

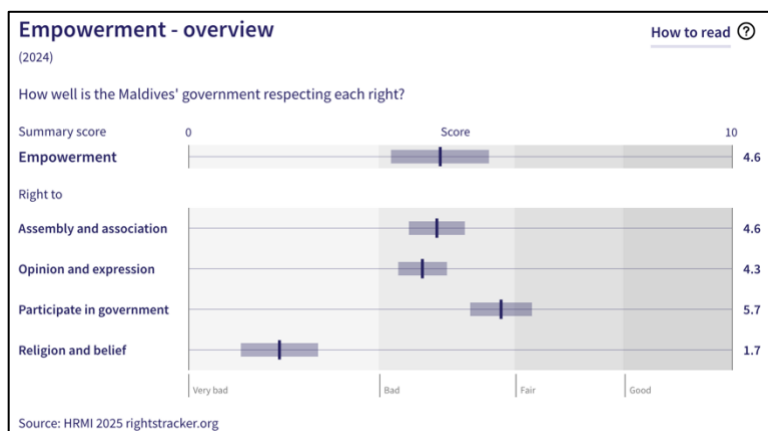
The Maldives – Summary Report 2025

In 2025, the Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI) conducted its third human rights expert survey for the Maldives. Through the survey, human rights experts and practitioners from the Maldives shared their insights about the human rights landscape in the country in the previous year i.e., 2024. These cumulative expert responses 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 some additional information about people groups who were at risk of these violations. All these data are freely available on HRMI [Rights Tracker](#),¹ a certified digital public good.

Civil and political rights²

Empowerment Rights

HRMI's 2025 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 4.6 out of 10** on the four **empowerment rights**, indicating that many people in the country are facing restrictions on their civil liberties and political freedoms. The lowest score in this category is on the **right to freedom of religion and belief** at **1.7 out of 10**. This is also the lowest score for this right compared to other countries in our dataset. The scores for freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of assembly and association are 4.3 and 4.6 out of 10 respectively; while the score for the right to political participation is 5.7 out of 10.



People at risk

Human rights experts most commonly identified **human rights advocates, LGBTQIA+ people, migrants, political opponents, religious minorities, protestors, journalists, women and girls, and people in particular geographic locations**, among others, as being at risk of violations of these rights.

Image 1

Additional contextual information provided by experts noted the following:

- Journalists and independent media face intimidation, threats, and attacks for their work which are not prevented and adequately investigated by authorities.
- People critical of the government and those supporting the Maldivian Democracy Network (MDN) are vulnerable to restrictions.
- Women's rights advocates who advocate for sexual and reproductive health and are critical of religious restrictions on women are at risk of having their freedom of opinion and expression violated.

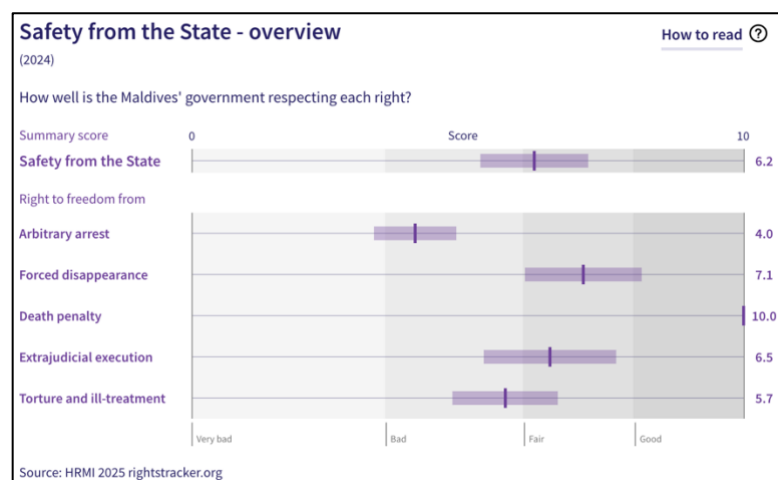
¹ All the data are freely available on the [HRMI Rights Tracker](#), and more information can be found on the [HRMI website](#).

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>.

- Some responses noted that local communities are not adequately consulted while amending key policies or implementing development projects.
- People who do not practice Sunni Islam and atheists, especially women, LGBTQIA+ peoples, and migrant workers are at risk of being targeted for these violations.³

Safety from the State / Physical Integrity Rights

Compared to empowerment rights, the Maldives scores better on the five **physical integrity rights** with a summary score of **6.2 out of 10**. The score for freedom from arbitrary arrest is 4.0 out of 10, and is the lowest score in this category. This is followed by other scores, i.e., freedom from torture and ill-treatment (5.7 out of 10), freedom from extrajudicial execution (6.5 out of 10), and freedom from forced disappearance (7.1 out of 10). While the Maldives scores a 10 out of 10 on the right to freedom from death penalty indicating that no person was formally executed in 2024, a response noted that the government has formally proposed reinstating death penalty for people convicted of drug trafficking.



People at risk

Human rights experts from the Maldives commonly identified **LGBTQIA+ people, human rights advocates, political opponents, detainees or those accused of crimes, migrants, journalists, protestors, sex workers, people suspected of political violence**, among others, as being at risk of violations of their physical integrity rights.

Image 2

Some qualitative responses added the following context:

- LGBTQIA+ people, especially activists, advocates, and sex-workers from the community, were most identified to be at risk of violations of these physical integrity rights.
- Protestors were also identified to be vulnerable to violations of these rights, including pro-Palestine protestors and journalists covering protests who were at risk of being arbitrarily arrested; protesting migrants were vulnerable to ill-treatment and threatened with deportation; and women's rights groups protesting against radicalisation were at risk of being tortured or ill-treated.
- Some responses noted that the government continues to withhold from the public the investigation report by the Commission of Deaths and Disappearances.
- It was also noted that human rights defenders, women's rights activists, and journalists who oppose extremist ideologies face threats and attacks from extremist groups and the government does not adequately investigate the violence committed by these groups.⁴

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>.

4 Ibid.

Overtime graph for civil and political rights

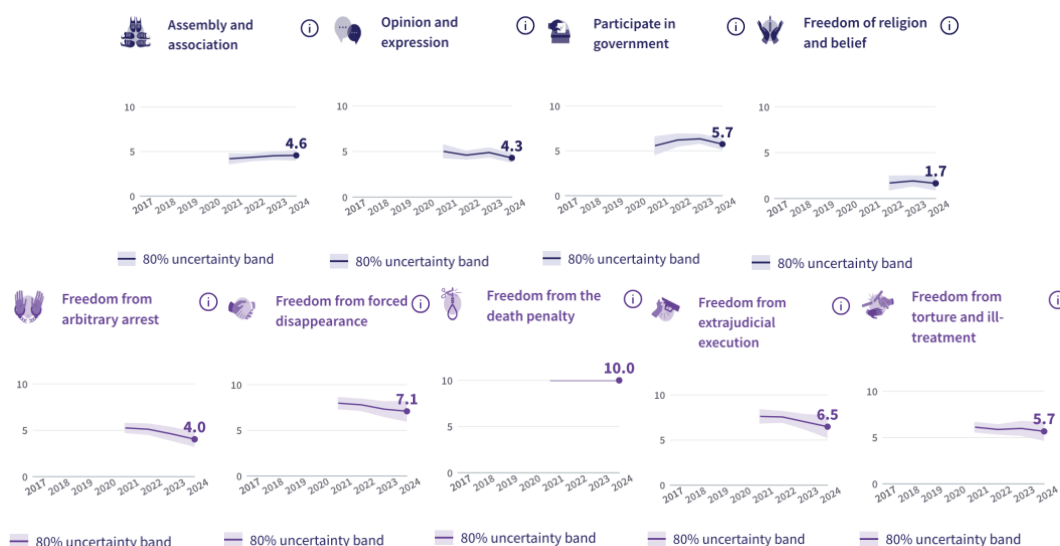
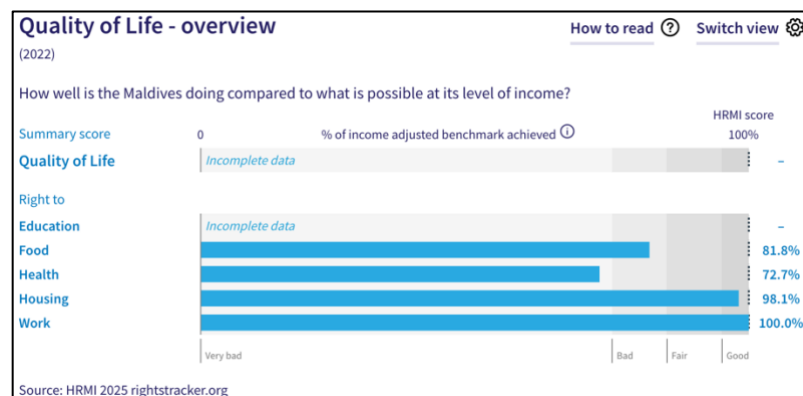


Image 3

Looking at the overtime trend from 2021 to 2024, there appears to be a steady decline on most scores compared to the last two years, with the sharpest decline on the freedoms of opinion and expression and of political participation as well as on the freedom from arbitrary arrest.

Economic and social rights⁵

HRMI's dataset has 'income adjusted' scores for four **economic and social rights** for the Maldives, namely the rights to food, health, housing, and work. The highest score in this category is an 'income adjusted' 100% on the right to work, meaning that government is optimally using its current income to ensure this right for its people. Similarly, the 'income adjusted' score for right to housing (based on access to water and basic sanitation) is 98.1%. The scores for the rights to health and to food are 72.7% and 81.8% respectively, indicating that the government can perform better even with its current level of resources.



People at risk

Experts identified **migrants, socio-economically disadvantaged people, people with disabilities, homeless people, LGBTQIA+ people, women and girls, sex workers, and people living on atolls or remote islands away from Malé**, among others, as being unable fulfil these rights.

Notably, despite the high score on the right to housing, experts stated that '**all people**' were particularly unlikely to have access to quality housing due to issues such as overcrowding and unaffordability.

For further information or comments, please contact HRMI's Co-Executive Director, Thalia Kehoe Rowden, at thalia.kehoeowden@hrmi.ngo or south_asia@humanrightsmeasurement.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://humanrightsmeasurement.org/methodology/measuring-economic-social-rights/>.