

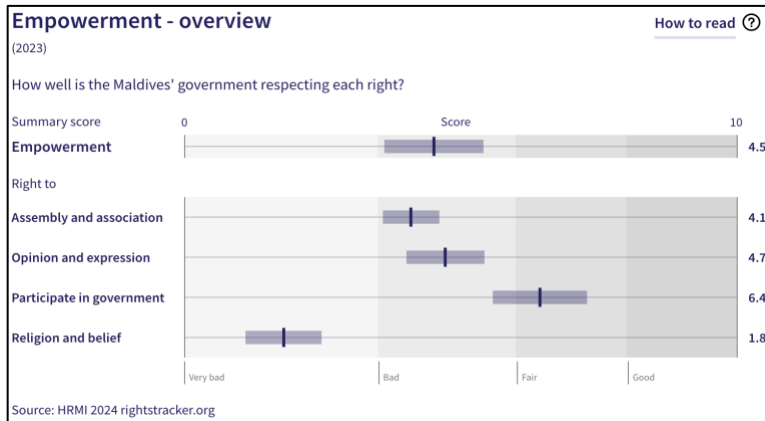
## The Maldives – Summary Report 2024

In 2024, the Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI) conducted its second human rights expert survey in the Maldives. It asked local experts for their insights about the human rights landscape in the country in the previous year i.e., 2023. Responses from these human rights experts allowed HRMI to produce the annual human rights dataset for the Maldives, which includes scores for nine civil and political rights, four economic and social rights, and information about people groups at risk along with some context-specific details about these violations. All these data are freely available on the [Rights Tracker](#).<sup>1</sup>

### Civil and political rights<sup>2</sup>

#### Empowerment Rights

HRMI’s 2024 data highlight some peculiar civil and political rights issues in the Maldives, with scores for some rights being considerably better than others. The Maldives has a **summary score of 4.5 out of 10** on the four **empowerment rights**, indicating that many people in the country are not enjoying their civil liberties and political freedoms. The lowest score in this category is on the **right to freedom of religion and belief** at a low **1.8 out of 10**, and falls in the ‘very bad’ range. The scores for freedom of assembly and association, and freedom of opinion and expression are 4.1 and 4.7 out of 10 respectively; while the score for the right to political participation is relatively better at 6.4 out of 10.



#### People at risk

Human rights experts in the Maldives most commonly identified **LGBTQIA+ people, migrants and immigrants, human rights defenders (HRDs), journalists, religious minorities, sex workers, and political opponents**, among others, as being at risk of violations of their empowerment rights.

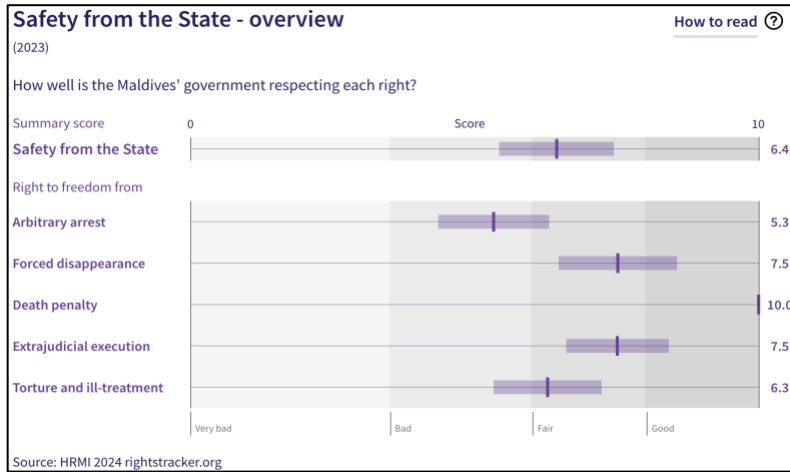
It was reported that journalists experience police interference when covering protests, and that people with religious beliefs other than Sunni Islam and atheists are at risk of violations due to existing blasphemy laws. Another response stated that Maldivian HRDs in exile face obstructions in using their bank accounts or accessing funds, and restricted freedom of movement due to fear of extradition.<sup>3</sup>

#### Safety from the State / Physical Integrity Rights

Compared to empowerment rights, the Maldives scores better on **physical integrity rights** with a summary score of **6.4 out of 10**. Although this is a ‘fair’ score, it suggests that some people in the country are still not safe from violations of these rights. The score for freedom from arbitrary arrest is 5.3 out of

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://humanrightsmmeasurement.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 the Maldives: <https://rightstracker.org/country/MDV?tab=atrisk&atRisk=11>.

10, and is the lowest score in this category. While the Maldives scores a 10 out of 10 on the right to freedom from death penalty, indicating that no person was formally executed 2023, a response noted that the government has announced plans to end the *de facto* moratorium and reinstate death penalty.



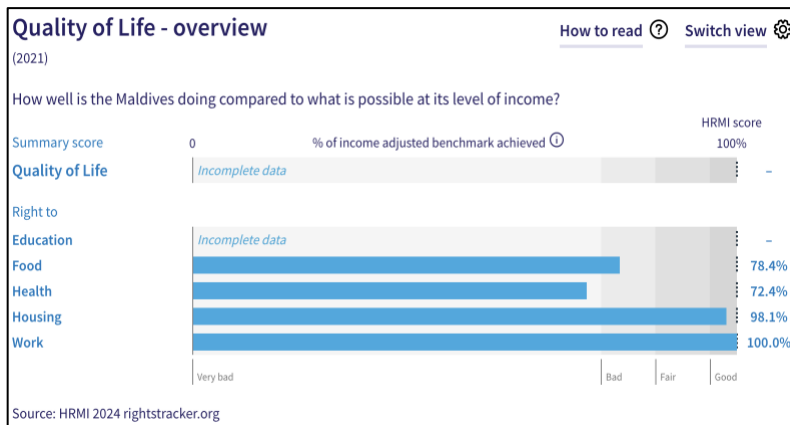
### People at risk

Human rights experts in the Maldives commonly identified **LGBTQIA+ people; migrants and immigrants; HRDs; journalists; protestors; sex workers; political opponents; and those in detention or suspected of crimes, political violence, or terrorism** as being at risk of violations of these physical integrity rights.

Some responses identified people from the LGBTQIA+ communities, especially activists, HRDs, and sex-workers, as being more vulnerable to violations of these rights. Some responses also reported threats to HRDs, journalists, atheist bloggers, LGBTQIA+ activists from extremist groups and non-State actors.

### Economic and social rights<sup>4</sup>

HRMI's dataset has scores for four **economic and social rights** for Maldives, namely the rights to food, health, housing, and work. 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. Similarly, the score for right to housing is 98.1% and is in the 'good' performance range. The scores for the rights to health and to food are 72.4% and 78.4% respectively, indicating that the government can perform much better with its current resources to ensure that its people are enjoying these rights.



### People at risk

Human rights experts identified **migrants, socio-economically disadvantaged people, people with disabilities, homeless people, street children, women and girls, and people living on remote islands away from Malé**, among others are at risk of being unable fulfil these rights.

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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/>.