



AUGUST
2022

ISSUE
14



EDITORIAL NOTE


WORKING TO KEEP PLACES OF WORSHIP AND COMMUNITIES SAFE IN EUROPE

We are excited to present you our August 2022 Newsletter!

This month's issue highlights the SOAR's work over the past month and our set goals for the month ahead. Moreover, it showcases the most important publications and events to take place in September. As per our monthly tradition, we were able to identify 125 incidents against places of worship across 18 European countries between 26th of July to 29th of August.

The SOAR project is committed to working towards strengthening the security and resilience of at-risk religious sites and communities across Europe.

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EFI Enhancing
Faith Institutions
PLACES • PEOPLE • PROGRAMMES

The Network for
Religious and
Traditional
Peacemakers



FCA
Finn Church Aid

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

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF VICTIMS OF TERRORISM

WHEN: 21 AUGUST

Resolution 72/165 established 21st of August the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.

Terrorist acts leave destruction to our infrastructure and harm to our societies. The direct victims of these acts are sometimes left unheard or unsupported. Thus, the UN member states have the responsibility to offer support and help to the victims of terrorism.

SOAR strongly condemns all acts of violence and highlights its commitment to contribute to advancing the protection and safeguarding of places of worship.



INTERNATIONAL DAY COMMEMORATING THE VICTIMS OF ACTS OF VIOLENCE BASED ON RELIGION OR BELIEF

WHEN: 22 AUGUST

The International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief was established by resolution A/RES/73/296 of the UN General Assembly.

SOAR strongly condemns all acts of violence based on religion or belief and reaffirms its commitment of working towards strengthening the resilience of religious sites and communities.



TRAINING EVENT – MÜNSTER



WHEN: 20 AUGUST

WHERE: MUNSTER, GERMANY

On the 20th of August 2022, the SOAR project delivered a successful training in Munster Germany. The event was attended by faith leaders, faith institution management, law enforcement collaborators, community members and volunteers from Places of Worship.

If you would like to request a training event please do so [here](#).

If you would like to register for our upcoming events, please do so [here](#)



MUNSTER

20th AUGUST 2022

SOAR CALL FOR BEST PRACTICES – JURY MEETING



WHEN: 31 AUGUST

WHERE: BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

On the 31st of August 2022, the SOAR Call for Best Practice Jury meeting took place in Brussels, Belgium.

The jury selected up to 20 projects based on the announced criteria. The call for best practice is aimed to promote and advance the expertise of European architects in relation to Security by Design of public spaces, including religious sites.



Brussels

31th AUGUST 2022

TRAINING EVENT – DÜSSELDORF



WHEN: 03 SEPTEMBER

**WHERE: DÜSSELDORF,
GERMANY**

On the 3rd of September 2022, the SOAR project will deliver a protective security training in Düsseldorf, Germany. The training seeks to identify possible risks encountered by places of worship and provide advice and solutions on how to mitigate those risks and protect individuals in and around a place of worship.

To register for the event please do so [here](#).

If you would like to register for our upcoming events, please do so [here](#).

SICHERHEITS SCHULUNG FÜR GEMEINDEN IN DÜSSELDORF



GERMANY



WO : DÜSSELDORF

(DIE GENAUE ADRESSE WIRD NACH
ANMELDUNG BEKANNT GEGEBEN)



3. SEPT 2022
10:00-16:00UHR

TRAINING EVENT – AARHUS



WHEN: 10 SEPTEMBER

WHERE: AARHUS, DENMARK

On the 10th of September 2022, the SOAR project will deliver a protective security training in Aarhus, Denmark. The training aims to advance the protection of religious sites by providing training for faith communities on strengthening the security their place of worship.

If you would like to register for the event please do so [here](#).

If you would like to register for our upcoming events, please do so [here](#).

SAFETY TRAINING FOR COMMUNITIES IN AARHUS



DENMARK



THE EXACT ADDRESS WILL BE ANNOUNCED
AFTER REGISTRATION



10. SEP 2022
10:00-16:00PM

TRAINING EVENT – BUDAPEST



WHEN: 14 SEPTEMBER

WHERE: BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

On the 14th of September 2022, a SOAR protective security training will take place in Budapest, Hungary. The event aims to inform faith leaders and individuals working in and around faith institutions about the risk encountered by religious communities and ways to strengthen the security and resilience of places of worship. The training also introduces and discusses the concept of Security by Design which is a key component of the SOAR project.

If you would like to register for the event please do so [here](#).



HUNGARY



**SECURITY TRAINING FOR
COMMUNITIES IN
BUDAPEST**

(THE EXACT ADDRESS WILL BE
ANNOUNCED AFTER REGISTRATION)

 **14. SEPT 2022**
10:00-16:00

TRAINING EVENT – BUDAPEST



WHEN: 17 SEPTEMBER

WHERE: BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

On the 17th of September 2022, a SOAR protective security training will take place in Budapest, Hungary. Considering the increase in hate crimes across Europe and the reality of terrorist attacks targeting religious sites, the SOAR project aims to work towards strengthening the protection of places of worship by providing protective security training to faith leaders and individuals working in and around places of worship.

If you would like to register for the event please do so [here](#).



HUNGARY



**SECURITY TRAINING FOR
COMMUNITIES IN
BUDAPEST**

(THE EXACT ADDRESS WILL BE
ANNOUNCED AFTER REGISTRATION)

 **17. SEPT 2022**
10:00-16:00

TRAINING EVENT – PERPIGNAN



WHEN: 17 SEPTEMBER

WHERE: PERPIGNAN, FRANCE

We are excited to announce a protective security training event in Perpignan, France on the 17th of September 2022. The training will inform attendees about the protection and safeguarding of their places of worship. Furthermore, the SBD concept will be introduced and further discussed during the training.

If you would like to register for the event please do so [here](#).

If you would like to register for our upcoming events, please do so [here](#).



SÉMINAIRE DE FORMATION: PROTÉGER LES LIEUX DE CULTE CONTRE LA HAINE À PERPIGNAN



FRANCE

(L'ADRESSE EXACTE SERA
ANNONCÉE APRÈS



17. SEPT 2022
10H00-16H00



SAFETY TRAINING FOR COMMUNITIES IN RADHADESH

IN ENGLISH



BELGIUM

THE EXACT ADDRESS
WILL BE ANNOUNCED
AFTER REGISTRATION



Vegetarian Menu



29. SEP 2022
10:00-16:00PM

TRAINING EVENT – RADHADESH



WHEN: 29 SEPTEMBER

WHERE: RADHADESH, BELGIUM

The SOAR project in collaboration with the Hindu Forum of Belgium is delighted to announce a protective security training in Radhadesh, Belgium on the 29th of September 2022.

If you would like to register for the event please do so [here](#).

If you would like to register for our upcoming events, please do so [here](#).

20 SECURITY TIPS FOR SYNAGOGUES



We are delighted to present to you the SOAR 20 security tips for synagogues video.

The video guides you through synagogue specific security tips to keep you, your congregants, and your place of worship safe. The SOAR project aims to strengthen the security of places of worship and to keep communities safe from terrorist attacks, hate crimes, and other incidents.

The video can be found [here](#). Do not hesitate to subscribe to our YouTube channel [here](#) for updates on our new content.



EU NETWORK DIALOGUE ON SECURITY BY DESIGN



We are delighted to present to you the SOAR EU Network Dialogue on Security by Design video. The Event took place on the 28th of June 2022 and contributed to the development of bespoke standards in relation to Security by Design for places of worship.

The video can be found [here](#). Do not hesitate to subscribe to our YouTube channel [here](#) for updates on our new content.



EU NETWORK DIALOGUE ON SECURITY BY DESIGN (SBD)

28 June 2022
Amsterdam



INCIDENT MANAGEMENT GUIDE – SYNAGOGUES



The SOAR team released Part 1 of the Incidents Management Guide for Synagogues. The guide provides 8 Security tips for keeping your synagogue safe and further explores the first tip "Prepare". Preparation can be challenging and time consuming yet it is an important step that should not be overlooked. Accordingly, this guide aims to guide you in this process in order to keep you and your place of worship safe.

The guide also provides an Incident Management Contacts form to record important contacts in and outside your institution.



INCIDENT MANAGEMENT GUIDE FOR SYNAGOGUES

PART 1



PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE IN THE EU



Civil Society Organisations across EU provide support to ethnic minorities and religious communities and work towards the protection of their rights. Accordingly, the role of civil society should not be ignored or underestimated.

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights published the *Protecting Civic Space in the EU* report. It observes the challenges and opportunities of civil society, access to funding, participation in decision-making, regulatory environment, and the presence of a safe space.

Please find the report [here](#).

PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE IN THE EU

CIVIL SOCIETY

STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS GUIDANCE TOOL



The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe published the Strengthening the Resilience of National Human Rights Institutions Guidance Tool.

The document is *"to be used by leaders and staff of national human rights institutions"*. The publication aims to identify and respond to threats, and build long-term resilience.

Please find the guidance tool [here](#).

Strengthening the Resilience of NHRIs and Responding to Threats

Guidance Tool



OSCE ON THE PROTECTION OF PLACES OF WORSHIP



OSCE released a statement on the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief. According to the statement *"ODIHR's most recent hate crime data reveals that 51% of all incidents reported to the Office were anti-religious hate crimes. Most of these crimes targeted property, such as mosques, synagogues, churches, and cemeteries"*. Thus, the OSCE human rights head states that *"Places of worship must be kept safe and accessible in times of peace and in conflict"*.



10TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE: THE LJUBLJANA GUIDELINES ON INTEGRATION OF DIVERSE SOCIETIES

WHEN: 06 SEPTEMBER

**WHERE: BRDO CONGRESS
CENTRE, SLOVENIA**



On the 6th of September 2022, the 10th Anniversary Conference: The Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies will take place in Brdo Congress Centre, Slovenia. The conference is organised by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and *"aims to review and discuss the key principles in the Ljubljana Guidelines"*.



WARSAW HUMAN DIMENSION CONFERENCE



**WHEN: 26 SEPTEMBER-06
OCTOBER**

WHERE: WARSAW, POLAND

On the 26th of September to the 6th of October the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference will take place in Warsaw, Poland. The conference will discuss *"the condition of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the OSCE area [...] will provide a platform to evaluate the implementation of the OSCE Human Dimension commitments, and offer meeting space for its participants to present their recent work and flag the issues"*.



2022 UN GLOBAL CONGRESS OF VICTIMS OF TERRORISM



WHEN: 08-09 SEPTEMBER

WHERE: NEW YORK, USA

On the 8th and 9th of September the 2022 UN Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism will take place in New York, USA.

The congress was "convened under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres". The congress aims to "provide a platform for victims of terrorism to directly share experiences, challenges, stories of their resilience, and contributions to wider society".



STRONG CITIES NETWORK 77TH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SIDE EVENT



WHEN: 22 SEPTEMBER

WHERE: NEW YORK, USA

On the 22nd of September 2022, the Strong Cities Network will hold a side event to the 77th UN General Assembly.

"This high-level event will focus on the unique role that cities can play in safeguarding local democracy and providing security for their citizens, elevating innovative and promising practices that were shared during a series of SCN-led workshops and webinars on this topic over the past year."



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

26 JULY-29 AUGUST

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

- July: Church theft.
- 26 July: Church vandalised.
- 26-27 July: Church vandalism.
- 23-28 July: Church theft.
- 28 July: Church arson.
- 29 July: Cemetery damage.
- August: Church smeared.
- 02 August: Church vandalism.
- 03 August: Church damage.
- 04 August: Church damage.
- 13-14 August: Church vandalism.
- 14 August: Church robbed at gunpoint.
- 14 August: Church vandalism.
- 15 August: Church theft.
- 16 August: Man armed with a katana near the mosque.
- 16 August: Church fire.
- 19-20 August: Church vandalism.
- 21 August: Church damaged and priest insulted.
- 23 August: Church vandalism.



Belgium

- 28 July: Church arson.
- End of July-August: Cemetery vandalised.
- 14-15 August: Church vandalism.



Hungary

- 14 August: Synagogue vandalism.



Germany

26 July: Church theft.
 26 July: Church arson.
 28 July: Church vandalism.
 28 July: Riot at church.
 28-29 July: Church smeared.
 29 July: Church damage.
 29-30 July: Church smeared.
 01 July-01 August: Church theft.
 01-02 August: Church theft.
 02 August: Attempted break-in in Church.
 02 August: Church damage.
 03-04 August: Church damage.
 03-04 August: Church theft.
 04 August: Church damage.
 04 August: Church theft.
 04 August: Church theft.
 04 August: Church damage.
 04 August: Church vandalism.
 04 August: Church damage.
 01-06 August: Church damage.
 06-07 August: Jewish memorial damaged.



06-09 August: Church damage.
 07 August: Church theft.
 07 August: Church theft.
 07-08 August: Church theft.
 07-08 August: Church theft.
 08 August: Church theft.
 08 August: Mosque theft.
 08 August: Teenager walking with knife on church property.
 08-11 August: Church damage.
 08-09 August: Church theft.
 09 August: Church smeared.
 10 August: Church theft.
 11-12 August: Church damage.
 11-12 August: Church damage.
 13 August: Church theft.
 14 August: Church vandalism.
 17 August: Incident in a church.
 20 August: Church theft.
 21 August: Church theft.
 21 August: Church theft.

22 August: Church theft.
 23 August: Church damage.
 23 August: Church break-in.
 24 August: Church theft.
 25 August: Church theft.
 26 August: Church theft.
 27-29 August: Attempted church theft.

Italy

August: Church theft.
 04 August: Church theft.
 04 August: Church theft.
 08 August: Church theft.
 08 August: Church theft.
 10-11 August: Church theft.
 13 August: Church theft.
 18 August: Church arson.
 20 August: Church theft.

Spain

08 August: Church vandalism.
 16 August: Church smeared.

The Netherlands

19-20 August: Mosque arson.



Romania

29-30 July: Church theft.
 02 August: Church theft.
 25 August: Church theft.
 26 August: Church theft.
 27-28 August: Church damage.
 28 August: Church fire.

Malta

19 August: Church theft.
 21 August: Restricting entry into church.

Poland

30 July: Church theft.
 02 August: Church theft.
 16-18 August: Church theft .
 21 August: Church theft.
 23 August: Church theft.

Greece

02-03 August: Church theft.

Moldova

30 July: Church theft.
 13 August: Church theft.



UK

July: People abused leaving synagogue.

25 July: Man assaulted as he walked to a mosque.

26 July: Church theft.

30 July: Church theft.

05 August: Church vandalism

07 August: Church theft.

09 August: Church theft.

15 August: Church disturbance.

18 August: Nighthawking reports at Church.



Switzerland

29 July: Church smeared.

03 August: Church vandalism.

03 August: Church vandalism.

04 August: Church vandalism.

05 August: Church vandalism.

15 August: Church vandalism.



Russia

17 August: Synagogue vandalism.



Serbia

04 August: Church vandalism.



Ukraine

28 July: Church damage.

30 July: Church damage.

15 August: Church damage.

18 August: Church damage.

19 August: Disturbance of service.

19-20 August: Church vandalism.

25 August: Church damage.



Macedonia

21 August: Church damage and attempted arson.

REQUEST A SOAR TRAINING EVENT OR RISK ASSESSMENT



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

The SOAR Project is committed to help keep 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 [Here](#).

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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