

Bangladesh – Summary Report 2025

In 2025, the Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI) conducted its third human rights expert survey in Bangladesh. Through the survey, HRMI asked practitioners and experts monitoring the situation in Bangladesh for their insights about the human rights landscape in the country in 2024. 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 some contextual information about people groups at risk of their violations. All these data are freely available on the [Rights Tracker](#).¹

Civil and political rights²

Safety from the State / Physical Integrity Rights

HRMI's 2025 data show that civil and political rights continued to be a critical concern in Bangladesh. The scores show a discernable decline on almost all the rights we measure compared to the last two years. Bangladesh has a summary score of **2.4 out of 10** on the five **physical integrity rights**, which falls in the 'very bad' performance range. Bangladesh scores 2.3 out of 10 on the right to freedom from arbitrary arrest, which is the lowest score in this category of rights. This is followed by the rights to freedom from torture and ill-treatment (2.6 out of 10), freedom from extrajudicial execution (2.9 on 10), and freedom from forced disappearance (4.1 out of 10). These declining scores suggest that many people in Bangladesh are vulnerable to violations of these rights.

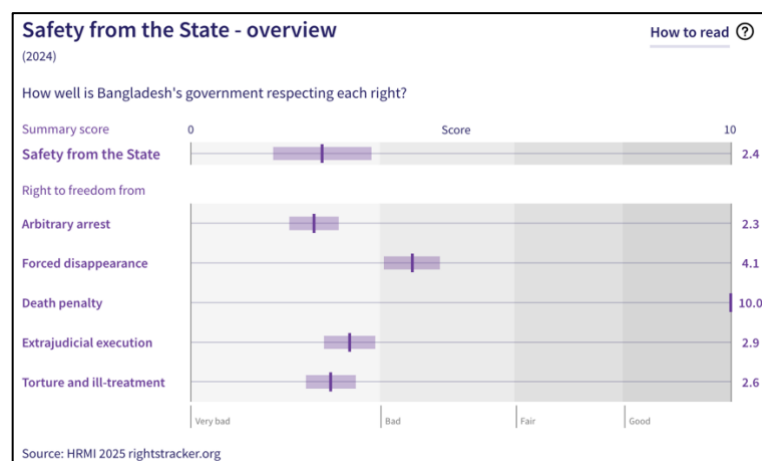


Image 1

People at risk

Human rights experts most commonly identified **people with particular political affiliations or beliefs, human rights advocates, journalists, protestors, students, people suspected of political violence, Indigenous peoples, those accused of crimes or suspected of terrorism, academics, members of labour unions, among others**, as being at risk of violation of these rights.

Qualitative responses³ given by experts referred to the violations of these rights targeting students, protestors, and members of opposing political parties involved in the Student-People's uprising, including excessive use of force by the police leading to deaths of many people, especially protestors. Some responses also referred to members of the former ruling party being at risk of violations of these rights in the period after the popular Student-People's uprising.

- 1 All the data are freely available on the [HRMI 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 Bangladesh: <https://rightstracker.org/country/BGD?tab=atrisk>.

Overtime graph for 'Safety from the State' / 'Physical Integrity' Rights

Bangladesh's scores for the five physical integrity rights over the last four years from 2021 to 2024 show a sharp decline in the level of respect for each of these rights. There is a much steeper fall for most rights between 2023 and 2024, especially on the right to freedom from extrajudicial execution. Since there were no reports of a formal death penalty execution in 2024, the score on this right is a 10 out of 10.

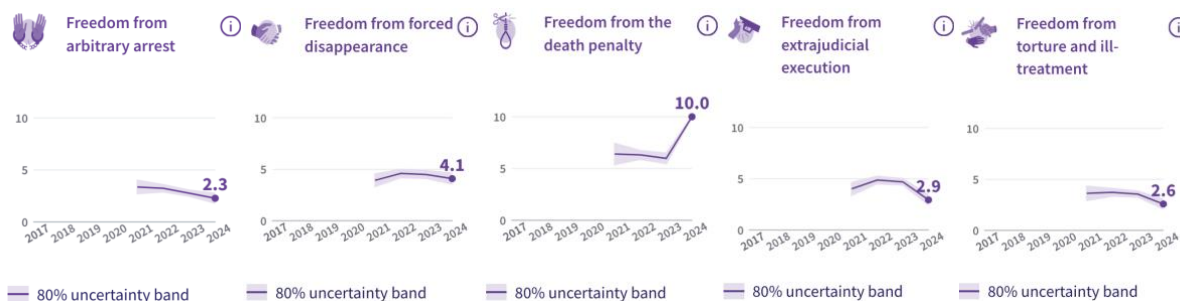


Image 2

Empowerment Rights

Bangladesh has a low score of **1.9 out of 10** on **empowerment rights**, and is among the lowest scores in this category of rights compared to other countries in our dataset. This indicates that, in 2024, many people were restricted from enjoying their civil liberties and democratic freedoms. The score for the right to freedom of assembly and association is 1.7 out of 10, which is the lowest score in this category, followed by scores for freedom of participation in government (2.2 out of 10) and freedom of opinion and expression (2.5 out of 10). Scores for three empowerment rights fall in the 'very bad' range. On the right to freedom of religion and belief, Bangladesh scores 5.0 out of 10, which still falls in the 'bad' category.

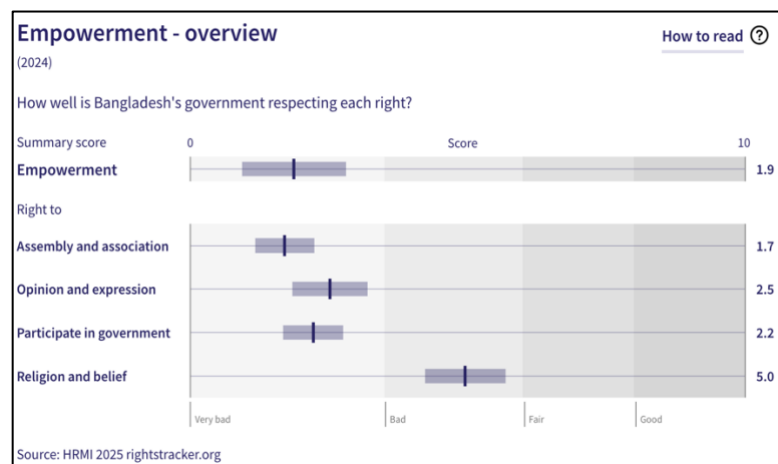


Image 3

People at risk

Human rights experts identified **people with particular political affiliations or beliefs, human rights advocates, journalists, protestors, students, people suspected of political violence, academics, people from particular religious beliefs, Indigenous peoples, people of particular ethnicities, LGBTQIA+ people, among others**, as being at risk of violation of these rights.

Qualitative responses⁴ shared by experts noted that members of opposing political parties were subject to targeted restrictions of all these rights. It was also reported that members and supporters of the former ruling party were at risk of violation of their right to political participation after the Student-

⁴ 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>.

People's uprising. Indigenous peoples were also identified to be vulnerable to restrictions on their right to participate in government. Some responses also reported that religious and sectoral minorities such as Hindus, Christians, and Ahmadiyya Muslims were attacked by members of extremist groups and that their public demonstrations were restricted by the government.

Overtime graph for 'Empowerment' Rights

Bangladesh's scores for all four empowerment rights between 2021 to 2024 show an even steeper decline than the physical integrity rights. The most visible fall was on the score for freedom of assembly and association which dropped from 4.4 in 2021 to 1.7 in 2024, given the context shared by the expert respondents from the country.

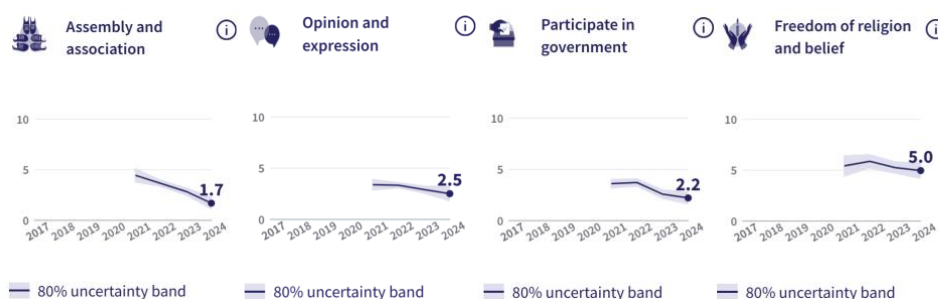


Image 4

Economic and social rights⁵

On economic and social rights, Bangladesh has an **overall 'income adjusted' summary score of 75.7%**. 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 food (69.1%). While Bangladesh scores relatively better on the right to health (88.2%), other scores largely fall in the 'bad' and 'very bad' ranges.

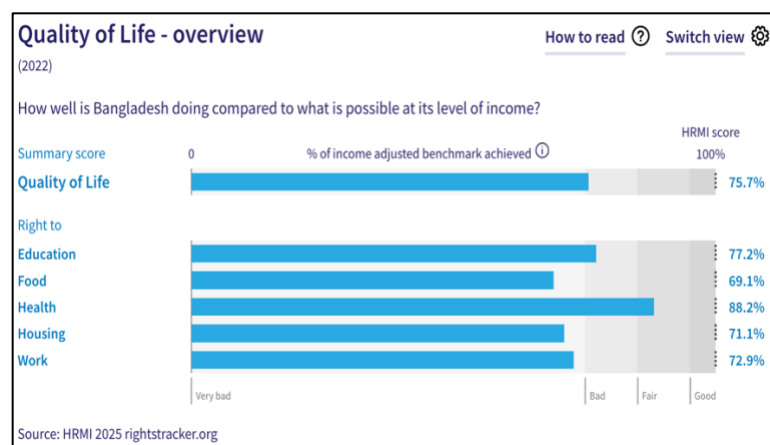


Image 5

People at risk

Human rights experts commonly identified **Indigenous peoples and people from particular ethnicities, socio-economically disadvantaged people, LGBTQIA+ communities, homeless people, among others** to be at risk of being unable to fulfil these rights. Notably, **"all people"** were most identified to be at risk of being unable to enjoy their rights to health and work.

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

5 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/>.