



World Justice
Project

Data

Drives

Justice

—
2020 IN
REVIEW



Converging Rule of Law Crises



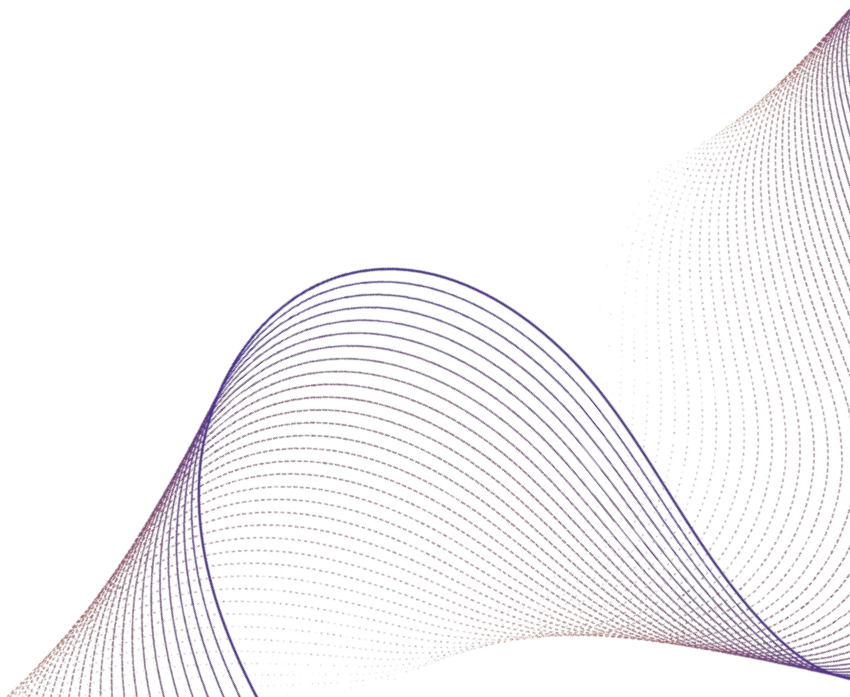
A Message from WJP Leadership

As 2020 began, the World Justice Project published the [2020 WJP Rule of Law Index](#), marking the third straight year in which its metrics for the rule of law declined globally. The weaknesses the Index revealed were underscored by the COVID-19 pandemic, protests against systemic racism, and governance crises in once-secure democracies such as the United States, parts of the European Union, and Hong Kong. In this extraordinary year, WJP redoubled its efforts to create knowledge, build awareness, and stimulate action in support of the rule of law, the foundation of communities of justice, opportunity, and peace. We are pleased to share this brief summary of that work, and we welcome your feedback and involvement in this critical cause of our time.

William C. Hubbard, Board Chair

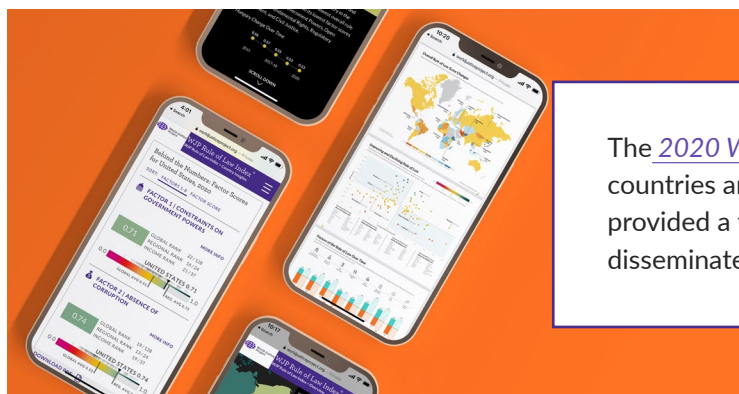
William H. Neukom, Founder and CEO

Elizabeth Andersen, Executive Director



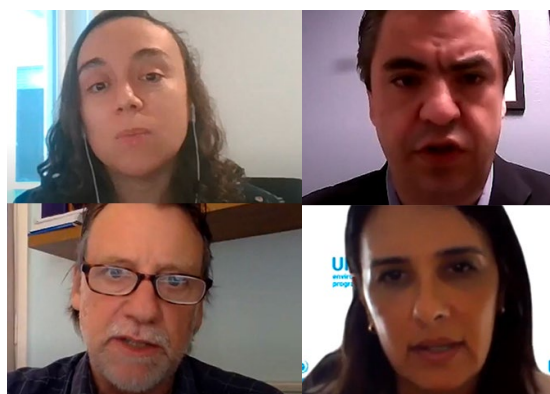
Creating Rule of Law Knowledge

At the heart of WJP's work is a commitment to bringing rigorous, objective data and evidence about the rule of law and good governance to contemporary policy-making. At a time when facts are up for grabs and rule of law rhetoric is often co-opted for contrary purposes, WJP's dispassionate data collection and analysis are more important than ever.



The [2020 WJP Rule of Law Index](#) put forward data on 128 countries and territories, and a [new interactive website](#) provided a tool for our diverse stakeholders to draw and disseminate comparisons and insights.

[In-depth country studies](#) of the rule of law in Mexico, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Mali, and Niger put data in the hands of government officials and civil society actors pressing for change.



The [WJP Environmental Governance Indicators](#) report, developed in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank and covering 10 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, is the first-ever cross-country assessment of how environmental governance works in practice.

"It is precisely studies like the one you have generated that allow us to promote data to generate better, more comprehensive policies that can help us understand and attend to complex problems [of climate change]." –Andrea Brusco (bottom right), Environmental Governance Regional Coordinator - Latin American and Caribbean Office, United Nations Environment Programme

Building Rule of Law Awareness

WJP data and analysis informed public discussion and policy-making on rule of law topics in every corner of the world. Media mentions of WJP's work doubled to 1,995 references in 2020, including 149 quotations of public officials and elected representatives citing WJP data.



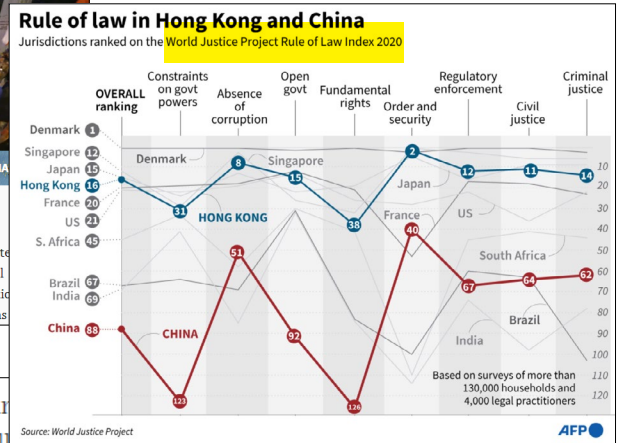
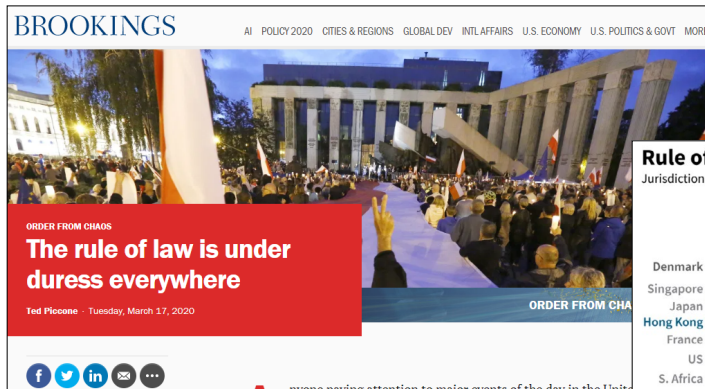
WJP took its programming online in 2020 and expanded its audiences dramatically. A dozen “Rule of Law Talk” podcast episodes and more than two dozen webinars and briefings engaged thousands of viewers on topics ranging from environmental governance to media freedom and effective checks on corruption.



As distrust of the US election system mounted in mid-2020, WJP coordinated [a broad-based coalition of leaders](#) to urge adherence to the rule of law in the context of the US elections so that all could have confidence in the outcome.

Driving a Global Conversation

Our survey-based data is used by policy-makers, businesses, reporters, activists, governments, and others to understand how the rule of law is perceived and experienced by citizens, to see how it compares worldwide, and to identify opportunities for reform.



The Economist @TheEconomist

Turkey's judiciary is ranked 109th out of 126 countries on the World Justice Project's rule-of-law index

Turkey acquits the Gezi Park protesters, then rearrests one

7:23 PM · Feb 19, 2020 · SocialFlow

The further tilt in Hong Kong's well-regarded legal system, which is based on British Common Law. Corporations from around the world are registered in Hong Kong and many business contracts include provisions to hash out disputes in the city.

The World Justice Project, a Washington-based think tank, currently ranks Hong Kong at 16 globally for overall rule of law, five notches ahead of the U.S.

The new law, like China rights, freedom of speech system. But reflecting a protected in mainland country 88th of 120 nat

Haroon Sharif @SharifHaroon

Former Minister of State for Investment - International development, thought leadership and Economic Diplomacy

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TOP STORIES

Gov't development scorecard shows mixed results

August 3, 2020 | 12:31 am

The justice sector received green marks for improving a one-to-one public attorney-to-court ratio decreasing the percentage of preliminary investigation backlogs; and increasing the percentage cases disposed over the total inventory of cases.

On the other hand, it lagged in improving the prosecutor-to-court ratio; as well as increasing the country's percentile rank in the World Justice Project's Rule of Law index, particularly on improving fundamental rights, civil justice, and criminal justice. The aim to bring the country to at least a 50th percentile rank in the "Rule of Law" dimension in World Bank's the World Governance Indicators is also way off with 34.13 rank as of 2018.

Contract enforcement capability is the first thing investors look for in any economy. Pakistan is ranked 120 out of 128 countries on WJP Rule of Law Index 2020. Major reforms needed to change perception.

Country/Jurisdiction	Overall Score	Score Change	% Score Change	Global Rank	Global Rank Change
Zimbabwe	0.39	-0.01	-1.5%	119	1 ↓
Pakistan	0.39	0.00	-0.7%	120	1 ↓
Bolivia	0.38	0.00	0.3%	121	0
Afghanistan	0.36	0.02	4.3%	122	3 ▲
Mauritania	0.36	0.01	4.0%	123	1 ▲
Cameroon	0.36	-0.02	-4.4%	124	2 ▼
Egypt	0.36	0.00	0.1%	125	2 ▼
Congo, Dem. Rep.	0.34	0.01	2.6%	126	0
Cambodia	0.33	0.00	0.7%	127	0
Venezuela, RB	0.27	-0.01	-2.6%	128	0

11:00 AM · Oct 10, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

138 Retweets 16 Quote Tweets 307 Likes

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Make no mistake: Poland and Hungary aren't the only EU states abusing the law

Agata Gostyńska-Jakubowska

Wed 22 Jan 2020 01:00 EST

The World Justice Project's annual rule of law index and worldwide governance indicators show a deterioration including Bulgaria, France, Italy and Greece. In Greece, the country's chief statistician for sharing economic data contradicted statistics previously used by the country, and international creditors has cast a shadow on the judiciary as court proceedings take longer than almost anywhere else. In many countries, criminals escape punishment because of the slow



Faustin Ntezilyayo

@FNtezilyayo

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Chief Justice/ Président de la Cour Suprême - Republic of Rwanda

Pleased to note that Rwanda is ranked 37th out of 128 countries worldwide and 2nd in Africa in the just released World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2020. Renewed commitment to the Judiciary's duty to uphold the rule of law.



Sherrilyn Ifill

@Sifill_LDF

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President & Director-Counsel of LDF (NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund), the nation's premier civil rights law organization. Tweets are my own.

WJP Rule of Law Index 2020

11:46 PM · Mar 18, 2020

106 Retweets

The U.S. has ranked 96th out of 128 countries for "Equal Treatment/Absence of Discrimination" in the Rule of Law Index of the highly-respected World Justice Project. [worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-in-...](https://www.worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-in-...) Pretty damning.




WJP Rule of Law Index
The World Justice Project Rule of Law Index...
worldjusticeproject.org

Twitter Web App

189 Likes

Decide on plea on Rule of Law Index in 6 months, Supreme Court tells government



Legal Correspondent
NEW DELHI, JUNE 18, 2020 23:21 IST
UPDATED: JUNE 18, 2020 23:22 IST

Petition seeks steps to improve the 'pathetic ranking' of India.

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it will ask the apex court lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay to file a petition to improve prospects in the Rule of Law Index in 6 months.

The Phnom Penh Post

Ministry refutes justice ranking

Ry Sochan

Phnom Penh

Publication date 12 March 2020 | 01:17 ICT

The Ministry of Justice on Wednesday refuted a World Justice Project (WJP) report on its rule of law performance, saying the report did not reflect realities in Cambodia.

Turning Data into Action

WJP collaborates with a global network of stakeholders, providing them with data, research, and support for innovative rule of law reforms.



In private briefings for government officials and civil society activists from Bamako to Brussels, Tashkent to Tokyo, WJP put its rule of law data in the hands of decision-makers to inform policy-making. *Above photo: WJP staff brief Ambassador Roya Rahmani, Afghanistan's Ambassador to the United States, on 2020 Index findings.*

When the UN Statistical Commission formally adopted a new indicator on access to civil justice for Sustainable Development Goal 16 in March 2020, it drew on the methodology developed by WJP in its groundbreaking [101-country study on legal needs and access to justice](#). Throughout the year, WJP coordinated workshops with over 90 participants representing over 35 countries from National Statistical Offices, multilateral organizations, NGOs, national governments, and other groups, to discuss the implementation of the new indicator, efforts to collect and use civil justice data for policy-making, and the impacts of COVID-19 on these efforts.



WJP tackled the rule of law challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in a [series of policy briefs](#) highlighting emerging concerns and promoting best practices. In October, we launched the [World Justice Challenge 2021](#) to identify, promote, and support organizations and institutions mounting effective responses to this global governance challenge.

2020 By the Numbers

1,995

Worldwide media citations of WJP data and initiatives

144

Signatories to WJP's joint appeal for upholding the rule of law during the U.S. election

149

Quotes by government representatives and elected officials citing WJP data

128

Countries covered in the 2020 Index

7

Mexican states using WJP data in developmental plans

42

WJP webinars, briefings, and podcasts

6,851

Webinar views

1,215,291

WJP website page views

425

World Justice Challenge applicants from 114 countries

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