



**World Justice
Project**

MEDIA CONTACT: press@worldjusticeproject.org

Rule of Law Improves in Brazil for First Time in 8 Years

2024 WJP Rule of Law Index shows Brazil is among the world's most improved countries in 2024

WASHINGTON (Oct. 23, 2024) – For the first time in 8 years, the rule of law in Brazil grew stronger, according to the [World Justice Project \(WJP\) Rule of Law Index 2024](#) released today. The country moved up three places in this year's Index, and now ranks 80 out of 142 countries and jurisdictions.

Brazil is among the most improved countries this year, though this rebound still places the country's rule of law score below where it was in 2016.

Brazil made gains in six of eight factors measured by the Index this year. The areas of greatest improvement are in effective regulatory enforcement, the fight against corruption, and access to civil justice.

“In the face of a continuing global rule of law recession, Brazil now offers a leading example that negative trends can be reversed and that positive change is possible,” said **Elizabeth Andersen, executive director of the World Justice Project**.

“Strengthening the rule of law requires government commitment, as well as the participation of a robust civil society and an engaged citizenry.”

World Justice Challenge Honors Two Brazilian Organizations

Brazil is also the recipient of another distinct WJP honor this year. For the first time, the global organization's World Justice Challenge recognized two winners from the same country—Brazil—for their innovative work to reinforce the rule of law foundation of democracy.

Pacto Pela Democracia won for its “Protect Democracy – 2022 Elections” initiative, which engaged a coalition of civil society actors across the political spectrum, judicial officials, and legislators to defend election integrity and democratic values.

Politize! won the contest's youth engagement prize for its civic education program and work combatting misinformation throughout Brazil.

Index data shows that while Brazil improved its overall rule of law score this year, its sub-factor scores for civic participation and non-governmental checks on power declined. These findings highlight the need for organizations such as Pacto Pela Democracia and Politize! to continue their important work.

“The Brazilian people are a critical component in building and maintaining the rule of law. Civic education plays a fundamental role in empowering citizens to exercise their rights, not only by voting but also by holding the government accountable. Through informed participation, we can collectively build a stronger, more just society,” said Gabriel Marmentini, executive director of Politize!.

Global Trends

The *WJP Rule of Law Index* shows that a global rule of law recession began in 2016. This year, the rule of law again weakened in a majority of countries surveyed (57%). However, the proportion of countries where the rule of law is eroding has shrunk for the third year in a row.

Since 2016, authoritarian trends have largely driven global rule of law declines. Between 2016 and 2024, the Index factor measuring Fundamental Rights fell in 81% of countries, including Brazil. Despite gains this year, Brazil’s score for Fundamental Rights is still down 19% since 2016.

Index scores for Constraints on Government Powers have fallen in 77% of countries during this same period, including Brazil. Despite gains this year, Brazil’s score on this factor is still down 15% since 2016.

The top-ranked country in the 2024 *WJP Rule of Law Index* is **Denmark**, followed by **Norway** (2), **Finland** (3), **Sweden** (4), and **Germany** (5). The bottom ranked countries are **Myanmar** (138), **Haiti** (139), **Afghanistan** (140), **Cambodia** (141), and **Venezuela** (142).

Explore the full rankings and findings of the 2024 World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index at: <http://www.worldjusticeproject.org/index/>

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- Access the complete 2024 Rule of Law Index and "Insights" booklet [here](#).
- Find graphics (regional rankings, global rankings, and comparative maps) [here](#).
- Find 142 country press releases organized by region [here](#).

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About the WJP Rule Of Law Index:

The [World Justice Project \(WJP\) Rule of Law Index®](https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index) is the world's leading source for original, independent data on the rule of law. Now covering 142 countries and jurisdictions, the Index relies on more than 214,000 household surveys and 3,500 legal practitioner and expert surveys to measure how the rule of law is experienced and perceived worldwide. Published annually since 2009 and subject to a rigorous methodology, the Index is used by governments, multilateral organizations, businesses, academia, media, and civil society organizations around the world to assess and address gaps in the rule of law.

About the World Justice Project:

The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, nonpartisan, multidisciplinary organization working to create knowledge, build awareness, and stimulate action to advance the rule of law worldwide.

Effective rule of law reduces corruption, combats poverty and disease, and protects people from injustices large and small. It underpins development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights, and it is the foundation for communities of justice, health, opportunity, and peace.

The World Justice Project defines the rule of law as a durable system of laws, institutions, norms, and community commitment that delivers: accountability, just laws, open government, and accessible justice. Learn more about these four universal principles and our work at <https://worldjusticeproject.org/>.