



# **BROCHURE FOR WORSHIPERS AND VISITORS TO LARGE RELIGIOUS GATHERINGS**

*"Better education is better prevention, protection and response  
to various types of terrorist threats and incidents that may occur in religious places,  
including attacks with chemical biological and radiological materials."*



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## Preamble

Religious sites are considered to be especially vulnerable to attacks due to their accessibility and the fact that there are usually limited security measures applied.

ProSPeReS project is aimed at increasing the level of protection in places of worship (PWs) by keeping the balance between security measures and preservation of the open nature of PWs. This can be achieved through cooperation between operators of religious sites, public services and security experts, the site's risk assessment, raising public awareness (especially key beneficiaries – clergy and worshippers), as well as developing and validating a comprehensive protection system.

The system involves tools and templates (inc. a tool that has been based on the by DG HOME developed EU Vulnerability Assessment Tool), training (inc. eLearning with virtual reality), educational materials and security measures covering the entire cycle of an emergency and,

finally, a model security system for indoor and outdoor religious gatherings with a set of recommendations. The model includes the most effective methods of cooperation between public authorities and services, faith-based leaders, various religious institutions, security experts and practitioners. Efficient communication is a key element for building a solid platform to exchange needs, expectations and best practices, sharing knowledge and experiences on using technological and non-technological solutions, as well as existing and potential new innovations in the field of public safety and security.

Good organization of reception areas at places of worship and the timely and effective responses of staff, can provide better protection and potentially save lives.

This guide is a part of an awareness raising campaign of the EU Project ProSPeReS with the motto:

*"Better to know."*

### WARNING

This brochure is not intended to replace the regulations in force. Its purpose is to provide practical advice. The content of this document represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.

**The development of effective common security rests on 5 pillars:**

- prevention which relies on comprehensive preparation and holistic organization,
- protection to reduce vulnerabilities,
- detection of threats,
- response to threats,
- mitigation of the results of terroristic attacks.

The process of protecting people at religious sites and large gatherings is part of an institutional mechanism which can be strengthened at the local level by mutual cooperation to improve the effectiveness of security measures and services.

*"We are all actors in our own safety and that of others."*

*7 things to help protect Places of Worship*

## 1. How to identify indicators of terrorism

### What to pay attention to?

- Behaviours suggesting 'hostile reconnaissance' - this could involve unusual curiosity relating to security measures and the organisation of the PW the prolonged observations of people and vehicles coming and going, taking photos and videos, suspicious vehicles (with or without occupants) or a person remaining in the same place for a prolonged time. Other indicators could be verbal threats, threatening tags or anonymous calls.
- Unusual dress code for the season – this could involve the wearing of clothing to conceal a person's identity or what they may be carrying.
- Vehicles parked near the building at an inappropriate location – this could involve being in a restricted area or parking in breach of local regulations.
- Subcontractors, delivery persons / couriers or others with a legitimate link to the PW acting outside their normal role and responsibilities – this could involve unexpected deliveries, their presence outside their normal working hours or being seen in an area of the site they would not normally be expected to visit.
- Abandoned bags and suspicious items or packages.

### Abandoned bag (Rafał Kowalczyk based on © pigprox, Adobe Stock)



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## 2. How to identify potential signs of individual vulnerability to radicalisation

Risk factors can be formed by the physical and social environment in which crime occurs, but they can also arise at the level of an individual. Individual risk factors entail the internal processes that take place in the radicalization of an individual.

Risks to the public safety of PW can also come from radicalized individuals. Within our European borders, we have also seen severe attacks by lone actor terrorists.

When an individual starts to: **dive very deep into the 'us against them' type of thinking**, radicalisation processes can start occurring.

Especially when this type of antagonism arises (considering society as 'us against them'), the other in their mind can be considered as the enemy. In the case of religion, when an individual is not able to separate the individual beings from the religious ideology, they then deindividualize human beings and see them as a representation of that religion.

These individual risk factors are often factors such as:

- **lack of social competence,**
- **narcissistic personality disorder,**
- **suicidal intent and others.**

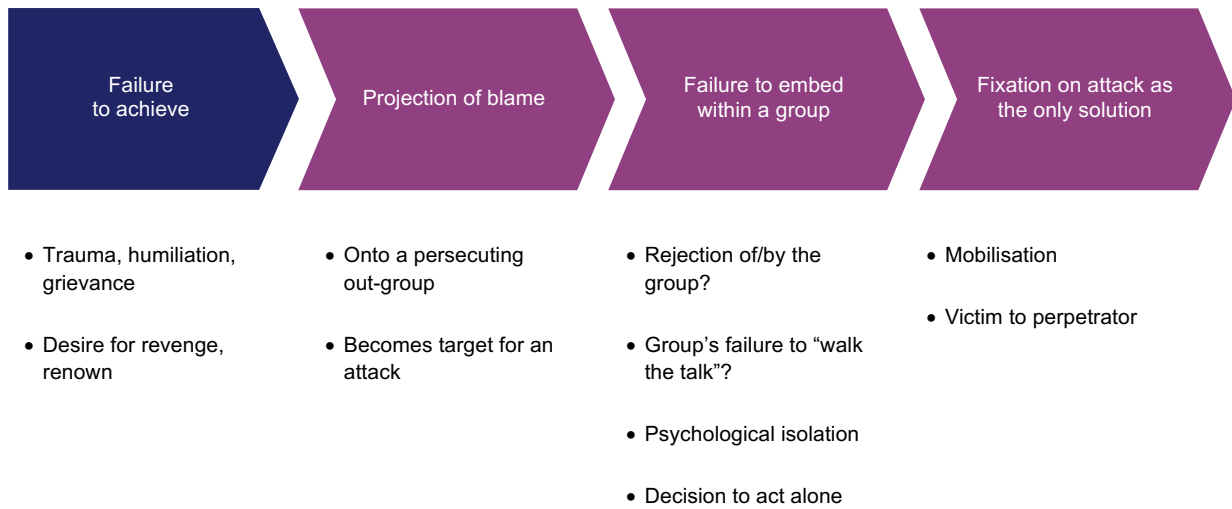
But not every individual with extremist views and certain personality traits will act on these views.

The EU Commission's Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) describes in its report on lone actors that assessing the risk of a lone actor preparing for an attack, requires the identification of the presence or absence of threshold behaviours that mark the position they are on the 'lone actor pathway' to an attack<sup>1</sup>. Sharing this information, according to the EU Commission RAN, enables patterns of behaviours to be identified.

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<sup>1</sup> European Union (2021). *Lone Actors as a Challenge for P/CVE*. Retrieved on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022. URL: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/system/files/2021-10/ran\\_lone\\_actors\\_as\\_challenge\\_for\\_pcve\\_july\\_2021\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/system/files/2021-10/ran_lone_actors_as_challenge_for_pcve_july_2021_en.pdf)

## Lone actor pathway



### The mindset of intent

- Shift from victim to perpetrator
- Stridency of belief
- Links severed with family and friends
- Dialogue overtaken by preaching
- Compassion and humour lost
- Attack planning begins

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### **3. How to recognize signs of extremism**

Our emotions are sometimes subjected to extreme tests. For some, when anger grows too strong, it can slowly lead to isolation, to a change in attitude and sometimes even rejection of others whomever they may be. That is when the worst can happen!

If you notice that someone isolates themselves more and more:

- loses contact with family;
- speaks about conspiracy theories;
- becomes radicalized.

You may be able to help them:

- make an effort to keep in touch with them;
- talk to their friends;
- inform their parents or family;
- in extreme cases contact the local phone number for the prevention of radicalization.

Then all of this may become just a bad memory.

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## 4. How to understand indications of preparation for an attack using hazardous materials

It is characteristic of chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incidents (CBRN) that it is difficult to detect or recognise they have been released during the initial stages. Hazardous materials used in an attack could be odourless, colourless and tasteless, thus exposure may not be evident immediately. There are some indicators which could point to a possible CBRN incident:

- Suspicious devices or packages (especially showing wiring, air cylinders, containers with powders or liquids);
- Oily coating, powder or gel-like substance on exposed surfaces;
- Unexplained, unauthorised overhead spraying in the area (from small planes or drones);
- Unexplained odours (bitter almonds, peach kernels, mown hay, cut grass);
- Cases of nausea, breathing difficulties, disorientation;
- Unexplained medical symptoms (sore eyes, headache, vomiting, fitting, non-thermal burns, skin irritation);
- Sick or dead animals in the area;
- Low-lying clouds or fog unrelated to current weather;
- Unexplained clouds of dust;
- Withered plants.

CBRN incidents can also be recognised when there are people who have collapsed without an obvious explanation by the 1-2-3 protocol:

- **1 casualty** – proceed to give first aid as usual.
- **2 casualties** – show caution and look for other indicators of CBRN materials.
- **3 or more casualties** – suspect the involvement of CBRN materials and look for other indicators and seek specialist advice and support.

**Sudden death of animals or plants should definitely worry you (Rafał Kowalczyk based on © Anatoliy Gleb, © Iakov Kalinin, © Mitand73, © humbak, © InputUX Adobe Stock)**



## 7 things to help protect Places of Worship

## 5. How to react to an attack

React in the event of a terrorist attack! These behaviours can save your life, before help arrives:

## RUN

## Escape, if you can

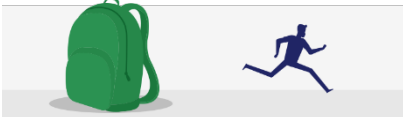


- Consider the safest options;
- Is there a safe route? RUN, if not HIDE;
- Can you get there without exposing yourself to greater danger?

Help other people to escape, but don't let their indecision slow you down



## Leave belongings behind



Do not attempt to film the incident – RUN!



Alert people around you and deter them from entering the danger zone



## HIDE

## If you cannot run, HIDE



- Find cover from gunfire e.g., substantial brickwork / heavy reinforced walls;
- If you can see the attacker, they may be able to see you. Cover from view does not mean you are safe. Bullets go through glass, brick, wood and metal.

You must still hide, even if you are behind a locked door



## Turn off light and mute the devices



Be quiet, silence your phone and turn off vibrate



Lock / barricade yourself in and move away from the door



## TELL

## Call 112



- If you cannot speak or make a noise, listen to the instructions given to you by the call taker.

## What do the police need to know?



- What's happening?
- Where exactly?
- Where are the suspects?
- Description of suspects;
- Info about casualties / hostages;
- Info about the building / surroundings.

## Follow police instructions



- Remain calm;
- Avoid sudden movements that may be considered a threat;
- Keep your hands open and in view.

## Police may...



- Point guns at you;
- Treat you firmly;
- Question you;
- Be unable to distinguish you from the attacker;
- Officers will evacuate you when it is safe to do so.

### 7 things to help protect Places of Worship

## 6. How to react to an incident involving hazardous materials

React if you are exposed to hazardous materials! These behaviors can save your life, before help arrives:

#### 1. Remove yourself



- **REMOVE** yourself from the area and get away from anything that may be dangerous like: unusual smells, unexplained vapor or mist clouds, dead or unwell people or animals, oily droplets or films on surfaces or water, unusual materials or equipment;
- Choose perpendicular way to the wind direction.

#### 2. Don't sit or lie



- Even if you feel unwell, **DON'T** sit or lie down, you might not be able to get up again.

#### 3. Go outside



- If inside, try to go outside into fresh air if possible.

#### 4. Help other people



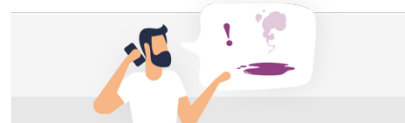
- If you see people who are unwell or passing out, help them leave the area without retracing your steps.

#### 5. Carefully remove



- As soon as you get to a safer area, carefully **REMOVE** your outer clothing – it may be contaminated;
- **DON'T** touch the outside surface of the clothing with your hands;
- **DON'T** let the outside surface make contact with your face when you take off clothing;
- **IF POSSIBLE** try to isolate clothing in a plastic bag – like a garbage bag – or leave them on the ground and keep away;
- **IF POSSIBLE**, **REMOVE** any hazardous substance from your skin using a dry absorbent material to soak it up or brush it off;
- **RINSE** continually with water if the skin is itchy or painful.

#### 6. Call 112



- Use your mobile phone to alert the emergency services on 112 about:
  - The location of the incident;
  - Your location (if different);
  - That hazardous materials might be involved.

#### 7. Wait for emergency services



- **WAIT** for emergency services and follow their instructions;
- Tell emergency responders where they are when they arrive to help;
- **DON'T** go home because you may contaminate your family.

#### 8. Don't visit medical facilities



- **DON'T** visit a medical facility, you may contaminate other people and emergency workers;
- The emergency services will organize a place nearby where you can receive medical treatment.

#### 9. Don't touch



- **DON'T** touch your face;
- **DON'T** touch anyone;
- **DON'T** drink, eat or smoke.

*7 things to help protect Places of Worship*

## 7. How to report any potentially relevant information or concerns

**Please inform staff**

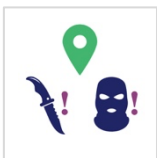
- If you see any suspicious behaviour.
- If you see any suspicious items.
- If you are concerned about safety.

**Call 112 emergency services immediately**

- If there is an attack or emergency happening.
- If you think an attack is about to happen.
- If you think there is an imminent risk to someone's life.

**Remember**

- Keep yourself and others as safe as possible.
- Alert staff as soon as possible without putting yourself in danger.

**What to report**

- Where? The exact location.
- What? Summary of what is happening.
- Who? Description of any attackers and where they were last seen.
- How? Report any weapons or hazardous materials involved.

## The ProSPeReS Consortium

Security experts, security research and academic institutions,  
providers of technical solutions and services



### Law enforcement agencies (LEAs)



### Faith-based organizations







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