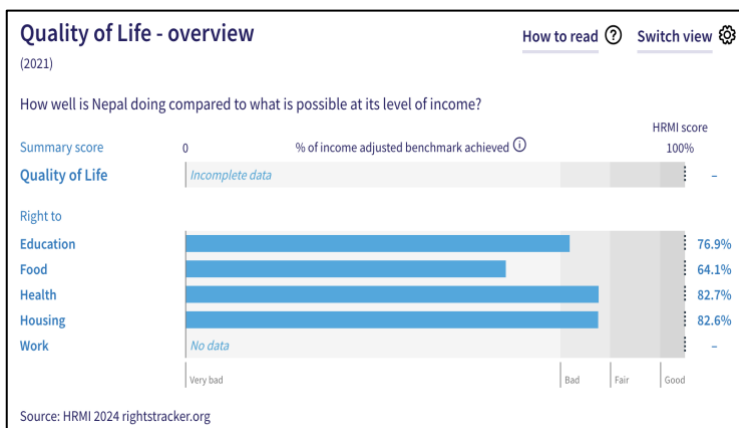


Nepal – Summary Report 2024

In 2024, the Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI) conducted its sixth annual human rights expert survey around the world, including in Nepal. Through the survey, human rights experts and practitioners in Nepal shared their insights on the human rights landscape in the country in 2023. The cumulative expert responses allowed HRMI to produce a comprehensive human rights dataset for Nepal, freely available for all on the [Rights Tracker](#).¹ This includes scores for five economic and social rights, nine civil and political rights, and some additional contextual information about people groups at risk of their violations. HRMI’s 2024 data along with the data points over the last seven years show the overall trends for each of the rights we measure for Nepal.

Economic and social rights data²



HRMI measures **economic and social rights** using the **SERF Index methodology** that allows us to calculate how well a country is performing on fulfilling a given right in relation to its existing income. Image 1 shows ‘income-adjusted’ ‘Quality of Life’ scores for Nepal. As the score is ‘income-adjusted’, it means that attaining 100% for each of these rights is possible for Nepal within its current level of resources.

Image 1

- **Example of how to read income-adjusted HRMI score:** Nepal’s ‘income-adjusted’ score on the Right to Education is 76.9%. This means that the Government of Nepal is achieving only 76.9% of what it is actually capable of achieving at its current level of income (GDP per capita).
- Nepal scores the lowest on the right to food (64.1%), which falls in the ‘very bad’ performance range. This is followed by the right to education (76.9%), the right to housing (82.6%), and the right to health (82.7%); while comparatively better, these scores still fall in the “bad” range.
- In the absence of the raw indicator data for the right to work, no score is available for the right, and consequently, there is no summary score for this category of rights.
- Any ‘income-adjusted’ score that less than a 100% indicates that the government is falling short and can do much better even at its existing income levels to ensure that its people are enjoying their economic and social rights. These scores indicate that there is a large margin for improvement for Nepal to fulfil its obligation of progressive realisation of these rights.

People at risk

Human rights experts from Nepal who took HRMI’s 2024 survey most commonly identified the following groups of people to be at risk across these rights: **People from particular castes or communities discriminated on work or descent, people from weaker socio-economic backgrounds, people with disabilities, women and girls, Indigenous peoples, people affected by climate change, people in particular geographic locations, and LGBTQIA+ people**, among others. Qualitative responses from respondents added the following context:

1 All the data are freely available on the [Rights Tracker](#), and more information can be found on the [HRMI website](#).
 2 Economic and social rights scores are measured using the SERF Index. HRMI’s methodology for constructing ESR scores can be found here: <https://humanrightsmasurement.org/methodology/measuring-economic-social-rights/>.

- A **large proportion of people from Dalit communities** do not have access to adequate and nutritious food; do not own land or have access to appropriate housing; and are prohibited from working in certain professions especially relating to food production and water resources.
- **Women and girls**, especially those affected by various forms of violence.
- **People from the Karnali and Sudurpashchim provinces**; earthquake prone areas; and remote, mountainous regions were identified to be at risk of violations of all these rights.
- **People with disabilities** were vulnerable to neglect and inadequate healthcare, as well as struggle to access job opportunities to support themselves.

Civil and political rights data³

Safety from the State Rights / Physical Integrity Rights

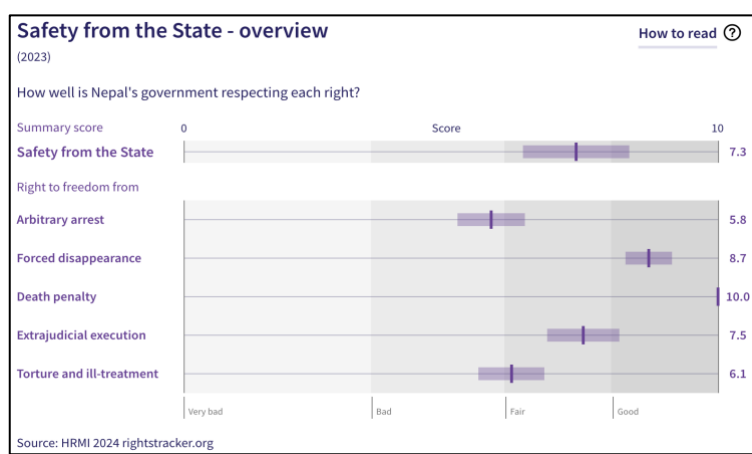


Image 2

Image 2 shows that Nepal’s summary score for the five ‘**Safety from the State Rights**’ is **7.3 out of 10**. Nepal’s score on the right to be free from arbitrary arrest is 5.8 out of 10, which is the lowest score in this category of rights, followed by 6.1 out of 10 for freedom from torture and ill-treatment. The scores for freedom from forced disappearance and extrajudicial execution are 8.7 and 7.5 out of 10 respectively. Nepal’s score on freedom from death penalty has been 10 out of 10 for the last few years.

People at risk

Human rights experts from Nepal who took the 2024 survey overall identified the following categories of people as being at risk of violations of these rights: **protestors, people from weaker socio-economic backgrounds, LGBTQIA+ people, detainees, human rights advocates, journalists, Indigenous peoples, and people from particular castes or communities discriminated on work or descent**, among other groups. Respondents also specifically identified:

- People from **Dalit communities** and other **groups facing descent-based discrimination**
- People from the **ethnic Madhesi community**
- **Human rights activists**, especially those advocating for marginalised communities
- **People from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds**, especially if they do not evacuate their settlements

Empowerment Rights

Nepal’s summary score for ‘**Empowerment Rights**’ is **5.9 out of 10**. The score for freedom of assembly and association is 4.9 out of 10, which is the lowest score in this category and falls entirely in the ‘bad’ range. The score for freedom of opinion and expression is 6.0 out of 10, and that for political participation is 7.1 out of 10. On the newly added freedom of religion and belief is 7.3 out of 10. While this score is still on the cusp of ‘bad’ and ‘fair’ performance ranges, Nepal does relatively better on these rights compared to other South Asian countries and is performing ‘close to average’ compared to other countries in our dataset.

³ 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>.

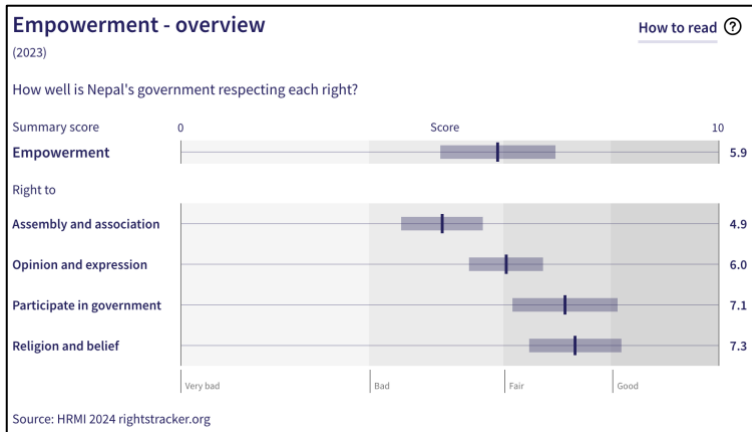


Image 3

People at risk

Experts and practitioners from Nepal identified the following categories of people as being vulnerable to violations of empowerment rights: **protestors, human rights advocates, Indigenous peoples, LGBTQIA+ people, women and girls, people from particular castes or communities discriminated on work or descent, and people from weaker socio-economic backgrounds, among other.**

Respondents also specifically reported the following:

- People from **Madhesi and Muslim communities** were at risk of violations of these rights
- Caste-based discrimination and untouchability is still prevalent, and that there is a **lower representation of Dalit people in the government and legislative assembly.**

Overtime graph for civil and political rights

Nepal’s scores overtime for the nine civil and political rights from 2017 to 2023 show the trend on the level of respect for each of these rights over the years as can be seen below. There has been a marginal shift in most rights. However, there appears a relatively sharper decline in the score on the right to freedom from arbitrary arrest, as well as the rights to freedom of assembly and association and freedom of religion and belief between 2022 and 2023.

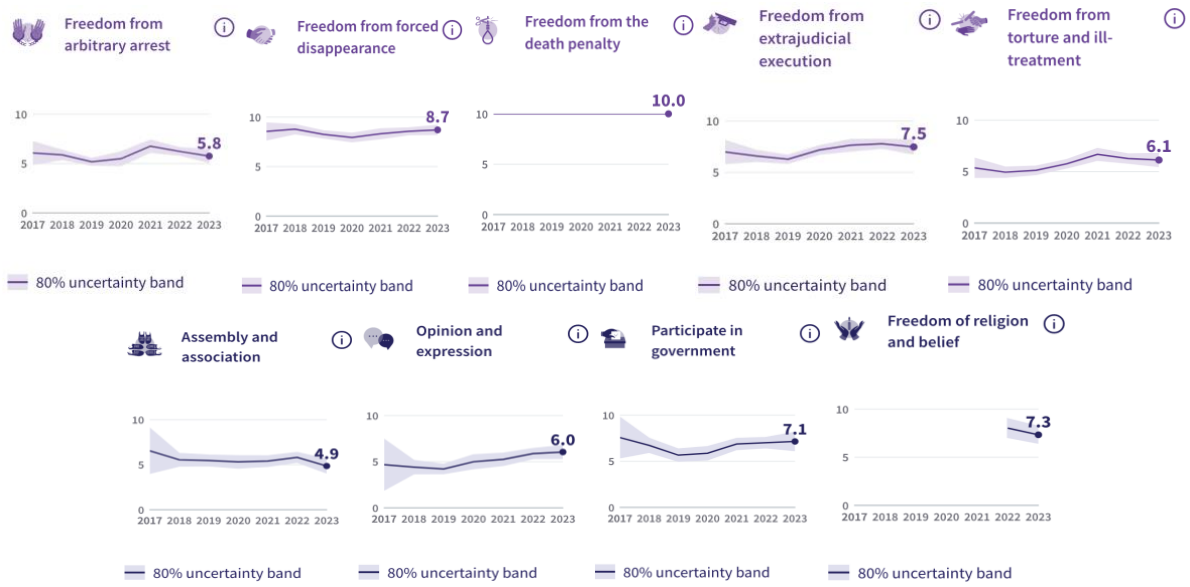


Image 4

HRMI’s Co-Executive Director, Thalia Kehoe Rowden, said, ‘While we recognise that Nepal’s overall performance on these rights is comparatively better in its region, there is a vast scope of improvement in all the categories of rights, especially in those that have seen some decline over the last few years. All people in Nepal deserve to have all their human rights protected and upheld by their government.’

For further information or comment, please contact us at thalia.kehoerowden@hrmi.ngo or south_asia@humanrightsmeasurement.org.