

# ABOLISH ANTI-CONVERSION LAWS AND APOSTASY PENALTIES COALITION



THE ST. CHARLES INSTITUTE



Christian Freedom<sup>®</sup>  
International



## FREE TO CHOOSE

**15 July 2021 | 4:30 - 5:30 PM (EST)**  
Omni Shoreham Hotel | Hampton Room

Register to attend and find out more here:

**<https://bit.ly/3juzwXXs>**

Moderator: Ann Buwalda  
(Jubilee Campaign)

Jos Douma (Special Envoy  
for Religion and Belief,  
Netherlands)

Representative Jamie Raskin

Tehmina Arora (ADF  
International)

Godfrey Yogarajah  
(World Evangelical  
Alliance)

Kamal Fahmi (Set My  
People Free)

Mariam Ibraheem  
(Survivor, Sudan)

Marziyeh Amirizadeh  
(Survivor, Iran)

Mohamed Cheikh Ould  
Mkhaitir (Survivor,  
Mauritania)

Pastor Keshav Acharya  
(Witness, Nepal)

**\*\*some speakers will join via Zoom or pre-recorded remarks**

### ABOUT THIS EVENT...

This side event is convened to raise the voices of those affected by laws and practices that punish individuals for leaving or adopting another religion and address how policy makers can work to turn the tide and encourage more states to repeal apostasy and anti-conversion laws.



**[irfsummit.com](http://irfsummit.com)**

# APOSTASY & ANTI-CONVERSION LAWS

## Factsheet

Apostasy and anti-conversion laws criminalize and pose severe punishments for individuals who renounce or convert away from the majority religion. Currently, there are over 20 nations - in Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, and Southeast Asia - in which apostasy is penalized. Over 10 of these countries stipulate the death penalty for apostasy, though the sentences are rarely carried out officially they have a chilling effect on the legitimate exercise of human rights.

Some countries, such as Yemen and Mauritania, for example, explicitly prohibit apostasy according to national penal provisions. Such is usually the case in nations where Shari'a Law is supreme. In other nations, such as Jordan and Morocco, apostasy is not criminally codified, but influential religious leaders and courts have proclaimed its illegality and have prosecuted such cases.

And in some other countries, though there exists no national anti-conversion law, regions and provinces have passed relevant legislations. In India, for example, several provinces have passed laws that penalize religious converts for failing to seek permission or inform authorities of their conversion. These laws allegedly seek to outlaw attempts of forcibly converting another individual. However, due to vague and arbitrary provisions, they target individuals for innocent activities such as praying for, delivering aid to, or marrying someone of another faith, under the false allegations that they are attempting to coercively convert another person.

Apostasy and anti-conversion laws are in direct contravention of Article 18 and violate other human rights protected under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

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