



SOAR

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




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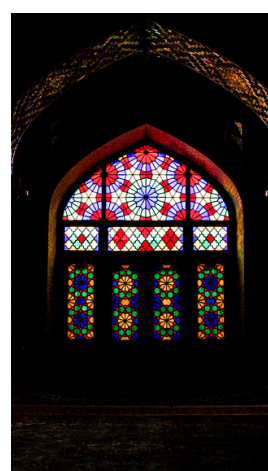
SOAR PROJECT - CONTACT

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 www.soarproject.eu



Working to Keep Places of Worship and Communities Safe in Europe



Editorial Note

The SOAR team is pleased to present to you our April Newsletter!

As per usual, our Newsletter outlines SOAR's monthly activities and showcases important events, publications, and announcements in the field of safety & security. This month is also extra special for a number of faiths. Thus, we would like to highlight April's religious festivals and emphasize the importance of interfaith peacebuilding and cooperation.

In keeping with our monthly tradition of documenting attacks against Places of Worship covered in the media, we are saddened to report that we were able to identify a record number of attacks and incidents. A total number of 83 incidents were identified on this occasion across Europe.

Hence, we would like to reaffirm our commitment of "Strengthening the security and resilience of at-risk religious sites and communities" across the EU.

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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April 2022 Religious Festivals



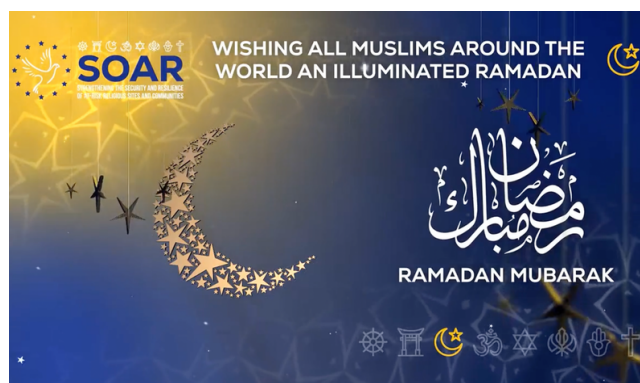
This April marked the first time in 33 years that the Jewish holiday of Passover, Muslim holiday of Ramadan and Christian holiday of Easter fell on the same date in the calendar. The festivals' current proximity provides an occasion for discovering deeper congruities between the traditions.

During these periods, places of worship find renewed relevance and significance- Many Christians worldwide celebrate Easter with special church services, the ringing of church bells, and Easter processions are held in some countries such as Spain. During Ramadan, Muslims frequent the mosque daily, especially for late night prayers or 'Tarawih'. Similarly, synagogues also hold special services during Passover.



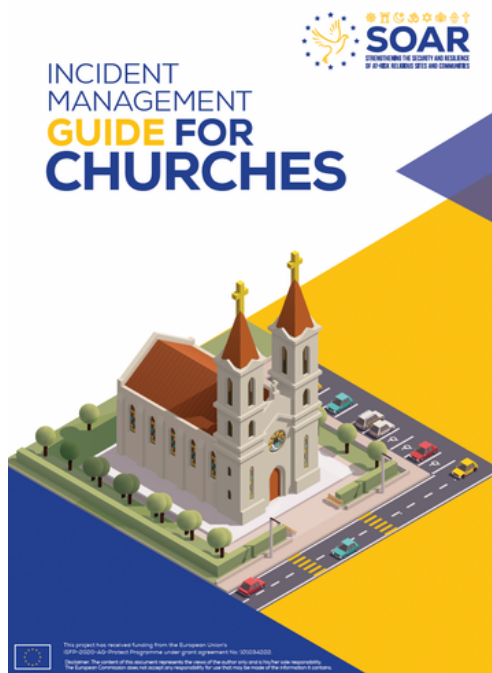
Since there is increased traffic, footfall, and attention to such religious communities/institutions during these periods, SOAR produced the following [resources](#) to ensure that worshipers are safe and secure during religious events.

SOAR builds upon the European Commission's 2020 strategy on increasing the protection of public places, including places of worship. We are committed to help keep communities safe by advancing the protection and safeguarding of places for worship. The SOAR project is interfaith focused in our training and outreach, supporting to keep all faiths and faith institutions safe and secure across Europe.





Protection of Christian Places of Worship



April 2022 has marked a number of significant Christian (and not only) religious events.

Thus, to assist communities in this joyful but also busy month, we've produced a number of resources that address the physical security of churches.

The Incident Management Guide for Churches details the key steps in addressing a potential incident. As the guide indicates, *"Just like having a working smoke detector, preparing for the unexpected makes sense"*.

The religious events require a significant amount of time and preparation. To aid in these preparations from a security perspective, the SOAR publications present 10 Security Tips for Churches in preparation for Easter and 10 Security Tips for Churches in preparation for religious events.





10 SECURITY TIPS FOR MOSQUES

IN PREPARATION FOR EID

1		Select a person from your Mosque to be the Designated Security Lead (DSL) . Build a team around the DSL and engage with local Police Ambulance and Fire Services. Plan for security risks before Eid. Document tasks and assign roles.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		Prepare management protocols for your Mosque Entry And Exit Points , avoid worshippers standing at exit points that open onto main roads, and encourage meet and greet behind fences and bollards to protect the congregation from potential vehicle attacks.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		Ensure Mosque has an Insurance Policy in place that covers for terror related attacks, break-ins, thefts & vandalism.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		Monitor car park entrances and exits. These should be manned at all times. Manage mosque parking strategy and close access once the car park is full. Ensure ease of access for Emergency Vehicles , especially during congregational worship.	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		Leadership should rehearse safety and security procedures before Eid, prepare Mosque safety culture documentation and signage, and share them with the congregation.	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		Make Fire/emergency exits known to all and Keep them clear at all times.	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		Monitor Mosque Social media and email communication. Report any abuse or threats to local law enforcement agencies immediately. Secure website and online communication against cyber threats.	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		Test all safety Systems , including fire alarms and emergency lights. Ensure links to police or security via alarm systems are operational.	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		Ensure installed Video Surveillance equipment is working and recording platforms can store images. Clean internal & external cameras, so images are not obscured. Place backup of stored data off-site for later review if required.	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		Create Door Policies - lock or man main and side doors once Jammal begins. Any unlocked doors should be monitored; door volunteers should be visible with Hi-Vis jackets and means to communicate whilst on duty with two-way radios.	<input type="checkbox"/>



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10 Security Tips for Mosques



Following our Easter publications, we are also providing 10 Security Tips for Mosques in Preparation for Eid.

While preparing for religious events, we want to ensure that all faith communities are equipped with the necessary knowledge to ensure the protection of their religious sites and worshippers during these important celebrations.

Our [resources page](#) contains further publications that address the security of religious sites. It offers a library of good practices and information related to Protective security of Places of Worship in Europe that are linked to the SOAR programme.

Outer Area SBD Protection and Bollards



Having weak perimeter security is one of the most common deficiencies of security measures for places of worship. This becomes even more crucial during religious festivals and events when there are large crowds of people present.

This SOAR publication covers how Perimeter Security may be enhanced through several measures applying Security by Design (SBD), offering examples of ‘Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design’ (CPTED) and Vehicle Security Barriers (VSB) such as Earthworks, Bollards and Planters.

Download the Resource [HERE](#).




OUTER AREA SBD

PROTECTION AND BOLLARDS



SBD GATES/DOORS AND WINDOWS REDEVELOPMENT ACCESS

This project has received funding from the European Union's ISFP 2020 AG Protect Programme under grant agreement number: 101034222

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SBD Gates/Doors and Windows Redevelopment Access



Forced entry on to the premises can often be delayed, or even averted, by the building façade which includes components such as doors and windows.

This SOAR publication covers how Places of Worship can increase their Building's Protection by applying Security by Design (SBD) measures including Access control and fortifying physical protection via Doors, Windows, and Glazing.

Download the Resource [HERE](#).

Implementing SBD for and in existing buildings, including heritage sites



Ensuring that security measures are harmonically integrated into both the building and the urban environment is a key aspect of Security by Design (SBD). So, when considering the Protection of Places of Worship, it is also important to protect their cultural and natural heritage.

This SOAR publication covers how SBD measures and Layering Security for existing buildings can maintain the dignity of a place of worship while also enhancing security.

Download the Resource [HERE](#).



IMPLEMENTING SBD FOR AND IN EXISTING BUILDINGS, INCLUDING HERITAGE SITES



SOAR community safety and security training for women and youth congregants



Where: Genk, Belgium

When: 24 April 2022

The SOAR project organised community safety and security training for women and youth congregant in Genk, Belgium, on the 24th of April 2022.

The attendees were able to receive comprehensive information related to security and to further engage with our team.

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

To request a training event in your location please do so [Here](#).

SOAR community safety and security training for women and youth congregants



Where: Aalst, Belgium

When: 25 April 2022

The SOAR project organised community safety and security training for women and youth congregant in Aalst, Belgium, on the 25th of April 2022.

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





PROTECTION OF PLACES OF WORSHIP DURING RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS

Registration Open - www.soarproject.eu/events/



**SUSANNA FAUST
KALLENBERG**
Pfarrerin für Interreligiösen
Dialog Evangelische Kirche
Frankfurt und Offenbach



**SHAYKH DR. UMAR
AL QADRI**
Chief Imam of the
Islamic Centre Ireland



**JEWISH COMMUNITY
REPRESENTATIVE**
Jewish representative to
be announced shortly



**SHAUKAT
WARRAICH**
SOAR Project / Director
of Enhancing
Faith Institutions



THIS PROJECT HAS RECEIVED FUNDING FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION'S ISFP-2020-AC-PROTECT PROGRAMME UNDER GRANT AGREEMENT NO: 101034222

Protection of Places of Worship During Religious Festivals



Where: Online

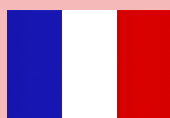
When: To be announced

Considering our eventful month, we want to hear now from religious leaders across Europe!

On this occasion we reached out to Susanna Faust Kallenberg (Pfarrerin für Interreligiösen Dialog Evangelische Kirche Frankfurt und Offenbach) and Shaykh Dr. Umar Al Qadri (Chief Imam of the Islamic Centre Ireland) to discuss the security of places of worship and communities during religious festivals and to touch upon the following topics: the protection of places of worship, the role of religious institutions, and the potential security risks and vulnerabilities encountered by religious institutions.

Keep an eye on our [website](http://www.soarproject.eu) and [social media](#) for updates on our upcoming event.

Protective Security Training Event - Nancy



Where: Nancy, France

When: 08 May 2022

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

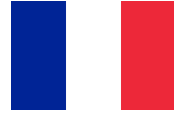
If you would like to register for our upcoming events, please do [Here](#).

To request a training event in your location please do so [Here](#).





Protective Security Training Event - Metz



Where: Metz, France

When: 15 May 2022

The SOAR Project is delighted to announce our upcoming training event in Metz, 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 [Here](#).

To request a training event in your location please do so [Here](#).

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 [Here](#).

To request a training event in your location please do so [Here](#).





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 [Here](#).

International Roma Day

8th of March marks the International Roma Day.

The day aims to celebrate the Romani culture and raise awareness of the human rights issues faced by this community.

The Roma are Europe's largest ethnic minority. Thus, on this day, we would also like to celebrate the Roma history, culture, and language.

On this occasion we would like to point to the "[EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation](#)".





Enhancing Stakeholder Awareness and Resources for
Hate Crime Victim Support (EStAR)

Policy Brief

Hate Crime Victim Support



Funded by the European Union



Hate Crime Victim Support



On 22nd of April the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe published the Policy Brief "Hate Crime Victims Support". The Brief discusses the legal and policy framework of addressing of supporting, assisting, and protecting victims. The brief further addresses victim support and provides a list of recommendations to OSCE participating states.

"This policy brief condenses the knowledge and key findings of the Enhancing Stakeholder Awareness and Resources for Hate Crime Victim Support (EStAR) project implemented by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), in partnership with the Association of Counseling Centers for Victims of Right-Wing, Racist, and Antisemitic Violence in Germany (VBRG)."

Quality Specialist Support Services for Hate Crime Victims



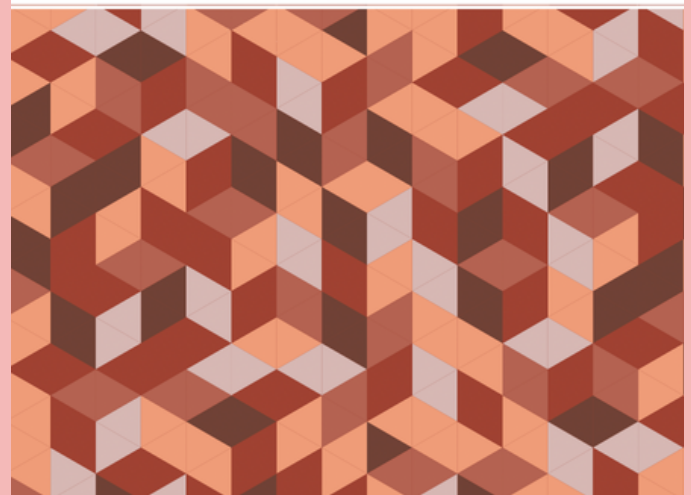
On 5th of April 2022, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe published the "*Quality Specialist Support Services for Hate Crime Victims: Training Course*".

It "has been developed as part of the Enhancing Stakeholder Awareness and Resources for Hate Crime Victim Support (EStAR) project, implemented by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), in co-operation with the Association of Counseling Centers for Victims of Right-wing, Racist and Antisemitic Violence in Germany (VBRG)."



Enhancing Stakeholder Awareness and Resources for
Hate Crime Victim Support (EStAR)

Quality Specialist Support Services for Hate Crime Victims Training Course





Co-operation between law enforcement and Jewish community in North Macedonia



When: 12 April 2022

On 12th of April 2022, the OSCE Mission to Skopje, and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) brought together *"law enforcement and judicial officials with representatives of the Jewish community of North Macedonia."*

The event aimed to improve cooperation to be able to face *'potential security challenges to the community, such as concerns stemming from hate crimes, anti-Semitic conspiracy theories, and anti-Semitic bias.'*

CIDI: Antisemitism Report in The Netherlands



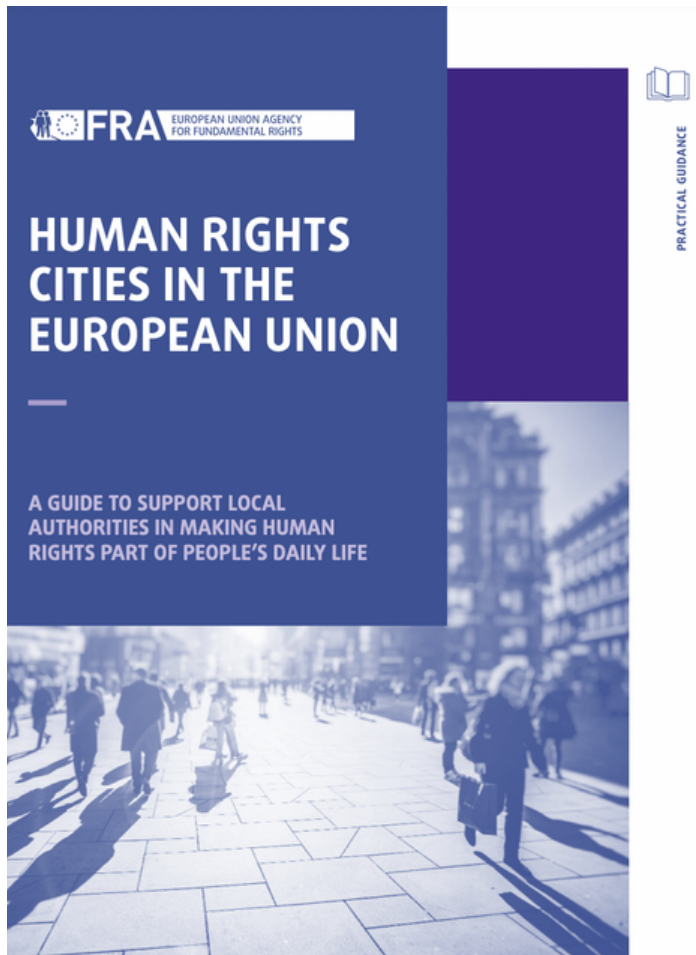
The Israel Information and Documentation Center (CIDI) in the Netherlands documented a record number of antisemitic hate crimes in 2021.

"CIDI registered a total of 183 anti-Semitic incidents in 2021, an increase of 36% compared to 2020 and slightly higher than the previous peak in 2019."



MONITOR
ANTISEMITISCHE
INCIDENTEN
2021

CIDI



Human rights cities in the European Union - Practical guidance



On 27 of April 2022, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights published a "Guide to Support Local Authorities in Making Human Rights Part of People's Daily Life".

"This guide can help cities wishing to improve their efforts to respect human rights. It aims to encourage local authorities to adopt higher human rights standards. The idea is to encourage and foster mutual learning on human and fundamental rights."

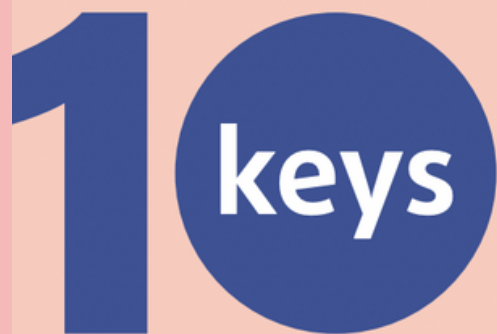
10 keys to effectively communicating human rights - 2022 Edition



On 14th of April 2022, the European Union for Fundamental Rights published "10 keys to effectively communicating human rights".

The publication comprises of 10 short keys on how to bring people together!

The publication is mainly tailored towards human rights advocates or communicators.



to effectively communicating human rights

[NEW]



Media Documented Attacks Against Places of Worship and Related Incidents: 26 March-25 April

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

28-29 March: Church theft.

31 March: Church damage.

01 April: Attempted theft in front of church.

02 April: Church theft.

03 April: Church fire.

04 April: Violent attempt to enter a mosque.

04 April: Device placed inside Toulouse cathedral.

05 April: Church vandalised.

08 April: Explosive device church.

13 April: Suspicious bag hidden in church.

15 April: Church fire.

16 April: Church tags.

19 April: Russian church burned.

24 April: Priest and nun attacked with knife.

25 April: Mosque tagged.

April: Cemetery theft.



Germany

29-30 March: Church vandalised.

March: Church vandalised.

02 April: Attack on Ukrainian pastor.

02-03 April: Church vandalism.

03-04 April: Church vandalised.

06 April: Church vandalism.

08 April: Church theft.



Romania

14 April: Church fire.





Italy

01 April: Illegal activity in front of a mosque.

01 April: Church theft.

03 April: Priest assaulted in Church.

04 April: Church fire.

31 March: Church vandalism.

March: Church theft.

The Netherlands

April: Pegida has announced demonstrations at mosques in various places in the country.

April: Mosques in the Netherlands receive hate mail.

Belgium

02 April: Church tagged.

11-13 April: Cemetery theft.

05 April: Grave vandalised.

Lithuania

01 and 03 April: Two Holocaust memorials smeared with antisemitic, pro-Russian slurs.

Austria

08 April: Car crushed into church.

Ireland

 03 April: Man assaulted by gang while cycling to Dublin mosque.

Spain

13 April: Church vandalism.

Switzerland

28 March: Church theft.

Moldova

09 April: Cemetery vandalised.

Turkey

18 April: Mosque vandalised.

UK

28 March: Fire at mosque.

28 March: Church theft.

31 March: Church theft.

03 April: Church vandalised.

03 April: Church vandalised.

05 April: Church vandalised.

08 April: Fire at Belfast multicultural centre.

17 April: Church vandalised.





17 April: Church vandalism.

18 April: Church vandalised.

18 April: Cemetery graves attacked by man.

19 April: Two injured after attack outside East Ham mosque.

23 April: Man spotted 'urinating outside mosque'.

23 April: Church vandalism.

23 April: Church vandalised.

23 April: Church vandalised.

April: Racist reaction to Hindu temple.

April: Cemetery vandalised.



Ukraine

28 March: Church damaged.

30 March: A priest of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine - was abducted from the church.

04 April: Church damaged.

03 April: Church and school damaged.

07 April: Church affected by shelling.

07 April: Church damaged.

10 April: Church seized.

14 April: Armed men threatening the abbot and blocked the UOC cathedral.

14 April: Church captured.

15 April: Church damaged-two people killed.

17 April: Church damaged.

17 April: Church damaged.

22 April: Church fire.

Reported in April: 160 years old church damaged.

Reported in April: Civilians shot on the church grounds.

Reported in April: Church damaged.

Reported in April: Church damage.

Reported in April: Two churches and cathedral damaged.

Reported in April: Church damaged.

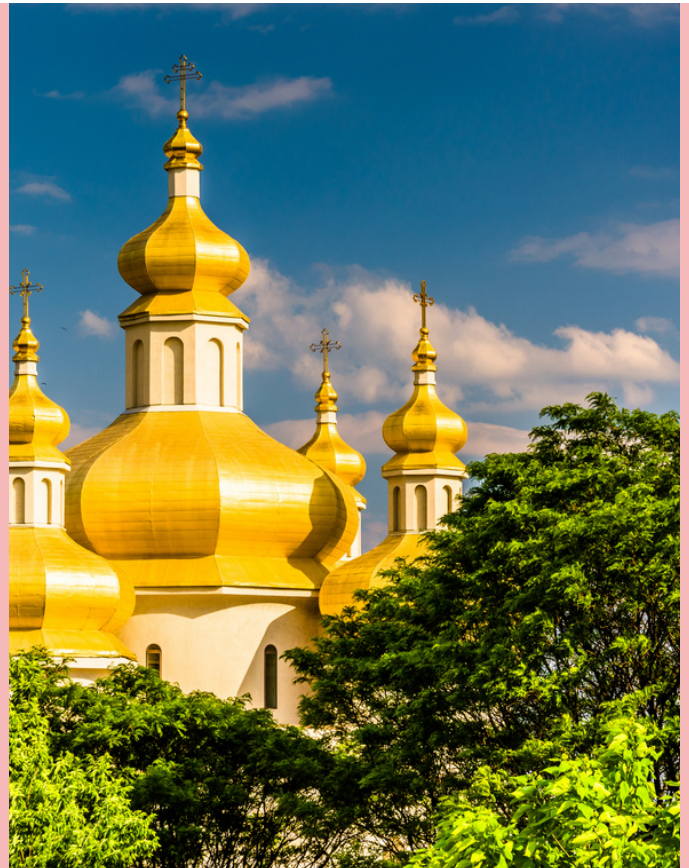
10-11 April: Church burned.

Reported in April: Damaged church.

Reported in April: Church damaged.

Reported in April: Crimes against cultural heritage.

Reported in April: Church damaged.





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

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



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<https://twitter.com/SOARProjectEU>



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