



World Justice
Project



Human Rights in Thailand

Insights from the WJP Rule
of Law Index® 2015 - 2025

Acknowledgments

Human Rights in Thailand: Insights from the WJP Rule of Law Index® 2015 - 2025 was produced by the World Justice Project under the research oversight and the executive direction of Alejandro Ponce.

Under the supervision of Ana María Montoya, the production of this report was led by Santiago Pardo. Expert interviews were led by Marta Basystiuk, who also contributed on findings of the chapter 3. The report was also prepared by Erin Campbell, Katrina Wanner, and Srirak Plipat.

Mariana López was the graphic designer for this report.

Cover photo provided by Chayanan Narksompong, from iStock, and edited by Irene Heras.

The World Justice Project (WJP) acknowledges and appreciate the contributions of the experts who shared their time, knowledge, and perspectives to the development of this report, especially for Chapter 3: Perspectives from the Field. This research was made possible by the invaluable insights provided during qualitative interviews by Akarachai Chaimaneekarakate, Chaiporn Supvoranid, Ploykaew Porananond, Sanhawan Srisod, and Anchana Heemmina. We also extend our appreciation to contributors who participated in this study and chose to remain anonymous. Their professional expertise and firsthand observations provided the necessary depth to understand the practical application of the rule of law and human rights in Thailand.

The World Justice Project would like to express its sincere gratitude to the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT) for its support throughout the development of this report. We appreciate the collaboration and guidance provided by the Office of the NHRCT in making this research possible.

Requests to reproduce this document should be sent to:

Alejandro Ponce

World Justice Project

1156 15th St NW, Suite 400

Washington, DC 20005, USA

Email: aponce@worldjusticeproject.org

WASHINGTON, DC 1156

15th St NW, Suite 400

Washington, DC 20005

USA

P +1 (202) 407-9330

MEXICO CITY

Gobernador José

Guadalupe Covarrubias

57-20, San Miguel

Chapultepec, 11850,

Miguel Hidalgo, Mexico

City

worldjusticeproject.mx

 worldjusticeproject.org

 facebook.com/thewjp/

 twitter.com/TheWJP

 [@the-world-justice-project](https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-world-justice-project)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CHAPTER 1. METHODOLOGY

CHAPTER 2. QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS BASED ON THE RULE OF LAW INDEX®

14 Rule of Law in Thailand

19 Human Rights in Thailand

CHAPTER 3. PERSPECTIVES FROM THE FIELD

47 Section I: Civil and Political Rights

49 Section II: Participation and Access to Information

51 Section III: Labor and Property Rights

53 Section IV: Fair and Impartial Justice

CHAPTER 4. HUMAN RIGHTS SUBFACTORS

CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSIONS

APPENDIX

64 Appendix

67 About the WJP

68 Other Publications

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary

Human Rights in Thailand: Insights from the WJP Rule of Law Index® 2015-2025 presents a comprehensive analysis of Thailand's progress and challenges in rule of law issues over the past decade. This report provides an overview of the country's human rights status by combining a quantitative analysis of the WJP Rule of Law Index (ROLI) series with a qualitative study based on semi-structured interviews with academic, legal, and civil society experts.

The report first examines general rule of law trends in Thailand to provide a systemic context, followed by a detailed assessment of the country's primary human rights challenges through four key dimensions: civil and political rights, civic participation, labor and property rights, and the fairness of the justice system. By analyzing long-term statistical data, the report contextualizes Thailand's performance both in relation to its own historical trajectory over the last decade and compared to regional peer countries in Southeast Asia. This quantitative foundation is complemented by expert insights that identify institutional drivers and practical barriers, contextualizing legal frameworks within their actual implementation on the ground.

RULE OF LAW IN THAILAND

With an overall score of 0.50, Thailand ranks 77th out of 143 countries worldwide in the 2025 WJP Rule of Law Index. In contrast to global trends, Thailand's overall score increased by 1.0% this year, placing Thailand among the minority of countries to improve their overall score in 2025. Among countries in the East Asia and Pacific region, Thailand ranks 10th out of 15. Despite outperforming some regional peers, including the Philippines, Myanmar, and Cambodia, Thailand still trails behind leading countries such as New Zealand, Australia, and Japan. Compared to all countries within the Asia-Pacific, Thailand ranks 12/21, on par with scores from Sri Lanka (0.51), Vietnam (0.50) and India (0.49). Examining Thailand's Index performance at the indicator level, the country's advancements in rule of law in 2025 can be attributed to improvements in several key areas, most notably in its Factor 4: Fundamental Rights score, which improved by 3.3%. This improvement builds upon progress first observed in 2024, when Thailand reversed a three-year trend of consecutive declines in the factor. Thailand's positive developments in Fundamental Rights since 2024 reflect modest improvements in such areas as the freedom of religion, right to life and security, and due process. Despite these gains, though, challenges persist. While Thailand's global rank improved five positions in 2025, its position at 89th out of 143 countries embodies the country's ongoing challenge in ensuring the full protection of many civil and political freedoms.

Additionally, in 2025 Thailand made improvements in its worst-performing factor, Factor 8: Criminal Justice, which increased in score by 3.2%. At 0.42, Thailand's score in this area represents a relative weakness for the country. Several of Thailand's lowest sub-factor scores fall under Criminal Justice, including 8.3 on correctional systems (0.27) and 8.4 on the impartiality of the criminal justice system (0.32). Nonetheless, Thailand's performance in both

of these indicators improved in the past year, indicating that progress is possible. Even with broad improvements across Criminal Justice, though, Thailand still lags behind regional and income group averages in most sub-factors.

Aside from these positive developments in Factors 4 and 8, Thailand achieved mixed results in other dimensions of the rule of law. As Thailand's second-highest scoring factor, Factor 7: Civil Justice represents a relative strength for the country. However, Thailand's 2025 improvements toward reducing justice delays and corruption in the civil justice system were offset by deteriorations in its accessibility, impartiality, and independence. In contrast to the country's encouraging progress in its weakest factor, these declines emphasize the need to protect against backsliding in its areas of strength.

While Thailand experienced a modest improvement in its score for Factor 2: Absence of Corruption in 2024, this score fell by 1.1% in 2025, earning its place as Thailand's most-deteriorated factor. The country's lower scores in sub-factors measuring corruption in its executive, judicial, and legislative branches reflect persistent vulnerabilities in Thailand's anti-corruption mechanisms, underscoring the need for greater consistency in its reform processes.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND

In its ability to protect and promote human rights, Thailand's performance in the Index underscores a landscape of both progress and enduring challenges. Over the past decade, Thailand has experienced a 3.0% decline in its Fundamental Rights score falling from 0.51 in 2015 to 0.49 in 2025). The 3.3% increase in this score in the 2025 Index signals the potential for positive change, but Thailand's entrenched political dynamics and structural hurdles complicate the path to sustained progress.

This report's second chapter examines Thailand's performance across an array of critical human rights, providing comprehensive insights into the country's rule of law while comparing it against regional peers in Southeast Asia and notable global benchmarks.

To capture the breadth of topics included under the human rights umbrella, this chapter separates its analysis into four thematic sections: Civil and Political Rights, Participation and Access to Information, Labor and Property Rights, and Fair and Impartial Justice.

1. *Civil and Political Rights*, an area in which Thailand outperforms the Southeast Asia regional average, faces significant risks. While Thailand performs well in freedom of belief and expression, with scores among

the highest in Southeast Asia, contractions in the freedom of assembly, equality, and non-discrimination since 2015 point to increasing limitations on individual liberties.

This quantitative trend is mirrored by qualitative findings that reveal a "topic-dependent" nature of expression, where the freedom to speak is conditioned by a spectrum of risk. Practitioners highlight that the strategic use of restrictive laws and litigation acts as a deterrent for civic discourse on sensitive issues—a nuanced reality that aggregate data may partially mask.

2. *Participation and Access to Information*, another vital area, deteriorated across indicators measuring access to complaint mechanisms, non-governmental checks on power, and civic participation over the past decade. Despite Thailand's high regional rank in this area, these declines reflect barriers that limit meaningful citizen engagement and governmental accountability

Insights from the field indicate that while formal participation channels exist, they are often perceived as bureaucratic exercises with limited impact on final policy decisions. This gap between formal availability and actual influence has led to a growing sense of "participation fatigue" among civil society actors.

3. *Labor and Property Rights* encompasses indicators that have also experienced setbacks over the past decade, with declines in labor rights and protection against expropriation. Thailand's scores remain below the regional average, trailing behind countries like Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia, and highlight the need for strengthened protections to improve competitiveness and equity.

Experts emphasize that these setbacks disproportionately affect marginalized groups and migrant workers, who face a persistent lack of fundamental labor and legal protections. Furthermore, the effectiveness of property rights is undermined by a systemic enforcement gap: since the state does not proactively trace assets, the heavy burden of identification falls entirely on the individual, often rendering judicial rulings ineffective in practice.

4. *Fair and Impartial Justice* reflects a domain in which Thailand experienced notable advancements in recent years, with sustained improvements for indicators measuring access to civil justice, due process and rights of the accused, and impartiality in criminal justice. However, indicators related to administrative proceedings, including delays and respect for due

process, have worsened, placing Thailand below the regional average. Despite some improvements, Thailand's scores in Criminal Justice remain low, reflecting systemic challenges that undermine impartiality and fairness.

Qualitative findings reveal that legal experts express ongoing concerns regarding judicial independence, particularly in sensitive cases where the formal adherence to legal steps does not always guarantee an impartial outcome. These systemic pressures suggest that structural challenges continue to limit the system's ability to provide an effective remedy.

Taken together, the findings presented in these four sections suggest that, while Thailand's upward trajectory in the *WJP Rule of Law Index* and incremental improvements in human rights provide reasons for optimism, the country must address systemic weaknesses to achieve a more robust and inclusive rule of law framework. Continued reform will be essential to strengthen Thailand's democratic institutions, protect civil liberties, and ensure equitable access to justice for all of the country's residents.

METHODOLOGY

This report includes a description of the methodological framework that the WJP employs in its production of the *WJP Rule of Law Index*. This output-oriented methodology, which relies on primary data collected through household surveys and expert questionnaires, combines public perceptions with insights from in-country legal practitioners and academics to ensure a comprehensive and comparable analysis of a country's rule of law systems as experienced in practice. This chapter also outlines the WJP's data validation measures, including cross-referencing with external data sources and various statistical tests that ensure the robustness of the data presented in the Index.

To provide deeper explanatory depth to these quantitative trends, the analysis is complemented by semi-structured qualitative interviews with 11 subject-matter experts from multilateral agencies, academia, and civil society. These sessions focused on identifying the institutional drivers behind the data and illustrating the findings through real-world cases. The resulting qualitative material was thematically coded and cross-referenced with Index scores to ensure a nuanced, validated, and integrated perspective on Thailand's evolving human rights landscape.

CHAPTER 1
METHODOLOGY

Methodology



The *WJP Rule of Law Index*® is built upon an original conceptual framework, which WJP developed in consultation with academics, legal practitioners, and community leaders from around the world.

The methodology* can be broken down into the following five-step process:

1. Questionnaires

WJP administers a set of five original questionnaires to experts and the general public. These questionnaires are translated into several languages and adapted to reflect commonly used terms and expressions.



4 Expert Questionnaires

Qualified Respondents' Questionnaires (QRQs)

Every year, WJP invites legal practitioners and academics from around the world to participate in expert surveys covering four disciplines: civil and commercial law, criminal justice, labor law, and public health.

1 Household Questionnaire

General Population Poll (GPP)

Every few years, WJP engages the services of leading local polling companies to conduct surveys of the general public in each country.



*To read more about the methodology of the WJP Rule of Law Index, please refer to the "Methodology" document available for download on WJP's website: <https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/downloads/Index-Methodology-2025.pdf>



2. Codification

WJP maps collected data onto 44 rule of law sub-factors. Final scores are constructed using a five-step process:

1. Codify questionnaire items as numeric values.
2. Produce raw country scores by aggregating the individual responses.
3. Normalize raw scores.
4. Aggregate the scores into sub-factors and factors using simple averages.
5. Produce the final scores and rankings.

3. Testing

The data is subjected to a series of tests to detect significant changes and identify possible biases and errors. The sub-factors are cross-checked against more than 90 third-party sources drawn from local and international organizations.



4. Presentation

Data is organized into country profiles, tables, and figures to facilitate its presentation and interpretation. The full report, key insights, and historical datasets can be accessed on WJP's website: worldjusticeproject.org/index.



5. External Review and Validation



To assess the statistical reliability of our results, WJP periodically invites the Econometrics and Applied Statistics Unit of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre to perform a sensitivity analysis of the Index. This analysis confirms that the *WJP Rule of Law Index®* is a reliable tool with statistical coherence and robust structure.

Qualitative Methodology



1. Explore Selection

WJP interviewed 11 experts through 9 interview sessions selected for the depth and specificity of their knowledge of Thailand's human rights landscape. As a cohort, these individuals reflected a wide range of institutional and professional perspectives, including multilateral agencies, international and domestic human rights organizations, private legal practice, academic research institutes, civil society, and advocacy groups.

2. Interview Structure

Each interview lasted approximately one hour and followed a semi-structured guide organized around the four thematic dimensions examined in this chapter. Discussions focused on the status of each dimension, possible explanations for the quantitative findings, and illustrative cases that helped situate these rights within Thailand's broader institutional and social context.



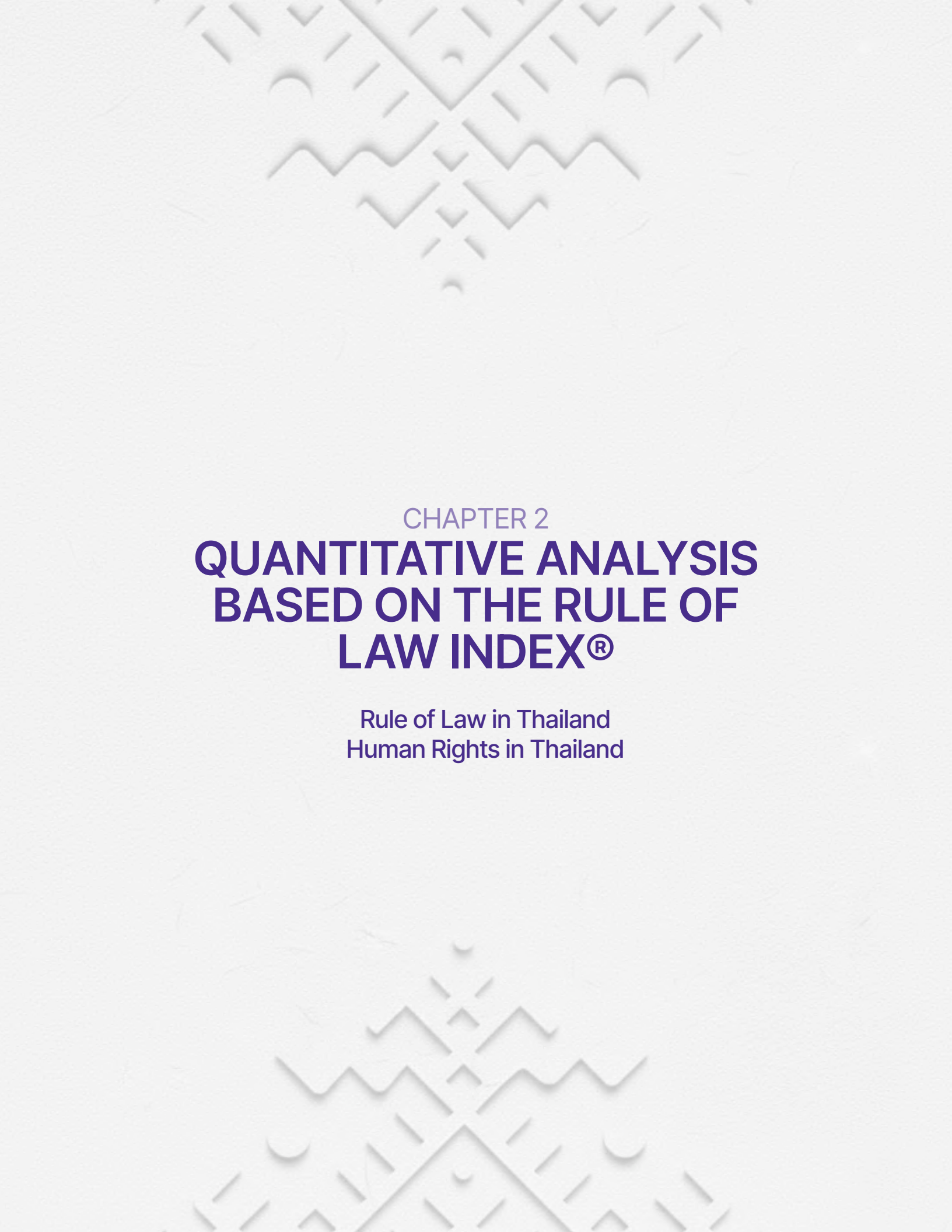
3. Qualitative Analysis

Once collected, the qualitative material was organized according to the report's thematic framework. For each dimension, categories of analysis were developed based on recurring response patterns and then contrasted with the quantitative findings in order to identify areas of convergence, qualification, and added explanatory depth.

4. Validation & Ethics

After the chapter's main insights were drafted, they were shared with participating experts for review and comment. Throughout the process, anonymity was maintained for those who requested it, in line with the confidentiality approach adopted for the interviews.





CHAPTER 2

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS BASED ON THE RULE OF LAW INDEX®

Rule of Law in Thailand
Human Rights in Thailand

DEFINING THE RULE OF LAW

Our definition

The idea of rule of law, traceable to ancient scholars, resonates in most major legal traditions. WJP's definition of rule of law is built around four universal principles, developed in accordance with internationally accepted standards and norms, in consultation with a wide variety of experts worldwide.

rule · of · law

The rule of law is a durable system of laws, institutions, norms, and community commitment that delivers four universal principles: accountability, just law, open government, and accessible and impartial justice.

The Four Universal Principles

1 Accountability

The government as well as private actors are accountable under the law.

2 Just Law

The law is clear, publicized, and stable and is applied evenly. It ensures human rights as well as property, contract, and procedural rights.

3 Open Government

The processes by which the law is adopted, administered, adjudicated, and enforced are accessible, fair, and efficient.

4 Accessible and Impartial Justice

Justice is delivered timely by competent, ethical, and independent representatives and neutrals who are accessible, have adequate resources, and reflect the makeup of the communities they serve.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE WJP RULE OF LAW INDEX

The conceptual framework of the *WJP Rule of Law Index* is comprised of eight factors further disaggregated into 44 sub-factors. These factors and sub-factors are presented below.

1 Constraints on Government Powers

- 1.1 Government powers are effectively limited by the legislature
- 1.2 Government powers are effectively limited by the judiciary
- 1.3 Government powers are effectively limited by independent auditing and review
- 1.4 Government officials are sanctioned for misconduct
- 1.5 Government powers are subject to non-governmental checks
- 1.6 Transition of power is subject to the law

2 Absence of Corruption

- 2.1 Government officials in the executive branch do not use public office for private gain
- 2.2 Government officials in the judicial branch do not use public office for private gain
- 2.3 Government officials in the police and the military do not use public office for private gain
- 2.4 Government officials in the legislative branch do not use public office for private gain

3 Open Government

- 3.1 Publicized laws and government data
- 3.2 Right to information
- 3.3 Civic participation
- 3.4 Complaint mechanisms

4 Fundamental Rights

- 4.1 Equal treatment and absence of discrimination
- 4.2 The right to life and security of the person is effectively guaranteed
- 4.3 Due process of the law and rights of the accused
- 4.4 Freedom of opinion and expression is effectively guaranteed
- 4.5 Freedom of belief and religion is effectively guaranteed
- 4.6 Freedom from arbitrary interference with privacy is effectively guaranteed
- 4.7 Freedom of assembly and association is effectively guaranteed
- 4.8 Fundamental labor rights are effectively guaranteed

5 Order and Security

- 5.1 Crime is effectively controlled
- 5.2 Civil conflict is effectively limited
- 5.3 People do not resort to violence to redress personal grievances

6 Regulatory Enforcement

- 6.1 Government regulations are effectively enforced
- 6.2 Government regulations are applied and enforced without improper influence
- 6.3 Administrative proceedings are conducted without unreasonable delay
- 6.4 Due process is respected in administrative proceedings
- 6.5 The government does not expropriate without lawful process and adequate compensation

7 Civil Justice

- 7.1 People can access and afford civil justice
- 7.2 Civil justice is free of discrimination
- 7.3 Civil justice is free of corruption
- 7.4 Civil justice is free of improper government influence
- 7.5 Civil justice is not subject to unreasonable delay
- 7.6 Civil justice is effectively enforced
- 7.7 Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms are accessible, impartial, and effective

8 Criminal Justice

- 8.1 Criminal investigation system is effective
- 8.2 Criminal adjudication system is timely and effective
- 8.3 Correctional system is effective in reducing criminal behavior
- 8.4 Criminal justice system is impartial
- 8.5 Criminal justice system is free of corruption
- 8.6 Criminal justice system is free of improper government influence
- 8.7 Due process of the law and rights of the accused

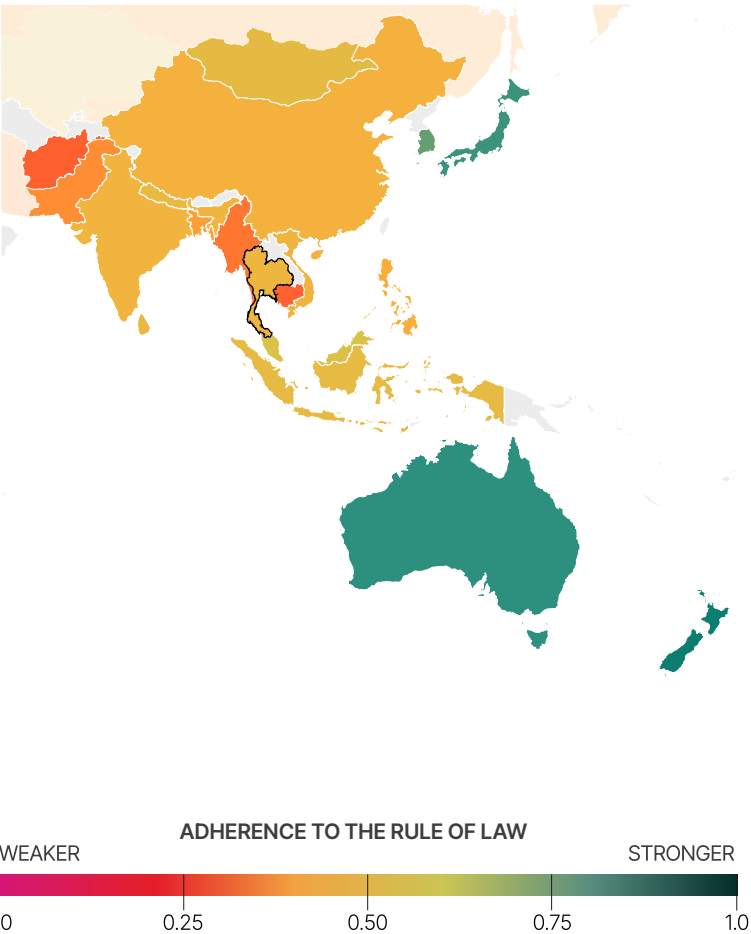


RULE OF LAW IN THAILAND

Rule of Law in Thailand

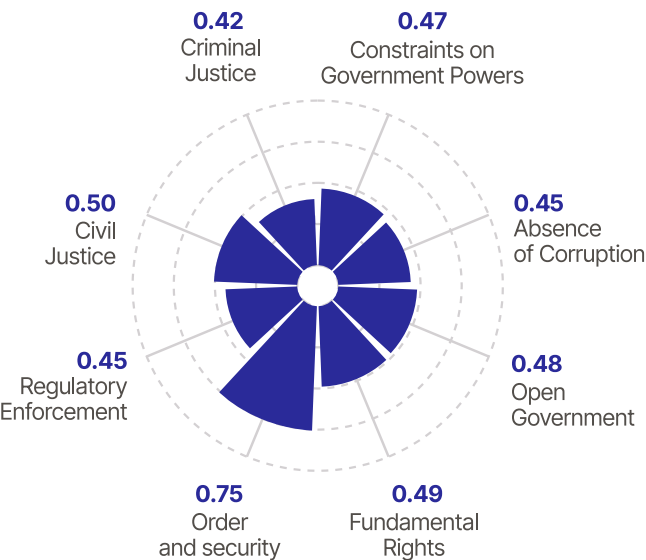
WJP Rule of Law Index 2025 Changes Over Time and Factors in Detail

I OVERALL SCORE



Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score*	Regional Rank	Global Rank	6-Year % Change in Overall Score (2020-2025)
New Zealand	0.83	1/21	5/143	+1%
Australia	0.80	2/21	11/143	-1%
Japan	0.78	3/21	15/143	+1%
Singapore	0.78	4//21	16/143	-1%
Korea, Rep.	0.74	5/21	19/143	+1%
Hong Kong SAR, China	0.72	6/21	24/143	-6%
Malaysia	0.57	7/21	56/143	-2%
Mongolia	0.53	8/21	67/143	0%
Indonesia	0.52	9/21	69/143	-1%
Nepal	0.52	10/21	71/143	-1%
Sri Lanka	0.51	11/21	74/143	-1%
▶ Thailand	0.50	12/21	77/143	-1%
Vietnam	0.50	13/21	83/143	+1%
India	0.49	14/21	86/143	-4%
China	0.48	15/21	92/143	0%
Philippines	0.46	16/21	97/143	-3%
Bangladesh	0.39	17/21	125/143	-4%
Pakistan	0.37	18/21	130/143	-5%
Myanmar	0.34	19/21	139/143	-20%
Cambodia	0.31	20/21	141/143	-5%
Afghanistan	0.31	21/21	142/143	-15%

I FACTORS IN DETAIL



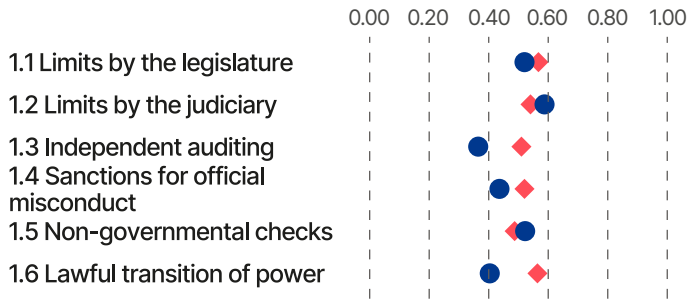
Factor	Global Rank	Regional Rank	6-Year % Change in Overall Score (2020-2025)
1 Constraints on Government Powers	96/143	5/8	-2%
2 Absence of Corruption	77/143	3/8	-8%
3 Open Government	75/143	3/8	-5%
4 Fundamental Rights	89/143	3/8	+1%
5 Order and Security	65/143	4/8	+5%
6 Regulatory Enforcement	102/143	6/8	-4%
7 Civil Justice	80/143	3/8	+5%
8 Criminal Justice	77/143	4/8	-3%

* Scores range from 0 to 1, with 1 indicating the strongest adherence to the rule of law. Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

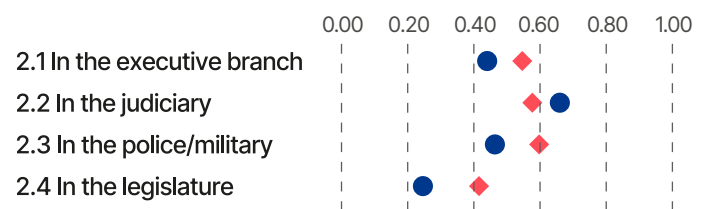
I PERFORMANCE BY SUB-FACTOR

● Thailand ◆ East Asia, the Pacific, and South Asia

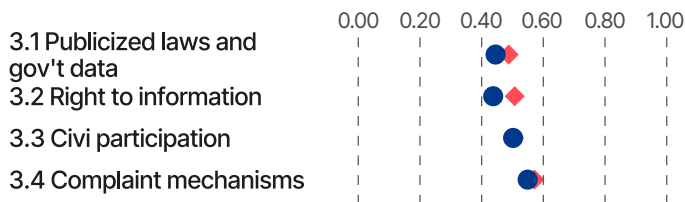
Factor 1: Constraints on Government Powers



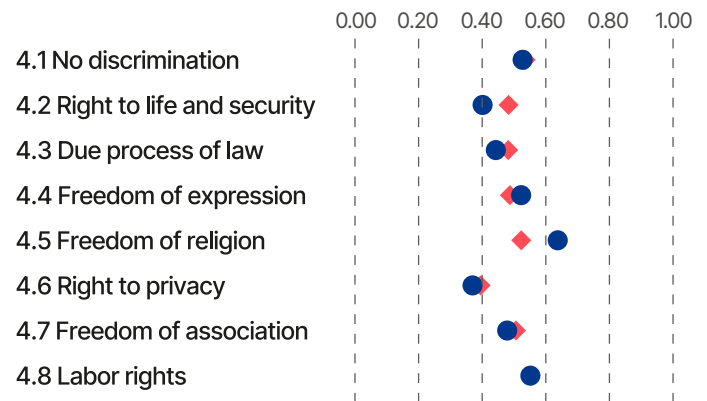
Factor 2: Absence of Corruption



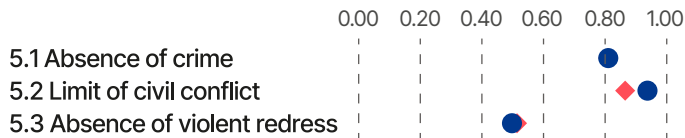
Factor 3: Open Government



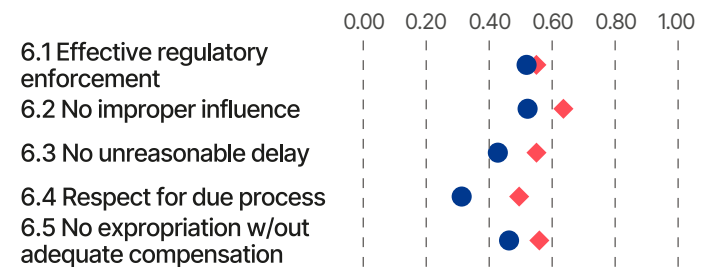
Factor 4: Fundamental Rights



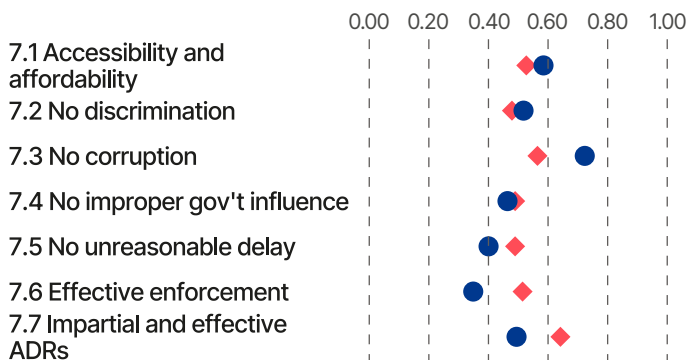
Factor 5: Order and Security



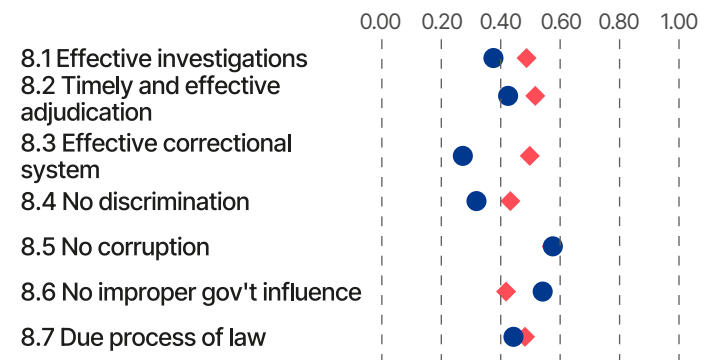
Factor 6: Regulatory Enforcement



Factor 7: Civil Justice



Factor 8: Criminal Justice



THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THAILAND AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Building on Thailand’s complex trajectory of political reform, military influence, and evolving legal frameworks, the 2025 WJP Rule of Law Index continues to reveal a mixed but increasingly differentiated human rights landscape in Thailand and Southeast Asia. While the region as a whole remains marked by volatility and uneven institutional performance, Thailand’s experience over the past decade highlights both persistent structural challenges and areas with potential for recovery.

Overall, Thailand’s human rights performance shows continued pressure on civil and political rights, particularly in areas related to civic space, equality, and protections linked to economic activity. Declines in labor rights and safeguards against expropriation without due process reinforce concerns about the effective enforcement of legal guarantees that are central to a predictable regulatory environment. These trends echo patterns observed between 2015 and 2020, suggesting that progress in these domains has largely stagnated rather than reversed.

At the same time, Thailand’s position remains close to the regional average across several key indicators, indicating that its relative standing has not deteriorated as sharply as in other Southeast Asian countries experiencing deeper institutional erosion. This proximity to regional benchmarks implies that targeted improvements—particularly in labor protections and property rights—could quickly translate into stronger regional positioning, with positive implications for investor confidence and broader economic governance.



Performance in 20 Indicators of the Rule of Law and Human Rights

Regional ranking	Country	Score in 2025	% change last year	Score in 2020	% change in 5 years	Regional ranking in 2020	Change in Ranking
1	Singapore	0.69	0%	0.70	-2%	1	0
2	Malaysia	0.50	+1%	0.51	-2%	2	0
3	Indonesia	0.48	-3%	0.50	-5%	3	0
4	Thailand	0.48	+1%	0.49	-2%	4	0
5	Vietnam	0.44	0%	0.44	0%	5	0
6	Philippines	0.41	-1%	0.43	-4%	6	+1
7	Cambodia	0.27	-1%	0.30	-8%	8	-1
8	Myanmar	0.23	0%	0.32	-30%	7	-

The map and table above present the average scores of these 20 indicators across Southeast Asia, highlighting shifts over the last five years and in the most recent year. This period marked a pivotal moment for Thailand's rule of law performance.

Comparatively, Thailand continues to occupy a mid-range position within Southeast Asia, neither among the regional leaders nor among the weakest performers. As shown in the table, Thailand has consistently ranked fourth in the region since 2020, reflecting a stable relative position over time. In 2025, however, Thailand narrows the gap with Indonesia in third place, suggesting increasing convergence with higher-performing peers. This shift coincides with a sustained improvement in Thailand's human rights performance in recent years, including a 2% increase last year and a further 3% increase this year, pointing to the early signs of a gradual recovery in the protection and guarantee of human rights.

While countries such as Myanmar and Cambodia have experienced more severe and sustained declines, Thailand's trajectory has been comparatively moderate, reflecting a degree of institutional resilience despite ongoing political and legal constraints. Nonetheless, this relative stability should not be interpreted as full consolidation; rather, it highlights a narrowing margin between Thailand and its regional peers, underscoring both emerging opportunities for advancement and the importance of maintaining reform momentum.

Taken together, the 2025 results suggest that Thailand stands at a critical inflection point. Strengthening democratic institutions, reinforcing due process guarantees, and improving the enforcement of labor and property rights would not only address longstanding human rights concerns but also enhance Thailand's competitiveness as a destination for investment and economic activity. Without such reforms, the risk remains that incremental declines could accumulate into more substantial setbacks over time.



HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND



HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND

The *WJP Rule of Law Index*® encompasses a broad range of governance and legal metrics. In Chapter II, we focus specifically on sub-factors directly related to Thailand's human rights landscape. This section introduces a conceptual framework that consolidates 20 sub-factors across four categories: Civil and Political Rights, Participation and Access to Information, Labor and Property Rights, and Fair and Impartial Justice. Rather than evaluating these insights within the broader Asia-Pacific context, we narrow the scope to Southeast Asia, offering a more relevant comparison of Thailand's performance relative to its closest regional peers: Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, and Vietnam. This focused approach aims to provide a clearer understanding of how Thailand's legal and institutional frameworks either support or hinder human rights protections.

To provide a comprehensive understanding of Thailand's evolving human rights situation, this section thematically organizes the 20 sub-factors related to human rights monitored by the World Justice Project. This approach offers an integrated overview of human rights in Thailand, highlighting both persistent challenges and areas of improvement.

Conceptual Framework and Insights

The theoretical framework for this report is structured to assess Thailand's rule of law and human rights situation across four key domains: Civil and Political Rights, Participation and Access to Information, Labor and Property Rights, and Fair and Impartial Justice. Each domain includes sub-factors that illustrate the strengths and weaknesses of the country's governance and legal systems, offering a comprehensive analysis of the extent to which fundamental rights and the rule of law are upheld. This framework allows for a nuanced understanding of Thailand's legal and institutional landscape, providing insight into both areas of progress and persistent challenges.

1 Civil and political rights

- Freedom of belief and religion
- Equality and discrimination
- Freedom of expression and opinion
- Freedom of assembly and association
- The right to life and security of the person is effectively guaranteed
- Freedom from interference with privacy

3 Labor rights and property rights

- Labor rights
- Protection from expropriation without due process

2 Participation and access to information

- Access to complaint mechanisms
- Non-governmental checks of government power
- Civic participation
- Right to information

4 Fair and impartial justice

- Access to and affordability of civil justice
- Improper government influence in criminal justice
- Discrimination in civil justice
- Improper government influence in civil justice
- Administrative proceedings are conducted without unreasonable delay
- Due process of the law and rights of the accused
- Impartiality in criminal justice
- Due process is respected in administrative proceedings

1. Civil and Political Rights.

Civil and Political Rights refer to the fundamental freedoms that protect individuals from undue state interference and enable active participation in social, cultural, and political life. These rights include freedom of expression, assembly, belief, and protection from unwarranted state intrusion, forming the bedrock of democratic governance and the rule of law.

Sub-factors assessed:

- Freedom of belief and religion
- Equality and discrimination
- Freedom of expression and opinion
- Freedom of assembly and association
- The right to life and security of the person is effectively guaranteed
- Freedom from interference with privacy

The sub-factors collectively aim to depict the degree of political freedom and civil rights enjoyed by citizens. Assessing these indicators provides insight into how well the legal framework supports individual liberties in practice.

Main Insights

In 2025, Thailand recorded notable progress in several areas of Civil and Political Rights. The indicators Freedom from Interference with Privacy and The Right to Life and Security of the Person is Effectively Guaranteed reached their highest levels in a decade, increasing by approximately 32% and 6%, respectively. These areas had historically been among the lowest-scoring but have shown consistent improvement over the past ten years. Additionally, Freedom of Belief and Religion (+10%) and Freedom of Assembly and Association (+2%) continued to improve over the last five years. However, the indicators Equality and Discrimination (-2%) and Freedom of Expression and Opinion (-4%) declined in the most recent year, indicating persistent challenges in protecting inclusive and participatory civic spaces.

Highlights

- Thailand continues to perform above the regional average in most indicators of Civil and Political Rights. It stands out as the regional top leader in Freedom of Belief and Religion, maintaining sustained progress over time, and ranks third and fourth within its region across most other indicators. The recent improvements have also narrowed the gap with leading countries, bringing Thailand closer to regional top performers such as Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

Challenges

- Despite recent improvements, Equality and Discrimination and Freedom of Expression and Opinion remain areas of concern, with both indicators declining in 2025. These setbacks suggest that progress in personal security and privacy protections has not been matched by similar gains in civic inclusion and open expression. Ensuring that all individuals can freely express their opinions and are treated equally under the law remains a key challenge for Thailand's civil and political rights landscape.

2. Participation and Access to Information.

Participation and Access to Information emphasize the mechanisms that allow citizens to participate in public life and engage in civil society activities. This concept underscores the importance of transparency, open communication, and institutional responsiveness, ensuring that the government's actions align with the rule of law and respect individual rights.

Sub-factors assessed:

- Access to complaint mechanisms
- Non-governmental checks of government power
- Civic participation
- Right to information

These sub-factors gauge the extent to which citizens can access information regarding government policies and whether accountability mechanisms exist outside the formal structures of government. This domain provides a measure of how open and responsive the state is to public participation and scrutiny.

Main Insights

In 2025, with the exception of the Right to Information subfactor, all indicators related to Civic Participation and Access to Information declined, continuing the long-term downward trend observed in previous years. These declines indicate persistent barriers to citizen engagement and limited effectiveness of mechanisms that allow individuals and organizations to hold the government accountable. Despite this continued weakening, Thailand remains among the upper-performing countries in the region for these indicators, suggesting that while participation and transparency are eroding, they still operate from a relatively strong baseline compared to neighboring countries.

Highlights

- Thailand continues to rank above the regional average across all indicators of Participation and Access to Information. It ranks third in Access to Complaint Mechanisms, and also in Civic Participation (behind Indonesia and Singapore), and fourth in Right to Information (following the Philippines, Indonesia, and Singapore). These positions reflect Thailand's enduring comparative strength in institutional mechanisms for civic engagement and information access, even amid recent declines.

Challenges

- The 2025 declines have widened the gap with top regional performers. The sustained downward trend points to growing obstacles that hinder citizen participation from translating into effective policy influence or government accountability. Reversing this trajectory will require strengthening institutional responsiveness, ensuring open channels for information access, and rebuilding trust in mechanisms for civic voice and oversight.

3. Labor and Property Rights.

Labor and Property Rights focus on ensuring that all individuals, regardless of socioeconomic status or background, have access to fundamental labor rights and protection from expropriation of property.

Sub-factors assessed:

- Labor rights
- Protection from expropriation without due process

These sub-factors assess whether fundamental labor rights are effectively guaranteed and whether the government respects the property rights of individuals and companies. This domain provides an indication of the health and integrity of the labor system and the mechanisms through which the government expropriates.

Main Insights

In 2025, both indicators assessing Labor and Property Rights in Thailand declined compared to 2020. Labor Rights fell by 5%, while Protection from Expropriation without Due Process dropped by more than 6%. These declines continue the downward trajectory observed between 2015 and 2020 (–3% and –9%, respectively), indicating persistent challenges in ensuring secure property ownership and fair labor conditions. The results suggest that while Thailand maintains a relatively strong regional standing, progress in safeguarding economic and property-related rights has stagnated over the past decade.

Highlights

- Despite the declines observed over time, Thailand's performance in both Labor Rights and Protection from Expropriation without Due Process remains close to the regional average. As a result, improvements in these subfactors would position Thailand more favorably relative to its regional peers, particularly given their strong association with a stable and predictable business environment. Strengthening protections for workers and property rights would enhance Thailand's competitiveness for investors and other economic actors, reinforcing confidence in the country's regulatory and legal framework.

Challenges

- The sustained decreases across both indicators point to increasing vulnerabilities in the protection of workers and property owners. Weak enforcement of due process in expropriation cases and insufficient guarantees for fair labor practices may be undermining confidence in the regulatory environment. Addressing these gaps will require stronger legal safeguards, consistent application of labor standards, and greater institutional oversight to ensure that rights to work and property are effectively protected.

4. Fair and Impartial Justice

Fair and Impartial Justice encompasses the integrity of the justice system in general, including the due process of the law, freedom from influences on civil and criminal justice, impartiality, and freedom from discrimination in matters of justice, with a focus on ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their background, have the right to seek legal redress through fair, impartial, and transparent judicial processes. This domain emphasizes the principles of legal equality, non-discrimination, and judicial independence in delivering justice.

Sub-factors assessed:

- Access to and affordability of civil justice
- Improper government influence in criminal justice
- Discrimination in civil justice
- Improper government influence in civil justice
- Administrative proceedings are conducted without unreasonable delay
- Due process of the law and rights of the accused
- Impartiality in criminal justice
- Due Process is respected in administrative proceedings

Main Insights

In 2025, Thailand's performance in Fair and Impartial Justice presents a mixed picture. All Criminal Justice indicators reached their highest levels in the past decade, particularly in Improper Government Influence in Criminal Justice, Due Process of the Law and Rights of the Accused, and Impartiality in Criminal Justice, marking a strengthening of safeguards in the criminal system. In contrast, most Civil Justice indicators—except for Access to and Affordability of Civil Justice—recorded their lowest levels of the decade. Declines were especially evident in Due Process in Administrative Proceedings, Timeliness of Administrative Proceedings, Improper Influence in Civil Justice, and Discrimination in Civil Justice, signaling growing inefficiencies and fairness concerns in the civil justice domain.

Highlights

- Thailand continues to perform strongly in Access to and Affordability of Civil Justice, ranking among the highest in the region, and remains a top performer in limiting Improper Government Influence in Criminal Justice. The notable progress in criminal justice reflects gradual institutional strengthening and improved adherence to due process standards. These improvements have elevated Thailand's position in regional comparisons, where it now approaches the upper tier for criminal justice performance.

Challenges

- Despite progress in criminal justice, civil and administrative proceedings remain a concern. Thailand scores below the regional average in Due Process and Timeliness of Administrative Proceedings, placing it in the lower-middle range regionally. Persistent inefficiencies and delays continue to weaken perceptions of fairness and predictability in civil justice. Closing these gaps is crucial to strengthening the rule of law and building a more reliable, transparent business environment, as effective dispute resolution and fair procedures are essential for investor confidence and sustainable growth. Thailand also lags behind Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam across several subfactors, highlighting the need to streamline procedures, enhance consistency in civil justice, and reinforce judicial integrity to support a more competitive business climate.

SECTION I
**CIVIL AND
POLITICAL RIGHTS**

Regional Comparison
Time Comparison

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Civil and Political Rights encompass the fundamental freedoms and rights that protect individuals from undue interference by the state and enable them to participate actively in the social, cultural, and political life of their society. These rights include the ability to express opinions, practice religion freely, participate in peaceful assemblies, and maintain privacy. Recognized under various international human rights instruments, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, these liberties form the cornerstone of democratic governance and the rule of law.

To provide an overview of Thailand in terms of Civil and Political Rights, we gather the following sub-factors which help us to better understand the realization of these rights. These sub-factors are the following:

Freedom of belief and religion

This sub-factor focuses on the right of individuals to practice, change, or abandon their religion or beliefs without coercion. It evaluates the legal and social protections in place for diverse religious practices and beliefs and the extent to which individuals are free from discrimination or state control in their religious observances.

Equality and discrimination

This element focuses on the legal framework's effectiveness in ensuring that all individuals are treated equally under the law, regardless of their identity or status. It examines the presence of legal protections against discrimination and the extent to which these protections are applied consistently across all cases, fostering a justice system that respects and upholds the principle of equality. This subpillar is composed of the following sociodemographic characteristics:

- Socio-economic status
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Religion
- Foreign nationality
- Sexual orientation

Freedom of expression and opinion

This element gauges the degree to which individuals can freely express their opinions, criticize government policies, and engage in public discourse without fear of censorship or retaliation. It considers the freedoms of the press, media, and individual speech, emphasizing the ability to communicate diverse viewpoints openly. This indicator is measured by the following topics:

- People are free to express political opinions alone or in peaceful association with others.
- Freedom of the media is respected.
- Freedom of civil and political organization is respected.

Freedom of assembly and association

This sub-factor assesses the extent to which individuals can freely gather in peaceful assemblies and form or join associations, including civil society organizations, unions, and political parties. It measures the ability of people to mobilize collectively for a cause or to express shared interests without facing harassment or interference from the state.

The right to life and security of the person is effectively guaranteed

This sub-factor measures the extent to which the state provides protections against threats to physical security and life, both in and outside the workplace. It examines whether the government ensures safety regulations and mechanisms to protect workers from hazardous conditions and whether individuals are safeguarded against violence or abuse. It emphasizes the right to work in environments that do not pose risks to health and safety.

Freedom from interference with privacy

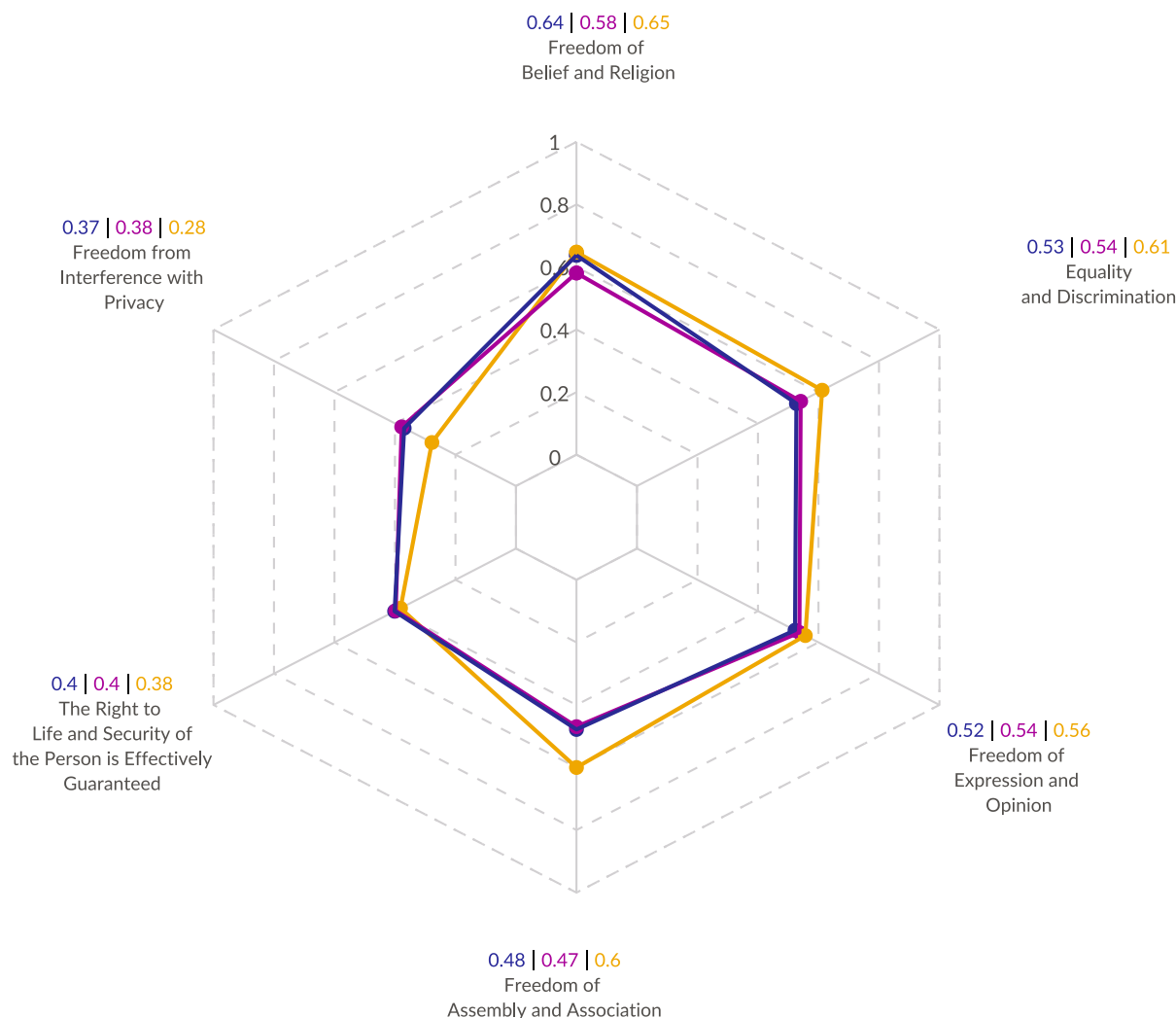
This dimension assesses the protection of individuals from unwarranted surveillance or intrusions into their private lives by the state. It includes protections against unlawful searches, wiretapping, and monitoring of personal communications. The sub-factor measures the ability of individuals to enjoy personal privacy in their homes and communication without undue governmental interference.

CHART 1.1.

Civil and Political Rights in Thailand Over the Last Decade

The chart ranges from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score and 0 signifies the lowest possible score.

● 2025 ● 2020 ● 2015



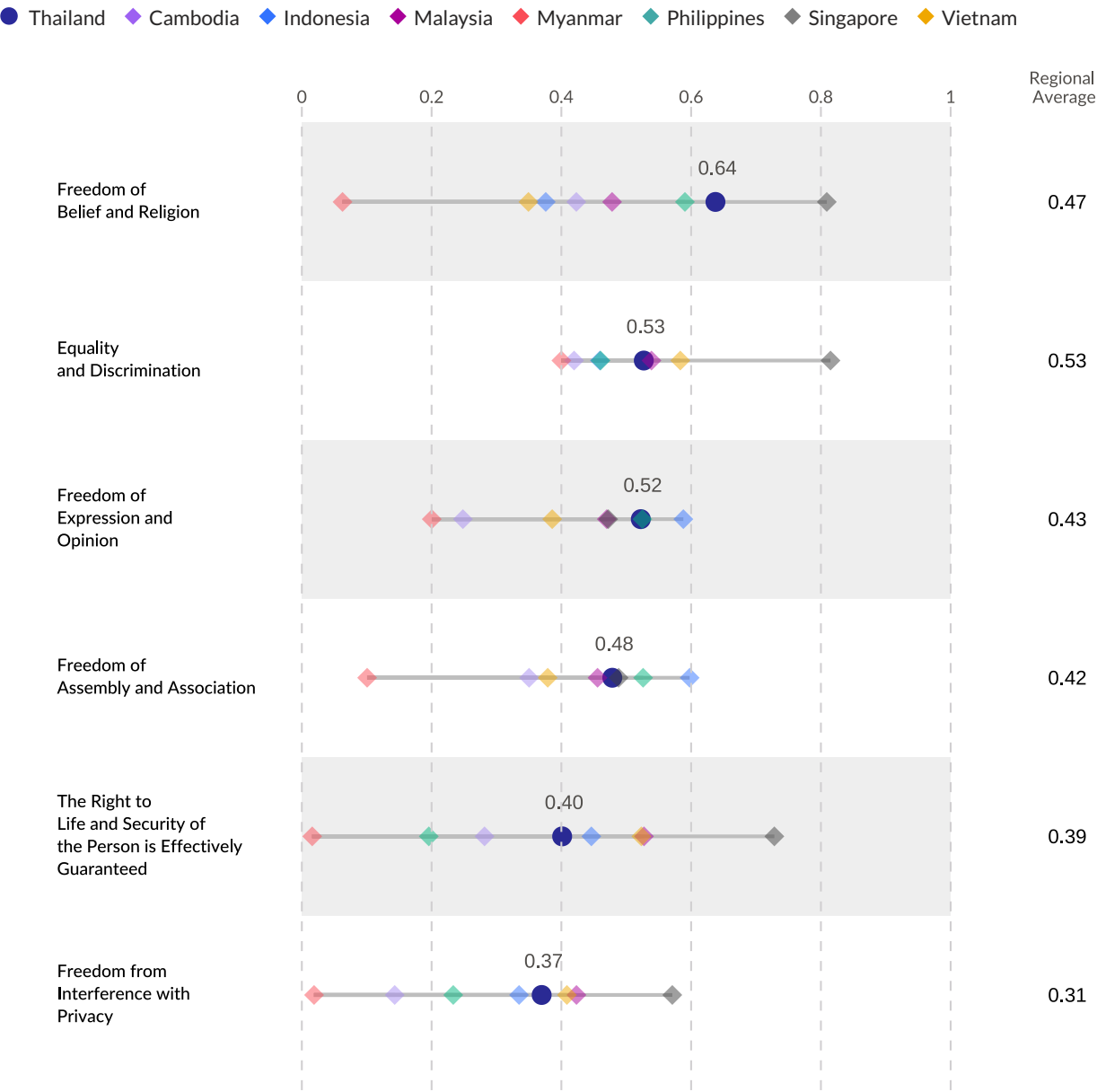
In 2025, Thailand reached its highest levels in a decade for the indicators Freedom from Interference with Privacy and The Right to Life and Security of the Person is Effectively Guaranteed. These indicators had traditionally shown lower scores but have improved consistently over the past ten years, with increases of approximately 32% and 6%, respectively. Freedom of Belief and Religion (+10%) and Freedom of Assembly and Association (+2%) have also continued to rise over the last five years. In contrast, Equality and Discrimination (-2%) and Freedom of Expression and Opinion (-4%) declined in the most recent year.

Source: WJP Rule of Law Index 2015, 2020, and 2025

CHART 1.2.

Civil and Political Rights in the Southeast Asia

The chart ranges from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score and 0 signifies the lowest possible score.



Overall, excluding Freedom of Belief and Religion is Effectively Guaranteed—where Thailand stands out as the best performer in the region and has shown consistent improvement over time—the country ranks third within its region across most indicators. However, unlike in the previous year, recent improvements have significantly narrowed the gap with the leading countries, bringing Thailand closer to the regional top performers.

Source: WJP Rule of Law Index 2025



SECTION II

PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Regional Comparison
Time Comparison

PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Participation and Access to Information refers to the mechanisms and environment that allow citizens participate in public affairs, engage in civil society activities, and access government information. This concept emphasizes the importance of transparency, open communication, and institutional responsiveness, ensuring that the actions of those in power align with the rule of law and respect the rights and interests of individuals.

The following key sub-factors provide an essence of this concept in practice:

Access to complaint mechanisms

This sub-factor assesses the availability and effectiveness of formal processes through which individuals can report grievances and seek redress against government actions or decisions. It includes mechanisms such as ombudsman offices, human rights commissions, and other complaint channels that provide a structured way for citizens to voice concerns and hold officials accountable.

Non-Governmental Checks of Government Power

This subfactor examines the role of non-governmental entities, such as civil society organizations, media, and independent watchdogs, in monitoring and influencing government actions. It considers the extent to which these actors can freely scrutinize government behavior, report misconduct, and demand transparency without facing undue pressure or retaliation. This ensures that power is balanced and that there are effective mechanisms outside of the formal governmental structure to prevent abuse. This indicator is composed of the following topics:

- People are free to express political opinions alone or in peaceful association with others
- Freedom of the media is respected
- Freedom of civil and political organization is respected

Civic participation

This element focuses on the capacity of citizens to actively engage in public life, including through voting, participating in political discussions, and contributing to policy-making processes. It highlights the opportunities available for individuals to influence decisions that affect their lives, ensuring that government remains responsive to the needs and concerns of the community. This concept is measured considering the following dimensions:

- Freedom of opinion and expression is effectively guaranteed
- Freedom of assembly and association is effectively guaranteed
- Right to petition and civic engagement
- Complaint mechanisms

Right to information

This aspect examines the extent to which individuals can access information held by the government, including data on policies, budgets, and public activities. It emphasizes transparency in governance by ensuring that citizens have the right to seek, receive, and impart information about governmental actions. This sub-factor assesses the following topics:

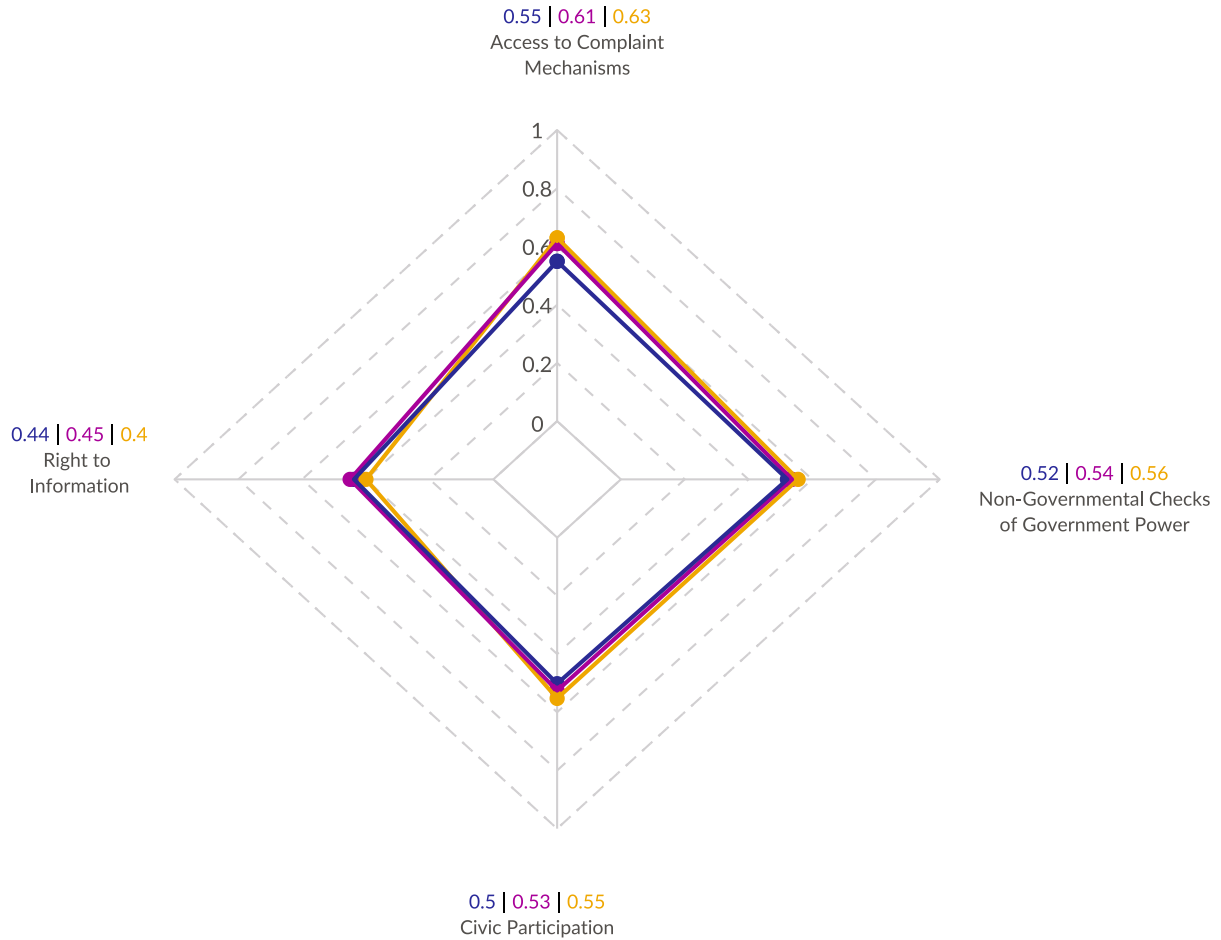
- Information requests - responsiveness
- Information requests - quality
- Information requests - timeliness
- Information requests - affordability and trust
- Information requests - general accessibility of information

CHART 2.1.

Participation and Access to Information in Thailand Over the Last Decade

The chart ranges from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score and 0 signifies the lowest possible score.

● 2025 ● 2020 ● 2015

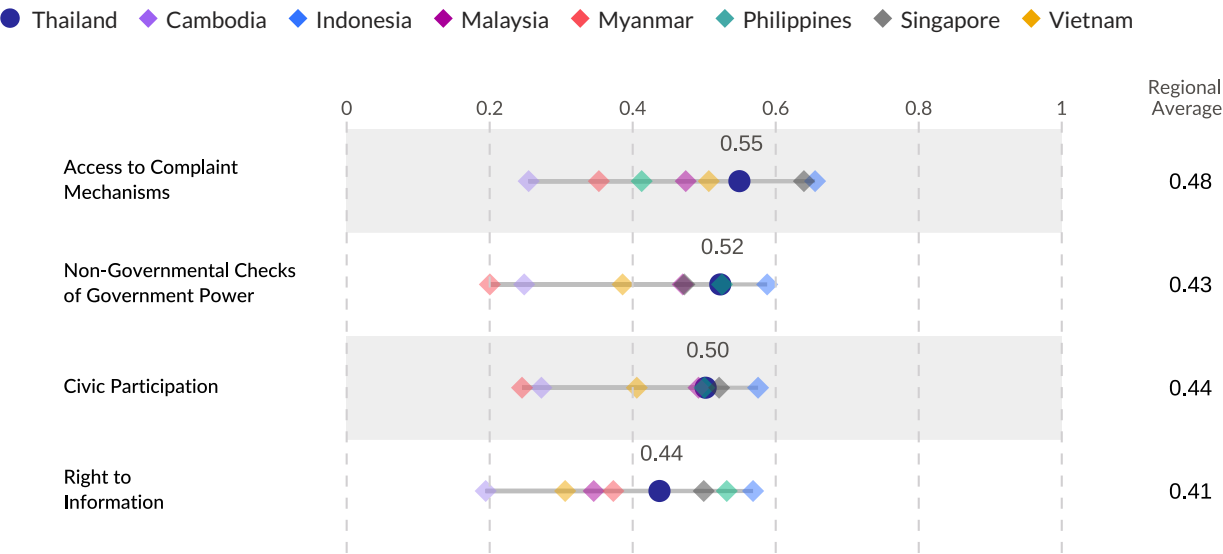


With the exception of the Right to Information, all indicators related to Civic Participation and Access to Information have declined over the last decade. This reflects a reduction in mechanisms for public participation, accountability, and filing complaints against the government. While the improvement in the Right to Information is a positive sign of accessibility, this sub-factor remains the lowest-performing within this domain.

Source: WJP Rule of Law Index 2015, 2020, and 2025

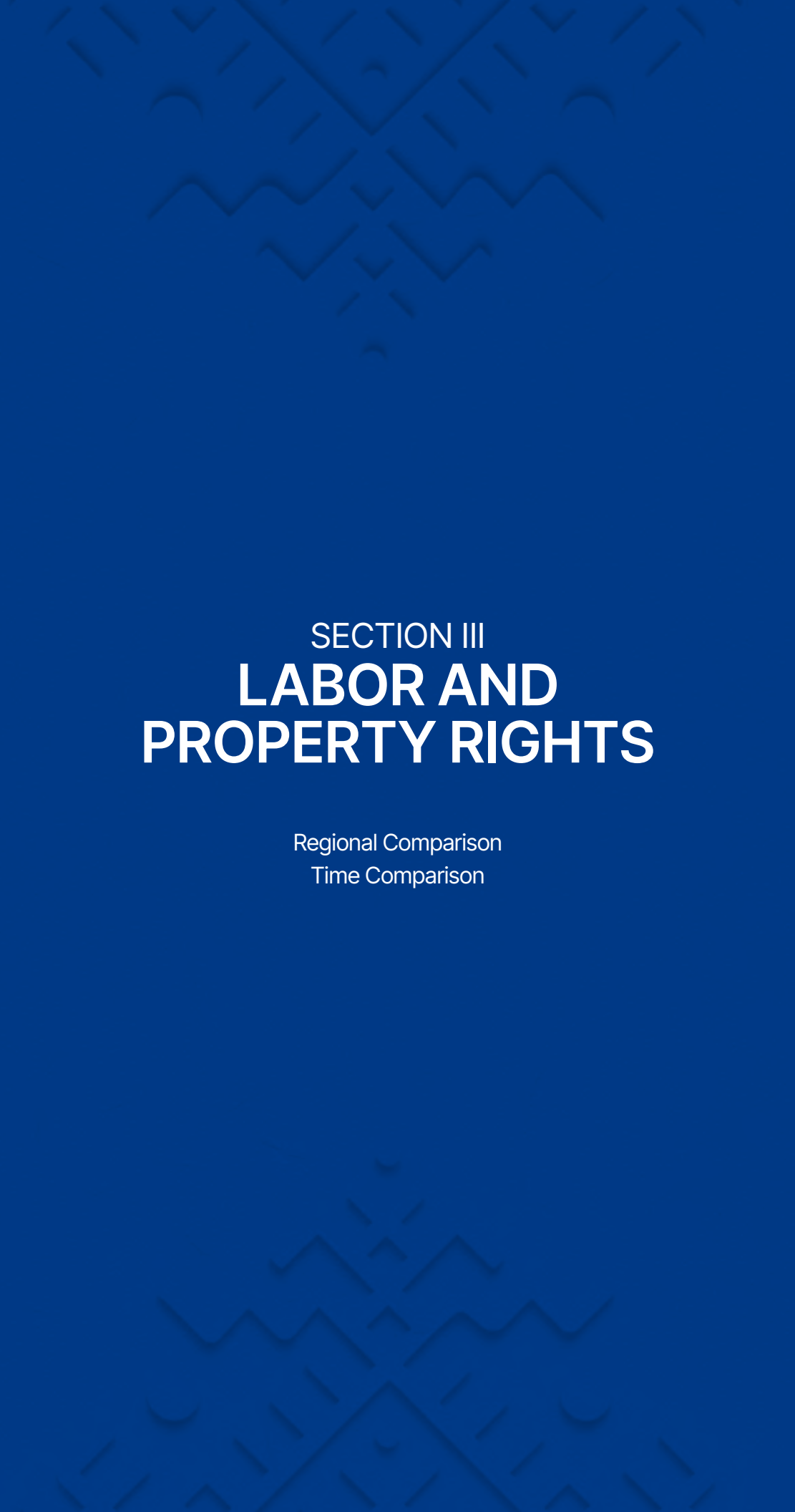
CHART 2.2.
Participation and Access to Information in the Southeast Asia

The chart ranges from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score and 0 signifies the lowest possible score.



As a result, the trend observed in recent years continues, with Thailand ranking between second and fourth place within its region. However, significant gaps remain compared to the leading countries, and this year's declines have widened the distance from the top performers. Thailand's scores across all four indicators remain in the upper range of the regional distribution, ranking second in Access to Complaint Mechanisms (behind Indonesia and Singapore) and fourth in Civic Participation and Right to Information (following the Philippines, Indonesia, and Singapore), while still scoring above the regional average.

Source: WJP Rule of Law Index 2025



SECTION III **LABOR AND PROPERTY RIGHTS**

Regional Comparison
Time Comparison

LABOR AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

Labor and Property Rights refer to the standards and safeguards that ensure workers are treated with dignity and fairness, and that social systems are in place to protect individuals' well-being and security. This concept highlights the importance of fair treatment in the workplace, access to due process in disputes, and the assurance of basic human rights. It is essential for creating a just society where economic and social rights are respected and upheld.

To assess Labor and Property Rights in Thailand, we include the two following key sub-factors that illustrate the practical application of this concept:

Labor rights

This sub-factor evaluates the protection of fundamental labor rights, including the rights to fair wages, safe working conditions, freedom from forced labor, and the ability to organize and join labor unions. It considers the extent to which labor regulations are enforced and whether workers can freely exercise their rights without fear of retaliation or discrimination, thereby ensuring dignity and fairness in the workplace. This sub-factor captures the following concepts:

- Equal payment and absence of discrimination
- Freedom to form unions and bargain collectively
- Prohibition of child and forced labor

Protection from expropriation without due process

This aspect evaluates whether the government respects legal procedures when expropriating property, including property that is essential for individuals' livelihoods, such as land or businesses. It considers whether expropriation is conducted transparently with opportunities for appeal and adequate compensation. This ensures that individuals' economic rights are protected, and that any state intervention in property matters is lawful and fair. This indicator is measured with respect to the following topics:

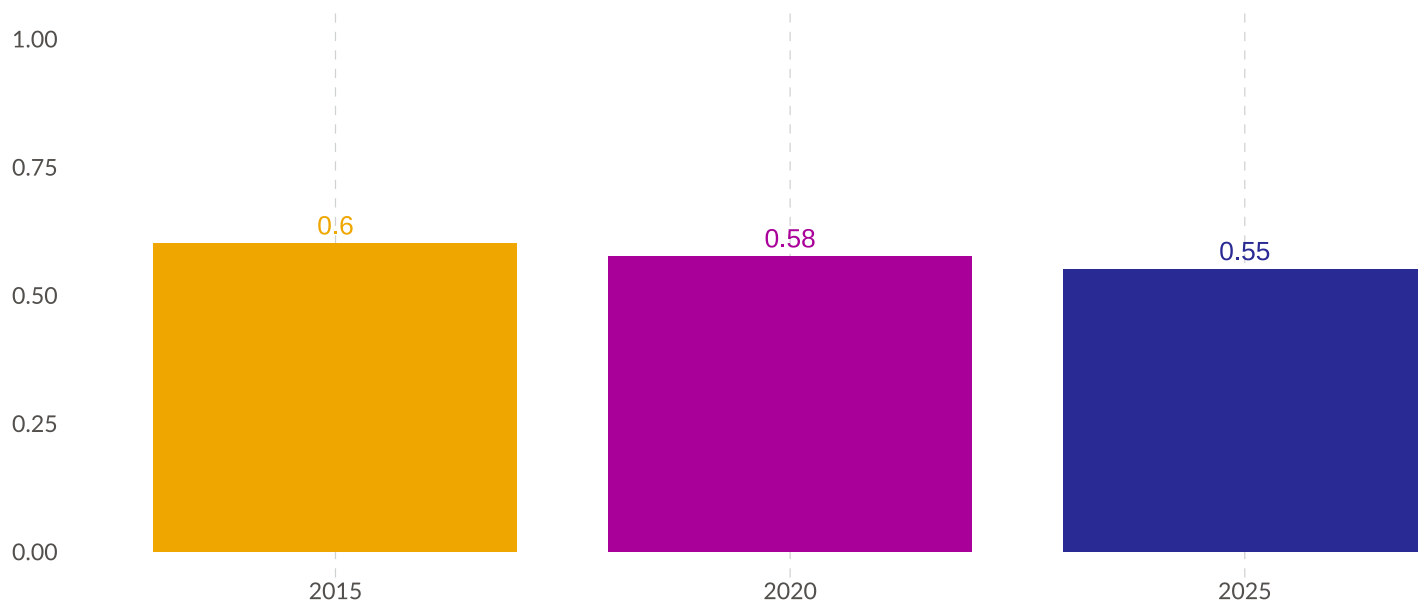
- Property rights for the people
- Property rights for companies

CHART 3.1.

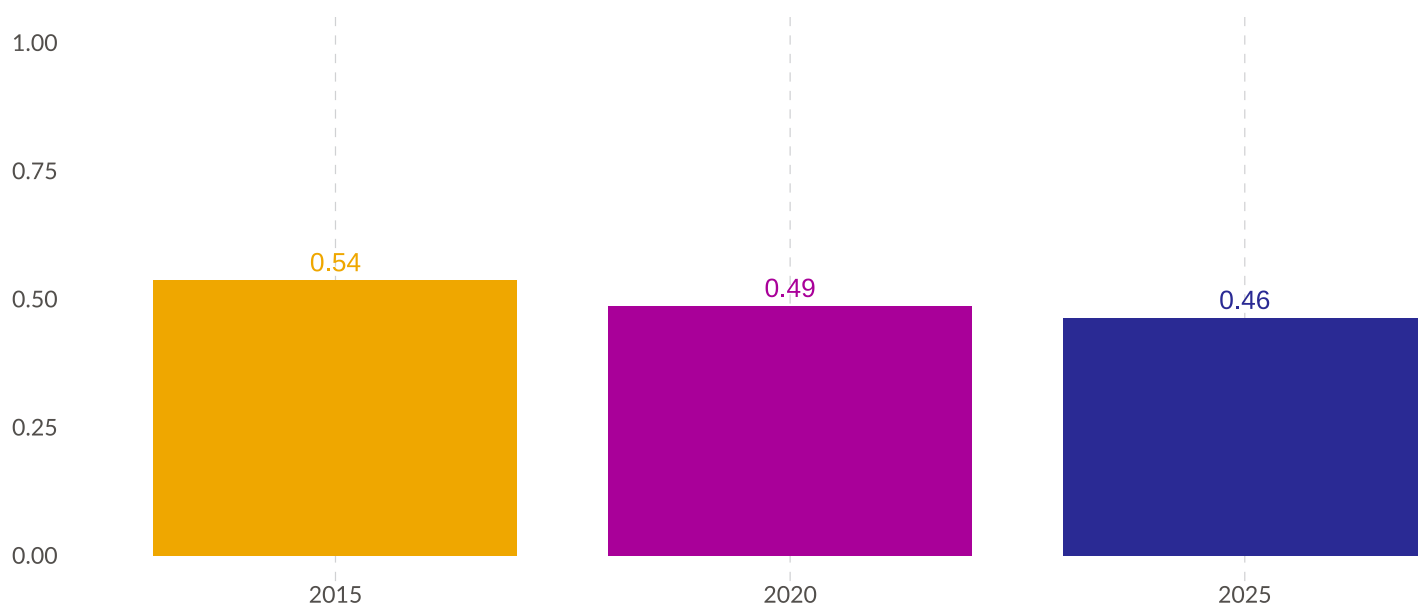
Labor and Property Rights in the Thailand Over Last Decade

The chart ranges from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score and 0 signifies the lowest possible score.

| Labor rights



| Protection from expropriation without due process

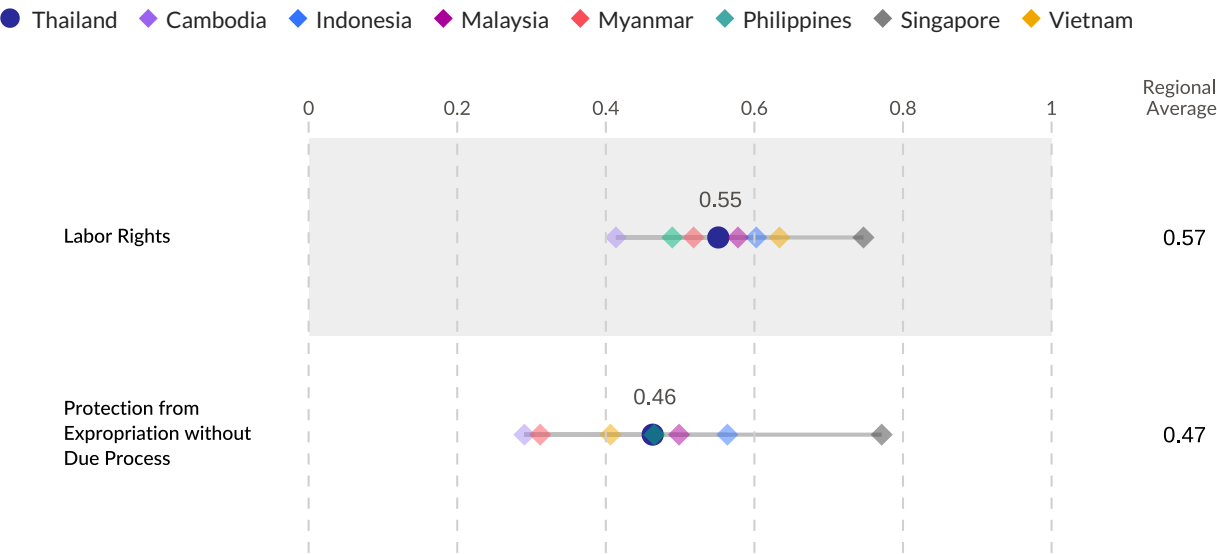


Both of Thailand's scores for indicators related to Labor and Property Rights declined from 2020 to 2025. For labor rights, the decrease was 5%, while protection from expropriation without due process dropped by over 6%. This follows a prior decrease from 2015 to 2020 for both indicators (-3% in labor rights and -9% in protection from expropriation).

Source: WJP Rule of Law Index 2015, 2020, and 2025

CHART 3.2.
Labor and Property Rights in the Southeast Asia

The chart ranges from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score and 0 signifies the lowest possible score.



Thailand's scores for indicators related to Labor and Property Rights are above the regional average. For both sub-factors, Thailand ranks fourth in regional.

Source: WJP Rule of Law Index 2025



SECTION IV **FAIR AND IMPARTIAL JUSTICE**

Regional Comparison
Time Comparison



FAIR AND IMPARTIAL JUSTICE

Fair and Impartial Justice refer to the principles that ensure all individuals, regardless of their background or status, have the right to seek and obtain legal redress through a fair, impartial, and transparent judicial process. This concept emphasizes the importance of legal equality, the absence of discrimination, and the independence of the judiciary in delivering justice.

To assess Fair and Impartial justice in Thailand, we include several key sub-factors that illustrate how this concept operates in practice:

Access to and affordability of civil justice

This aspect evaluates how easily individuals can access civil courts to resolve disputes, including considerations of legal costs and the availability of legal aid. It emphasizes the importance of ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent individuals from seeking justice, thereby promoting an inclusive justice system where all members of society can resolve civil matters effectively. This sub-factor is measured considering the following dimensions:

- People are aware of available remedies
- People can access and afford legal advice and representation
- Procedures
- Accessibility of courts
- Costs (courts, lawyers and procedures)

Improper government influence in criminal justice

This sub-factor assesses whether the criminal justice system operates independently from the influence of government authorities. It examines the extent to which the judiciary, prosecutors, and law enforcement can carry out their roles without interference, ensuring that criminal cases are resolved based on legal standards rather than political considerations

Discrimination in civil justice

This sub-factor assesses whether the civil justice system discriminates against certain groups based on factors like race, gender, socioeconomic status, or other characteristics. It evaluates whether all individuals have equal access to legal remedies and whether civil cases are adjudicated fairly without bias or preferential treatment.

Improper government influence in civil justice

This element measures the independence of the civil justice system, specifically examining whether government officials exert undue influence over civil court decisions. It considers whether judges and other judicial actors can make decisions based solely on the law and evidence, free from external pressures or political interests.

Administrative proceedings are conducted without unreasonable delay

This indicator measures the time judges take to reach a decision, from the moment a case is filed to the point when a verdict or settlement is achieved. It also assesses the time required by workers to enforce that decision. Additionally, it evaluates the frequency of delays in administrative proceedings at both national and local levels, particularly those without clear justification.

Due process of the Law and rights of the accused

This sub-factor evaluates the extent to which individuals are guaranteed a fair trial, legal representation, and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty. It also considers whether the judicial process respects the rights of those accused of crimes, ensuring transparency, timeliness, and access to evidence. This ensures that legal procedures protect the fundamental rights of individuals and maintain fairness throughout the legal process. This indicator is composed of the following concepts:

- Presumption of innocence
- Arrest and pre-trial detention
- Torture and abusive treatment to suspects
- Legal assistance
- Rights of prisoners

Impartiality in criminal justice

This sub-factor measures the extent to which the criminal justice system is free from bias or prejudice. It considers whether judges, juries, and prosecutors treat individuals equally, without favoritism or discrimination, ensuring that criminal proceedings are conducted fairly for all parties involved. This dimension is measured considering the following actors:

- Police is impartial and does not discriminate
- Judges are impartial and do not discriminate

Due process is respected in administrative proceedings

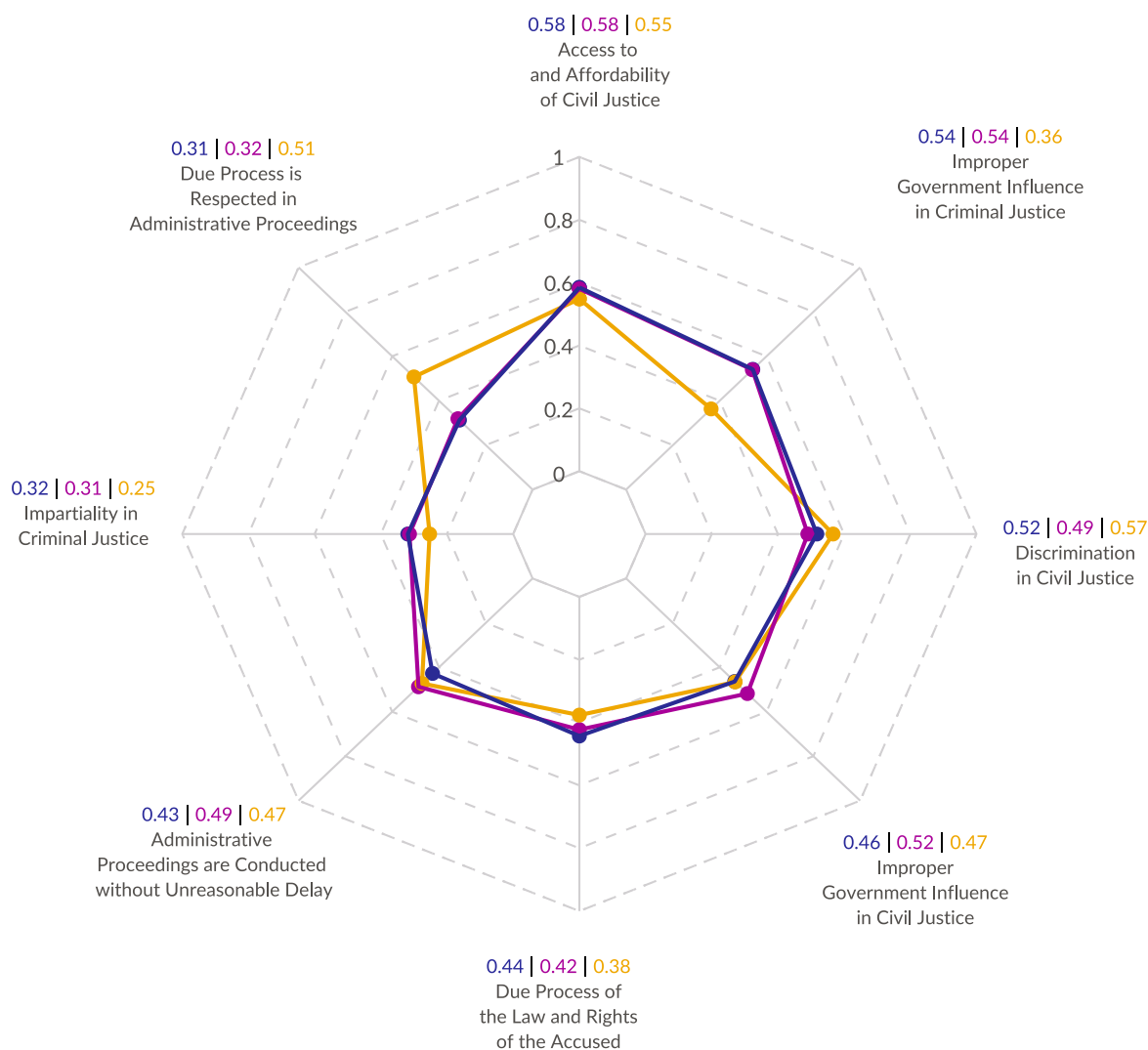
This element assesses the procedural fairness in administrative matters that affect labor rights, such as disputes over employment conditions or social security benefits. It considers whether individuals have the right to a fair hearing, access to evidence, and the ability to appeal decisions. This ensures that administrative processes protect the rights of workers and maintain transparency and justice in labor-related cases.

CHART 4.1.

Fair and Impartial Justice in Thailand Over the Last Decade

The chart ranges from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score and 0 signifies the lowest possible score.

● 2025 ● 2020 ● 2015



For all Criminal Justice indicators, Thailand reached its highest levels in the past decade, particularly in Improper Government Influence in Criminal Justice, Due Process of the Law and Rights of the Accused, and Impartiality in Criminal Justice.

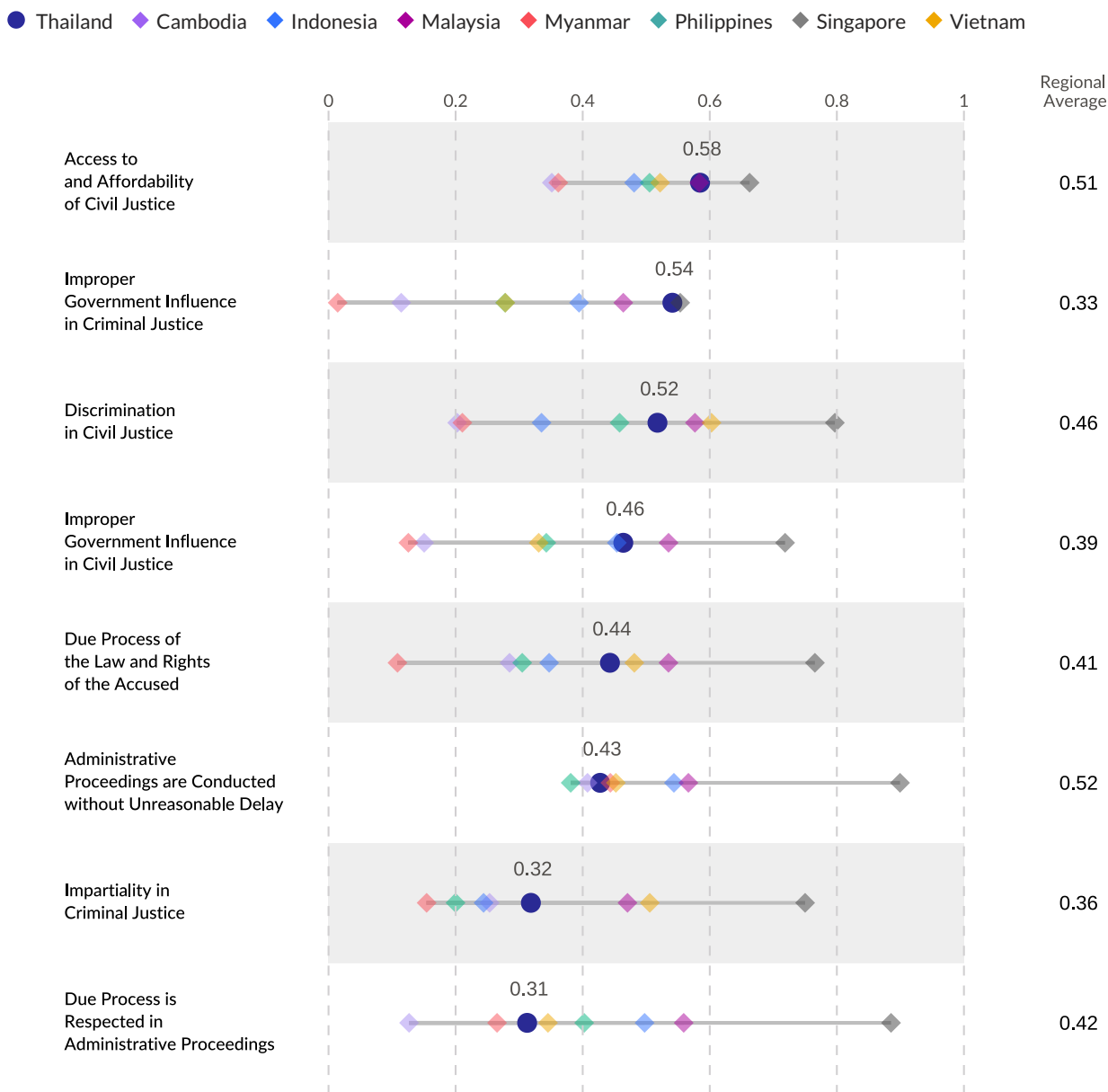
In contrast, most Civil Justice indicators—except for Access to and Affordability of Civil Justice—recorded their lowest levels of the decade, including Due Process is Respected in Administrative Proceedings, Administrative Proceedings are Conducted without Unreasonable Delays, Improper Influence in Civil Justice, and Discrimination in Civil Justice.

Source: WJP Rule of Law Index 2015, 2020, and 2025

CHART 4.2.

Fair and Impartial Justice in the Southeast Asia

The chart ranges from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score and 0 signifies the lowest possible score.



Regionally, Thailand scores below the average in Due Process is Respected in Administrative Proceedings and Administrative Proceedings are Conducted without Unreasonable Delays, ranking in the lower-middle range within its region. However, it ranks among the highest for Access to and Affordability of Civil Justice and Improper Government Influence in Criminal Justice. For all other subfactors, Thailand consistently trails behind Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam.

Source: WJP Rule of Law Index 2025



CHAPTER 3

PERSPECTIVES FROM THE FIELD



PERSPECTIVES FROM THE FIELD — EXPERT INSIGHTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND

To complement the quantitative analysis provided in the first part of this report, this chapter presents findings drawn from a series of interviews WJP held with local rule of law experts on the human rights situation in Thailand. The content of these interviews reveals the trajectory of Thailand's complex and differentiated human rights landscape follows neither a linear path of deterioration nor one of straightforward improvement. Rather, in each of the domains examined in this report, the country exhibits both measurable progress and persistent structural constraints.

In total, WJP spoke to eleven experts through nine interview sessions held in January and February of 2026. Each interview lasted approximately one hour and followed a semi-structured guide organized around the four thematic dimensions of the *World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index®* framework. WJP selected each interviewee based on the depth and specificity of their knowledge (their identities have been withheld to protect confidentiality). As a cohort, these individuals reflect a wide array of institutional and professional perspectives, representing multilateral agencies, international and domestic human rights organizations, private legal practices, academic research institutes, civil society, and advocacy groups.

The analytical framework adopted in this chapter mirrors the structure of Chapter 3, organized across four thematic dimensions: civil and political rights; participation and access to information; labor and property rights; and fair and impartial justice. This parallel structure allows for direct comparison between the quantitative findings of the *WJP Rule of Law Index* data and the qualitative insights provided by expert testimony.

Where the data identifies trends, the interviews help explain the institutional and legal mechanisms underlying those patterns. Where scores improve or decline, expert insights clarify how those changes are experienced in practice and by whom. Taken together, the two chapters offer a more complete understanding of Thailand's human rights environment than either source alone.

THE OVERALL PICTURE: PROGRESS, PARADOX, AND PERSISTENT CONSTRAINT

Before examining each thematic dimension in detail, this section highlights cross-cutting patterns from the interviews and provides the analytical context for assessing Thailand's human rights environment. Experts note that formal institutions function within an extensive legal framework to protect fundamental rights. However, they consistently point to uneven implementation and varying degrees of scrutiny, especially in politically sensitive areas. The main concern is not the lack of legal protections, but how these protections are applied and enforced in practice.

"In general if compared with right after the military coup like 10 years ago, there's a lot of development."

— INT05

"Thailand is one of the few countries in the region where we're very progressive in that sense [legal recognition to same-sex couples]. But politically, kind of opposite ends of the spectrum."

— INT02

"Fundamental rights are there, but enforcement is usually cherry-picked."

— INT08

SELECTIVE PROGRESS: LIMITED PROTECTIONS FOR POLITICAL RIGHTS

Throughout the interview process, a recurring theme emerged: while Thailand has experienced formal legal development in the past ten years, these gains coexist with political and administrative practices that constrain the practical enjoyment of rights in sensitive areas. This dual dynamic is particularly visible in the regulation of political expression, the use of criminal law in politically sensitive cases, the implementation of special security legislation in the Deep South, and the functioning of oversight and complaint mechanisms.

The experts interviewed for this report consistently acknowledged that Thailand's human rights situation has improved since the 2014 military coup. Parliamentary channels have been restored, and public debate and civic activity are more prevalent than in the immediate post-coup period. Landmark legislation demonstrates the country's genuine capacity for progressive reform. In the case of the Marriage Equality Act of January 2025, open civil society mobilization and parliamentary deliberation translated into concrete results, extending legal recognition to same-sex couples.

However, experts described a different environment when public debate centers on the military, the monarchy, or the structure of political power. In response to politically sensitive matters, legal and institutional mechanisms have been used to narrow political competition, prosecute critics, and dissolve electoral parties—including parties that have won elections. As a result, Thailand's progress has been selective: reform efforts that align with the system's permitted boundaries are more likely to succeed than those that directly threaten institutional interests.

Similarly, interviewees noted that Thailand's enforcement of existing human rights protections is uneven. While the country maintains an extensive statutory and constitutional framework that, on paper, protects fundamental rights, the application of these protections varies in practice, especially in cases involving political expression and protest-related charges, and across groups with differing legal and socioeconomic positions. Legal exposure is higher for activists, politically engaged individuals, and certain vulnerable communities, including migrants and people living in the Deep South. Civil society organizations working on politically sensitive issues were described as facing greater scrutiny and regulatory pressure.

"It's a story of two halves... simultaneous progress and regression. A lot of improving on paper on one hand and a conflicting reality on the other"

— INT02

The same legal provisions that protect one citizen's speech leave another facing criminal prosecution for a social media repost. The Computer Crime Act, for example, is applied against government critics in ways that interviewees described as generating heightened legal exposure for activists and political speakers.

Although legal remedies are available, some experts noted that practical challenges and limited resources can hinder the enforcement of civil judgments. Specific barriers include difficulties in obtaining financial information needed to execute judgments, as well as procedural complexity and enforcement costs, which may disproportionately impact individuals with limited means. The cumulative effect is a rights system whose formal architecture is robust but whose practical reach depends heavily on context and subject matter.

THE DEEP SOUTH: A PARALLEL LEGAL REGIME

Geographic variation in rights protection is a recurring theme across the interviews, and experts consistently highlighted the situation in Thailand's Deep South — the predominantly Malay Muslim provinces of Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat. The region operates under longstanding security legislation, including the Martial Law Act, the Emergency Decree, and the Internal Security Act, which significantly shape arrest, detention, and investigative practice. Although ordinary law formally remains in effect, security frameworks shape how safeguards are implemented. Experts emphasized that this arrangement is now a lasting aspect of regional governance, not a temporary response.

The practical consequences for the region's population are significant and consistently raised by experts. Under the Emergency Decree, individuals can be detained for thirty days without warrant and without access to legal counsel or family contact during the initial detention period. Under Martial Law and the Emergency Decree, military and civilian authorities may detain and interrogate individuals in security-related cases, and statements obtained in that context may later be used in civilian courts. Evidence collection often takes place in military facilities rather than through standard civilian investigative procedures. Although levels of violence have declined compared to earlier periods, experts noted that residents do not necessarily experience this reduction as greater security or freedom. Ongoing monitoring and fear of reprisal were described as factors limiting public participation.

"Despite fewer casualties compared to previous years, people don't feel safer or more free. Ongoing monitoring, intimidation, and fear of reprisals continue to limit public participation."

— INT01

SECTION 1. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS: EXPRESSION, ASSEMBLY, PRIVACY, AND SECURITY

This section examines the rights that most directly govern the relationship between individuals and the state in the sphere of political life. As demonstrated in Chapter 3, Thailand outperforms regional averages across most indicators of civil and political rights and leads the region in freedom of belief and religion. Expert interviews largely confirm this relative strength while providing essential qualitative depth about where the limits of that strength lie. The picture that emerges is one of topic-dependent rights — a political culture in which a wide range of speech and assembly is genuinely tolerated, until it touches the specific institutions and power structures around which the entire system of selective enforcement is organized.

1.1 TOPIC-DEPENDENT EXPRESSION: SECTION 112 AND THE SPECTRUM OF RISK

Freedom of expression in Thailand operates within a differentiated enforcement environment. Experts describe a public sphere that is vibrant and largely unrestricted when addressing social, economic, or local administrative concerns. However, the scope of protection narrows when speech touches upon the monarchy, military governance, constitutional reform, or national security.

Experts consistently identified Section 112 of the Thai Criminal Code—the lese-majeste provision—as a key factor shaping legal risk in this area. The provision carries severe penalties and has been used extensively since the 2020 protest movement. Experts also referred to Constitutional Court jurisprudence, which has ruled that the monarchy is a fundamental element of the state that cannot be subject to reform through parliamentary processes, rendering even proposals to amend the law potentially criminal.

There is a broad consensus among the experts interviewed for this report that the scale of prosecution under Section 112 and related laws has escalated significantly in recent years. This increase in legal activity is compounded by judicial interpretations that have expanded to encompass social media activity, such as shares and reposts, as well as symbolic gestures.

The practical consequence of this topic-dependent structure is a chilling effect driven by uncertainty about legal boundaries. Judicial interpretation has been described as broad and, at times, inconsistently applied, and enforcement may occur months or years after the original activity. As a result, individuals engaged in politically sensitive discourse often moderate their expression to avoid prolonged legal and financial burdens: experts reported that self-censorship is especially prevalent in cases involving the monarchy or constitutional reform. Furthermore, several experts noted that ongoing prosecutions, including cases involving activists and members of parliament who proposed amendments to Section 112, have discouraged open debate on constitutional monarchy. Among younger generations, this dynamic was described less as apathy and more as fatigue and growing skepticism about the prospects for reform.

"One of the issues that Thai people never been able to speak up publicly is about the issue of the monarchy."

— INT02

"In general, when it comes to freedom of expression, it's quite all right unless and until you start speaking about quite controversial issues... like lese-majeste, like monarchy reforms, like the military."

— INT06

1.2 FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY: EXPANDED BUT CONDITIONALLY PROTECTED

The interviews reveal a comparable variation regarding freedom of assembly. Several experts said Thailand's institutions are more open than they were in the immediate

aftermath of the 2014 coup, when military courts were widely used and large-scale protests were suppressed. Civilian government has restored parliamentary channels and allowed greater space for public mobilization.

Freedom of assembly has expanded in practice compared to the post-coup period, according to most of the experts. Protests occur regularly outside government ministries, and competing political campaigns proceed openly in public spaces. Police are described as having shifted, in many instances, from active dispersal toward managing or facilitating demonstrations. Visible protest activity is now part of contemporary political life, reflecting a measurable reopening of civic space.

However, assembly in Thailand remains subject to statutory regulation under the Public Assembly Act. The Act requires advance notification to authorities and establishes procedural conditions for lawful gatherings. Experts noted that these requirements shape how and where assemblies can occur. More significantly, participation in assemblies—even peaceful ones that proceed without incident—has in some cases resulted in subsequent charges or legal notifications issued after the event. This practice of delayed charges imposes ongoing legal and financial burdens on activists and creates deterrent effects that accumulate quietly over time.

Interviewees also stress that the legal risk associated with assembly depends heavily on the subject matter. Demonstrations relating to social policy, environmental issues, or economic concerns are described as more likely to proceed without severe retaliation. In contrast, assemblies addressing monarchy reform, national security, or issues linked to ethnic identity—particularly in the Deep South—are reported to trigger closer surveillance, investigation, legal action, and, in some cases, violence.

The interviews indicate that civic space is inconsistently regulated. While participation continues in many areas, activities involving politically sensitive institutions or security issues face greater legal risks.

"They put charges for most of the protesters... even on the protest, things look very completely normal... after that, they will get a notice, and then they will get a court notification."

—INT07

"A few civil society actors, academics, activists, human rights organizations including Thai Lawyers for Human Rights. It was found that our names were put on the high value target list of the military."

—INT06

1.3 PRIVACY IN THE AGE OF PDPA AND SURVEILLANCE

Assessments of personal security and privacy reveal another dual dynamic. On one hand, several interviewees mentioned that Thailand's adoption of the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA)—modeled closely on the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation—represents a genuine legislative achievement that places Thailand ahead of most regional peers in its formal privacy framework. The law provides comprehensive protections for personal data held by both public and private actors, including formal accountability mechanisms.

At the same time, experts noted that the existence of a formal privacy framework has not eliminated concerns about surveillance in politically sensitive contexts. Activists, human rights defenders, and civil society organizations report ongoing and systemic monitoring of their online and offline activities. Multiple experts indicate that this surveillance coexists with formal privacy protections but operates outside the PDPA's accountability mechanisms. Names of civil society representatives have appeared on military target lists. Spyware—including Pegasus, confirmed on activists' devices—has been deployed against human rights organizations. In addition, private pro-monarchy groups conduct organized surveillance of online activity, systematically documenting and reporting perceived critics.

Experts therefore distinguish between formal personal data regulation in commercial and data governance settings and the experience of politically engaged individuals, who continue to face monitoring concerns. For human rights defenders, digital transformation has increased both opportunities for mobilization and risks for surveillance.

SECTION 2. PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION: TRANSPARENCY WITHOUT ACCOUNTABILITY

As noted in Chapter 3, Thailand has experienced a sustained downward trend across all indicators of civic participation and access to information over the past decade, even as the country maintains a relatively strong position compared to regional peers. WJP's interviewees broadly aligned with this pattern and offered additional insight into how participation works in practice. While formal participation mechanisms, such as public consultations, information disclosure systems, complaint procedures, are in place and operational, the degree to which these mechanisms lead to substantive influence over policy decisions varies across issue areas and institutions. Several experts used the word "ritual" to describe participation processes; others noted that the transparency framework rarely results in accountability.

2.1 INFORMATION AVAILABLE BUT INACCESSIBLE IN PRACTICE

In recent years, Thailand has made measurable progress in formal transparency and administrative modernization. Thailand's Official Information Act provides a formal right to request government information. Interviewees noted civil society organizations and researchers make use of this mechanism, namely in policy monitoring and advocacy work. Moreover, Thailand has expanded the digitization of government information over the past decade. Budget documents, regulatory materials, environmental impact assessments, and policy documents are increasingly made available online.

However, interview findings reveal persistent gaps between the formal availability and practical accessibility of official information of all kinds. Disclosure decisions remain subject to administrative review, and denied requests may require appeal. This process can take months or years, limiting the usefulness of time-sensitive information. Environmental impact assessments about land use or development projects are formally available, but people in affected communities may have to deal with paperwork, fees, or other barriers that make the information difficult to access in practice. Budget information meant to enable public oversight of government spending is often published in large, non-machine-readable scanned files that require substantial time and technical skill to review.

These experiences highlight the difference between procedural transparency and effective accountability, demonstrating that information disclosure alone does not ensure institutional responsiveness.

2.2 CIVIC PARTICIPATION: BETWEEN FORMAL RITUALS AND "GRAND FATIGUE"

Thailand's constitutional framework mandates public consultations for new legislation and significant government decisions, but these often function as formal "rituals" rather than mechanisms for substantive public influence. While consultations generate records of participation, experts note that authorities have no obligation to demonstrate how the public's input shaped or contributed to policy outcomes. This lack of accountability is compounded by structural regressions, such as the removal of previous constitutional provisions that allowed citizens to trigger parliamentary reviews through signature collection.

"Digitalization has brought about a lot of transparency... Unfortunately, it doesn't bring about accountability."

— INT04

"You go to the Budget Bureau office website, you will find 30 books of scanned PDF... you need to look into almost 90,000 pages to find about that project."

— INT09

"It's accessible, but not understandable and not usable for the civil, even if they want to participate more in monitoring or questioning the state."

— INT09

"So many times it's just a ritual... we don't know if our opinion or our feedback influences any of that decision because it's just a process that happened before, and then we can do nothing."

— INT04

The gap between formal engagement and actual impact has defined the aftermath of the 2020–2021 pro–democracy movement. Although the protests catalyzed unprecedented political awareness and electoral success for reform-oriented parties in major urban centers, the subsequent response has highlighted severe institutional constraints. Persistent criminal proceedings against peaceful demonstrators and the judicial dissolution of political parties have reinforced the perception that civic mobilization can be institutionalized only within strictly permitted boundaries. For many activists, the realization that structural change remains blocked by judicial and administrative mechanisms has transformed their civic energy into a state of "Grand Fatigue"—a skepticism where participation is seen as futile because the system appears designed to absorb or reverse its effects.

"It's not that they don't care. It's not that they don't want to criticize. It's that they have come to realize that there's no point, that change is impossible. So there's a grand fatigue."

—INT04

"All civil society organizations around the world feel the impact of funding cuts from different parts of the world, from the US, from the EU, from the UK... last year, many civil society organizations shut down."

—INT06

"It would increase grounds on which foundations can be closed... it would authorize warrantless search or inspection."

—INT06

2.3 CIVIL SOCIETY UNDER CONVERGENT PRESSURES

Thailand's civil society sector faces a combination of financial, regulatory, and political pressures. Experts reported reduced international funding from major donors, including the United States, European Union, and United Kingdom. Organizations reliant on external support for human rights work have experienced staff reductions, program cuts, or closures. Experts observed that, although these funding constraints are part of global trends, their impact in Thailand has been particularly severe for groups focused on accountability and rights-based initiatives.

Simultaneously, proposed domestic legislation affecting associations and foundations has raised ongoing concerns in the sector. Experts referenced draft laws that would substantially expand government oversight through increased inspection authority and additional reporting requirements. More specifically, the draft NGO law, which has been introduced, withdrawn, and reintroduced over several legislative cycles, would authorize warrantless inspections of civil society organizations, expand grounds for administrative dissolution, and require disclosure of funding sources and program activities. Some experts argued that these measures could endanger activists working in sensitive areas. Additionally, its repeated introduction has created regulatory uncertainty. Experts noted that this uncertainty has led some organizations to reconsider their programming, funding strategies, and public engagement in politically sensitive areas.

SECTION 3. LABOR AND PROPERTY RIGHTS: STRONG INSTITUTIONS, STRUCTURALLY EXCLUDED POPULATIONS

As noted in Chapter 3, Thailand's labor and property rights have declined over the past decade, with scores falling below the regional average and trailing neighbors including Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia. Expert interviews broadly align with this trend, while highlighting substantial differences in outcomes among specific worker groups and sectors. Several interviewees note that Thailand has an established framework for resolving labor disputes in the formal sector. Labor courts and administrative mechanisms are generally viewed as effective, especially regarding procedural case handling. However, access remains uneven. Migrant workers and those in informal or precarious sectors face structural barriers such as limited legal awareness, language challenges, financial costs, and, at times, fear of retaliation or immigration consequences. The presence of labor protections does not guarantee equal protection in practice. Interviews suggest legal remedies are more accessible to workers with stable employment and documentation, while vulnerable groups face greater obstacles in seeking redress.

"The labor situation in Thailand is more developed and already some is mature if compared to 20 years ago."

— INT03

Note on Protection from Expropriation without Due Process subfactor: The qualitative interviews conducted for this study did not yield substantive findings regarding this indicator. While experts addressed various dimensions of property and labor rights, protection from expropriation without due process did not emerge as a primary area of concern among the consulted stakeholders. Consequently, the collected material does not provide a sufficient empirical basis for a dedicated qualitative analysis of this topic in the current section.

3.1 THE FORMAL SECTOR: IMPROVING PROTECTIONS AND A FUNCTIONAL COURT

Experts generally considered Thailand's Labor Court to be among the most effective judicial forums covered in this report. Proceedings are free for workers, and legal assistance is available at no cost. Experts also noted the importance of mediation in labor cases. Judges actively facilitate settlements, which contributes to labor disputes being resolved more quickly than in general civil courts. From both employee and employer perspectives, the Labor Court is viewed as independent. Unlike other courts discussed in this report, political pressure does not seem to affect the Labor Court's decisions. Expert insights indicate it could be that the nature of labor litigation (which often involves lower monetary values) creates fewer openings for corrupt practices, with specialized judicial knowledge providing a more reliable framework for adjudication.

Interview findings show improvements in workplace safety and regulatory enforcement in the formal sector over the past two decades. Experts noted visible changes in occupational safety practices, namely in construction and manufacturing, where physical working conditions have improved substantially compared to a few decades ago. Once commonplace practices are now subject to meaningful enforcement. These developments are largely attributed to stricter regulatory enforcement and better employer compliance. While challenges remain, the formal labor market is gradually consolidating.

"Back in the days, you'll see construction sites, guys wearing flip-flops, shirtless, with no head protection. Those are the days of the past, and these are strictly enforced now."

— INT08

3.2 BEYOND LEGAL PROTECTION: THE SYSTEMATIC EXCLUSION OF UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

The treatment of migrant workers is a central concern in the labor sector. Thailand's economy depends on migrant workers from Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and other neighboring countries, particularly in agriculture, construction, domestic work, and fisheries. However, access to labor protections varies considerably by legal status and employment sector. Current Thai law restricts migrant workers from forming trade unions, though they may join existing ones. Thai unions offer limited practical protection for those workers due to language barriers, limited access to documentation, and diverse working conditions.

For undocumented migrant workers—numbering in the millions, according to expert estimates—the situation is far worse. Those seeking formal remedies may expose themselves to immigration enforcement, potentially leading to detention or deportation. This discourages complaints even in clear cases of violations. Experts also emphasized that while the Labor Court can be effective for documented workers, undocumented workers face obstacles that limit effective access to remedies. The issue is not the absence of a legal framework, but unequal ability to access it.

Beyond migration status, experts also identified other structural vulnerabilities affecting labor market access. Persons with disabilities, individuals living with HIV, transgender persons, and those with criminal records may face exclusion through screening or informal barriers. These factors also limit the reach of formal labor protections.

"Migrant workers can't form their own unions... Thailand also sees the migrant worker as a threat to national security... that's why they never ratified the ILO convention"

— INT05

"The biggest problem now would be the undocumented migrant workers who almost have no access to anything... We have a lot here... It's like million to million."

— INT05

"Winning a court case is only half the work. The paper exists but enforcement is the issue."

— INT08

"We won the case. It was an obvious case of fraud. But the guy just doesn't pay out and to this day there's really nothing we could have done "

— INT08

3.3 PROPERTY RIGHTS: GAPS IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL JUDGMENTS

Thailand's formal legal framework governing property rights is comparatively well-developed, and in ordinary commercial disputes, experts noted that courts generally deliver fair outcomes. The problem identified consistently lies not in the determination of rights, but in the enforcement of judgments. Even in clear cases of breach of contract, obtaining a favorable ruling does not guarantee recovery if assets are transferred out of reach—often to nominee entities or associates—as existing legal mechanisms for tracing and recovering such property remain limited in practice.

Furthermore, an implementation gap exists between data protection rules and effective enforcement. While the Personal Data Protection Act has enhanced privacy, strict interpretations have occasionally restricted access to the financial information needed to execute court orders. Experts view this not as a defect in privacy reform, but as a lack of coordination between data protection and enforcement frameworks, which complicates the recovery of monetary awards.

These weaknesses appear to be systematic. The Legal Execution Department, under the Ministry of Justice, implements seizures but does not trace assets independently, placing the full burden of identification on the judgment creditor. Although government databases link assets to national ID numbers, the state does not conduct proactive searches. This, combined with varying levels of cooperation from private financial institutions regarding disclosure, limits the effectiveness of judicial protection of property.

SECTION 4. FAIR AND IMPARTIAL JUSTICE: TWO SYSTEMS, ONE COURT

The quantitative data findings in Chapter 3 illustrates diverging trends in Thailand's justice system: criminal justice indicators are at their highest levels in a decade, while civil justice indicators have reached their lowest. Confirming this phenomenon, expert interviewees attribute the contrasting results to various institutional factors.

Thailand's justice system does not operate as a monolith. Instead, it functions along a dual-track logic. Routine cases, particularly those with limited political salience, are generally adjudicated according to established procedures, with judicial independence more consistently maintained. In contrast, cases involving political actors, security institutions, or elites are more likely to face restrictive procedures, inconsistent safeguards, and heightened institutional intervention. This divergence does not negate the existence of legal processes; rather, it produced outcomes that undermine perceptions of equal treatment before the law.

"The administrative court
has emerged as one of
the more reliable
mechanisms... They
average about a year and
a half to two years."

— INT04

4.1 STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY: THE ADMINISTRATIVE COURT AND THE CHALLENGE OF OVER-CRIMINALIZATION

The Administrative Court is acknowledged for its procedural consistency and institutional credibility. Responsible for adjudicating complaints against state agencies and administrative decisions, it is regarded by experts as a reliable avenue for individuals seeking redress against government actions. Experts note that Administrative Court proceedings adhere to more transparent procedural frameworks than those in politically sensitive criminal cases. In addition, experts also highlighted the existence of formal accountability mechanisms within the judiciary, including disciplinary measures against judges for improper conduct. These internal oversight structures are perceived as strengthening institutional integrity and enhancing access to justice for vulnerable populations.

However, experts point to over-reliance on criminal law in situations where civil or administrative remedies would be more appropriate, including the use of criminal defamation and related provisions to deter criticism and constrain the work of human rights defenders. They further note that politically sensitive cases (namely under Section 112 and public assembly laws) often involve restrictive bail practices, repeated bail denials, strict release conditions, and prolonged pre-trial detention. According to several experts, these practices limit defendants' ability to prepare their cases and raise concerns about equal treatment before the law and the presumption of innocence. Experts indicate that legislative reform could reduce over-criminalization and promote more proportional enforcement.

"The Constitutional Court, which has proved time and again that they don't really work to protect the rights enshrined in the Constitution. They're not the guardian of the Constitution. Instead, they're being used as a political tool to curb what is viewed as dissent."

— INT04

"It kind of shift from a warfare to a lawfare context... there may not be a reason or need for a coup because you can play out whatever needs to be played out through the court system"

— INT02

4.2 CONSTRAINTS ON JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE: FROM INTERNAL HIERARCHIES TO POLITICAL ADJUDICATION

Concerns regarding judicial independence in Thailand arise from both internal bureaucratic dynamics and institutional architecture at the highest levels. At trial and appellate levels, independence is frequently shaped by hierarchical oversight mechanisms. A 2019 Supreme Court regulation requires judges to submit draft judgments to regional Chief Justices prior to issuance. While intended as a mechanism for quality control and consistency, interviews indicate this practice often pressures junior judges to align their decisions with senior feedback, creating strong incentives for conformity, particularly in politically sensitive cases.

This dynamic operates alongside routine internal consultations, where judges may suspend hearings to seek senior guidance on interim issues like bail, evidence requests, or procedural management. Consequently, hierarchical input regularly filters into decisions formally assigned to the presiding judge, undermining autonomy at the trial level.

While lower courts grapple with these internal bureaucratic pressures, challenges to judicial independence become overtly political at the apex of the legal system. The Constitutional Court draws significant scrutiny for its role in consequential cases that directly affect electoral processes, political parties, and government formation. Public perception of the Court's neutrality is heavily shaped by its appointment framework, in which an unelected Senate plays a central role in selecting judges, raising questions about the institutional balance between democratic mandates and judicial authority.

The 2024 dissolution of the Move Forward Party—following its victory in the 2023 general election—serves as a recent example of this political influence. The Court ruled that the party's campaign to amend Section 112 (the strict lese-majeste law used to prosecute speech critical of the monarchy) constituted an attempt to undermine the constitutional order. The resulting party dissolution and ten-year political ban for its executives illustrate how structural judicial mechanisms can be deployed to determine political outcomes.

4.3 DUE PROCESS EROSION IN POLITICALLY SENSITIVE CASES

While due process protections are generally observed in routine criminal proceedings, they are applied unevenly in cases carrying political sensitivity, particularly prosecutions under Section 112 and public assembly laws. Experts note that national security considerations are frequently cited in such decisions. Courts issue orders that limit public access to hearings in certain politically sensitive cases, including restrictions affecting observers and, at times, family members. Defense requests for subpoenas or additional evidence are often denied in these cases. Moreover, courts do not consistently allow defendants to present evidence intended to challenge the substance of allegations related to the monarchy.

Experts also identified pre-trial detention practices as a concern. Bail is frequently denied or delayed in politically sensitive cases, which leads to prolonged detention prior to conviction. Experts state that such practices undermine the presumption of innocence and impede defendants' ability to prepare their cases. Thai law provides procedural safeguards, including mechanisms against Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (anti-SLAPP), to dismiss abusive or strategically motivated litigation. Nevertheless, several experts note that these safeguards are rarely applied in politically sensitive cases.

"The issue of the right to bail. Many people are put in detention pending trial or pending appeal. So again, that's a clear violation of the right to presumption of innocence."

— INT06

4.4 RELATIONAL ACCESS AND THE TWO-SPEED JUSTICE SYSTEM

Even in non-political matters, access to justice in Thailand is shaped by personal connections and social networks, which may affect the speed of handling cases. Several experts observe that administrative or procedural timelines can vary in practice, especially when parties have professional relationships within relevant institutions. Processes that typically require sixty days can be completed in twenty-four to forty-eight hours for those with relevant professional ties. High-profile cases involving defendants with financial resources or political ties are often delayed or result in outcomes that seem disproportionate to the offense. While not always labeled as corruption, some experts distinguish between formal bribery and informal practices related to hierarchy, seniority, or professional networks. These dynamics undermine equality before the law.

Beyond informal network-based advantages, structural constraints further compound these relational disparities and restrict access to justice. Civil litigation is costly, often prolonged, and judgment enforcement is difficult, especially with asset tracing. As a result, favorable rulings may not yield effective remedies. The system is generally reliable in routine cases but inconsistent when resources, enforcement capacity, or political sensitivity are factors.

This differentiation in the quality and speed of justice—driven by an individual's social or financial standing—creates a "two-speed" system that erodes public trust in the country's legal institutions. When the application of the law is perceived to depend on personal networks or economic resources rather than objective merits, it reinforces a sense of systemic inequality.

"People feel like they're hopeless about the justice system in our country because they don't know if it works for some group of people or for other citizens."

—INT09



CHAPTER 4

KEY HUMAN RIGHTS SUBFACTORS

A Year-over-Year Comparison

KEY HUMAN RIGHTS SUBFACTORS: A YEAR-OVER-YEAR COMPARISON

While the previous sections of this report analyzed long-term trends in Thailand’s human rights landscape, Chapter 4 shifts the focus toward the most recent fluctuations. According to the WJP Rule of Law Index (ROLI), Thailand emerged as a regional leader in rule of law improvements within East Asia and the Pacific from 2024 to 2025. This position underscores the importance of examining the specific drivers behind this movement through a year-over-year granular analysis.

To maintain analytical consistency, this chapter follows the same dimensions established in the previous sections of the report. The objective is twofold: identifying the indicators that reflect immediate progress allows for the recognition of specific areas that may serve as a sustainable path forward, while isolating the subfactors that have experienced recent declines helps to pinpoint the precise challenges that persist in the current environment.

This comparison serves to distinguish between long-standing structural issues and the emerging dynamics that characterize the present human rights situation in Thailand. For a more detailed examination of the changes at the sub-subfactor level, please refer to the Appendix of this report.

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

The performance in Civil and Political Rights between 2024 and 2025 shows upward movement across most subfactors. Freedom of belief and religion and the right to life and security of the person registered the highest percentage change, both with a 6% increase. This progress reflects recent improvements in protecting diverse religious observances from state control and coercion, as well as strengthening the mechanisms that safeguard individuals against physical threats, violence, and risks to health and safety.

Other subfactors also demonstrated positive progress. Equal treatment and absence of discrimination, freedom of assembly and association, and freedom of opinion and expression each presented a 3% change. This growth points to an improved environment for the equal application of the law across different demographics, the ability to mobilize collectively without interference, and the open communication of diverse viewpoints in the media and public discourse.

On the other hand, freedom from arbitrary interference with privacy showed a 0% variation. Given the overall upward trend in the category, the protection against unwarranted state surveillance and the monitoring of personal communications represents a specific challenge that, if addressed, offers an opportunity to achieve a comprehensive improvement across all civil and political rights in the future.

	2024	2025	Difference	% change rate
Freedom of belief and religion is effectively guaranteed	0.60	0.64	0.04	6%
The right to life and security of the person is effectively guaranteed	0.38	0.40	0.02	6%
Equal treatment and absence of discrimination	0.51	0.53	0.02	3%
Freedom of assembly and association is effectively guaranteed	0.46	0.48	0.02	3%
Freedom of opinion and expression is effectively guaranteed	0.51	0.52	0.01	3%
Freedom from arbitrary interference with privacy is effectively guaranteed	0.37	0.37	0.00	0%

PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The performance in Participation and Access to Information between 2024 and 2025 shows limited upward movement. Government powers are subject to non-governmental checks registered a 3% increase. This progress reflects improvements in the capacity of civil society, independent media, and non-governmental actors to effectively oversee state authorities.

The remaining subfactors recorded no movement or experienced a decline, identifying specific challenges in this dimension. Right to information and civic participation showed a 0% variation, pointing to a lack of progress in guaranteeing public access to government data and fostering active engagement in civic spaces. In contrast, complaint mechanisms presented a -3% change. This decrease represents a challenge in providing accessible channels for individuals to report grievances, seek redress, and address issues related to administrative or state actions.

	2024	2025	Difference	% change rate
Government powers are subject to non-governmental checks	0.51	0.52	0.01	3%
Right to Information	0.44	0.44	0.00	0%
Civic participation	0.50	0.50	0.00	0%
Complaint mechanisms	0.57	0.55	-0.02	-3%

LABOR AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

The performance in Labor and Property Rights between 2024 and 2025 shows no movement across its subfactors. Fundamental labor rights are effectively guaranteed registered a 0% variation. This lack of change indicates that the enforcement of worker protections remains at the same level, identifying a persistent challenge in areas such as ensuring safe working conditions, preventing discriminatory practices in the workplace, and guaranteeing the right to unionize and engage in collective bargaining.

Similarly, the indicator measuring whether the government does not expropriate without adequate compensation also presented a 0% change. This static performance points to ongoing difficulties in ensuring that property rights are fully respected and that individuals or communities receive fair, timely, and lawful reimbursement when subject to state expropriation. Together, these figures reflect an environment where protections for both workers and property owners experienced no immediate progress in 2025 compared to 2024.

	2024	2025	Difference	% change rate
Fundamental labor rights are effectively guaranteed	0.55	0.55	0.00	0%
The Government does not expropriate without adequate compensation	0.46	0.46	0.00	0%

FAIR AND IMPARTIAL JUSTICE

The performance in Fair and Impartial Justice shows upward movement across several subfactors in 2025 compared to 2024. Due process of law and rights of the accused and impartiality in criminal justice registered the highest percentage change, both with a 4% increase. Additionally, due process is respected in administrative proceedings presented a 3% improvement. This progress reflects recent improvements in respecting fundamental rights during investigations and trials, ensuring that administrative proceedings are conducted fairly, and guaranteeing equal treatment within the criminal justice system.

In contrast, other indicators within this dimension recorded no movement, identifying specific ongoing challenges. Administrative proceedings are conducted without unreasonable delay and criminal system is free of improper government influence both registered a 0% variation. This static performance points to a lack of improvement in addressing bureaucratic timelines for administrative resolutions and indicates that vulnerabilities to political or executive interference within the criminal framework remain at the same level.

The remaining subfactors in Fair and Impartial Justice experienced a decline, identifying specific challenges within the civil framework. Civil justice is free of discrimination registered the most significant drop with a -3% change. Additionally, civil justice is free of improper government influence and people have access to affordable civil justice both presented a -2% decrease. This downward movement points to a deteriorating environment for resolving private disputes without state interference, rising barriers to equitable treatment, and increased financial obstacles to accessing the courts in 2025 compared to 2024.

	2024	2025	Difference	% change rate
Due process of law and rights of the accused	0.43	0.44	0.01	4%
Impartiality in Criminal Justice	0.31	0.32	0.01	4%
Due process is respected in administrative proceedings	0.30	0.31	0.01	3%
Administrative proceedings are conducted without unreasonable delay	0.43	0.43	0.00	0%
Criminal system is free of improper government influence	0.54	0.54	0.00	0%
Civil justice is free of improper government influence	0.47	0.46	-0.01	-2%
People have access to affordable civil justice	0.60	0.58	-0.02	-2%
Civil justice is free of discrimination	0.53	0.52	-0.01	-3%



CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS



CONCLUSION: A STRUGGLE OF POWER AND PROGRESS

The main objective of this report is to provide an assessment of the current human rights situation in Thailand, identifying the specific challenges and improvements the country has experienced over the past decade. To achieve this, the methodology established four thematic categories of analysis: Civil and Political Rights, Participation and Access to Information, Labor and Property Rights, and Fair and Impartial Justice.

By utilizing indicators from the WJP Rule of Law Index®, the report conducted a quantitative analysis to provide a structural context for Thailand. This approach allowed for a comparison of the country's evolution over time and an evaluation of its standing relative to regional peers.

To understand each dimension in depth and examine cases where these dynamics manifest, the research incorporated nine qualitative interviews with eleven experts. This qualitative component found convergences and expanded the quantitative insights drawn from the Index data. In some points, highlighted divergences between the metric performance and the practical realities observed on the ground.

Overall, according to the data and the perspectives of the experts, Thailand has made progress in the rule of law and the protection of human rights over the last decade. Thailand's human rights situation has experienced major gains, especially in the development of formal legal frameworks designed to protect fundamental freedoms. Additionally, this year Thailand registered the highest growth in the East Asia and the Pacific region in the Rule of Law Index.

However, Thailand continues to rank 10th out of 15 in the region, and the expert analysis highlighted that key areas for improvement in terms of human rights remain. For example, the experts pointed out that there are ongoing challenges in guaranteeing free expression and participation in sensitive political issues, and that there are also major challenges in enforcing the rules of the courts.

In terms of Civil and Political Rights, during the last decade, Thailand has narrowed the gap with regional top performers. Indicators such as freedom from interference with privacy and the right to life and security of the person reached their highest levels in ten years. The country stands out as a regional leader in freedom of belief and religion, maintaining sustained progress over time and registering a 6% increase between 2024 and 2025. This quantitative growth aligns with the qualitative findings, which recognize Thailand as a leading nation in Southeast Asia for religious freedoms and the protection of LGBTQ+ rights.

Despite these advancements, protecting inclusive and participatory civic spaces remains a challenge. While freedom of expression and association generally proceed without interference for social and economic issues, the qualitative analysis reveals strict limitations when the focus shifts to criticisms of the monarchy, the military, or the government. The persistent legal risks for activists working on sensitive political matters indicate that translating formal legal frameworks into unrestricted civic participation remains a primary hurdle. In this regard, there are improvements in comparison with recent years; however, addressing the existing structural barriers is necessary to ensure a sustainable positive shift.

Regarding Participation and Access to Information, Thailand maintains a relatively strong baseline compared to its neighbors, ranking in the top tier for complaint mechanisms and right to information. However, the long-term data reveal a sustained downward trend across most indicators, widening the gap with regional leaders. This decline is highlighted by a recent 3% decrease in the capacity of the complaint mechanism to be accessible between 2024 and 2025.

These quantitative trends align with expert observations that official transparency and public participation remain limited in practice. While formal processes like public consultations exist, their actual influence on policy outcomes is questionable. Furthermore, although digitization has improved theoretical access to information, administrative barriers continue to hinder its practical use, preventing existing mechanisms from translating into effective government accountability.

In the area of Labor and Property Rights, Thailand shows a concerning trajectory over the past decade. The quantitative data reveal a downward trend in the guarantee of fundamental labor rights since 2015, alongside a flat performance in protections against state expropriation without adequate compensation. While the year-over-year comparison between 2024 and 2025 shows a 0% variation, this lack of movement reflects an environment that has not recovered its historical baseline.

Qualitative analysis aligns with these scores, pointing to structural issues in the application of the law. Experts note that despite existing legal frameworks, enforcement remains a challenge, particularly regarding unionization, collective bargaining, and safe working conditions for vulnerable groups. Similarly, land rights disputes and compensation processes

during state acquisitions continue to face practical obstacles. This indicates that current protections require stronger execution on the ground to reverse the long-term negative trend and ensure effective guarantees for workers and property owners.

The assessment of Fair and Impartial Justice reveals a complex landscape characterized by recent improvements amidst long-term stagnation. Over the last decade, indicators such as due process of law and the rights of the accused have shown a gradual recovery after earlier declines. This upward movement is supported by a 4% year-over-year increase from 2024 to 2025 in both due process and impartiality in criminal justice. Although recent data shows an upward trend, the country still trails its regional peers regarding due process and the speed of administrative procedures.

These metrics reflect what experts describe as a dual justice system. Qualitative interviews indicate that while courts function effectively for ordinary criminal, civil, and administrative disputes, the system remains vulnerable to manipulation in politically sensitive cases. This divergence explains the persistent challenges in achieving full independence within the justice system. As a result, the judicial framework operates through a bifurcated dynamic rather than a unified structure.

Finally, the findings across these four thematic categories indicate that Thailand's recent growth in the WJP Rule of Law Index® and the expansion of its formal rights framework coexist with underlying structural weaknesses. The quantitative data and qualitative evidence demonstrate that the main obstacles lie not in the absence of legislation, but in deep-seated institutional practices and a bifurcated application of the law. The persistent gap between written legal protections and their practical execution continues to shape the current human rights landscape, determining the extent to which civil liberties, democratic oversight, and equitable justice are guaranteed.



APPENDIX

Appendix
About the WJP
Other Publications



APPENDIX

METHODOLOGICAL MATERIALS

WJP RULE OF LAW INDEX (ROLI)

The following documents include the *WJP Rule of Law Index 2025*^{*}, and the question-level variables from the General Population Poll and the Qualified Respondents' Questionnaires used to construct the scores and rankings of the *WJP Rule of Law Index*:

[World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2025](#)

[World Justice Project Rule of Law Index Variable Map](#)

Indicator	Cambodia	Indonesia	Malaysia	Myanmar	Philippines	Singapore	Thailand	Vietnam	Southeast Asia Avg.
Civil and Political Rights									
4.1 Equality and Discrimination	0.42	0.46	0.54	0.4	0.46	0.81	0.53	0.58	0.52
4.2 The Right to Life and Security of the Person is Effectively Guaranteed	0.28	0.45	0.53	0.02	0.2	0.73	0.4	0.52	0.39
4.4 Freedom of Expression and Opinion	0.25	0.59	0.47	0.2	0.52	0.47	0.52	0.39	0.43
4.5 Freedom of Belief and Religion	0.42	0.38	0.48	0.06	0.59	0.81	0.64	0.35	0.47
4.6 Freedom from Interference with Privacy	0.14	0.33	0.42	0.02	0.23	0.57	0.37	0.41	0.31
4.7 Freedom of Assembly and Association	0.35	0.6	0.46	0.1	0.53	0.49	0.48	0.38	0.42
Participation and Access to Information									
1.5 Non-Governmental Checks of Government Power	0.25	0.59	0.47	0.2	0.52	0.47	0.52	0.39	0.43
3.2 Right to Information	0.19	0.57	0.35	0.37	0.53	0.5	0.44	0.31	0.41
3.3 Civic Participation	0.27	0.58	0.49	0.25	0.5	0.52	0.5	0.41	0.44
3.4 Access to Complaint Mechanisms	0.25	0.66	0.47	0.35	0.41	0.64	0.55	0.51	0.48
Labor and Property Rights									
4.8 Labor Rights	0.41	0.6	0.58	0.52	0.49	0.75	0.55	0.63	0.57
6.5 Protection from Expropriation without Due Process	0.29	0.56	0.5	0.31	0.47	0.77	0.46	0.41	0.47
Fair and impartial justice									
4.3 Due Process of the Law and Rights of the Accused	0.28	0.35	0.54	0.11	0.3	0.77	0.44	0.48	0.41
6.2 Due Process is Respected in Administrative Proceedings	0.13	0.5	0.56	0.27	0.4	0.89	0.31	0.35	0.43
6.3 Administrative Proceedings are Conducted without Unreasonable Delay	0.41	0.54	0.57	0.44	0.38	0.9	0.43	0.45	0.52
7.1 Access to and Affordability of Civil Justice	0.35	0.48	0.58	0.36	0.51	0.66	0.58	0.52	0.5
7.2 Discrimination in Civil Justice	0.2	0.34	0.58	0.21	0.46	0.8	0.52	0.6	0.46
7.4 Improper Government Influence in Civil Justice	0.15	0.45	0.54	0.13	0.34	0.72	0.46	0.33	0.39
8.4 Impartiality in Criminal Justice	0.25	0.24	0.47	0.15	0.2	0.75	0.32	0.51	0.36
8.6 Improper Government Influence in Criminal Justice	0.11	0.39	0.46	0.01	0.28	0.55	0.54	0.28	0.33

* The sequence of factors, sub-factors, and countries in the tables follows the order of appearance in the report.

PERFORMANCE BY SUBFACTOR AND SUB-SUBFACTOR IN THAILAND

	2024	2025	Difference	% change rate
Civil and Political Rights				
4.1 Equal treatment and absence of discrimination	0.51	0.53	0.02	3%
4.1.1 Socio-economic status	0.47	0.48	0.01	1%
4.1.2 Gender	0.59	0.61	0.02	3%
4.1.3 Ethnicity	0.45	0.51	0.05	12%
4.1.4 Religion	0.51	0.55	0.04	8%
4.1.5 Foreign nationality	0.39	0.39	0.00	0%
4.1.6 Sexual orientation	0.63	0.62	-0.01	-2%
4.2 The right to life and security of the person is effectively guaranteed	0.38	0.40	0.02	6%
No sub-sub factors applicable				
4.4 Freedom of opinion and expression is effectively guaranteed	0.51	0.52	0.01	3%
4.4.1 People are free to express political opinions alone or in peaceful association with others	0.51	0.53	0.02	3%
4.4.2 Freedom of the media is respected	0.50	0.53	0.02	5%
4.4.3 Freedom of civil and political organization is respected (NGOs and political parties)	0.51	0.51	0.00	1%
4.5 Freedom of belief and religion is effectively guaranteed	0.60	0.64	0.04	6%
No sub-sub factors applicable				
4.6 Freedom from arbitrary interference with privacy is effectively guaranteed	0.37	0.37	0.00	0%
No sub-sub factors applicable				
4.7 Freedom of assembly and association is effectively guaranteed	0.46	0.48	0.01	3%
No sub-sub factors applicable				
Participation and Access to Information				
1.5 Government powers are subject to non-governmental checks	0.51	0.52	0.01	3%
1.5.1 People are free to express political opinions alone or in peaceful association with others	0.51	0.53	0.02	3%
1.5.2 Freedom of the media is respected	0.50	0.53	0.03	5%
1.5.3 Freedom of civil and political organization is respected (NGOs and political parties)	0.51	0.51	0.00	1%
3.2 Right to Information	0.44	0.44	0.00	0%
3.2.1 Information requests - responsiveness	0.45	0.39	-0.06	-13%
3.2.2 Information requests - quality	0.31	0.36	0.05	18%
3.2.3 Information requests - timeliness	0.55	0.47	-0.08	-15%
3.2.4 Information requests - affordability and trust	0.54	0.61	0.06	12%
3.2.5 Information requests - general accessibility of information	0.33	0.36	0.02	7%
3.3 Civic participation	0.50	0.50	0.00	0%
3.3.1 Freedom of opinion and expression is effectively guaranteed	0.51	0.52	0.01	3%

3.3.2 Freedom of assembly and association is effectively guaranteed	0.46	0.48	0.01	3%
3.3.3 Right to petition and civic engagement	0.53	0.51	-0.03	-5%
3.4 Complaint mechanisms	0.57	0.55	-0.02	-3%
No sub-sub factors applicable				
Labor and Property Rights				
4.8 Fundamental labor rights are effectively guaranteed	0.55	0.55	0.00	0%
4.8.1. Equal payment and absence of discrimination	0.57	0.59	0.02	4%
4.8.2. Freedom to form unions and bargain collectively	0.59	0.60	0.01	2%
4.8.3. Prohibition of child and forced labor	0.50	0.46	-0.04	-8%
6.5 The Government does not expropriate without adequate compensation	0.46	0.46	0.00	0%
6.5.1. Property rights for the people	0.49	0.48	-0.01	-2%
6.5.2. Property rights for companies	0.43	0.44	0.01	2%
Fair and Impartial Justice				
4.3 Due process of law and rights of the accused	0.43	0.44	0.02	4%
4.3.1. Presumption of innocence	0.40	0.43	0.04	9%
4.3.2. Arrest and pre-trial detention	0.54	0.56	0.01	2%
4.3.3. Torture and abusive treatment to suspects	0.37	0.43	0.05	14%
4.3.4. Legal assistance	0.44	0.44	0.00	0%
4.3.5. Rights of prisoners	0.37	0.36	-0.01	-2%
6.3 Administrative proceedings are conducted without unreasonable delay	0.43	0.43	0.00	0%
No sub-sub factors applicable				
6.4 Due process is respected in administrative proceedings	0.30	0.31	0.01	3%
No sub-sub factors applicable				
7.1 People have access to affordable civil justice	0.60	0.58	-0.01	-2%
7.1.1 People are aware of available remedies	0.47	0.48	0.01	2%
7.1.2 People can access and afford legal advice and representation	0.67	0.72	0.05	7%
7.1.3. Procedures	0.58	0.62	0.04	7%
7.1.4. Accessibility of courts	0.51	0.40	-0.12	-23%
7.1.5. Costs (Courts, lawyers and procedures)	0.76	0.72	-0.05	-6%
7.2 Civil justice is free of discrimination	0.53	0.52	-0.02	-3%
No sub-sub factors applicable				
7.4 Civil justice is free of improper government influence	0.47	0.46	-0.01	-2%
No sub-sub factors applicable				
8.4 Impartiality in Criminal Justice	0.31	0.32	0.01	4%
8.4.1 Police is impartial and do not discriminate	0.23	0.31	0.08	34%
8.4.2 Judges are impartial and do not discriminate	0.38	0.33	-0.05	-14%
8.6 Criminal system is free of improper government influence	0.54	0.54	0.00	0%
No sub-sub factors applicable				



World Justice
Project

ABOUT THE WORLD JUSTICE PROJECT

The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working to create knowledge, build awareness, and stimulate action to advance the rule of law worldwide. Effective rule of law is the foundation for communities of justice, opportunity, and peace—underpinning development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights.

The WJP builds and supports a global, multidisciplinary movement for the rule of law through three lines of work: collecting, organizing, and analyzing original, independent rule of law data, including the *World Justice Project Rule of Law Index*; supporting research, scholarship, and teaching about the importance of the rule of law, its relationship to development, and effective strategies to strengthen it; and connecting and building an engaged global network of policymakers and advocates to advance the rule of law through strategic partnerships, convenings, coordinated advocacy, and support for locally led initiatives.

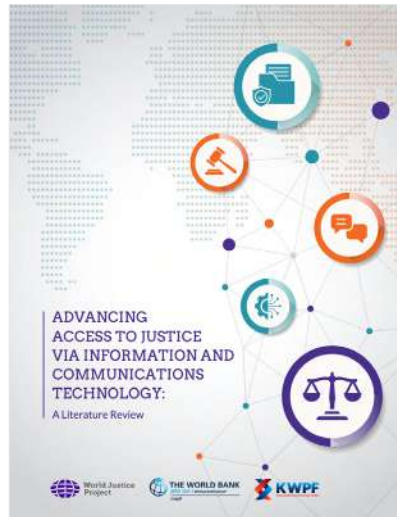
Learn more at: worldjusticeproject.org.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

For more information click on the publications



WJP Rule of Law Index (2025)



Advancing Access to Justice via Information and Communications Technology: A Literature Review (2025)



U.S Rule of Law Trends & The 2024 Election (2024)



Human Rights in Thailand: Insights from the WJP Rule of Law Index 2020–2024 (2024)



WJP EUROVOICES Thematic Reports (2024)



Environmental Governance Indicators for Latin America and the Caribbean (2020)



**World Justice
Project**

