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The President of Nepal Bidhya Devi Bhandari has reportedly signed into law legislation that makes religious conversion a crime, the international human rights group Christian Solidarity Worldwide has reported.

In a press release issued Friday, CSW, a human rights group accredited with United Nations consultative status, reports that Bhandari signed into law on Oct. 16 criminal code legislation that contains clauses that criminalize religious conversion and the "hurting of religious sentiment."

Bhandari's reported signing of the criminal code bill comes after lawmakers passed the legislation in August. At the time, it was reported that religious conversion would be punishable by up to five years in prison while hurting religious sentiments would be punishable up to two years in prison. The president was urged by religious freedom activists not to sign the law. ...

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