



SEPTEMBER  
2022

ISSUE  
**15**



## EDITORIAL NOTE


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

We are excited to present you our September 2022 Newsletter!

This issue showcases SOAR's work over the month of September and presents our plans for the month ahead. This month we delivered five Regional Protective Security Trainings, one National Engagement Event & one EU level network dialogue event on SBD across four of our pilot countries.

We were also able to identify 87 incidents against places of worship across 12 European countries between 30th of August to 26th of September.

### CONTACT US

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

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



**EFI** Enhancing  
Faith Institutions  
PLACES • PEOPLE • PROGRAMMES

The Network for  
Religious and  
Traditional  
Peacemakers



**FCA**  
Finn Church Aid

Architects' Council of Europe  
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**ACE**  
**CAE**  
**EU**

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# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

**WHEN: 21 SEPTEMBER**

The International Day of Peace was established by the 36/37 resolution in 1981. This day is aimed at "commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples."

The theme for this year is "End racism. Build peace." We all have a role in ending racism and promoting peace. According to Secretary-General António Guterres "Racism continues to poison institutions, social structures, and everyday life in every society. It continues to be a driver of persistent inequality. And it continues to deny people their fundamental human rights."



## EUROPEAN ACTION DAY AGAINST ISLAMOPHOBIA

**WHEN: 21 SEPTEMBER**

The 21st of September is the European action day against Islamophobia.

On this day the SOAR Project would like to commemorate all the victims of Islamophobia and reaffirm its commitment towards strengthening the security and resilience of at-risk religious sites and communities.

The 2019 Christchurch mosque shootings, the 2020 Hanau attack, and other recent attacks, point to the need of tackling anti Muslim hatred, promoting tolerance, and strengthening the security of communities.





# SOAR PROJECT SPEAKING AT THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES



**WHEN: 02 SEPTEMBER**

**WHERE: KARLSRUHE, GERMANY**

On the 2nd of September 2022, the SOAR project has been present at the World Conference of Churches Assembly in Karlsruhe, Germany.

The SOAR Project engaged with attending organisations and was involved in the conference discussions.

We were excited to share our mission and work with the attendees, and expand out networks while spreading awareness about the protection of places of worship.



**Karlsruhe**

**02nd SEPTEMBER 2022**

**SOAR project speaking at the World Council of Churches**

## TRAINING EVENT – DÜSSELDORF



**WHEN: 03 SEPTEMBER**

**WHERE: DÜSSELDORF, GERMANY**

The SOAR project engaged with at risk communities in Dusseldorf, Germany, to ensure that places of worship and congregations are protected by providing FREE security training and resources—which included best practice examples, development dialogue, and engagement with law enforcement collaborators and the EU.

SOAR promotes interfaith collaboration and caters support to advance community safety and security capabilities via trainings for all faith communities alike.



**Düsseldorf**

**03rd SEPTEMBER 2022**

**Protective Security Training**

## TRAINING EVENT-AARHUS



**WHEN: 10 SEPTEMBER**

**WHERE: AARHUS, DENMARK**

On the 10th of September 2022, the SOAR project delivered a successful training in Aarhus, Denmark.

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](#).



## TRAINING EVENT – BUDAPEST



**WHEN: 14 SEPTEMBER**

**WHERE: BUDAPEST, HUNGARY**

On the 14th of September 2022, the SOAR Project delivered a Protective Security Training in Budapest, Hungary.

We were excited to engage with the attendees and listen to their feedback and concerns. Each attendee was provided with appropriate learning resources.

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](#).





## NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT – BUDAPEST



**WHEN: 16 SEPTEMBER**

**WHERE: BUDAPEST, HUNGARY**

On the 16th of September 2022, the SOAR Project organised a National Engagement event in Budapest, Hungary.

We were pleased to have a multi-faith attendance. Each participant was eager to engage in dialogue and collaboration.

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](#).



## TRAINING EVENT – BUDAPEST



**WHEN: 17 SEPTEMBER**

**WHERE: BUDAPEST, HUNGARY**

On the 17th of September 2022, the SOAR Project conducted a Protective Security Training in Budapest, Hungary.

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](#).

# EU-LEVEL NETWORK DIALOGUE – PERIMETER SECURITY OF RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS



**WHEN: 20 SEPTEMBER**

**WHERE: ONLINE**

This network dialogue meeting sought to contribute to the development of bespoke standards in relation to places of worship. This activity included consideration by working groups of whether standards or best practice guidance is required specifically for ensuring security by design for religious sites, whether planning for new construction, renovations, or security upgrades of existing facilities.



## HOME UNION ACTIONS EVENT 2022



**WHEN: 26 SEPTEMBER**

**WHERE: BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**

On the 26th of September 2022, the SOAR Project attended the HOME Union Actions Event 2022.

The SOAR team was excited to network and meet other funded projects, as well as present the work of SOAR in the thematic sessions.

We continue to engage with stakeholders and contribute to the protection and resilience of at risk religious communities and sites.



# TRAINING EVENT – RADHADESH



**WHEN: 29 SEPTEMBER**

**WHERE: RADHADESH, BELGIUM**

Increasing 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. The SOAR project has delivered a Regional Protective Security Training event on the 29th September 2022, in Radhadesh, Belgium. In attendance were various faith leaders, faith institution management, Architects and community members and volunteers from Places of Worship. This training and engagement was delivered in partnership with the Hindu Council of Belgium.

SOAR project's Radhadesh regional protective security training included an innovative concept called Security by Design (SBD) and free risk assessments to places of worship across Radhadesh. The training helped attendees to understand the security risks and principles of risk reduction for Places of Worship, enabling them to undertake and implement risk reduction measures. 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.



# TRAINING EVENT – BRUSSELS



**WHEN: 01 OCTOBER**

**WHERE: BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**

On the 1st of October 2022, the SOAR project will deliver a protective security training in Brussels, Belgium.

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](#).

## FORMATION SUR LA PROTECTION DES LIEUX DE CULTE À BRUXELLES

**BELGIUM**

ENGLISH  
TRANSLATION  
AVAILABLE

OÙ :  
(L'ADRESSE EXACTE SERA  
ANNONCÉ APRÈS L'INSCRIPTION)

**1. OCT 2022**  
**10H00-16H00**

## NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT IN WIEN

**ÖSTERREICH**

**wo:**  
(DIE GENAUE ADRESSE WIRD NACH  
ANMELDUNG BEKANNT GEGEBEN)

**7. OCT 2022**  
**18:30-22:00UHR**

# NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT – VIENNA



**WHEN: 07 OCTOBER**

**WHERE: VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

The SOAR Project is delighted to announce a National Engagement Event on the 7th of October 2022, in Vienna, Austria.

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

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



## TRAINING EVENT – VIENNA



**WHEN: 08 OCTOBER**

**WHERE: VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

On the 8th of October 2022, the SOAR project will deliver a protective security training in Vienna, Austria.

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 WIEN



**ÖSTERREICH**



**WO:**  
(DIE GENAUE ADRESSE WIRD NACH  
ANMELDUNG BEKANNT GEGEBEN)



**8. OCT 2022**  
**10:00-16:00UHR**

## TRAINING EVENT – HEIDELBERG



**WHEN: 09 OCTOBER**

**WHERE: HEIDELBERG, GERMANY**

On the 9th of October 2022, the SOAR project will deliver a protective security training in Heidelberg, 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 HEIDELBERG



**DEUTSCHLAND**



**WO:**  
(DIE GENAUE ADRESSE WIRD NACH  
ANMELDUNG BEKANNT GEGEBEN)



**9. OKT 2022**  
**12:00-18:00 UHR**

## TRAINING EVENT – BERLIN



**WHEN: 22 OCTOBER**

**WHERE: BERLIN, GERMANY**

On the 22nd of October 2022, the SOAR project will deliver a protective security training in Berlin, 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 BERLIN



DEUTSCHLAND



**WO:**  
(DIE GENAUE ADRESSE WIRD NACH  
ANMELDUNG BEKANNT GEGEBEN)



**22.OKTOBER 2022**  
**10:00-16:00 UHR**

## TRAINING EVENT – BERLIN



**WHEN: 23 OCTOBER**

**WHERE: BERLIN, GERMANY**

On the 23rd of October 2022, the SOAR project will deliver a protective security training in Berlin, 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 BERLIN



DEUTSCHLAND



**WO:**  
(DIE GENAUE ADRESSE WIRD NACH  
ANMELDUNG BEKANNT GEGEBEN)



**23.OKTOBER 2022**  
**10:00-18:00 UHR**



# TRAINING EVENT – ANTWERP



**WHEN: 25 OCTOBER**

**WHERE: ANTWERP, BELGIUM**

On the 25th of October 2022, the SOAR project will deliver a protective security training in Antwerp, Belgium.

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](#).



## FORMATION SUR LA PROTECTION DES LIEUX DE CULTE À ANTWERP



**BELGIUM**

English translation available

**où :**

(L'ADRESSE EXACTE SERA  
ANNONCÉE APRÈS L'INSCRIPTION)



 **25. OCT 2022**  
**14H30-20H00**

## FIVE NEW THEMATIC GUIDES ON PROTECTING VULNERABLE TARGETS AGAINST TERRORIST ATTACKS



The Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)'s Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets developed and published five new thematic guides on Protecting Vulnerable Targets Against Terrorist Attacks.

The guides were launched on 6th of September 2022. The launch event was opened by a number of UN officials.



# PROTECTING RELIGIOUS SITES FROM TERRORIST ATTACKS



The Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)'s Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets developed and published five new thematic guides on Protecting Vulnerable Targets Against Terrorist Attacks. The thematic guide nr.4 addresses the protection of religious sites against terrorist acts and features the SOAR project. The guide explores the role and aims of the SOAR Project and highlight the role of UNAOC within the project.



UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

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## Protecting religious sites from terrorist attacks

GOOD PRACTICES GUIDE  
Specialized module



Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets

Implemented in partnership with:



UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL  
COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATE (CTED)



UNAOC



unwomen



## SOAR WEEKLY NEWS

MEDIA DOCUMENTED ATTACKS AGAINST  
PLACES OF WORSHIP AND RELATED INCIDENTS

19-25 SEP 2022

- 20 SEP - MAN ASSAULTED IN FRONT OF A CHURCH. (GERMANY)
- 20 SEP - CHURCH THEFT. (GERMANY)
- 20 SEP - CHURCH DAMAGE. (UKRAINE)
- 20 SEP - CHURCH DAMAGE. (UKRAINE)
- 20 SEP - CHURCH VANDALISM. (GERMANY)
- 21 SEP - CHURCH THEFT. (ITALY)
- 21 SEP - CEMETERY THEFT. (HUNGARY)
- 22 SEP - PROTESTS OUTSIDE HINDU TEMPLE. (UK)
- 23 SEP - CHURCH THEFT AND ARSON. (UKRAINE)
- 23 SEP - CHURCH THEFT. (HUNGARY)
- 23 SEP - CHURCH DAMAGED. (UKRAINE)
- 23 SEP - CEMETERY THEFT. (FRANCE)
- 23 SEP - INCITEMENT TO RELIGIOUS HATRED. (UK)
- 23 SEP - DISTURBANCE OF RELIGIOUS FUNCTIONS IN CHURCH. (ITALY)
- 23-24 SEP - CHURCH PROPERTY DAMAGED. (UKRAINE)
- 24-25 SEP - CHURCH THEFT. (GERMANY)

The SOAR project undertook the task of documenting attacks and related incidents against places of worship in Europe. We aim to raise awareness of the risks and threats that religious sites encounter, to promote and contribute to the Strengthening the security and resilience of at-risk religious sites and communities.

The increase of hate crimes and hate speech against places of worship and communities is undeniable and should be addressed. Furthermore, petty crimes such as theft, and repeated vandalism against religious sites further highlight the importance of increased security. The SOAR project aims to address these issues and works towards increasing protection and safeguarding of places for worship across Europe.

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



The SOAR project undertook the task of documenting attacks and related incidents against places of worship in Europe on a **weekly basis**. We aim to raise awareness of the risks and threats that religious sites encounter, to promote and contribute to the Strengthening the security and resilience of at-risk religious sites and communities.

Keep an eye on the SOAR news section and social media for updates. Please find our first post [here](#).



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

## 30 AUGUST-26 SEPTEMBER

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**

- August: Church theft.
- 02-03 September: Mosque arson.
- 03 September: Mosque fire.
- 04 September: Cemetery theft.
- 04 September: Attacked near church.
- 05 September: Religious monument vandalised.
- 05 September: Church theft.
- 13 September: Attempted church arson.
- 14 September: Church attempted arson.
- 18 September: Church arson.
- 18 September: Church vandalised.
- 23 September: Cemetery theft.

### **Germany**

- 21-30 August: Church damage.
- 30 August: Church theft.
- 30 August: Mosque theft.
- 31 August: Church theft.
- August-September: Church theft.
- 01-02 September: Church smeared.
- 02-03 September: Church break-in.
- 05 September: Mosque damage.
- 06 September: Church damage.
- 06-07 September: Church theft.
- 07 September: Church break-in.
- 07 September: Altercation at church.
- 10 September: Church theft.



13 September: Church attempted theft.  
 13 September: Rabbi attacked.  
 17 September: Church break-in.  
 18 September: Church theft.  
 20 September: Church theft.  
 20 September: Church vandalism.  
 20 September: Man assaulted in front of a church.  
 23-26 September: Church damage.  
 24-25 September: Church theft.  
 26 September: Church theft.

## Italy

September: Church theft.  
 02 September: A woman wanted to jump off the roof of a church in Venice.  
 06 September: Church theft.  
 08 September: Church theft.  
 09 September: Church theft.  
 12 September: Church theft.  
 23 September: Disturbance of religious functions in church.  
 21 September: Church theft.



## Spain

September: Church theft.  
 01 September: Church theft.  
 01 September: Church theft.  
 12 September: Synagogue vandalised.  
 13 September: Church theft.  
 13 September: Church theft.



## Poland

04 September: Neo-Nazi leader arrested while demonstrating outside of Auschwitz.  
 05 September: Police theft.  
 05 September: Church theft.  
 09 September: Church theft.  
 09 September: Church theft.  
 11 September: Church theft.



## Romania

04 September: Church fire.  
 15 September: Church fire.



## Sweden

09 September: Mosque vandalised.





## Hungary

15-16 September: Church damage & theft.

21 September: Cemetery theft.

23 September: Church theft.



## Belgium

September: Church vandalised.

September: Cemetery theft.

02 September: Cemetery vandalism.



## Switzerland

17 September: Church vandalised.



## UK

August: Church vandalism, twice.

30 August: Synagogue vandalism.

04 September: Church theft.

12 September: Racial abuse at the Jewish Primary school.

17-18 September: Vandalism at religious building.

22 September: Protests outside Hindu temple.

23 September: Incitement to religious hatred.



## Ukraine

29 August: Church damage.

September: Church damage.

September: Cemetery fire.

September: Church damaged.

01 September: Church damage.

01 September: Church damage.

06 September: Attempt to capture church.

16 September: Three websites of the Lviv Diocese of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church were hacked.

18 September: Church vandalism.

20 September: Church damage.

20 September: Church damage.

23 September: Church damaged.

23 September: Church theft and arson.

23-24 September: Church property damaged.

**At least 270 buildings of religious communities in Ukraine were destroyed.**



# 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](#).



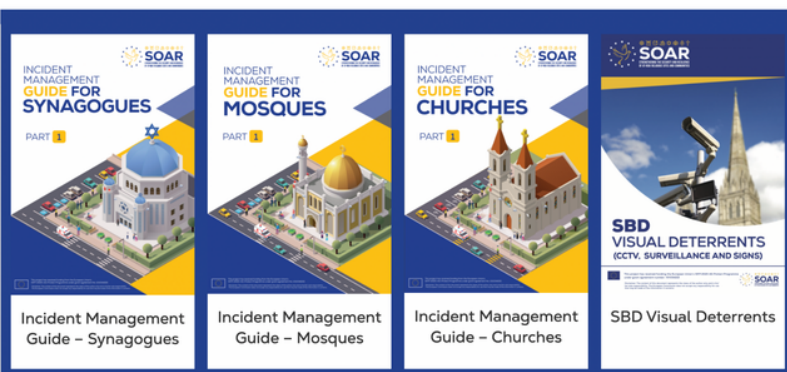
## SOAR RESOURCES



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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