

Volume 5, Issue 3

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TLP: CLEAR

[FB-ISAO Current Threat Level](#)

FB-ISAO Physical Threat Level:
Guarded

FB-ISAO has assessed the general Physical Threat Level for US Faith-Based Organizations as “SEVERE.” As per FB-ISAO’s definitions of the Physical Threat Levels, “SEVERE” means that an event is highly likely.

Please note that the Pandemic Threat Level has been lowered to **Guarded**.

FB-ISAO Cyber Threat Level:
Guarded

FB-ISAO has assessed the general Cyber Threat Level for US Faith-Based Organizations as “GUARDED.” As per FB-ISAO’s definitions of the Cyber Threat Levels, “GUARDED” means FB-ISAO is unaware of any specific events, but a general risk of incidents exists.

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FB-ISAO Newsletter

Guidance on Cyber Threats Facing the Charity Sector

By Sadie-Anne Jones, Junior Analyst, Gate 15

The UK’s National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) recently published guidance on threats facing the charity sector. Below is a breakdown of the NCSC’s guidance, common threats, and resources for improving cyber security for non-profits.



Threat actors target charities for a variety of reasons including monetary gain, access to sensitive information, or to hinder an organization’s cause. These are often coupled with sparse cybersecurity measures within non-profits that further put them at risk. Even when there are measures

in place, the fact that many charities have support from part-time staff - such as volunteers - enhances the risk that not all workers will be trained adequately on cybersecurity procedures. Additionally, the NCSC’s report notes that “the impact of any cyberattack on a charity might be particularly high as charities often have limited funds, minimal insurance coverage and, by their very nature, are a supplier of last resort providing services where there is insufficient government or affordable private sector alternatives,” thus enhancing the threats and making it crucial to be prepared.

Below are a few varying examples of cyber-attacks against faith-based organizations:

- In November 2022 a North Carolina church “received an email from Landmark construction, their builder, with payment instructions. A second, nearly identical email, came in just after the first. The emails arrived on a Friday when the office was closed, church leaders explained. Upon checking the emails on Monday, a church representative responded, unknowingly, to a cloned email.” This attack led to the loss of the nearly \$800,000 the church had raised for a new sanctuary.
- In March 2022 when The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints discovered that their computer systems had been accessed by threat actors, and numerous personal information of “church members, employees, contractors, and friends” had been breached. While US law enforcement did not believe the information would be used to harm individuals, they suspected that the “intrusion was part of a pattern of state-sponsored cyberattacks aimed at organizations and governments around the world.”
- In 2020 more faith-based organizations started utilizing Zoom for worship service as well as other events and meetings. This occurrence led to several instances of threat actors gaining access to the Zoom meetings and sharing explicit - or otherwise offensive - images and information to the meeting participants. This happened during a Louisville synagogue’s virtual service whereby “hackers took over the meeting, sharing pornographic videos and anti-Semitic messages.”

[Continue reading...](#)

FB-ISAO Advisory Board

Get to Know the Board of Advisors

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www.faithbased-isao.org

Not Yet a Member of FB-ISAO?

[How to join...](#)

Not Yet on FB-ISAO Slack? You Need to Be!

[Write to membership](#)

Upcoming FB-ISAO Events

Office Hours. Meeting Invitations sent to all members via email.	Every Tuesday at 1:00pm ET
Coaching Session: How We Can Make a Difference	15 March at 2:00pm ET
Community Meeting	23 March at 12:00pm ET
2023 Educational Series: A Culture of Security	Monthly, the first Wednesday of each month at 12:00pm ET



FB-ISAO Hosts the HAtE Crimes Community ENgagement WG

By their very nature, Faith-Based Organizations believe in something and that can make them targets for hostile events which could include hate incidents. In August of 2020, the Faith-Based Information Sharing and Analysis Organization (FB-ISAO) partnered with the [DC Chapter of InfraGard](#) (InfraGard) to host three webinars on hate incidents in DC and Northern Virginia.

- Part I: Overview of hate crimes
- Part II: A case study
- Part III: Community conversation

Following the success of the series, a couple of things happened. The initial planning group agreed that the discussion that stemmed from Part III (community conversation) should continue. The program was expanded to include the [NY Metro Chapter](#) of InfraGard. **HACCEN was born!** HACCEN is the HAtE Crimes Community ENgagement Working Group. A Working Group is sometimes referred to as WG. HACCEN is an initiative to support vulnerable communities and individuals who may experience hate crimes. HACCEN's mission is to develop, foster, and facilitate a private-public partnership to help raise awareness of hate crimes or incidents in our communities and to share real-time information about threats, incidents, indicators, trends, and best practices to mitigate risks associated with hate crimes.

HACCEN hosted a series of awareness webinars that were designed to raise awareness and to get people engaged in support of the HACCEN mission by way of information exchange. The members of the HACCEN succeeded in starting conversations about hate crimes. In addition, the working group found ways to work together to possibly mitigate and support victims as well as victimized communities.

[Read more about HACCEN...](#)



Spotlight: Community Meetings

Community Meetings are an essential tool for members of the ISAQ to connect with one another. The FB-ISAQ will hold a community meeting on 23 March at 12:00pm ET. Guest presenters are often invited to share with the community. Jen Walker, Director of Cyber Defense will present on the cyber threat landscape as it pertains to houses of worship, faith-based organizations, and charities. Members will get updates on projects and upcoming events, and we will recognize one of our own for their contributions. As you can see, a lot happens at community meetings - that's why community meetings are essential. Community meetings are member ONLY events. To join FB-ISAQ, please review the information on our [membership page](#).