

ANTI-CONVERSION LAWS COMPENDIUM



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

USCIRF'S MISSION

To advance international freedom of religion or belief, by independently assessing and unflinchingly confronting threats to this fundamental right.

CHAIR Abraham Cooper

VICE CHAIR Frederick A. Davie

COMMISSIONERS David Curry
Susie Gelman
Mohamed Magid
Stephen Schneck
Nury Turkel
Eric Ueland
Frank Wolf

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Erin D. Singshinsuk



CONTENTS

3	About The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom
5	Executive Summary
6	Methodology
7	The Four Types of Statutes
9	Global and Regional Analysis
11	Anti-Conversion Laws vs. International Human Rights Standards
12	Conclusion
13	About the Authors
15	Text of National Anti-Conversion Laws
	16 Sub-Saharan Africa
	17 East Asia and the Pacific
	20 Europe and Eurasia
	21 Middle East (MENA)
	25 South and Central Asia

ABOUT THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

WHO WE ARE

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) is an independent, bipartisan U.S. federal government commission created by the 1998 International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA). USCIRF uses international standards to monitor violations of freedom of religion or belief abroad and makes policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State, and Congress. USCIRF Commissioners are appointed by the President and Congressional leaders of both political parties. The Commission's work is supported by a professional, nonpartisan staff of regional and subject matter experts. USCIRF is separate from the State Department, although the Department's Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom is a non-voting, ex officio Commissioner.

WHAT RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IS

Inherent in religious freedom is the right to believe or not believe as one's conscience leads, and to live out one's beliefs openly, peacefully, and without fear. Freedom of religion or belief is an expansive right that includes the freedoms of thought, conscience, expression, association, and assembly. While religious freedom is America's first freedom, it also is a core human right that international law and treaty recognize; a necessary component of U.S. foreign policy and America's commitment to defending democracy and freedom globally; and a vital element of national security, critical to ensuring a more peaceful, prosperous, and stable world.

This page intentionally left blank.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

International human rights law provides that the right to freedom of religion or belief protects an individual’s freedom to convert to a new faith or to no faith. Unfortunately, countries around the world retain legislation restricting an individual’s right to leave or change their religion or belief. This report details how many countries have national-level anti-conversion laws and explains how those anti-conversion laws are inconsistent with international human rights law. The report also provides the text of the national-level anti-conversion laws in the appendix.

There are four types of anti-conversion laws, in descending order of prevalence: anti-proselytism laws, interfaith marriage laws, apostasy laws, and identity documentation laws. Forty-six countries around the world maintain at least one type of anti-conversion law. Globally, 73 anti-conversion laws are on the books in those countries. Researchers found 33 laws restricting proselytization, 26 laws restricting interfaith marriage, 7 laws criminalizing apostasy, and 7 laws mandating that the government record individuals’ religion or belief affiliation on official identification documents in a manner that restricts the individuals’ freedom to convert.

The following table shows the total number of national-level anti-conversion laws, organized by region and type of anti-conversion law. Some countries maintain two laws

within a particular category. For example, Malaysia has two laws restricting interfaith marriage. In the following table, an asterisk (*) indicates when a country maintains two laws within a particular category.

The 46 nations with an anti-conversion law amount to approximately 25% of countries globally. The total number of countries in each region that maintain at least one type of anti-conversion law is as follows: 16 countries in the Middle East and North Africa, 10 countries in East Asia and the Pacific, 9 countries in South and Central Asia, 7 countries in Europe and Eurasia, and 4 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The total count of countries with anti-conversion laws is based exclusively on primary source materials. If researchers found secondary source materials suggesting that a country had an anti-conversion law but could not validate the finding with primary source materials, the country was not included in the total count. Countries for which only secondary source materials were found indicating the existence of an anti-conversion law are the following: apostasy (Afghanistan, Syria); anti-proselytization (Afghanistan, Cambodia, Palestinian Territories, Sri Lanka, Turkmenistan, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Niger, Guyana); interfaith marriage (Afghanistan); identity documentation (Iceland, Norway, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Tanzania).

	Proselytization	Interfaith Marriage	Apostasy	Identity Documentation	Total
East Asia and the Pacific	Brunei, Burma, China, Indonesia*, Mongolia*, Nauru	Burma, Malaysia*, Philippines, Singapore, Tonga	Brunei	Burma, Malaysia, Philippines	18
Europe and Eurasia	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Greece, Romania, Russia			Turkey	7
Middle East and North Africa	Algeria, Iran, Israel, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates	Algeria, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen	Iraq, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Yemen	Iraq, Israel, Syria	30
South and Central Asia	Bhutan*, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Nepal*, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	Bangladesh, Maldives			12
Sub-Saharan Africa	Comoros, Somalia	Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan	Mauritania		6
Western Hemisphere					0
Total	33	26	7	7	73

Table listing anti-conversion laws found by region and type

METHODOLOGY

This research project sought to identify all national-level anti-conversion laws. The U.S. Department of State's list of 196 countries served as the basis for the research. The study did not look at sub-national laws restricting conversion.

Researchers identified four types of laws that restrict conversions: apostasy laws, interfaith marriage laws, anti-proselytization laws, and laws pertaining to religion or belief affiliation on identification documentation. Apostasy laws prohibit the public renunciation of one's religion or belief. Interfaith marriage laws restrict conversion by making it illegal for members of a favored religion or belief to marry outside that religion or belief and by dissolving existing marriages if one party converts to an unfavored religion. Anti-proselytization laws restrict individuals' freedom to propagate their religion. Identification documentation laws require the disclosure of one's religion or belief in a manner that restricts an individual's freedom to convert.

A wide variety of sources were drawn upon for the research, including secondary source materials such as the U.S. Department of State's International Religious Freedom report. If secondary source material indicated that a country had an anti-conversion law, then a search for the text of the law was conducted. Where possible, the relevant government's official legal database was referenced. However, finding the text of an anti-conversion law through official government sources was sometimes challenging. Many governments do not publish the text of their laws in an official legal database. When the text of an anti-conversion law could not be located in the relevant government's official legal database, legal databases curated by civil society organizations were relied upon. The texts of the laws are contained in the Appendix.

THE FOUR TYPES OF STATUTES

This report examines four types of anti-conversion laws: identity documentation laws, interfaith marriage laws, anti-proselytization laws, and apostasy laws. The following section briefly explains the elements of each type of anti-conversion law.

IDENTITY DOCUMENTATION

Identity documentation has legitimate purposes. However, some governments use identity documentation to restrict an individual's freedom to choose or change their religion or belief affiliation. In that case, the government's use of identity documentation is a violation of the right to freedom of religion or belief under international human rights law. An identity documentation law that violates international human rights law consists of four core elements; that is, the law—

- 1) is an enforceable law;
- 2) concerning government-issued identity documentation; that
- 3) requires such identity documentation to include information about a person's real or alleged official religious affiliation; and
- 4) either,
 - a) restricts individuals from changing their official religion or belief affiliation, or
 - b) allows for the denial of an identity document based on the applicant's religion or belief affiliation, or
 - c) compels individuals to reveal their religion or belief affiliation, or
 - d) assigns a religion or belief affiliation to an individual without the individual's consent.

Element 1 shows that any enforceable law, whether civil or criminal, concerning identity documentation may violate international human rights law. Many identity documentation laws that violate international human rights law in the context of conversion are civil, not criminal.

Element 2 notes that identity documentation is broadly defined; it covers more than personal identification cards such as drivers' licenses. Indeed, government identity documentation is any form of state-issued, personalized paper or record.

Element 3 states that for an identity documentation law to violate individuals' freedom to change their religion or belief, the identity documentation must reveal information concerning the individual's real or alleged religion or belief affiliation.

Element 4 shows how identity documentation laws violate individuals' freedom to choose or change their religion or belief. For example, some identity documentation laws prohibit individuals from changing their religion or belief affiliation on state-issued, personalized papers or records. Others compel individuals to reveal their religion or belief affiliation, or assign them a religion or belief affiliation without the individuals' consent. Still others allow governments to deny individuals identification documentation based on their religion or belief affiliation.

Seven countries have seven different identification documentation laws on the books that restrict an individual's freedom to convert.

INTERFAITH MARRIAGE LAWS

Interfaith marriage laws restrict an individual's freedom to convert by triggering discriminatory government treatment based on the religion or belief affiliation of one or both parties to a marriage. Although these restrictions vary, the five core elements of an interfaith marriage law that violates the freedom of individuals to convert are—

- 1) an enforceable law;
- 2) concerning either
 - a) the entering into, or
 - b) the continuing nature of;
- 3) an official marriage within the country;
- 4) in which one or both parties are not members of the favored religion or belief; and
- 5) that the difference in religious status triggers discriminatory official measures.

Element 1 uses the phrase "enforceable law" broadly. An enforceable law is any kind of government restriction on interfaith marriage. It can range from a statute passed by a legislature to an administrative regulation promulgated by an executive agency.

Element 2 provides that an interfaith marriage law may cover any period leading up to or during an interfaith marriage. Some interfaith marriage laws are applicable before the parties enter into a marriage, some are applicable after, and some are applicable both before and after the parties enter into a marriage.

Element 3 defines “official marriage” as an official religious marriage or a civil union. As such, in this report, legal restrictions on cohabitating partners, common-law marriages, or marriages occurring outside of an individual’s country of citizenship do not qualify as interfaith marriage laws.

Element 4 identifies the individuals subject to an interfaith marriage law; namely, any party to a marriage who is alleged not to adhere to a government favored religion or belief.

Element 5 clarifies that an individual’s alleged non-adherence to a government favored religion or belief triggers discriminatory government treatment.

This research identified 25 countries with 26 different laws on the books that restrict or prohibit interfaith marriage.

ANTI-PROSELYTIZATION LAWS

Anti-proselytization laws prohibit individuals from propagating their religion or belief, and often target individuals who adhere to disfavored or minority religions or beliefs. Anti-proselytization laws—

- 1) are criminal laws;
- 2) punishing
 - a) the act of encouraging members of a religion or belief to leave that religion voluntarily, or
 - b) the promotion of a religion or belief.

Element 1 provides that anti-proselytization laws are criminal laws. Although some countries retain civil laws regulating proselytization, this report defines anti-proselytization laws as those criminalizing the propagation of a religion or belief.

Element 2 identifies the acts that trigger criminal liability under an anti-proselytization law. Most commonly, anti-proselytization laws punish encouraging members of a religion or belief to leave that religion or belief. However, they also may punish promoting a particular religion or belief.

This research identified 29 countries with 33 different laws that restrict or prohibit an individual’s freedom to proselytize.

APOSTASY

Apostasy laws prohibit the renunciation of one’s alleged current religion or belief. The three core elements of apostasy laws are:

- 1) a legal provision imposing either
 - a) criminal liability, or
 - b) hostile jurisdiction;
- 2) on a person who is considered by the state to be a member of a specific religion or belief;
- 3) who seeks to leave his or her current religion in favor of either
 - a) a different belief system, or
 - b) no belief system at all.

Element 1 defines “legal provision” broadly to include laws that provide for specific criminal sanctions for apostasy and laws that transfer apostasy cases to hostile jurisdictions. A hostile jurisdiction is a legal venue or body of law antagonistic to alleged apostates. Some governments transfer apostasy cases to courts that traditionally punish apostasy but may not reference written legal texts in issuing judgments. For example, Jordan transfers apostasy defendants to Shari’a courts, which traditionally criminalize apostasy.

Element 2 states that the government must believe that the alleged apostate belongs to a specific religion or belief, regardless of whether the individual genuinely belongs to that religion or belief. Some governments assign individuals religion or belief affiliations based on parentage or other factors. An assigned religion or belief affiliation sometimes remains with a person regardless of his or her convictions.

Element 3 defines the act of apostasy as an individual leaving his or her alleged religion or belief affiliation in favor of a different religion or belief, or none.

Researchers identified seven countries with seven different laws criminalizing apostasy.

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ANALYSIS

The researchers on this project found 73 national-level anti-conversion laws in 46 countries. This amounts to almost 25% of countries globally.

There are four types of anti-conversion laws, in descending order of prevalence: anti-proselytism laws, interfaith marriage laws, apostasy laws, and identity documentation laws. Forty-six countries around the world maintain at least one type of anti-conversion law. Globally, 73 anti-conversion laws are on the books in these countries. Researchers found 33 laws restricting proselytization, 26 laws restricting interfaith marriage, 7 laws criminalizing apostasy, and 7 laws mandating that the government record individuals' religious affiliation on official identification documents in a manner that may hinder their freedom to convert. The texts of the laws that were found are compiled in the appendix.

Researchers found national-level anti-conversion laws in the following 46 countries. When a country maintains two laws within a particular category, that is indicated with an asterisk (*).

Proselytization: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bhutan*, Brunei, Burma, China, Comoros, Georgia, Greece, Indonesia*, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mongolia*, Morocco, Nauru, Nepal*, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Somalia, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan

Interfaith Marriage: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burma, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia*, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Territories, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tonga, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

Apostasy: Brunei, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Yemen

Identification Documents: Burma, Iraq, Israel, Malaysia, Philippines, Syria, Turkey

The total count of countries with anti-conversion laws is based exclusively on primary source materials. If researchers found secondary source materials suggesting that a country had an anti-conversion law but could not validate the finding with primary source materials, the country was not included in the total count. Countries for which only secondary source materials were found indicating the existence of an anti-conversion law are the following: apostasy (Afghanistan,

Syria); anti-proselytization (Afghanistan, Cambodia, Palestinian Territories, Sri Lanka, Turkmenistan, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Niger, Guyana); interfaith marriage (Afghanistan); identity documentation (Iceland, Norway, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Tanzania).

PENALTIES

Most anti-conversion laws did not specify a penalty in the text. When anti-conversion laws did specify a penalty, they ranged from fines to imprisonment to the death penalty. The death penalty is most often a punishment for apostasy. Anti-proselytization, interfaith marriage, and identity documentation laws more often specified fines or imprisonment as penalties.

GLOBAL ANALYSIS BY CLASS OF STATUTE

Anti-proselytization laws are the most common type of anti-conversion law. They are also varied. Some anti-proselytization laws criminalize an individual propagating religion in specific locations. For example, Russia's Federal Law on Counterterrorism provides for a blanket ban on missionary activity in residential premises, with narrow exceptions. Other anti-proselytization laws criminalize propagating a religion or belief based on an individual's alleged religious affiliation. In Morocco, the Penal Code prohibits acts that could persuade a Muslim to convert to another religion or to question his or her Muslim faith. Still other countries use registration requirements to restrict proselytization. In Kazakhstan, individuals may conduct missionary activities only after registering with the government.

Apostasy laws often have the harshest penalties or transfer apostasy cases to hostile jurisdictions. In Brunei and Yemen, the punishment for apostasy is the death penalty. In other countries, such as Iraq, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia, alleged apostates are subject to Shari'a law.

Interfaith marriage laws restrict an individual's freedom to convert in two ways. First, interfaith marriage laws may prevent adherents of disfavored or minority religions from marrying legally. In Kuwait, the Personal Status Law prohibits a Muslim woman from marrying a non-Muslim man and prohibits a Muslim man from marrying a woman who is not Christian, Jewish, or Muslim. Second, interfaith marriage laws can annul existing marriages if one or both parties convert to a disfavored or minority religion. In Qatar, if a wife converts to Islam and her husband does not, then a judge may annul their marriage.

Identification documentation laws are particularly burdensome when they require individuals to navigate government bureaucracy to change one's religious affiliation on personalized papers or records. In Burma, the Religious Conversion Law requires anyone who would like to change his or her religion or belief affiliation to submit an application and undergo questioning about the genuineness of his or her conversion.

HOSTILE JURISDICTIONS

The text of many anti-conversion laws protects government favored religions or beliefs over others. In the Middle East and North Africa, many countries handle anti-conversion cases under Shari'a law. In Qatar, for example, the Penal Code provides that courts shall apply Islamic Shari'a law to apostasy cases. Similarly, in Iraq, apostasy cases are adjudicated under Shari'a law.

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

In East Asia and the Pacific, 10 of 31 countries have 18 different national-level anti-conversion laws: Brunei, Burma, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nauru, the Philippines, Singapore, and Tonga. In some countries in the region, such as Brunei and Malaysia, the text of the anti-conversion laws is crafted to protect the government's interpretation of Islam. In China, on the other hand, the text of the anti-conversion law on the books does not protect a government favored religion or belief. Instead, the law is designed to restrict all conversions.

EUROPE AND EURASIA

In Europe and Eurasia, 7 of 50 countries have seven different national-level anti-conversion laws: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Greece, Romania, Russia, and Turkey. Six of the laws in Europe and Eurasia restrict an individual's freedom to proselytize; the one other law uses identity documentation to restrict an individuals' freedom to convert. Researchers found no apostasy or interfaith marriage laws in the Europe and Eurasia region.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

In the Middle East and North Africa region, 16 of 19 countries have 30 national-level anti-conversion laws. These countries are Algeria, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Oman, the Palestinian Territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. This region has the highest percentage of countries with an anti-conversion law on the books and those laws provide for particularly severe punishments including the death penalty.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

In South and Central Asia, 9 of 13 countries have 12 different national-level anti-conversion laws: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Absent from the list is India, which does not have a national-level anti-conversion law. However, 12 of 28 Indian states have [state-level anti-conversion laws](#) that restrict the individuals' freedom to change their religion or belief. These states are Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

In Sub-Saharan Africa, 4 of 49 countries have six different national-level anti-conversion laws: Comoros, Mauritania, Somalia, and Sudan. The anti-conversion laws in each of these countries seeks to protect the government's interpretation of Islam. Three are interfaith marriage laws, two are anti-proselytization laws, and one is an apostasy law.

ANTI-CONVERSION LAWS VS. INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS

Anti-conversion laws violate international human rights law in two ways.

First, an anti-conversion law impermissibly limits an individual's freedom to convert to a different religion or belief or to none. Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) provides that everyone has the right to freedom of religion or belief, including "freedom to change" their religion or belief. Article 18(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) provides that everyone has the "freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief" of their choice. General Comment 22, the United Nation Human Rights Committee's (UNHRCtee) interpretative guidance to Article 18 of the ICCPR, states that Article 18(1) "does not permit any limitations whatsoever on the freedom of thought and conscience or on the freedom to have or adopt a religion or belief of one's choice." Critically, Article 18(2) further provides that no one "shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice." General Comment 22 defines coercion that impermissibly limits an individual's freedom to convert as "the threat of physical force or penal sanctions...[and]...policies or practices having the same intention or effect, such as, for example, those restricting access to education, medical care, employment or the rights guaranteed" by other Articles of the ICCPR. As such, laws on apostasy, interfaith marriage, proselytization, and identity documentation, all of which do limit an individual's freedom to change his or her religion or belief, are inconsistent with international human rights law.

Second, an anti-conversion law may impermissibly limit one individual's freedom to persuade or support another individual to change his or her religion or belief voluntarily. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief notes that ICCPR Article 18 protects "non-coercive attempts to persuade others" to convert. In addition, Article 19 of the UDHR protects an individual's right to freedom of expression including the freedom to "seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers." Similarly, Article 19(2) of the ICCPR, which also protects freedom of expression, guarantees individuals the "freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing, or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media choice." The Special Rapporteur notes that Article 19(2) protects "communicative outreach activities aimed at persuading others, including religious discourse." Anti-conversion laws that prohibit attempts to persuade or support others to convert voluntarily, including in the context of proselytization, violate both the right to freedom of religion or belief and the right to freedom of opinion and expression under international human rights law.

CONCLUSION

This report identifies 73 national-level anti-conversion laws in 46 countries and highlights how they are inconsistent with international human rights law. The laws violate an individual's freedom to convert to a different faith, or to none, and an individual's freedom to persuade or support other individuals to convert. Anti-conversion laws also often protect a government favored religion or belief and target disfavored and minority religious communities for discriminatory treatment. Punishments for violating anti-conversion laws range from fines to the death penalty.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

This report was prepared by International Christian Concern (ICC) pursuant to a contract with USCIRF. ICC is a nongovernmental organization that has been aiding persecuted Christians worldwide since 1995 by providing assistance, conducting advocacy, and raising awareness. The report was researched and drafted by Jay Church, McKenna Hammack, and Colton Grellier.

This page intentionally left blank.

APPENDIX
TEXT OF
NATIONAL ANTI-
CONVERSION LAWS

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

COMOROS

Proselytization

Penal Code

Article 229(8) – Anyone who discloses, spreading [sic], taught [sic] to Muslims a religion other than the Muslim religion, shall be punished by a prison term of three months and a fine of 50,000 to 500,000 francs. Will be punishable by the same penalties, the sale, offering for sale, distribution even free to Muslims, books, brochures, magazines, discs and cassettes disclosing a religion other than Islam.

MAURITANIA

Apostasy

2018 Amendment to the Penal Code

Article 306 – Any Muslim who explicitly apostatizes from Islam, or who says or does something that would require or include that, or who renounces what he knows to be required by the religion, shall be imprisoned for three days, during which time he will be asked to repent. If he does not repent, he will be sentenced to death for blasphemy, and his property will be transferred to the treasury of the Muslims.

Interfaith Marriage

Personal Status Code

Article 46 – The marriage of a Muslim with a non-Muslim is prohibited. The marriage of a Muslim with a non-Muslim who does not belong to the People of the Book is also prohibited.

SOMALIA

Interfaith Marriage

Somalia Region Family Law Proclamation 2000

Article 33 – Religious marriage must take place in accordance with the procedures and requirements of the religion being married.

Proselytization

Somalia 2012 Constitution

Article 17(2) – No religion other than Islam can be propagated in the Federal Republic of Somalia.

SUDAN

Interfaith Marriage

Muslim Personal Status Law of 1991

Article 19(e) – Temporarily forbidden: Marriage to a woman who does not follow a heavenly religion.

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

BRUNEI

Apostasy

Syariah Penal Code Order, 2013

Article 112(1) – Any Muslim who declares himself as a non-Muslim and it is proved either by ikrar [confession] of the accused, or by syahadah [profession of faith] of at least two syahid [witnesses] according to Hukum Syara' [rulings of Shari'a] after the Court is satisfied having regard to the requirements of tazkiyah al syuhud, [certification of witness] is guilty of the offence of irtidad [apostasy] and shall be liable on conviction to death as hadd [corporal punishment].

Article 112(2) – Any Muslim who declares himself as a non-Muslim and it is proved by evidence other than those provided under subsection (1) is guilty of the offence of irtidad and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 30 years and whipping not exceeding 40 strokes.

Article 113 – Any Muslim who attempts to commit or attempts to cause the commission of irtidad is guilty of the offence of irtidad and shall be liable on conviction to the same punishment as provided for such offence.

Proselytization

Syariah Penal Code Order, 2013

Article 113 – Any Muslim who attempts to commit or attempts to cause the commission of irtidad is guilty of the offence of irtidad and shall be liable on conviction to the same punishment as provided for such offence.

Article 114 – Any person who abets the commission of any offence of irtidad is guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 30 years and whipping not exceeding 40 strokes.

BURMA

Interfaith Marriage

The Myanmar Buddhist Women's Special Marriage Law

Article 11 – Whenever a non-Buddhist man and a Buddhist woman intend to contract a marriage, one of them shall apply in writing in the prescribed form to the Registrar within the jurisdiction where one of them is residing.

Proselytization

The Religious Conversion Law (Translated)

Article 15 – No one shall compel a person to change his/her religion through bonded debt, inducement, intimidation, undue influence or pressure.

Identification Documentation

The Religious Conversion Law (Translated)

Article 5 – Everyone who wants to convert his or her religion must:

- a) be over 18 years old
- b) be converting of their own free will
- c) submit the following personal details to the Registration Board
 - (1) Name
 - (2) Age and date of birth
 - (3) National Registration Card no.
 - (4) Father's name and religion
 - (5) Mother's name and religion
 - (6) Spouse's name and religion
 - (7) Current religion
 - (8) Religion he/she wants to convert to
 - (9) Reason to convert to new religion
- d) Undergo questioning by the Registration Board to ascertain whether the person truly believes in the said religion.

CHINA

Proselytization

Religious Affairs Regulations 2017

Article 44 – It is prohibited to proselytize, hold religious activities, establish religious organizations, or set up religious activity sites in schools or educational bodies other than religious schools.

Article 56 – Religious groups, religious schools, religious activity sites, and religious professionals may lawfully initiate public interest charitable endeavors. Public interest charitable activities must not be used to proselytize by any organization or individual.

INDONESIA

Proselytization

Joint Decree of the Minister of Religious Affairs, the Attorney General and the Minister of the Interior of The Republic of Indonesia

Second – The followers, members, and/or leading members of the Indonesian Ahmadiyya Jama'at (JAI) are warned and ordered, as long as they consider themselves to hold to Islam, to discontinue the promulgation of interpretations and activities that are deviant from the principal teachings of Islam, that is to say the promulgation of beliefs that recognise a prophet with all his teachings who comes after the Prophet Muhammad SAW [peace be upon him].

3 Ministers Joint Decree

First – Giving orders and warning to the former boards, former members, followers and/or sympathizers of the social organization Gerakan Fajar Nusantara (GAFATAR) or in any other forms, prohibit them from deliberately publicly speaking, advocating or seek [sic] public supports in interpreting a religious affiliations [sic] in Indonesia or conducting any religious activities that resemble the activities that digress from the principal teachings of that religion.

Second – Giving orders and warnings to the former boards, former members, followers and/or sympathizers of the community organization Gerakan Fajar Nusantara (GAFATAR) or in any other forms to discontinue the spread, interpret and conduct any activity that deviates from the principal teachings of Islam.

Third – The former boards, former members, followers and/or sympathizers of the social organization Gerakan Fajar Nusantara (GAFATAR) or in any other forms, which does not heed orders and warnings referred to in the first and second dictums can be sanctioned in accordance with the provisions of the legislation, including the organization and its legal entities.

MALAYSIA

Interfaith Marriage

Law Reform (Marriage and Divorce) Act 1976

Article 3(3) – This Act shall not apply to a Muslim or to any person who is married under Islamic law and no marriage of one of the parties which professes the religion of Islam shall be solemnized or registered under this Act.

Islamic Family Law (Federal Territories) Act 1984

Section 10 (1)-(2) – (1) No man shall marry a non-Muslim except a Kitabiyah. (2) No woman shall marry a non-Muslim.

Identification Documentation

Peraturan-Peraturan Pendaftaran Negara 1990

(cc) Provide the following details to the registration officer:
...(v) his religion

MONGOLIA

Proselytization

On the Relationship of the State and the Church

Article 7(7) – It is prohibited for any religious organization or priest to impose their views by force, pressure, attract money, deceive, harm their health and morals, or disturb their feelings.

On the Legal Status of Foreign Nationals

Article 8.1.4 – Foreign national [sic] shall not act any activity to endanger national unity of Mongolia and to advertise or promote inhumane religion.

NAURU

Proselytization

Nauru Constitution of 1968

Article 11(4)(b) – Nothing contained in or done under the authority of law shall be held to be inconsistent with or in contravention of the provisions of this Article to the extent that that law makes provision which is reasonably required for protecting the rights and freedoms of other persons, including the right to observe and practice any religion without the unsolicited intervention of members of some other religion.

PHILIPPINES

Interfaith Marriage

Presidential Decrees No. 1083

Article 3(3) – The provisions of this Code shall be applicable only to Muslims and nothing herein shall be construed to operate to the prejudice of non-Muslims.

Article 32 – Fasid marriages. The following marriages shall be irregular (fasid) from their performance:... (f) Mixed marriages not allowed under Islamic law.

Article 33 - Validation of irregular marriages. (1) Irregular marriages may be made regular by a new marriage contract in the following cases:... (f) Those referred to in Article 32(f), after conversion to a faith that could have made the marriage valid.

Identification Documentation

Presidential Decrees No. 1083

Article 83 – Duties of Circuit Registrar. Every Circuit Registrar shall: (a) File every certificate of marriage (which shall specify the nature and amount of the dower agreed upon), divorce or revocation of divorce and conversion and such other documents presented to him for registration;... (c) Register conversions involving Islam;

Article 86 – Legal effects of registration. The books making up the registry of marriage, divorce, revocation of divorce, conversion, and all other documents relating thereto shall be considered public documents and shall be prima facie evidence of the facts therein contained. However, nothing herein provided shall affect the intrinsic validity or invalidity of the acts registered.

Article 177 – Regulation on conversion. No conversion of a minor below the age of eighteen years shall be registered by the District or Circuit Registrar without the written consent or permission of the parents or guardian, except when such minor has been emancipated from paternal authority in accordance with law.

SINGAPORE

Interfaith Marriage

Administration of Muslim Law Act of 1966

Article 89 – The provisions of this Part apply only to marriages, both of the parties to which profess the Muslim religion and which are solemnised in accordance with the Muslim law.

TONGA

Interfaith Marriage

Births, Deaths, and Marriages Registration Act

Article 16 – Every marriage which shall be solemnized by any minister of religion after the receipt by such minister of religion of a license issued to the parties to be married shall subject to the provisions of section 17 hereof be a legal marriage and no other marriage shall be valid.

EUROPE AND EURASIA

ARMENIA

Proselytization

[The Law of the Republic of Armenia on the Freedom of Conscience and on Religious Organizations](#)

Section 8 – Proselytism within the Republic of Armenia is forbidden. Any activity mentioned under section 7 within the framework of rights shall not be considered proselytism.

AZERBAIJAN

Proselytization

[Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On Freedom of Religious Belief”](#)

Article 1 – It is prohibited to propagandize religions with the appliance [sic] of religious violence or sowing discord among the people with the aim of changing their religious way of life or forcing to confessing religion.... Foreigners and persons without citizenship shall be prohibited to conduct religious propaganda.

GEORGIA

Proselytization

[Law of Georgia on General Education](#)

Article 13(2) – The use of the study process in general education institutions for the purpose of religious indoctrination, proselytism or forced assimilation shall be inadmissible.

GREECE

Proselytization

[Greece 1975 \(rev. 2008\)](#)

Article 13(2) – Proselytism is prohibited.

ROMANIA

Proselytization

[National Education Law no. 1/2011](#)

Article 7(1) – In units, in educational institutions and in all spaces intended for education and professional training, activities that violate the norms of morality and any activities that may endanger the health and physical or mental integrity of children and young people, respectively of the teaching and auxiliary teaching staff are prohibited and non-didactic, as well as activities of a political nature and religious proselytism.

RUSSIA

Proselytization

[Russian Federal Law on Counterterrorism](#)

Article 24.1.3 – It is not allowed to carry out missionary activity in residential premises, except for the cases provided for by Part 2 of Article 16 of this Federal Law.

Article 24.1.4 – It is prohibited for a religious association to disseminate information about its doctrine in premises, buildings and structures belonging to another religious association, as well as on land plots where such buildings and structures are located, without the written consent of the governing body of the relevant religious association.

TURKEY

Identification Documentation

[Republic of Turkey Identity Card Regulation](#)

Article 17(1)-(2) – (1) The Ministry is authorized to determine the system to be used in personalizing the identity card. (2) If the applicant’s identity information, biometric data, photograph, wet signature, card serial number and electronic certificates are requested, the card is personalized by writing the religion and blood type in accordance with the determined data structure.

MIDDLE EAST (MENA)

ALGERIA

Proselytization

Ordinance 06-03 on the Regulation of Non-Muslim Organizations

Article 11 – Without prejudice of more serious penalties, the punishment is imprisonment from two (2) years to five (5) years and a fine from 500.000 DA to 1.000.000 DA for whomever: 1. incites, constrains or utilizes means of seduction tending to convert a Muslim to another religion, or by using to this end establishments for teaching, for education, for health, of a social or cultural nature, or training institutions, or any other establishment, or any financial means; 2. Makes, stores, or distributes printed documents or audiovisual productions or by any other aid or means, which has as its goal to shake the faith of a Muslim.

Interfaith Marriage

Law No. 84-11 of June 9, 1984

Article 30 – It is not permissible for a Muslim woman to marry a non-Muslim man.

BAHRAIN

Interfaith Marriage

Bahrain Family Law

Article 14 (a)(4) – A man shall temporarily be prohibited from marrying the following... a non-Muslim woman, unless she is an adherent of a revealed religion (Kitabiyya).

Article 14 (b)(4) – A man shall also be temporarily prohibited from marrying the following... marriage of a Muslim woman to a non-Muslim man.

IRAN

Interfaith Marriage

Iran Penal Code

Article 224(c) – In the following cases the hadd [corporal] punishment for zina [adultery] is the death penalty: Zina of a non-Muslim man with a Muslim woman; in which case, the man who committed zina shall be sentenced to the death penalty.¹

Proselytization

Penal Code 2021 Revisions

Article 500(2) – Any deviant educational or proselytizing activity that contradicts or interferes with the holy law of Islam in ways such as making false claims in religious fields such as claiming divinity, prophethood or imamate or communication with the prophets or pure imams (peace be upon them).

IRAQ

Apostasy

Personal Status Law

Article 1(2) – If there is no applicable legislative text, the judgment shall be adjudicated in accordance with the Islamic Shari'a principles that are most relevant to this law.²

Interfaith Marriage

Personal Status Law

Article 17 – For a Muslim man, marriage is permissible with an individual who practices one of the religions of the Book, while a Muslim woman may not marry a non-Muslim man. The conversion of one of the spouses to Islam without the other follows the laws of the Shari'a in whether marriage should be maintained or the spouses should be separated.

¹ Islamic law in Iran does not recognize marriage between non-Muslim men and Muslim women; so, any sexual relations between a non-Muslim man and a Muslim woman would violate Article 224(c) of the Iran Penal Code. The punishment in this case is the death penalty. However, an unmarried Muslim man who engages in sexual relations with a Muslim woman would receive a punishment of 100 lashes rather than the death penalty.

² The text of this provision prohibits conversion by placing the act under the hostile jurisdiction of Shari'a law.

Identification Documentation

National Card Law

Article 26(1), (3) – (1) A non-Muslim may change his religion in accordance with the law. (3) The Court of Personal Status shall consider the change of religion provided for in item (1) of this Article as well as the change of the abstract (first) name in case it is associated with the change of religion. Such a situation is not subject to the requirement of publication in a local newspaper.

ISRAEL

Proselytization

Penal Law 5737-1977

Article 174A – If a person gives or promises another person money, valuable consideration or another material benefit in order to entice him to change his religion or to cause him to entice another to change his religion, then he is liable to five years imprisonment or a fine of NS150,000 (\$40,290).

Article 174B – If a person accepts or agrees to accept money, valuable consideration or another material benefit for the promise to change his religion or to cause another person to change his religion, then he is liable to three years imprisonment or a fine of NS49,800 (\$13,375).

Article 368 – If a person performs a religious conversion ceremony of a minor or performs some other act that leads to the change of a minor's religion, in violation of the provisions of section 13A of the Capacity and Guardianship Law 5722-1962, then he is liable to six months imprisonment. If a person induces a minor, by addressing him directly, to change his religion, then he is liable to six months imprisonment.

Identification Documentation

Population Registry Law 5725-1965

Article 2(a) – The following particulars relating to a resident, and any change therein, shall be entered into the Population Registry:...(6) religion

Article 15 – In the event of any of the following acts, the authority concerned shall deliver to a registration officer, within fourteen days from the date of the act, a copy of the document attesting it, accompanied by such particulars specified in regulations as are necessary for the identification of the person concerned:...(3) a change of religion registered under the Religious Community (Change) Ordinance.

JORDAN

Apostasy

Jordan's Constitution of 1952 with Amendment through 2011

Article 103 – Matters of personal status are the matters specified by law and in accordance therewith fall within the sole jurisdiction of the Shari'a Courts when the parties are Muslims.

Interfaith Marriage

Jordan Personal Status Law

Article 28 – The following is temporarily prohibited:

- a. Marriage of a Muslim with a non-Biblical woman.
- b. Marriage of a Muslim woman to a non-Muslim.
- c. Marriage of an apostate from Islam or an apostate, even if the other party is not a Muslim.

KUWAIT

Interfaith Marriage

Kuwait Personal Status Law

Article 18 – The following will not be officiated: 1. Marriage of a Muslim woman to a non-Muslim man. 2. Marriage of a Muslim man to a woman who is not from the People of the Book. 3. Marriage of the apostate from Islam, even if the other party is non-Muslim.

LIBYA

Interfaith Marriage

Law No. (10) of 1984 Regarding Provisions Related to Marriage

Article 12(a) – It is stipulated for the marriage to take place that the woman should not be permanently or temporarily forbidden to marry the man. b) The woman should not be a polytheist. c) The husband must not be a non-Muslim for a Muslim woman.

MOROCCO

Interfaith Marriage

Moroccan Family Code

Article 39(4) – The temporary impediments to marriage are: (4) The marriage of a Muslim woman to a non-Muslim man, and the marriage of a Muslim man to a non-Muslim woman unless she is of the Christian or Jewish faith.

Proselytization

Morocco Penal Code 1963

Article 220 – Anyone who, through violence or threats, has coerced or prevented one or several people to practice worship, or to assist in the exercise of this worship, is punished by imprisonment of six months to three years and a fine of 200 to 500 dirhams. The same penalty applies to anyone who uses means of seduction with the aim to shake the faith of a Muslim or to convert him to another religion, either by exploiting his weakness or his needs, either by using educational establishments for these purposes, healthcare, asylums or orphanages. In the event of a conviction, the closure of the establishment which was used to commit the offense may be ordered, either definitively or for a period not exceeding three years.

OMAN

Interfaith Marriage

Personal Status Law

Article 35 (7)-(8) – Temporarily prohibited [marriage]:
(7) A non-Muslim woman, unless she is of the People of the Book. (8) The marriage of a Muslim woman to a non-Muslim man.

Proselytization

Royal Decree 7/2018 Promulgating the Penal Law

Article 270 – Whoever establishes, founds, organises, or manages a group, association, authority, organisation, or a branch thereof, aimed at opposing or disparaging the pillars upon which the religion of Islam is based, or promoting or calling for another shall be punished by imprisonment for a period no less than (3) three years and not exceeding (7) seven years.

Article 272 – Whoever obtains or possesses, with the intention of publishing or promoting, documents, publications, or recordings, or any other effects, containing an opposition or disparagement of the pillars upon which the religion of Islam is based, or containing a call to another, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period no less than (6) six months and not exceeding (3) three years, and a fine no less than one hundred Rial Omani (\$260) and not exceeding five hundred Rial Omani (\$1,300), or one of those two punishments.

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Interfaith Marriage

Personal Status Law of 1976

Article 33 – The marriage is invalid in the following cases: (a) A Muslim woman marries a non-Muslim man; (b) A Muslim man marries a woman not of the People of the Book.

QATAR

Apostasy

Law No. 11 of 2004 Issuing the Penal Code 11/2004

Article 1(1) – The provisions of the Islamic Sharia apply to the following crimes if the accused or the victim is a Muslim: 1- Hudud crimes related to theft, usurpation, adultery, slander, drinking alcohol and apostasy.

Interfaith Marriage

Law No. 22 of 2006 Promulgating “The Family Law”

Article 25 – It shall be temporarily prohibited to: Have as a wife a non-Muslim woman, save for a Kitabiya (Christian or Jewish) woman. Marry a non-Muslim man to a Muslim woman.

Article 155 – If a wife, whose husband is not a Muslim, converts to Islam before or after consummation of marriage, the Judge shall give the husband time to convert to Islam within a period the same as the waiting period of Iddat [the waiting period required of a woman who is widowed or divorced before remarriage]; if no such conversion occurs, he shall decree their separation.

Proselytization

Law No. 11 of 2004 Issuing the Penal Code 11/2004

Article 259 – Whoever opposes or doubts any of the basics or tenets of Islam, or calls upon, or favors or promotes another religion, cult or concept shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years.

Article 261 – Whoever possesses documents, printed publications or recorded tapes or any other materials favoring or promoting the stipulations of Articles 256 and 259 with the intention of distributing them or revealing them to others, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years and/or a fine not exceeding ten thousand Qatari Riyals (\$2,750).

SAUDI ARABIA

Apostasy

Saudi Basic Law of Governance

Article 48 – The Courts shall apply rules of the Islamic Shari'a in cases that are brought before them, according to the Holy Qur'an and the Sunna, and according to laws which are decreed by the ruler in agreement with the Holy Qur'an and the Sunna.

Interfaith Marriage

Royal Decree No. (M/73), dated 6/8/1443 AH

Article 26 – Marriage is prohibited temporarily, in the following cases: Muslim man marrying a non-biblical woman. Marriage of a Muslim woman to a non-Muslim man.

SYRIA

Interfaith Marriage

Law 59 of 1953 Personal Status Law

Article 48(2) – The marriage of a Muslim woman to a non-Muslim is void.

Identification Documentation

Civil Status Law 13/2021

Article 11 – The civil registration of a citizen consists of the following data: the national number, its name and parentage, the name of his father, the name and percentage [sic] of his mother, the place and date of his birth, his family status and religion, the date of his registration, and his digital address. The civil registration in its electronic form is added the personal image and decimal fingerprints of the citizen when obtaining the personal card.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Interfaith Marriage

Federal Law No. 28: On Personal Status

Article 47(7)-(8) – Shall be temporarily prohibited: (7) A non-Muslim woman unless she is a believer in one of the Revealed religions. (8) The marriage of a Muslim woman from a non-Muslim.

Proselytization

Penal Code

Article 319 – Whoever opposes or vilifies the foundations or teachings on which is based the Muslim religion, or whatever he essentially knows of, offends this religion, preaches another religion, advocates for a doctrine or ideology that embraces any of the matters mentioned above, or commend [sic] or propagate [sic] any of these, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years.

Article 325 – The court shall also order the deportation of the alien accused of [sic] the country after serving the penalty to which he has been condemned.

YEMEN

Apostasy

Yemen: Republican Decree, By Law No. 12 for 1994, Concerning Crimes and Penalties

Article 259 – Anyone who turns back from or denounces the religion of Islam is punished by the death penalty after being questioned for repentance three times and after giving him a respite of thirty days. The Apostasy in public by speech or acts is considered contradictory to the principles of Islam and its pillars in intention and determination. If the intention or determination is not established and the guilty shows repentance, there will be no punishment.

Interfaith Marriage

Republican Decree Law No. (20) of 1992 Regarding Personal Status

Article 26(2) – It is forbidden for a man to marry apostates from the religion of Islam.

Article 29 – It is forbidden for a Muslim woman to marry a non-Muslim.

Article 49 – If the husband embraces Islam and the wife refuses to convert to Islam or any of the religions of the Book, an annulment is pronounced. If a wife converts to Islam and the husband refuses to convert as well, the marriage is annulled. If either apostates from Islam, the marriage is annulled.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

BANGLADESH

Interfaith Marriage

The Muslim Marriages and Divorces (Registration) Act, 1974

Article 1(2) – It applies to all Muslim citizens of Bangladesh wherever they may be.

Article 3 – Notwithstanding anything contained in any law, custom or usage, every marriage solemnized under Muslim law shall be registered in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

BHUTAN

Proselytization

Bhutan Constitution of 2008

Article 7(4) – No person shall be compelled to belong to another faith by means of coercion or inducement.

Religious Organizations Act

Article 5 – No RO [Religious Organization] shall...
(g) Compel any person to belong to another faith, by providing reward or inducement for a person to belong to another faith

KAZAKHSTAN

Proselytization

Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Religious Activities and Religious Associations

Article 1(5) – Basic definitions, used in this Law...
Missionary activity – activity of citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan, foreigners, stateless persons, aimed at advancing doctrine in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan with intent of conversion to religion.

Article 8 – (1) Citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan, foreigners and stateless persons shall carry out missionary activity after registration. (2) Registration of persons, carrying out missionary activity, shall be made by the local executive bodies of the regions, cities of the republican significance and the capital.

KYRGYZSTAN

Proselytization

Law of The Kyrgyz Republic On Freedom of Religion and Religious Organizations in The Kyrgyz Republic

Article 5(4) – Persistent actions aimed at converting believers of one confession to another (proselytism), as well as any illegal missionary activity, are prohibited. Persons guilty of violating this rule shall bear responsibility established by the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic.

MALDIVES

Interfaith Marriage

Family Act

Article 5 – A person shall contract a marriage with a person who by rules of Shariah is not prohibited from marrying him.

Article 8 – (a) No Maldivian woman shall contract a marriage with a non-Muslim man. (b) Where a Maldivian man wishes to contract marriage with a non-Muslim female, that marriage may only be solemnized if that non-Muslim female is permitted by Islamic Shariah to contract a marriage with a Muslim male.

Proselytization

New Religious Unity Regulations

Chapter 6(30) – Propagating any religion other than Islam in Maldives and trying to convert people to any other religion are prohibited actions for both Maldivians and foreigners.

Chapter 6(34)(a)-(b) – (a) It is illegal to propagate in Maldives any religion other than Islam and inviting people to such religions; (b) It is illegal for any foreign non-Muslim teacher teaching in Maldives, and other such people, to talk about any religion other than Islam, in schools and outside of schools.

NEPAL

Proselytization

The National Penal (Code) Act, 2017

Section 158 – Prohibition of proselytizing: (1) No person shall convert any one from one religion to another or make attempt to or abet such conversion. (2) No person shall do any act or conduct which undermines the religion, opinion or faith of any caste, race, community or convert any one into another religion, whether by inducement or not, in a manner to so undermine or propagate such religion or opinion with the intention of making such conversion. (3) A person who commits, or causes to be committed, the offence referred to in sub-section (1) or (2) shall be liable to a sentence of imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years and a fine not exceeding fifty thousand rupees. (4) If a foreigner commits, or causes to be committed, the offence referred to in sub-section (1) or (2), he or she shall be deported from Nepal within seven days after the date of completion of the service of imprisonment imposed under this Section.

Constitution

Article 26(3) – No person shall, in the exercise of the right conferred by this Article, do, or cause to be done, any act which may be contrary to public health, decency and morality or breach public peace, or convert another person from one religion to another or any act or conduct that may jeopardize other's religion.

PAKISTAN

Proselytization

Pakistan Penal Code

Article 298(c) – Any person of the Quadiani group or the Lahori group (who call themselves 'Ahmadis' or by any other name), who directly or indirectly, poses himself as a Muslim, or calls, or refers to, his faith as Islam, or preaches or propagates his faith, or invites others to accept his faith, by words, either spoken or written, or by visible representations, or in any manner whatsoever outrages the religious feelings of Muslims shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine.

TAJIKISTAN

Proselytization

On Conscience and Religious Associations

Article 23(3) – Religious associations are not allowed to preach and conduct outreach activities in the public preschools and schools, as well as in houses and places of residence of citizens.

UZBEKISTAN

Proselytization

On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations

Article 7 – The state acts as a guarantor of the peaceful coexistence of confessions. The implementation of missionary work and proselytism is not allowed.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

POLICY ANALYST	Michael Ardovino
CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS	Danielle Ashbahian
SUPERVISORY POLICY ANALYST	Keely Bakken
POLICY ANALYST	Susan Bishai
RESEARCHER	Mollie Blum
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH & POLICY	Elizabeth K. Cassidy
SENIOR POLICY ANALYST	Mingzhi Chen
POLICY ANALYST	Patrick Greenwalt
POLICY ANALYST	Sema Hasan
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	Thomas Kraemer
PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSOCIATE	Veronica McCarthy
RESEARCHER	Hilary Miller
OPERATIONS SPECIALIST	Nora Morton
RESEARCHER	Dylan Schexnaydre
SUPERVISORY POLICY ADVISOR	Jamie Staley
SUPERVISORY POLICY ANALYST	Scott Weiner
RESEARCHER	Luke Wilson

