

Nepal – Summary Statement 2023

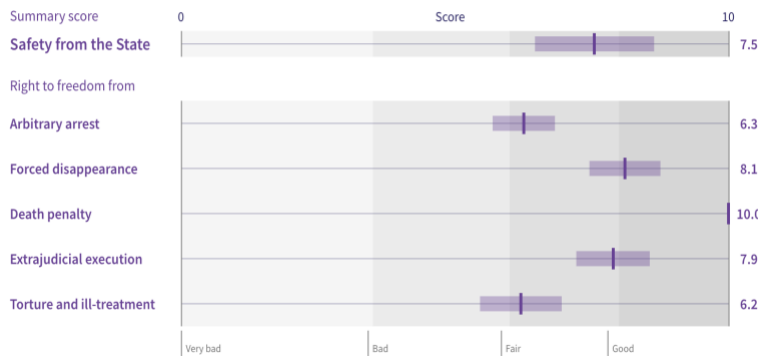
In 2023, the Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI) conducted its fifth annual expert survey around the world, including in Nepal. The survey asked human rights practitioners and experts on the ground for their insights on the human rights landscape in their country in 2022. The pool of survey responses allowed HRMI to produce a complete human rights dataset for Nepal, available freely on the [Rights Tracker](#), which includes scores for five economic and social rights, eight civil and political rights, and some additional contextual information about people groups at risk of their violations.

HRMI’s 2023 data along with the data points over the last six years show the overall trends for each of the rights we measure for Nepal. Out of the three broad categories of rights that HRMI measures, Nepal’s summary score **on physical integrity rights**, i.e., **the right to be safe from the state is 7.5 out of 10**. Nepal’s score for right to be free from torture and ill-treatment is 6.2 out of 10 which is the lowest in this category, followed by 6.3 out of 10 for freedom from arbitrary arrest. The scores for freedom from extrajudicial execution and forced disappearance are 7.9 and 8.1 out of 10 respectively. Nepal scores a 10 out of 10 on freedom from death penalty over the years, including the most recent scores.

Safety from the State - overview

(2022)

How well is Nepal's government respecting each right?



Source: HRMI 2023 rightstracker.org

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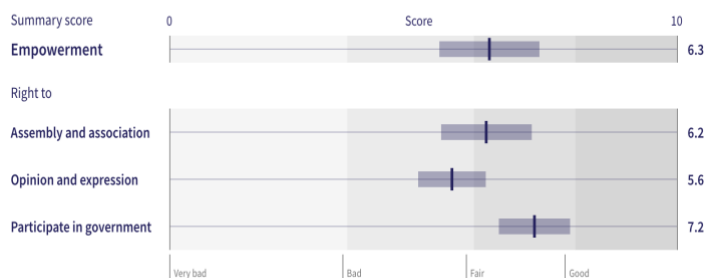
Human rights experts from Nepal identified **people from Dalit and Adibasi Janajati and marginalised communities, activists, protestors, detainees or those accused of crimes, among others**, as being at risk of violations of these rights. Experts also noted that people from **Indigenous and ethnic minority groups, especially from the Tarai region, and poor people**, were also at particular risk, and that **cases of such violations were not always reported publicly**.

Nepal’s summary score on the three **empowerment rights is 6.3 out of 10, and only narrowly falls in the ‘fair’ range**. The scores for freedom of assembly and association is 6.2 out of 10, and that for political participation is 7.2 out of 10. However, the score for freedom of opinion and expression is 5.6 out of 10, which largely falls in the ‘bad’ range. This score is the lowest among all the other civil and political rights scores for Nepal.

Empowerment - overview

(2022)

How well is Nepal's government respecting each right?



Source: HRMI 2023 rightstracker.org

[How to read](#)

Experts and practitioners particularly identified **protestors, human rights defenders and journalists (particularly women), civil society groups (especially Dalit human rights organisations), people from Dalit, Adibasi Janajati and forest-dependent communities, women and girls, among others**, as being vulnerable to the violations of empowerment rights. People from poor and marginalised backgrounds especially from rural areas as well as LGBTQIA+ people were also identified to be at risk of restrictions of these rights.

Nepal’s scores overtime for these eight rights from 2017 to 2022 show the shift and trends in the level of respect for these rights over the last few years, as shown below.



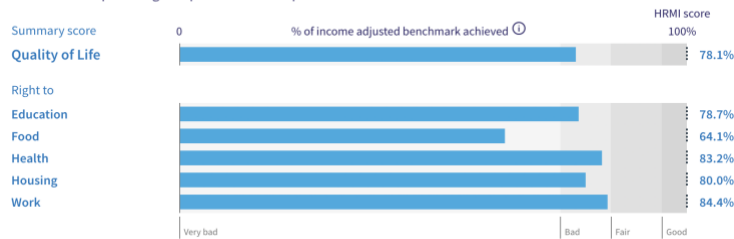
On **economic and social rights** measured using SERF Index methodology, Nepal has an **overall “income-adjusted” HRMI score of 78.1%** (based on the latest available data from 2020). As this score is adjusted for income, it indicates that the government can do much better even at its existing income levels to ensure that all its people are enjoying their rights to education, food, health, housing, and work. In this category, Nepal scores the lowest on the right to food (64.1%), which falls in the ‘very bad’ range; while it does comparatively better on the rights to health (83.2%) and work (84.4%), which are still in the ‘bad’ performance range.

Quality of Life - overview

(2020)

How to read ⓘ Switch view ⚙

How well is Nepal doing compared to what is possible at its level of income?



Source: HRMI 2023 rightstracker.org

Human rights experts from Nepal who took the survey identified **people and children from Dalit, Indigenous and ethnic minority communities, women and girls, street children and homeless youth, poor people, and people in particular geographies and remote areas (Madhesh, Karnali and Sudur Paschim provinces)**, among others, to be at risk of being unable to enjoy these rights. Some qualitative responses also referred to **caste and gender discrimination, poverty, social beliefs, and geographical inaccessibility** as causes of exclusion from their enjoyment, especially for women, girls, and children.

HRMI Spokesperson Thalia Kehoe Rowden said, ‘While it must be commended that Nepal’s overall performance on these rights is comparatively better in its region, there is still a vast scope of improvement in all the categories of rights. All people in Nepal deserve to have all their human rights protected and upheld by their government.’

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