

The Maldives – Summary Statement 2023

In 2023, the Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI) conducted its first human rights expert survey in the Maldives. This survey asked local experts for their insights about the human rights landscape in the country. The pool of survey responses allowed HRMI to produce its human rights dataset for the Maldives, which includes scores for four economic and social rights, eight civil and political rights, and information about people groups at risk along with some context-specific details about these violations.

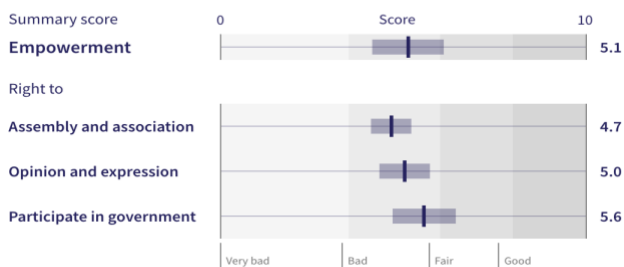
HRMI’s 2023 data show that peculiar civil and political rights issues in the Maldives, with the score for some rights being considerably better than some others. Out of the three broad categories of rights that HRMI measures, the Maldives scores the lowest on the **empowerment rights** with a summary score of 5.1 out of 10. This score indicates that many people in the country are not enjoying their civil liberties and political freedoms. The three empowerment rights to assembly and association, opinion and expression, and political participation for the Maldives fall in the ‘bad’ range; however, the country is performing close to average in our sample of 30 countries.

Empowerment - overview

(2022)

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How well is the Maldives' government respecting each right?



Source: HRMI 2023 rightstracker.org

A significant number of human rights experts identified **political opponents, protestors, journalists, human rights defenders, LGTBQIA+ people, and migrants** as being especially at risk of violations of these empowerment rights, among many others. Some experts also provided that women journalists and human rights defenders are threatened with violence for exercising their empowerment rights.

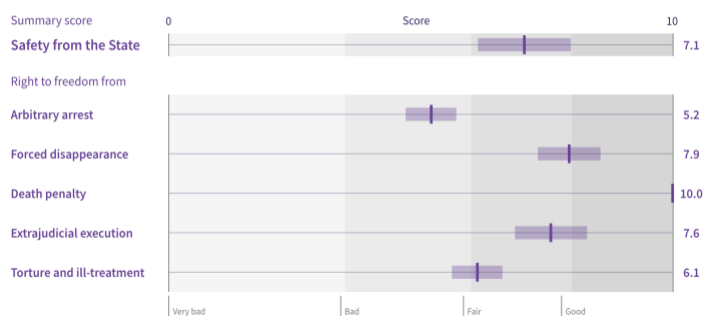
The Maldives scores 7.1 out of 10 on **safety from the state rights**, and although this is a ‘fair’ score, it suggests that a considerable number of people in the country are not safe from one or more of the following: arbitrary arrest, torture and ill-treatment, forced disappearance, or extrajudicial killing. The score for arbitrary arrest is 5.2, which is the lowest score, followed by 6.1 for torture and ill-treatment.

Safety from the State - overview

(2022)

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How well is the Maldives' government respecting each right?

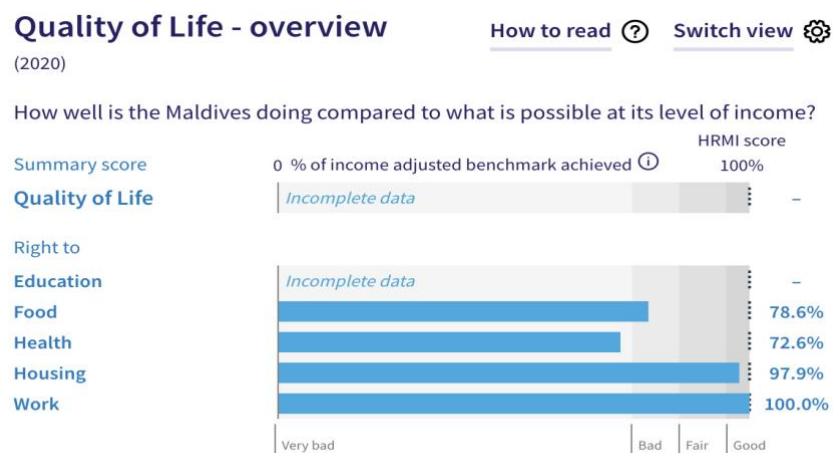


Source: HRMI 2023 rightstracker.org

The Maldives scores a complete 10 out of 10 on death penalty, which indicates that no person was formally executed in the country in 2022. The scores for forced disappearance and extrajudicial execution are 7.9 and 7.6 respectively, and fall in the ‘fair’ range.

Human rights experts prominently identified **human rights defenders, journalists, political opponents, protestors, LGBTQIA+ people, labour union members, migrants, among others**, as being particularly vulnerable to the violations of these physical integrity rights. Some experts specifically noted that **journalists covering protests against the government** are at risk of these violations.

The HRMI data scored four **economic and social rights** for Maldives, namely the rights to food, health, housing, and work measuring using our SERF index methodology. The country performs impressively on the right to work with an income-adjusted 100% score, meaning that Maldives is optimally using its income to ensure this right for its people. While the score for the right to health is 72.6%, and this means that the government of the Maldives is achieving less than what it actually can with its existing income to ensure that its people are enjoying their right to health.



Source: HRMI 2023 rightstracker.org

Human rights experts from the Maldives identified **migrants, socio-economically disadvantaged people, homeless people, women and girls, LGBTQIA+ people, people living in remote areas and those affected by climate change**, among others, to be at a high risk of being unable to fulfil these rights. Some experts noted issues of accessibility and lack of resources in areas other than the capital city of Malé as reasons for people not being able to enjoy these rights.

HRMI Spokesperson Thalia Kehoe Rowden said, ‘All people in Maldives deserve to have all their human rights protected and upheld by their government. HRMI’s scores, based on both local reporting and international databases, show that the government still has a long way to go to fulfil the promises it has made under international law.’

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All the data are freely available on the [Rights Tracker](#), and more information can be found on the [HRMI website](#).