WHERE: AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

As part of the dialogue on security by design, the team organised an interactive visit to the Portuguese Synagogue in Amsterdam on the 28th of June 2022 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The cultural heritage site was viewed by attendees as part of the dialogue and aimed to address how security by design enhancements can be made to heritage buildings.





## OPERATORS' FORUM FOR THE PROTECTION OF PUBLIC SPACES





WHEN: 14 JUNE

WHERE: BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

On the 14th of June 2022, the SOAR Project participated in the Operators' Forum for the Protection of Public Spaces.

Our team introduced the SOAR project, discussed the current progress, and highlighted the importance of keeping religious communities safe from hate crimes, terrorist attacks, and other incidents.

## SOAR BASELINE RESEARCH REPORT



WHEN: JUNE

WHERE: GERMANY, FRANCE, THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, DENMARK, HUNGARY, AUSTRIA

We are pleased to share with you our SOAR Baseline Research report on the security challenges faced by religious sites and policies advancing security and safety of places of worship in seven EU member states.

The research also includes voices from different faith communities including the Muslim, Chaldean Christian, Roman Catholic, Hindu, Sikh, and Yazidi faiths.



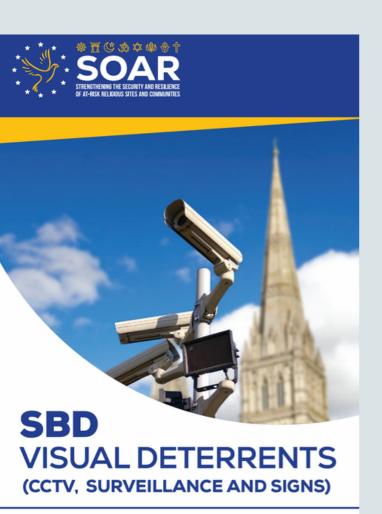
Strengthening the security and resilience of at-risk religious sites and communities (SOAR)

#### **BASELINE RESEARCH**

on the security challenges faced by religious sites and policies advancing security and safety of places of worship in seven EU member states

Marko Juntunen & Joonas Maristo





#### SBD VISUAL DETERRENTS



WHEN: JUNE

The SOAR Project has published its latest guidance on Security by Design focussing on Visual Deterrents (CCTV, Surveillance and signs). The document offers CCTV Security Advice for Places of Worship and highlights the importance of Risk Assessments.

"'Security by Design' (SBD) is a concept in the protection of public spaces that promotes the idea that security is best achieved if addressed from the very beginning of the planning and design of a public space."

The full publication can be found Here.

## FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS REPORT 2022



WHEN: JUNE WHERE: EU

On 8th of June 2022, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights published the Fundamental Rights Report 2022.

The report is based on the conducted quantitative, qualitative, and secondary research.

One of the key topics discussed in the report is the implementation of the legal framework against racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and related intolerance.





#### **UNIA 2021 REPORT**



WHEN: JUNE

WHERE: BELGIUM

In June 2022, the Belgian independent National Human Rights Institution, UNIA, published its 2021 report.

The organisation received 10,610 reports of discrimination, hate speech and hate acts, which represents an increase of 12% from the previous year. In contrast, UNIA received 9,466 reports in 2020.

The full report can be found Here.

## ECRI REPORT ON DENMARK





WHEN: 09 JUNE WHERE: DENMARK

On the 9th of June 2022, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) published a report on Denmark which was adopted on 29th of March 2022.

The report calls for an action plan against racism and highlights the importance of addressing anti-Muslim hate and discrimination. The report addressed all the pressing issues around discrimination and harmful developments within the country.

## ECRI REPORT ON DENMARK (sixth monitoring cycle)



Adopted on 29 March 2022



## ECRI REPORT ON ESTONIA (sixth monitoring cycle)



Adopted on 29 March 2022



#### **ECRI REPORT ON ESTONIA**





WHEN: 09 JUNE WHERE: ESTONIA

On the 9th of June 2022, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) published a report on Estonia which was adopted on 29th of March 2022.

The report points to the existing issues around anti-dis crimination legislation in the country and provides further recommendations.

## ANTI-MUSLIM RACISM REPORT 2021

DOKUSTELLE Islamfeindlichkeit & antimuslimischer Rassismus

WHEN: JUNE

WHERE: AUSTRIA

In June 2022 the documentation and advice centre for people who experience Islamophobia and anti-Muslim racism, Dokustelle, published the Anti-Muslim Racism report 2022.

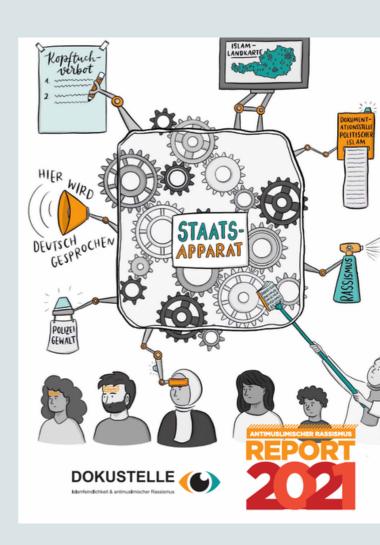
Dokustelle documented 1,061 Anti-Muslim incidents in Austria in 2021. The highest number of incidents took place in June 2021 (177).

34.6% of the incidents took place offline. Consequently, 7.6% of incidents happened in or around the mosque.



Jahresbericht

Antisemitische Vorfälle in Deutschland 2021



## ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS IN GERMANY 2021



WHEN: JUNE

WHERE: GERMANY

In June 2022, the Federal Association of Departments for Research and Information on Antisemitism published their annual report titled "Antisemitic incidents in Germany 2021".

The report indicates that 2,738 anti-Semitic incidents were recorded by RIAS in 2021. In 2020 RIAS recorded 1,957 incidents. Thus, the 2021 numbers indicate a noticeable spike in anti-Semitic incidents.

## CIVIL SOCIETY SITUATION REPORT ON ANTISEMITISM #09



WHEN: JUNE

**WHERE: GERMANY** 

In June 2022, the Amadeu Antonio Foundation published the report titled "Civil Society Situation Report on Antisemitism #09". The publication discusses antisemitism in Germany in the context of the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

The report is sponsored by the Federal Government Commissioner for Jewish Life in Germany and the Fight Against Anti-Semitism.



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## ANTISEMITISM REPORT IN FRANCE 2021



WHEN: JUNE

WHERE: FRANCE

The Jewish Community Protection Service published their annual report addressing antisemitism in France.

From 1st of January 2021 to 31 of December 2021, the Jewish Community Protection Service recorded 589 antisemitic incidents. According to the report, this represents a 75% increase from 2020. The report also indicates that physical violence also increased from the previous recorded year.

## EU COUNCIL ADOPTS CONCLUSIONS INTENDED TO PROMOTE FURTHER ACTIONS TO PROTECT EUROPEANS



WHEN: 09 JUNE

WHERE: EU

On the 09th of June 2022, the European Council "adopted conclusions on achievements and next steps in protecting Europeans from terrorism." The Council also highlights the issue of radicalisation and "calls for vigilance to ensure that organisations promoting violence and hatred cannot benefit from public funds".



## JOINT UNAOC-EU 'BRIEFING ON EFFORTS ON COMBATING ANTISEMITISM'



WHEN: 15 JUNE

WHERE: UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

On the 15th of June 2022, the UNAOC and the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations organised a briefing on efforts on combating antisemitism.

The EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life (2021-2030) which was adopted by the European Commission was presented during the briefing.

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## MEDIA DOCUMENTED ATTACKS AGAINST PLACES OF WORSHIP AND RELATED INCIDENTS:

#### **26 MAY-27 JUNE**

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

May: Church arson.

June: Church fire.

June: Church vandalism.
01-02 June: Church theft.
07 June: Church theft.
09 June: Cemetery theft.
12 June: Mosque fire.
14-15 June: Church theft.

17-18 June: Cemetery theft.

21 June: Threat towards Mosque.



#### Germany

May: Church vandalism.

01-30 May: Daily church theft.

26-28 May: Church theft.

27-28 May: Church damage.

27-28 May: Church damage.

28 May: Church break-in.

28 May: Church damage.

29 May: Church theft.

28-29 May: Church damage.

29-30 May: Church theft.

30 May: Prayer disturbed.

30 May: Pastor attacked with a knife.

31 May: Church burglary.

June: Neo-Nazi banners gather outside

synagogue.

02 June: Church break-in.

03-08 June: Attempted break-in in Church.

04-05 June: Church theft. 04-05 June: Church damage.

05 June: Church theft.

05 June: Church vandalism. 06 June: Church vandalised. 07-09 June: Church burglary. 08-12 June: Church vandalism.

09 June: Church arson. 09 June: Church break-in. 09 June: Church break-in. 10-11 June: Church smeared. 10-14 June: Church damage. 12-13 June: Cemetery theft. 12-17 June: Church damage.

13 June: Church theft. 14 June: Church theft.

14 June: Cemetery attempted theft.

14 June: Church damage. 14 June: Church vandalised.

16 June: Church theft.

16-17 June: Church vandalism.





17 June: Church vandalism.

18 June: Church theft.

18-19 June: Church damage. 19 June: Church break-in. 18-20 June: Church damage. 20 June: Church vandalism.

20 June: Church thefts. 22-23 June: Church theft. 23-24 June: Church theft. 24-25 June: Church break-in. 26 June: Church damage.

26-27 June: Church theft.

27 June: Church theft.



June: Church vandalism. 03 June: Church theft. 04-05 June: Church theft. 04-05 June: Church theft. 04-05 June: Church theft.

04-05 June: Church theft. 04-05 June: Church theft. 04-05 June: Church theft. 04-05 June: Church theft.

**l** Belgium

May: Church vandalised.

26 May: Church fire.10 June: Church fire.

12 June: Cemetery tagged.

🛑 Romania

May: Man falls from church: accident.

Austria

05 June: Mosque smeared.

**Denmark** 

29 May: Jewish cemetery vandalised.

The Netherlands

04 June: Church fire.

07 June: Possible arson at a rectory.

( ) Italy

02 June: Church vandalism.

11-12 June: Church vandalised.

Poland

June: Church vandalism.





Malta

June: Church theft.

June: Church theft.

Hungary

25 June: Church fire.

Switzerland

19 June: Disruption of mass.

**Turkey** 

Hagia Sophia daily vandalism and neglect.

₩ UK

29 May: Church damage.

June: Teenagers chase child in his way to

synagogue.

03 June: Church arson.05 June: Church vandalism.06 June: Attack on Mosque.07-09 June: Church smeared.

10 June: Cemetery smeared.11 June: Arson at Jewish cemetery.

11-12 June: Church theft.

16-20 June: Grave theft at church.



28 May: Church damage. 29 May: Disturbed mass.

30 May: Attempted church seizure.02 June: Attempted church capture.04 June: Monastery burned down.06 June: Faith leader threatened.

19-20 June: Church fire.

20 June: Churches damaged.20 June: Churches damaged.24-25 June: Church damage.24-25 June: Church damage.

25 June: Church fire.

26 June: Church disturbance.28 June: Church damaged.28 June: Church damaged.28 June: Church damaged.

At least 43 religious sites were damaged in the Donetsk region.



# SOAR STRAINING THE SECURITY AND RESURES OF AT-REST RELIGIOUS STIES AND COMMANTES OF AT-REST RELIGIOUS STIES AND COMMANT

- HOW CAN WOMEN OF FAITH PROTECT THEMSELVES IN ONLINE SPACES?
- HOW CAN WE ENSURE HOUSES OF WORSHIP ARE PROTECTED AGAINST VANDALISM?
- HOW CAN WOMEN ADDRESS THEIR MENTAL WELLBEING?

These questions are addressed through free security training conducted by the SOAR project helping to increase the understanding of potential security threats faced by women and providing practical solutions that can be implemented by anyone to help improve personal and common security.





2 HOUR



ONLINE OR IN PERSON



## Women Safety and Security training



#### WHERE: GERMANY, FRANCE, THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, DENMARK, HUNGARY, AUSTRIA

The SOAR Project is offering FREE security training for women. The training addresses such topics as the security in the online space, protection of places of worship, and mental wellbeing.

If you would like to request a Women Safety and Security Training please do so <u>Here</u>.

Registration for upcoming events: Here.

## REQUEST A SOAR TRAINING EVENT OR RISK ASSESSMENT



WHERE: GERMANY, FRANCE, THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, DENMARK, HUNGARY, AUSTRIA

The SOAR Project is committed to help communities safe. As part of our project we deliver protective security training and risk assessments for places of worship.

If you would like to request a SOAR training event or a risk assessment for your place of worship please do so <u>Here</u>.

Registration for upcoming events: Here.





#### **SOAR RESOURCES**



SOAR is delighted to present to you the most important publications in the field of security of places of worship.

Our Resources page contains SOAR and other publications that are designed to aid you in keeping your place of worship safe.

The Resources page is available Here.



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