

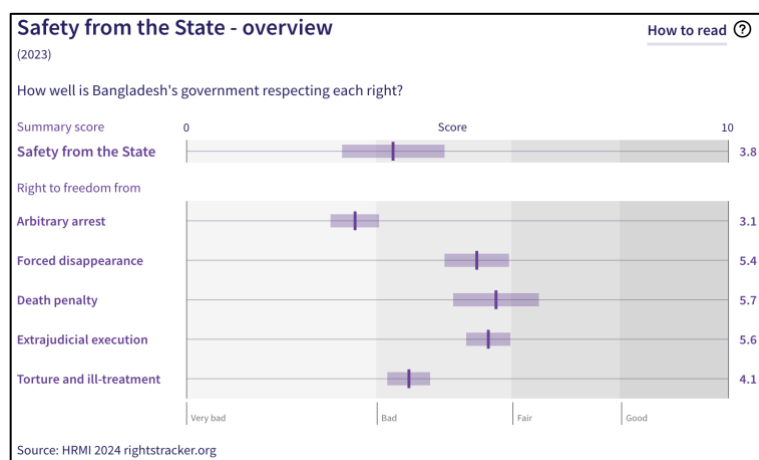
Bangladesh – Summary Report 2024

In 2024, the Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI) conducted its second human rights expert survey in Bangladesh. It asked local experts monitoring the situation in Bangladesh for their insights about the human rights landscape in the country in 2023. These responses from experts allowed HRMI to produce a complete human rights dataset for Bangladesh, which includes scores for nine civil and political rights, five economic and social rights, and information about people groups at risk along with some context-specific details. All these data are freely available on the [Rights Tracker](#).¹

Civil and political rights²

Safety from the State / Physical Integrity Rights

HRMI’s 2024 data show that civil and political rights continue to be a critical concern in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has a summary score of **3.8 out of 10** on the five **physical integrity rights**, i.e., **the right to be safe from the State**. Bangladesh scores 3.1 out of 10 on the right to freedom from arbitrary arrest, which is the lowest score among all other civil and political rights. Similarly, the score for the right to freedom from torture and ill-treatment is 4.1 out of 10. All scores in this category fall in the ‘bad’ range, suggesting that many people in Bangladesh are vulnerable to violations of these rights.



People at risk

Human rights experts most commonly identified **political opponents and dissidents of the ruling party, human rights defenders, journalists, protestors, people suspected of political violence or terrorism, Indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, people from LGBTQIA+ communities**, among others, as being at risk of violation of these rights.

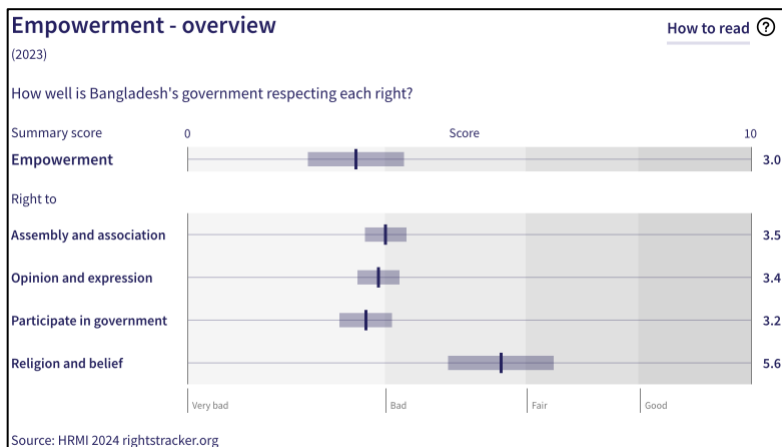
Some qualitative responses³ specifically identified ethnic minorities living in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and Indigenous peoples of the plain land as being at risk of these violations. Another response informed that there are instances of human rights defenders and journalists being harassed, targeted, and persecuted especially if they report State abuses or are critical of the government.

Empowerment Rights

Bangladesh scores a very low **3.0 out of 10** on **empowerment rights**, indicating that many people in the country are not enjoying their civil liberties and democratic freedoms. The score for the right to freedom of political participation is 3.2 out of 10, which is the lowest score in this category. Scores for three

1 All the data are freely available on the [Rights Tracker](#), and more information can be found on the [HRMI website](#).
 2 Civil and political rights scores are measured based on the responses received from human rights practitioners from the country through HRMI’s annual human rights expert survey. HRMI’s methodology for constructing CPR scores can be found here: <https://humanrightsmasurement.org/methodology/#cpr>.
 3 You can explore the rich qualitative information from expert survey responses by clicking ‘Show more information’ under the ‘People at risk’ word clouds for each right. All these data are collectively available in the ‘People at risk’ tab for Bangladesh: <https://rightstracker.org/country/BGD?tab=atrisk>.

empowerment rights fall in the ‘very bad’ range. On the right to freedom of religion and belief, Bangladesh scores 5.6 out of 10, which still falls in the ‘bad’ category. Bangladesh also scores the lowest on empowerment rights compared to other South Asian countries in our dataset.



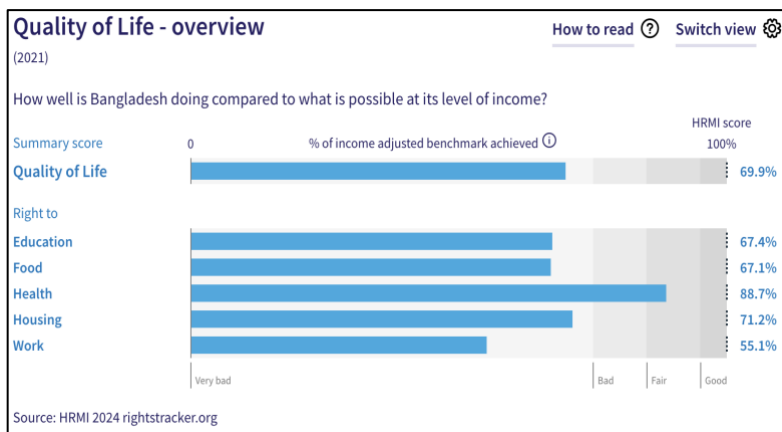
People at risk

Human rights experts identified **political opponents, human rights defenders, journalists, protestors, people suspected of political violence, LGBTQIA+ communities, members of labour unions, among others**, as being at risk of violation of these rights. Some responses noted the targeting and restrictions on opposition activists and leaders prior to the general elections.

Ethnic and linguistic minorities; people from religious minorities such as Hindus, Buddhists, and Christians, especially women; people from Dalit communities, and sectoral minorities such as the Ahmaddiyas were identified by as being vulnerable to restrictions of their empowerment rights, including abuses by non-State actors in the country.

Economic and social rights⁴

On economic and social rights, Bangladesh has an **overall ‘income-adjusted’ score of 69.9%**. This score indicates that the government can do much better even with its current income levels (GDP per capita) to ensure that its people are enjoying their rights to education, food, health, housing, and work. In this category, the lowest score is that for the right to work (55.1%). While Bangladesh doing relatively better on the right to health (88.7%), which is the ‘fair’ range, other scores fall in the ‘very bad’ range.



People at risk

Human rights experts commonly identified **Indigenous peoples; socio-economically disadvantaged people; people from LGBTQIA+ communities; people with disabilities; refugees; people living in remote areas; sex workers; homeless people; and women and girls, especially from marginalised backgrounds**, to be at risk of being unable to fulfil these rights.

For further information or comments, please contact HRMI’s Co-Executive Director, Thalia Kehoe Rowden, at thalia.kehoerowden@hrmi.ngo or south_asia@humanrightsmeasurement.org.

4 Economic and social rights scores are measured using the SERF Index. HRMI’s methodology for constructing ESR scores can be found here: <https://humanrightsmeasurement.org/methodology/measuring-economic-social-rights/>.