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Wellington, New Zealand

Human Rights in Namibia

New data released today show the extent of human rights violations in Namibia.

Data from the Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI), a non-governmental organisation based in Wellington, New Zealand, reveals that the Namibian government continues to neglect human rights, leaving the population vulnerable to a wide range of abuses.

Despite [political stability and steady economic growth](#), Namibia's 'Quality of Life' score of 66.1% is 'very bad', demonstrating that successive governments have failed to meet their human rights obligations to the Namibian people. This score assesses the country's economic and social rights performance, which includes the right to education, food, health, housing, and work.

In particular, Namibia's scores for the rights to water and basic sanitation are in the 'very bad' range, meaning that millions of citizens live without access to water or toilets in their homes, although the country could afford to ensure better living conditions. That being said, Namibia has an excellent score for primary school enrolment (96.7%), indicating that the country is doing nearly as well as it possibly can at its current income level and will require additional financial resources to make further improvements in this area.

While Namibia is performing close to average on 'Quality of Life' rights when compared to other countries in Africa, HRMI finds that "Namibia has a 'very long way to go' to meet its immediate economic and social rights duty."

HRMI spokesperson, Thalia Kehoe Rowden, said, "All people in Namibia deserve to have all of their rights respected. There is a long way to go for the government to meet its human rights obligations under international law."

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About the Rights Tracker: The Rights Tracker is a global project to track the human rights performance of countries systematically. Our 2023 dataset launched today includes annual data on eight civil and political rights for up to 44 countries from the years 2017 to 2022, with Bangladesh, Thailand, and the Maldives added this year. Our data also include inaugural scores on the right to freedom of religion and belief in a pilot set of nine countries. Annual data on five economic and social rights for 196 countries from 2007 to 2020, based on the award-winning



SERF Index methodology, is also available. Please visit rightstracker.org for the freely available dataset.

About HRMI: The Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI) is an independent non-profit organisation part of a global movement building a world where all people can flourish. We track the human rights progress of countries, producing robust data that anyone can use to push for improvements in how governments treat people. What gets measured gets improved: if something isn't being systematically measured, it can be more easily overlooked and undervalued. HRMI data make it easier for decision-makers to monitor their progress, and prioritise human rights. Advocacy based on sound information is one of the key drivers of change. www.humanrightsmeasurement.org

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