

MEDIA CONTACT: press@worldjusticeproject.org

United Kingdom Ranks 15 out of 142 in the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index

- The 2024 *WJP Rule of Law Index*[®] finds rule of law fell globally for the 7th consecutive year
- Progress emerges in the fight against corruption
- The United Kingdom's score increased, ranks 12 out of 31 regionally

WASHINGTON (23 October 2024) – For the seventh year in a row, the rule of law has eroded in a majority of countries, according to the [World Justice Project \(WJP\) Rule of Law Index 2024](#).

In the last year, the rule of law declined in 57% of countries surveyed. However, the United Kingdom is among the minority of countries to see its *WJP Rule of Law Index* score increase this year.

The United Kingdom's overall rule of law score increased by less than 1% in this year's Index. It ranks 15th out of 142 countries worldwide.

Regionally, the United Kingdom ranks 12th out of 31 countries in the European Union, European Free Trade Association, and North America.* The region's top performer is Denmark (ranked 1st out of 142 globally), followed by Norway and Finland. The three countries with the lowest scores in the region are Greece, Bulgaria, and Hungary (73rd globally).

In the last year, 20 out of 31 countries declined in the European Union, European Free Trade Association, and North America. Of those 20 countries, 13 had also declined in the previous year.

Among high income countries, the United Kingdom ranks 15th out of 47.**

United Kingdom and global trends

Since 2016, a global rule of law recession has affected 77% of countries studied, including the United Kingdom.

Globally, the declines were largely driven by authoritarian trends. Between 2016 and 2024, the Index factor measuring Fundamental Rights fell in 81% of countries, including the United Kingdom.

Over the past seven years, Index scores for Constraints on Government Powers have fallen in 77% of countries—including the United Kingdom. Around the world, legislatures, judiciaries, and civil society—including the media—have all lost ground on checking executive power, the Index shows.

While these and other authoritarian trends had slowed a little last year, they expanded in 2024. The United Kingdom is not among the 63% of countries where Fundamental Rights fell in the past year. The United Kingdom is not among the 59% of countries where Constraints on Government Powers fell in the past year.

Despite this global backsliding, a smaller majority of countries experienced overall rule of law declines this year (57%) as compared to the last two (59% and 61%).

One reason is that some progress was made globally in the fight against corruption between 2023 and 2024. This year, 59% of countries saw their Index scores for Absence of Corruption improve, but not the United Kingdom.

“After years of rule of law declines it can be easy to focus on the negative. But to do so would ignore accomplishments in anti-corruption and the hard work occurring to improve justice systems globally,” **WJP Co-founder and President William H. Neukom** said. “We must redouble our efforts to expand these rule of law gains in all areas.”

Global rankings

Globally, the top-ranked country in the 2024 *WJP Rule of Law Index* is Denmark, followed by Norway, Finland, Sweden, and Germany. The country with the lowest score is Venezuela, followed by Cambodia, Afghanistan, Haiti, and Myanmar.

United Kingdom’s WJP Rule of Law Index rankings

Overall score global rank: 15 / 142

Overall score regional rank: 12 / 31

Factor score rankings:

FACTOR	GLOBAL RANK	REGIONAL RANK*	INCOME RANK**
Constraints on Government Powers	12/142	11/31	12/47
Absence of Corruption	13/142	9/31	13/47
Open Government	11/142	9/31	11/47
Fundamental Rights	14/142	13/31	14/47
Order and Security	30/142	20/31	28/47
Regulatory Enforcement	18/142	13/31	18/47
Civil Justice	21/142	14/31	21/47
Criminal Justice	18/142	13/31	18/47

(1 is best in WJP Rule of Law Index rankings)

To see the United Kingdom's performance across all 44 sub-factors the Index measures, visit:

www.worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/country/2024/United%20Kingdom

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

###

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

MEDIA CONTACT AND INTERVIEW REQUESTS:

press@worldjusticeproject.org

ABOUT THE WJP RULE OF LAW INDEX:

The [World Justice Project \(WJP\) 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 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:

www.worldjusticeproject.org.

*Countries and jurisdictions measured in the European Union, European Free Trade Association, and North America region: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

**High income countries and jurisdictions: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Hong Kong, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, St. Kitts and Nevis, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay.