



SOAR

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



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SOAR PROJECT - CONTACT



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www.soarproject.eu

Working to Keep Places of Worship and Communities Safe in Europe



Editorial Note

We are delighted to present this October's Newsletter Issue!

The SOAR Project had an exciting and eventful month. This Newsletter presents events that the SOAR project hosted and attended, information on our various upcoming activities, and updates on the platforms and networks that our team engaged with.

Additionally, this newsletter also highlights the most important EU publications and developments that discuss pressing issues within the security arena, including terrorist attacks and urban crime prevention, as well as showcasing EU's plans to address these issues moving forward.

The SOAR Project continues to advance and promote the protection & safeguarding of places of worship across Europe.

EFI Enhancing
Faith Institutions
PLACES • PEOPLE • PROGRAMMES

FCA
Finn Church Aid

Architects' Council of Europe
Conseil des Architectes d'Europe
ace-eu

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SOAR BRUSSELS LAUNCH EVENT



The SOAR (Strengthening the security and resilience of at-risk religious sites and communities) project held a launch and networking event on the 7th of October, 2021, in Brussels. In attendance were various faith leaders, faith institution management, volunteers, law enforcement collaborators and EU representatives.

The SOAR project's consortium partners- led by Enhancing Faith Institutions (EFI), Architects Council of Europe (ACE), Finn Church Aid (FCA) and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers- collectively delivered multiple presentations, highlighting key objectives and resources, throughout the event. They were joined by representatives from the European Commission and the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations (UNAOC), who also delivered presentations at the event.



STRENGTHENING THE SECURITY
AND RESILIENCE OF AT-RISK
RELIGIOUS SITES AND
COMMUNITIES ACROSS 7 EU
MEMBER STATES



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Protecting places of worship and faith communities in Europe



This project is funded
by the European Union

SOAR CALL TO ACTION: THE SAFEGUARDING OF RELIGIOUS SITES AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE VOICES OF FAITH LEADERS & ADMINISTRATORS.

We encourage all to participate in the survey to identify the security concerns of houses of worship, and to sign up for tailor made courses to advance safety in your own community.

<https://soarproject.eu/questionnaire/>

www.soarproject.eu

@SOAREurope  

Security, Democracy and Cities 2021

The EFI and SOAR team were pleased to attend the 2021 Security, Democracy and Cities Conference in Nice, France.

We took part in various panels, discussing strategies to prevent urban violence & foster social cohesion throughout Europe, networking and sharing the work of the SOAR Project throughout.

The EFI and SOAR Project team was actively engaging with all the speakers and attendees at the event, sharing the important work being done in strengthening the security and resilience of at-risk religious sites and communities all across Europe.

EFI Enhancing
Faith Institutions
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SOAR
STRENGTHENING THE SECURITY AND RESILIENCE
OF AT-RISK RELIGIOUS SITES AND COMMUNITIES



EFI & SOAR excited
to attend

SECURITY, DEMOCRACY & CITIES 2021

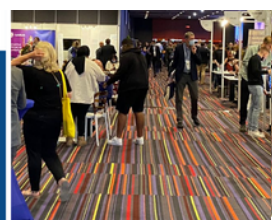
*Sharing updates on the work of
the SOAR Project*

NICE

20, 21, 22
OCTOBER
2021



European
Forum
for
Urban
Security





European Policy Dialogue Forum



The Enhancing Faith Institutions (EFI) team attended the 3rd European Policy Dialogue Forum on Refugees and Migrants from 19-21 October, 2021 in Lisbon. The Forum was hosted by The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), the Network for Dialogue and the European Council for Religious Leaders/Religions for Peace Europe (ECRL/RfP Europe). This year, the Forum was also supported by the OSCE (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights).

The EFI team was actively engaging with all the members of the Forum, sharing the important work being done on the SOAR Project in strengthening the security and resilience of at-risk religious sites and communities all across Europe.

Read more under EFI Website's News section- <https://efiorg.eu/efi-attends-european-policy-dialogue-forum-in-portugal/>.

SOAR engaging with members of The Hague Ecumenical Council of Churches

Our Community Development Officer (CDO) presented SOAR's work and engaged with members of The Hague Ecumenical Council of Churches in the Netherlands.

Vital discussions were held around local security needs as the SOAR Project works towards protecting Places of Worship.

We are committed to continue our work and reach out to more communities. The SOAR Project is dedicated to the increasing the protection and resilience of at-risk religious sites and communities.

SOAR IN HAGUE





SOAR team is coming to Cologne

Where: Cologne, Germany

When: November 2021 (provisional)

We are pleased to announce that we are coming to Cologne in the following weeks.

SOAR is looking to advance the protection and safeguarding of places for worship across 7 EU pilot countries (France, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Hungary, Netherlands and Denmark). The SOAR programme encourages and brings together various faith groups for training events and workshops, shares best practices related to protective security, and encourages communities to work together to tackle a common threat.

Mark your calendars and do not forget to keep an eye on our [website](https://soarproject.eu/) for more information on our upcoming Events.

<https://soarproject.eu/>

SOAR team is coming to Berlin

Where: Berlin, Germany

When: December 2021 (provisional)

We are happy to announce our upcoming visit to Berlin!

Our audiences throughout the project will be directed towards a new knowledge base which will offer access to trainings, guides, resources, and best practices in protective security.

Mark your calendars and do not forget to keep an eye on our [website](https://soarproject.eu/) for more information regarding our upcoming Events.

<https://soarproject.eu/>





Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism

The Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism took place on the 13th of October, 2021 and was attended by various Heads of States and governments, international organisations and social media platforms. The forum focused on Holocaust remembrance; Holocaust education; Antisemitism on social media platforms; and Combating antisemitism and other forms of racism in all spheres of life.

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Marija Pejčinović Burić, took part in the event and delivered an important keynote speech addressing the prevention and fight against Antisemitism.

First-ever EU Strategy on combating Antisemitism and fostering Jewish life

The European Commission published its first ever EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life. The Strategy is focused around the prevention of Antisemitism, the protection of Jewish life, and the promotion of research, education and Holocaust remembrance.

On this occasion, the European Commission Coordinator on Combatting antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, Katharina Von Schnurbein, was interviewed by the the Protection of Public Spaces Newsletter. The discussion focused on the objectives of the Strategy and and its connection to the protection of places of worship.

View the full video here-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EA0gsk1F3cQ>





Pandemic Hate: COVID-related Antisemitism and Islamophobia, and the Role of Social Media

The Institute for Freedom of Faith and Security published the following report- 'Pandemic Hate: COVID-related Antisemitism and Islamophobia, and the Role of Social Media'.

The publication observes Covid related Antisemitism and Islamophobia on social media. The study conducted interviews with thirteen Jewish and Muslim community leaders, subject-area experts and representatives of inter-governmental organisations.

The publication also provides a set of recommendations aimed at fighting online Antisemitism and Islamophobia.

<https://www.iffse.eu/iffse-publication/>

Human Rights Cities in the EU: A framework for Reinforcing the Rights Locally

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights published the report- 'Human Rights Cities in the EU: A framework for Reinforcing the Rights Locally'.

The report includes *"'foundations', 'structures' and 'tools' for mayors, local administrations and grassroots organisations to reinforce fundamental rights locally."*

Furthermore, the report states that a human rights city engages with *"civil society, in particular [...] faith and religious organisations and communities [...] to promote and implement a human rights agenda defined together."*

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2021/human-rights-cities-framework>





2022 Commission Work Programme: Making Europe Stronger Together

On the 19th of October, 2021, the European Commission adopted its 2022 Work Programme. The Work Programme contains 42 new policy initiatives and sets up steps towards "a post-COVID-19 Europe that is greener, fairer, more digital and more resilient."

Part of the Work Programme touches upon issues of discrimination and violence. Thus, the Commission commits to "continue its work to ensure that the Union of equality becomes a reality for all."

The SOAR Project aims to contribute to these objectives by increasing the security and resilience of religious sites and communities across Europe.

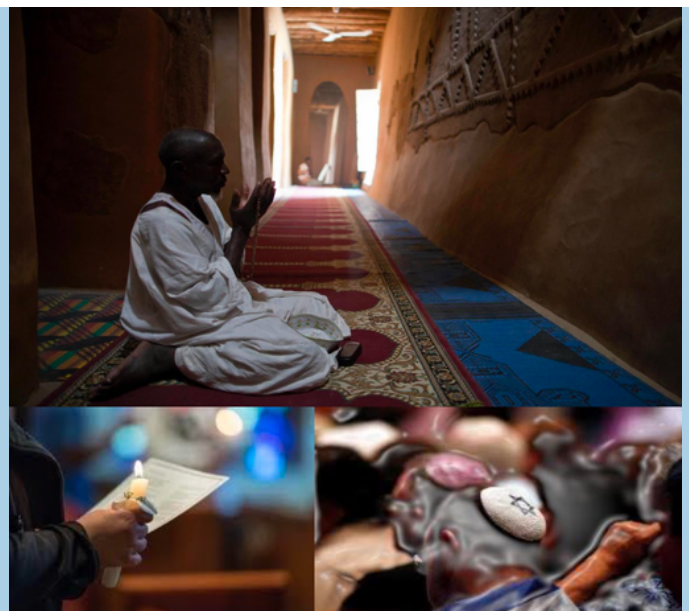
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_5246

EU Quick Guide to support the Protection of Places of worship

The European Commission has provided a Quick Guide to support the protection of Places of Worship. It is a concise yet comprehensive guide, outlining risks, threats and other areas of concern.

This guide was presented by European Commission representatives during the SOAR Project's Brussels Launch event. The guide includes topics such as managing risk, building basic awareness, and principles for a security evaluation for Places of Worship.

We are eager to continue the dissemination of this valuable document that supports our work in protecting places of worship.



EU Quick Guide

to support the protection
of Places of Worship

(May 2021)



Executive summary of the Study into measures to prevent terrorist attacks with vehicles and mitigate the impacts thereof

October 2021

Sarah Grand-Ciément; Victoria Jordan; Pauline Paille; Theodora Ogden & Ruth Harris

The information and views set out in this study are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Commission. The Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this study. Neither the Commission nor any person acting on the Commission's behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein

This report has been prepared by RAND Europe for the European Commission's Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

For information about this document please contact: Ruth Harris



Study into measures to prevent terrorist attacks with vehicles and mitigate the impacts thereof

On October 1, 2021, the European Commission published the 'Study into measures to prevent terrorist attacks with vehicles and mitigate the impacts thereof'.

The Report was prepared by RAND Europe. Its main objectives are: increasing understanding of the use of rented vehicles in terrorist attacks; enhancing understanding of measures to counter vehicle-related attacks; identifying legal, practical and technological challenges and implications; examining information-sharing in the rental sector; offering an assessment of future threats and vulnerabilities; and providing concrete recommendations for further work.

The importance of Social Cohesion for Urban Crime Prevention

'The importance of social cohesion for urban crime prevention' document is the final report and recommendations of Action 5 of the Urban Agenda for the EU, which aims to measure the impact of social cohesion on security in public spaces.

The report is directed towards local policy makers and security managers.

The report will be published in the near future on the [Futurium website](#).



The importance of social cohesion for urban crime prevention

Final report & recommendations of
Action 5 – measure the impact of
social cohesion on security in public
places

October 2021



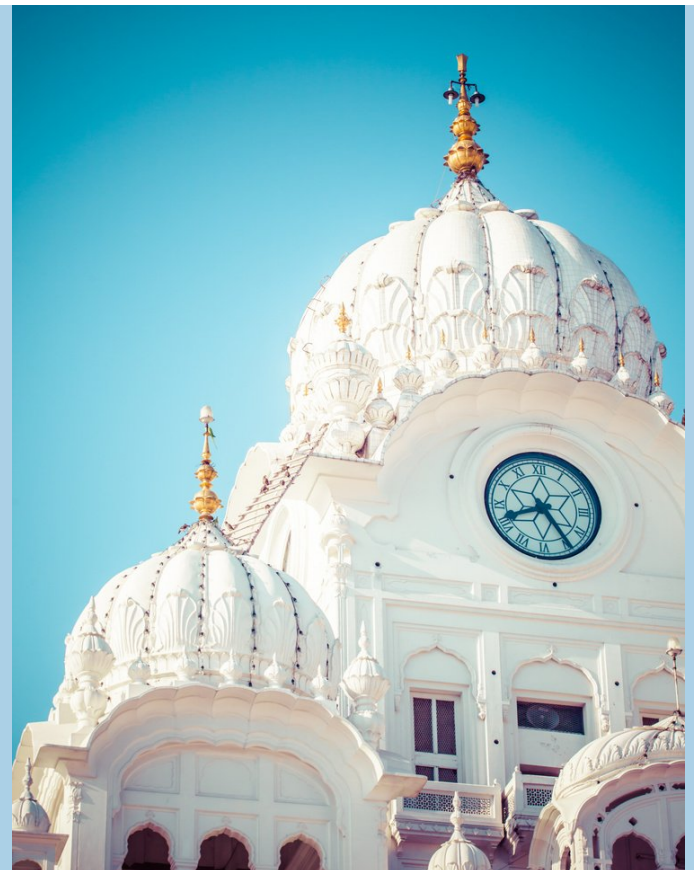


Media documented Attacks Against Places of Worship and Related Incidents: 24 September- 22 October 2021







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 in the given timeframe.

-  • September: Church vandalised. (Italy)
-  • September: Threat letter sent to Mosque. (France)
-  • 23 September: Planned attack on Mosque. (France)
-  • 25 September: A military chaplain from Paris attacked and victim of a theft. (France)
-  • 27 September: A truck rushes into the church, its driver flees. (France)
-  • October: Church vandalised. (Italy)
-  • October: Church vandalism. (UK)
-  • 2-3 October: Cemetery vandalised. (Ireland)
-  • 03 October: Cemetery vandalised. (Germany)
-  • 03 October: Anti-Semitic graffiti discovered at Auschwitz death camp. (Poland)

-  • 04 October: Church arson. (Belgium)
-  • 6-7 October: Church vandalised. (France)
-  • 07 October: Assault near place of Worship. (UK)
-  • 07 October: Attack at a Church. (France)
-  • 07 October: Planned attack on Notre Dame de Paris. (France)
-  • 09 October: Church vandalism. (France)
-  • 08 October: PM killed in a terrorist attack at church-terrorist attack. (UK)
-  • 11 October: Disturbance at church. (France)
-  • 13 October: Holocaust denial projected on Synagogue. (Sweden)
-  • 14 October: Theft and damage at cemetery. (France)





-  • 14 October: Vandalised cemetery. (France)
-  • 16-17 October : Shots at the church in Bratislava. (Slovakia)
-  • 18 October: Arson of memorial. (Scotland, UK)
-  • 18 October: Cross vandalised. (Poland)
-  • 18 October: Destruction of Jewish monument. (The Netherlands)
-  • 22 October: Synagogue online service interrupted with swastika and racist abuse. (UK)

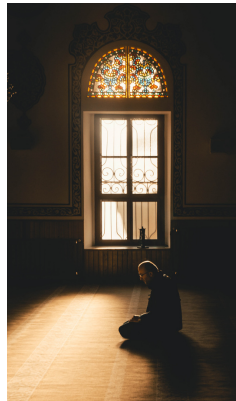
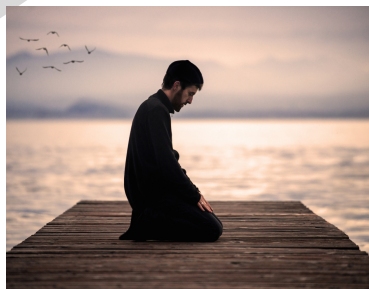
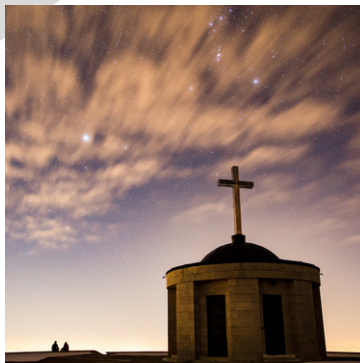


Join the Practitioner Network

- 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

<https://soarproject.eu/join/>

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



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