



World Index of Moral Freedom

WIMF 2026

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Foundation for the
Advancement of
Liberty

FIFTH EDITION



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moral freedom, understood as the individual's ability to decide for himself or herself in those intimate areas of life where law, tradition, religion and social convention have historically exercised some of their strongest forms of control.

That is why the World Index of Moral Freedom (WIMF) has occupied a special place in Fundalib's work from the beginning. Its first edition, published in 2016, was in fact the Foundation's first comparative index on one aspect of freedom. Ten years later, this fifth edition allows us not only to compare 161 countries, but also to observe how the geography of moral freedom has evolved over time.

The underlying idea remains simple. The WIMF does not tell people how they should live. It does not ask them to abandon their religious convictions, ethical principles or personal traditions. It does not celebrate abortion, drug consumption, pornography, prostitution, euthanasia or any other particular use of freedom. It measures whether adults are broadly able to make choices for themselves. This distinction is essential. Freedom is not approval. Permission is not encouragement. To those who may approach this research from a strong religious perspective and misunderstand its purpose, I would put the matter plainly: your religion binds you, it does not bind the rest of us. Every person must remain free to follow demanding religious or moral rules voluntarily. But the beliefs of one citizen, one church or even one majority do not thereby acquire a legitimate claim to govern the private lives of everyone else.

That principle belongs to the enduring legacy of the Enlightenment: the emancipation of the individual conscience from imposed authority, the assertion of reason and personal res-

pensibility, and the conviction that human beings should be treated as ends in themselves rather than as instruments of collective moral projects. It is also inseparable from liberalism as Fundalib understands it. The sovereign individual — not the state, the clergy, the tribe, the party or the majority — is the starting point of a free society.

Nor should moral freedom be seen as detached from other liberties. Margaret Thatcher once expressed this broader insight with characteristic clarity: "Political freedom and economic freedom go hand in hand. One will not long outlast the other." The same warning can be extended, cautiously but meaningfully, to freedom in matters of personal morality. A society that becomes accustomed to controlling one sphere of individual life may find it increasingly easy to control others. Economic freedom, political freedom, freedom of conscience and personal autonomy are not identical, but they rest upon a common assumption: that power should have limits and that the individual should possess a protected domain of decision.

It is therefore with concern that we present the results of the 2026 edition. The global picture is not catastrophic, but neither is it reassuring. The number of countries reaching at least an acceptable level of moral freedom has fallen again. Progress, once visible across several earlier editions, can no longer be taken for granted. The erosion is still moderate, but it is persistent enough to deserve attention.

At a time when liberal democracy itself faces renewed pressures in many parts of the world, the possibility that personal autonomy may also be entering a period of retreat should concern all defenders of freedom.

There are, fortunately, important reasons for optimism. We warmly congratulate Portugal, which retains first place and consolidates the leadership it first achieved in 2022. Its performance demonstrates that a society shaped by a comparatively traditional cultural background can nevertheless build one of the world's most permissive legal environments for individual moral choice. Portugal's success should remind us that culture is not destiny. The same lesson emerges powerfully from Latin America. Uruguay ranks third in the world, while Colombia and Mexico enter the global top ten, and Argentina, Brazil, Chile and other Latin American countries also perform strongly. These results deserve recognition. They show that moral freedom is not the preserve of Northern Europe or the English-speaking world, and that societies with very different histories can expand the protected sphere of individual autonomy. We also welcome the remarkable advance of the United States of America, which rises to seventh place in this edition. Whatever disagreements may surround American politics, its progress in the specific freedoms measured by this Index is substantial and should be acknowledged.

At the same time, I cannot conceal a certain disappointment regarding the Netherlands. For years it was the natural reference point of the WIMF and the leader of its first editions. Portugal overtook it in 2022 by a very narrow margin; four years later the Dutch remain second, but the distance has widened. The Netherlands is still one of the freest societies on Earth in moral terms. We simply hope that it will renew the liberalising spirit that made it such an international benchmark and return to the contest for first place.



At the opposite end of the table lies a reality that should provoke not cultural relativism, but moral clarity. Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Brunei, Yemen, Iraq, Libya and other countries near the bottom continue to subject deeply personal choices to severe state, religious and social coercion. In too many of these societies, restrictions fall especially heavily upon women, whose movement, family life, sexuality and personal status remain subject to forms of control incompatible with genuine individual sovereignty.

These systems are, in an important sense, prisons of the human mind before they become prisons of the body. They deny adults the right to develop their own conscience, identity and way of life. No economic achievement, geopolitical argument or

appeal to tradition should prevent us from saying so. The purpose of this Index is therefore not merely statistical. Measurement allows comparison, comparison allows understanding and understanding can make complacency more difficult.

Our hope for the next edition is straightforward: that the present deterioration proves temporary, that countries now retreating recover the path of liberalisation, and that those still denying elementary personal autonomy begin to recognise it. Moral freedom should not be the privilege of a fortunate minority of humanity. It should become universal.

*Roxana Nicula, President,
Foundation for the Advancement of Liberty*



WIMF rationale: what the Index measures and why

The World Index of Moral Freedom (WIMF) seeks to answer a deceptively simple question:

*To what extent are individuals free
to make their own moral choices?*

Every society develops views about matters that are regarded as morally significant. Religion, sexuality, family relations, reproduction, end-of-life decisions, drug use and personal identity all generate ethical disagreements, often profound ones. Individuals may reach very different conclusions about how they themselves should live. The essential concern of the WIMF is not which of those conclusions is preferable, which moral decisions are right or wrong, but how much room the law and the state leave for individuals to reach and act upon their own conclusions. In other words, who takes those decisions: the state or you?

Moral freedom, in this sense, is the sphere of personal autonomy that exists when public authorities refrain from imposing a particular conception of morality through prohibition, coercion, punishment or compulsory conformity. A morally free society need not be a morally homogeneous society. Quite the reverse: it is one in which people with sharply different convictions can pursue different ways of life, subject to the rights and freedoms of others. The Index therefore does not rank countries according to whether their populations are religious or secular, traditional or progressive, nor does it attempt to decide whether abortion, euthanasia, drug consumption, pornography, prostitution, surrogacy or any other practice included in the Index is morally right or wrong. Those are precisely the

questions on which citizens may strongly disagree with one another. And hence their adoption as indicators, as they provide ground for capturing the degree of individualisation or collectivisation of morality. Thus, the WIMF asks whether national states substantially resolve such questions on their citizens' behalf or leaves them free to decide themselves.

This distinction is fundamental. A person may freely choose a deeply traditional way of life in a country with a high level of moral freedom. Another person may make very different choices in the same country. What matters for the Index is whether the legal and institutional framework allows both to do so. Conversely, a government may impose either traditional or ostensibly progressive values through coercive means. From the standpoint of moral freedom, the direction of the coercion is less important than the existence of the coercion itself. The WIMF is therefore intended as a measure of freedom in morally contested areas, rather than as a measure of morality.

A comparative measure of personal autonomy on moral issues

Moral freedom is difficult to observe through a single legal rule or social statistic. A country may be highly permissive in one field and highly restrictive in another. It may protect religious liberty while criminalising certain private consensual behaviour. It may permit extensive sexual freedom while imposing significant restrictions on reproductive choices, or it may recognise broad family diversity while maintaining particularly punitive drug laws. For this reason, the WIMF is designed as a multidimensional comparative index.



The 2026 edition evaluates 161 countries (all countries analysed in the four previous editions plus Taiwan) through 17 indicators, grouped into five broad areas: Beliefs, Bioethical issues, Drugs, Sexual freedom and Gender issues. Each area contributes exactly 20 per cent of the final score. This equal weighting is deliberate. Moral freedom cannot plausibly be reduced to a single controversial issue. A country should not rank as exceptionally free merely because it adopts a permissive position on one highly visible question while heavily restricting

personal autonomy elsewhere. Nor should one particular ethical debate, however politically prominent at a given moment, determine the overall result. The five-area structure therefore provides balance. Each area captures a different way in which governments can either preserve or restrict the individual's authority over matters of conscience, body, lifestyle and personal relationships.

Within each area, the individual indicators have different weights according to their importance to that particular dimen-

INDICATOR CATEGORIES USED TOWARDS THE WORLD INDEX OF MORAL FREEDOM	
A. Religion indicators	How free is the practice of any religion or none, and how religious-controlled is the country's current government, or the state as such.
B. Bioethical indicators	How free is individual decision making on the main matters and issues which nowadays pose a bioethical dilemma.
C. Drugs indicators	How free is the production, trade and consumption of substances which are usually deemed harmful.
D. Sexuality indicators	How free are sexual intercourse, pornography and the provision of sex services for profit among consenting adults.
E. Gender indicators	How free are women and LGBTI individuals compared to the country's male and straight population.
These categories and their 20% weight have remained stable along the five WIMF editions since 2016.	

sion. Those weights, together with the sources, conversions, treatment of missing data and precise scoring rules, are explained in the Methodology chapter. At the conceptual level, however, the five areas have equal status: together they provide five different perspectives on the same underlying question of personal moral autonomy.

Beliefs: freedom of conscience and freedom from imposed faith

The first area (area A) concerns beliefs. Freedom of conscience has two complementary dimensions. Individuals should be free to hold, practise, change or reject religious beliefs, but the state itself should also refrain from imposing a particular religious doctrine upon society. A country may formally guarantee freedom of religion while allowing religious institutions or doctrines to exercise substantial authority over public law. Conversely, an aggressively secular state may restrict religion itself. Both situations involve limits on individual moral autonomy. The WIMF therefore considers not merely whether religion is permitted, but also the extent to which citizens are protected against religiously motivated state coercion, harassment or censorship.

The area incorporates the influence of religion upon the state, constitutional and legal protection of religious freedom, prisoners of conscience or religious harassment, and forms of internet censorship rooted in religious or moral restrictions. The purpose is not to reward either religiosity or secularism. It is to assess whether individuals can live according to their own convictions without the state dictating what they must believe – or what they must not believe.

Bioethical issues: authority over fundamental bodily decisions

Area B concerns bioethical choices. Few decisions are more intimate than those involving reproduction, pregnancy, the creation of a family through assisted means, severe illness and the end of life. These issues are also among the most morally disputed in contemporary societies. The WIMF does not attempt to resolve those disputes. Instead, it evaluates the extent to which the individual retains legal decision-making authority within them.

The 2026 Index examines surrogacy, euthanasia and abortion. Taken together, these indicators address a central question of moral freedom: how far does the state permit individuals to make highly consequential decisions concerning their own bodies, reproduction and life course, even where substantial sections of society may consider those decisions ethically objectionable? The presence of controversy is not a reason to exclude these questions from an index of moral freedom. It is precisely what makes them relevant. Freedom matters most where different people would make different choices.

Drugs: the boundary between paternalism and individual choice

The third area, or area C, examines drug policy. Drug laws provide one of the clearest examples of the tension between individual autonomy and state paternalism. Governments commonly justify restrictions by reference to health, social harm, public order or protection against addiction. Yet drug policy may also involve some of the most intrusive exercises of state power over adults' private behaviour, including imprisonment and, in some jurisdic-



tions, exceptionally severe criminal penalties. The WIMF therefore examines this field from several angles. It considers restrictions on so-called hard drugs, the legal treatment of cannabis as it is the most widespread, yet still controversial substance, and the actual incidence of imprisonment for drug-related offences (which may be taken as a measure of the intensity of the state's action to intervene on this matter). This combination is important because law on paper and state coercion in practice are not necessarily the same thing. A nominal prohibition that rarely results in imprisonment represents a different degree of intervention from a system that incarcerates large numbers of people for even small drug offences. Equally, legalisation, decriminalisation and criminal prohibition are distinct policy choices and should be reflected as such. The purpose of this area is not to suggest that drug consumption is desirable or harmless. It is to measure how far governments use coercive power to prevent adults from making choices concerning substances they consume.

Sexual freedom: consensual adult behaviour and expression

Area D is sexual freedom. Sexual morality has historically been one of the main fields in which governments, religious institutions and social majorities have attempted to regulate private behaviour. Laws governing sexual relations, prostitution and pornography therefore offer particularly useful evidence about the boundary a society draws between collective moral judgement and individual choice. The Index considers the age of free sexual consent, prostitution and pornography. The underlying principle is consent between adults. The WIMF does not treat protections against

abuse, exploitation, coercion or sexual activity involving children as restrictions on moral freedom. Instead, it examines restrictions imposed upon consensual adult behaviour and expression.

A society may disapprove strongly of a particular sexual practice while nevertheless allowing competent adults to engage in it. From the perspective of the WIMF, this distinction between social judgement and legal coercion is essential. Sexual freedom does not require social approval. It requires that disapproval alone should not automatically become a basis for state prohibition.

Gender issues: freedom to define one's personal and family life

Area E targets gender issues, understood as the legal autonomy of individuals in forming relationships, organising their personal lives and determining their legally recognised identity. The Index considers women's freedom of movement and economic autonomy, cohabitation, same-sex marriage and adoption, and legal gender identity. These questions may appear diverse, but they share a common principle. Historically, the state has often assigned rights and obligations according to sex, marital status, sexual orientation or legally assigned gender. Rules governing where a woman may travel, whether unmarried partners can live together, which couples may marry or adopt, or whether an adult may alter his or her legal gender all define the limits of individual authority. This area asks how far the legal system allows adults to construct their own family and personal arrangements rather than confining them to a state-prescribed model. It encompasses not only gender-specific restrictions but also the legal recognition and freedom of different forms of intimate and family life.

Moral neutrality and legal permissiveness

A recurring misunderstanding of indices of this kind is to interpret a high score as an endorsement of every activity that the law permits. That is not the WIMF's position. Legal permission and moral approval are different concepts. A state may permit an action while individuals, communities, religious organisations and civil-society institutions strongly discourage it. Moral freedom leaves room for such disagreement. Indeed, a genuinely pluralistic society necessarily contains competing ethical views. The WIMF measures principally the coercive boundary set by public authority. In general, a higher score indicates that individuals retain greater scope to decide for themselves, while a lower score indicates that the state more extensively determines, restricts or penalises some choices in the relevant field.

This also means that the Index should not be read as a prescription for individual conduct. It does not tell citizens how to exercise their freedom. A person may support the legal freedom to undertake an action while personally refusing to undertake it themselves, discouraging others from doing so, or regarding it as morally wrong. The distinction between tolerating a choice and endorsing it is central to the concept of moral freedom.

Why compare countries?

The principal purpose of the WIMF is comparative. An isolated score tells us relatively little. Its value emerges when coun-

tries are assessed according to a common framework, allowing differences in the scope of personal autonomy to become visible. The Index produces an overall score and ranking, but the five area scores are equally important. Two countries may achieve similar overall results through very different combinations of freedoms and restrictions.

The category structure therefore helps reveal not only how much moral freedom exists, but also where it is concentrated and where significant constraints remain. The WIMF should consequently be understood as a comparative map rather than as a claim to measure an abstract quantity of freedom with perfect precision. Laws differ in complexity, enforcement varies, comparative data are uneven and social realities cannot always be compressed neatly into numerical categories. The purpose of the scoring system is to make meaningful international comparison possible while remaining transparent about these limitations. In this way we also hope the WIMF may be useful to scholars and other users when tracing connections between a country's performance in moral freedom and its position on indices assessing other dimensions of freedom.

The detailed methodological rules adopted to achieve the said comparison — the sources used, indicator weights, scoring scales, treatment of federal systems, missing observations and other technical decisions — are set out later in this report.

All in all, across five equally weighted areas and seventeen indicators, how much room does each country's legal and institutional framework leave for individuals to make their own moral choices? That is the question, and this is the rationale of the World Index of Moral Freedom.



Main findings

The progress of moral freedom has stalled and may be reversing

The fifth edition of the World Index of Moral Freedom presents a less reassuring global picture than its predecessors. The warning signs already visible in 2022 have not disappeared. If anything, they have become clearer.

In 2020, 76 of the 160 countries surveyed reached the 50-point threshold required to attain at least Acceptable Moral Freedom. By 2022, that number had fallen to 72. In 2026, only 68 of 161 countries pass the same threshold: just 42.2% of the countries surveyed. Ninety-three now fall below 50 points. The decisive boundary lies between Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 68th with 50.52 points, and Russia, 69th with 49.98. The 2022 edition had already recorded the fall from 76 passing countries to 72.

The deterioration is not yet severe enough to justify speaking of a collapse in moral freedom. Nor should every numerical difference between editions be interpreted as a direct legal change, since the 2026 edition incorporates renewed sources and improved measurements. Nevertheless, the general distribution is difficult to dismiss. The average country now scores 48.56, while the median is only 46.56. No country reaches the 90-point threshold for Highest Moral Freedom. Three did so in 2022 and four in 2020. Portugal remains the world leader with 89.84 points, followed by the Netherlands at 86.79 and Uruguay at 86.77.

Yet the picture is not uniformly negative. Several countries deserve recognition for substantial improvements since 2022. The United States is the most striking case among major democracies, rising from 27th place in 2022 to 7th in 2026, and from 72.43 to 84.14 points. Thailand has also made a remarkable advance,

from 104th and 42.70 points in 2022 to 50th and 58.80 in 2026, crossing decisively into the Acceptable Moral Freedom category. Monaco, previously the only Western European country below the passing threshold, rises from 83rd to 51st; Guatemala improves from 81st to 67th; and Kyrgyzstan from 84th to 62nd, with all three now passing. These examples are worth highlighting: the global trend may be worrying, but reform remains possible and can produce substantial gains.

Portugal consolidates its leadership while the Netherlands drifts further behind

Portugal's position at the top now looks less like an isolated victory and more like an established leadership.

The historical contrast with the Netherlands is particularly significant. The Dutch led the first three editions of the WIMF. Portugal began in third place in 2016, rose to second in 2018 and 2020, and finally displaced the Netherlands in 2022. At that time the difference between them was still extremely narrow: 95.18 for Portugal against 94.69 for the Netherlands, a gap of only 0.49 points.

Four years later, the Netherlands remains an exceptionally free country and retains second place, but the distance has widened substantially. Portugal scores 89.84, against 86.79 for the Netherlands: a gap of 3.05 points. It is regrettable to see the former perennial leader consolidate this relative decline. The Dutch model remains one of the world's strongest, but it no longer displays the commanding position it held during the Index's first editions. Portugal, by contrast, deserves renewed praise for maintaining the leadership it first captured in 2022.

CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTRIES BY LEVEL OF MORAL FREEDOM WIMF 2026 (0-100 SCORE)					
SCORE	COUNTRY LABEL	COUNTRIES	2022	VARIATION	PASSING / FAILING
90-100	HIGHEST MORAL FREEDOM	0	3	-3	68 OUT OF 161 COUNTRIES (72 IN 2022, OUT OF 160)
80-90	VERY HIGH MORAL FREEDOM	13	14	-1	
60-80	HIGH MORAL FREEDOM	30	31	-1	
50-60	ACCEPTABLE MORAL FREEDOM	25	24	+1	
40-50	INSUFFICIENT MORAL FREEDOM	36	41	-5	93 OUT OF 161 COUNTRIES (88 IN 2022, OUT OF 160)
20-40	LOW MORAL FREEDOM	49	33	+16	
10-20	VERY LOW MORAL FREEDOM	7	13	-6	
0-10	LOWEST MORAL FREEDOM	1	1	1	



Europe remains strong, but the Americas increasingly challenge it

Europe continues to be the strongest region overall. Portugal and the Netherlands occupy the first two positions, while Spain is sixth, Belgium tenth, Germany eleventh and Luxembourg thirteenth. Slovenia, Denmark, Switzerland, Austria, the Czech Republic and Italy all remain within the global top 21. But Europe's dominance of the very top has weakened. Seven of the 2022 top ten were European; in 2026 only four are. Switzerland has moved from 9th to 16th, Austria from 10th to 19th and Italy from 11th to 21st. Finland is now 34th, while Lithuania has dropped below the passing threshold altogether.

At the same time, the Americas occupy five of the top ten places. Uruguay ranks third, Canada fifth, the United States seventh, Colombia eighth and Mexico ninth. This is one of the clearest geographical shifts in the 2026 edition. Latin America remains particularly noteworthy. Argentina and Brazil rank 17th and 18th, Chile 22nd, Ecuador 25th, Costa Rica 33rd, Peru 40th and Bolivia 42nd. The region continues to disprove any assumption that very high levels of moral freedom are confined to Northern Europe or the English-speaking world.

There are also encouraging movements lower down the ranking. Guatemala crosses into the passing group, while Cuba and Venezuela now obtain Acceptable scores in the specific fields measured by the WIMF. Those two brutal dictatorships on any other aspect (from economic freedom to judiciary independence of press freedom) have nonetheless become less coercive on the specific matters analysed by this index. These results should not be mistaken for judgements on the overall political systems of

those countries; they simply illustrate an important point of the Index: political democracy and moral freedom overlap, but they are not identical.

Taiwan: a new Asian leader

A particularly welcome development in 2026 is the inclusion of Taiwan, which expands the Index from 160 to 161 countries. Taiwan enters directly at 29th place with 68.20 points, earning the label High Moral Freedom (the highest attained by any country in 2026). It is, by a considerable margin, the highest-ranked Asian country in the new edition, well ahead of Thailand at 50th, Japan at 66th and South Korea at 72nd. Taiwan's result deserves particular praise. Its strong performance in beliefs, family issues and several areas of personal autonomy places it much closer to the leading Western democracies than to the prevailing pattern in East and South-East Asia. Its inclusion also improves the geographical completeness of the WIMF at a time when Taiwan has become an increasingly relevant case in comparative studies of freedom and democratic resilience.

Asia-Pacific and Africa have a lot of room for improvement

Beyond Taiwan, the wider Asia-Pacific region remains highly uneven. Australia ranks fourth and New Zealand twelfth, preserving their positions among the world's most morally free societies. Thailand's rapid improvement is another positive development. Japan remains above the passing threshold, though only narrowly. Below them, however, the picture deteriorates

quickly. South Korea scores 49.02 and misses the threshold by less than one point. Singapore falls to 91st, India to 102nd, Vietnam to 105th, China to 116th, the Philippines to 124th, Indonesia to 141st, Malaysia to 144th and North Korea to 145th. There is therefore little evidence of regional convergence. Liberal democracies, paternalistic democracies, communist authoritarian regimes and religiously restrictive jurisdictions continue to coexist within the same broad geographical space.

Africa shows the clearest regional setback

The most troubling regional picture is found in Africa. South Africa remains the continent's great exception, ranking 23rd with 71.59 points and retaining High Moral Freedom. But it is now the only African country above 50 points. This represents a clear deterioration from 2022, when Botswana, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Ghana and Mali also passed alongside South Africa. The 2022 report already identified Africa as an area of particular concern. In 2026 Botswana ranks 96th, Ghana 99th, Mali 90th, Guinea-Bissau 89th and Mozambique 78th. Individual reforms have occurred, but they have not generally developed into broader frameworks of personal autonomy. Religious and traditional moral regulation, restrictive family and sexual laws, limited bioethical freedom and punitive drug policies continue to overlap across much of the continent.

The Middle East remains the global centre of restriction

The bottom of the ranking continues to be dominated by the Middle East and neighbouring Muslim-majority jurisdictions.

Afghanistan remains last, as in 2022, with only 9.66 points. Saudi Arabia is 160th, Brunei 159th, Yemen 158th, Iraq 157th and Libya 156th. Bahrain, Iran and Mauritania also occupy positions close to the bottom.

Israel remains the major regional exception, ranking 38th with High Moral Freedom. Elsewhere, the combination of religious influence over law, restrictions on sexuality and family life, limited personal-status autonomy and severe drug policies continues to produce some of the lowest scores in the world.

Drugs remain the weakest dimension

The five thematic areas reveal another important pattern. Beliefs is the strongest area on average, followed by Sexual freedom, Gender and Bioethical freedom. The weakest area remains Drugs. This finding is important because the spread of cannabis reform can create the impression of rapid worldwide liberalisation. The broader picture is much less permissive. Hard-drug possession remains criminalised across most of the world, cannabis reform is still geographically concentrated, and imprisonment for drug offences continues to constitute one of the most extensive forms of state coercion over personal lifestyle choices.

A warning in a wider age of democratic retreat

The WIMF does not measure democracy, and moral freedom should not be treated as a synonym for political liberty. The two can move differently, as several countries in this edition demonstrate. Nevertheless, the gradual deterioration recorded by the WIMF de-



serves to be viewed against a broader international context. Freedom House's 2026 report records the twentieth consecutive year of decline in global freedom, with 54 countries deteriorating during 2025 and only 35 improving. Fundalib's own Democratic Backsliding Risk Index 2026 likewise examines the growing vulnerability of democratic systems to institutional erosion.

It would be unwarranted to claim a direct causal relationship between democratic backsliding and the decline observed in moral freedom. But the coincidence is difficult to ignore. The liberal-democratic paradigm that seemed ascendant after the end of the Cold War involved more than competitive elections. It also rested on pluralism, limits to state power and a protected sphere in which individuals could make deeply personal choices without

government direction. If that broader paradigm is weakening after two or three decades of democratic erosion, moral autonomy may be one of the liberties increasingly exposed.

Moral freedom: not collapsing yet, but under erosion

The WIMF 2026 does not describe a world in which moral freedom is collapsing. It describes something subtler, and perhaps more worrying: progress has stopped being the default direction.

There are still countries moving decisively forward – and they deserve recognition for doing so. But the global balance has turned negative. The warning light is brighter than it was four years ago.

TOP TEN & BOTTOM TEN IN THE WORLD INDEX OF MORAL FREEDOM (WIMF) 2026			
1	Portugal	161	Afghanistan
2	The Netherlands	160	Saudi Arabia
3	Uruguay	159	Brunei
4	Australia	158	Yemen
5	Canada	157	Iraq
6	Spain	156	Libya
7	United States of America	155	Somalia
8	Colombia	154	Bahrain
9	Mexico	153	Iran
10	Belgium	152	Mauritania

SOME PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS AND SETBACKS COMPARED TO 2022		
1, 2	Portugal & The Netherlands	Although it keeps the top spot in 2022, Portugal has seen a sharp drop in its score (-5,34), which is offset by the general decline among the other countries at the top. The Dutch fall is even worse (-7,90). Both countries drop their "highest moral freedom" labels and are now deemed "very high".
7	United States of America	The United States' rise is likely due to the gradual widespread adoption of regulations more favourable to moral freedom since the 2022 edition. It has climbed twenty places and entered the top 10.
25	Ecuador	Ecuador has risen significantly in the rankings (by seventeen places) and has joined the leading group in terms of moral freedom in Latin America. Although much further down the table, Guatemala has also seen a significant improvement and has achieved a pass mark.
50	Thailand	With an improvement of more than 16 points (the largest in this edition), Thailand is the country showing the greatest growth in moral freedom, probably following the adoption of regulatory reforms. It has reached the pass mark for the first time, climbing more than fifty places in the ranking.
110	Senegal	Long regarded as a particularly tolerant country, Senegal's ranking in the WIMF confirms its shift towards a more authoritarian cultural paradigm in recent years. It has fallen by almost forty places. This appears to be the general trend across Africa, where the few countries that passed in 2022 are failing in 2026, with the exception of South Africa.
124	The Philippines	Asia's only predominantly Catholic country suffers a massive setback in the 2026 edition, as it is overtaken by many other countries due to its failure to implement reforms aimed at greater moral freedom.
125	Tunisia	Tunisia was an Arab-Muslim country that was relatively well placed in the index, but over the past four years it has fallen into line with the rest of its group, dropping by almost fifty places. The same applies to Lebanon.



WIMF 2026 table

How to read this table

This table ranks the 161 countries in the WIMF. These are the same as in the past four editions plus Taiwan (introduced in 2026). For each country we present their rank, current score, previous score and variation, previous rank and variation, plus the five areas of indicators which contribute up to twenty points each

to the overall result. Please be aware that decimals are separated by a comma. Therefore, the closer to 20 points a country scores in a particular area of indicators, the closer it is to full freedom on the matter analysed by that area. And of course, countries closer to one hundred in the general score are deemed the most morally free countries in the world, while the opposite applies to those scoring closer to zero. It is necessary to remind the reader that

#	COUNTRY	2026 SCORE	2022 SCORE	VARIATION IN SCORE	2022 RANK	VARIATION IN RANK
1	Portugal	89,84	95,18	-5,34	1	=
2	Netherlands, The	86,79	94,69	-7,90	2	=
3	Uruguay	86,77	90,07	-3,30	4	1
4	Australia	86,30	89,99	-3,69	8	4
5	Canada	85,26	88,44	-3,18	5	=
6	Spain	84,34	86,86	-2,52	7	1
7	United States of America	84,14	86,55	-2,41	27	20
8	Colombia	83,60	86,55	-2,95	13	5
9	Mexico	82,57	86,28	-3,71	17	8
10	Belgium	81,72	84,18	-2,46	3	-7
11	Germany	81,54	83,86	-2,32	12	1

the 2024 edition of this index was not conducted. This, together with some methodological changes may exacerbate some of the more radical increases or decreases in score. Finally, the last column shows the moral freedom label assigned to each country. Contrary to the 2022 edition, the 2026 WIMF has not assigned any "highest" label (90+ points) further to the general descent in score undergone by the best performers, even though five of

those countries countries are close to that threshold (between 85 and 90 points). On the opposite end, only country, Afghanistan, continues to receive the "lowest moral freedom" label as it doesn't even achieve the ten point minimum to pass as "very low moral freedom" only. We believe that changes in score start being significant when they exceed around three points, and variations in rank are relevant when at +5/-5 positions at least.

RELIGION INDICATORS	BIOETHICAL INDICATORS	DRUGS INDICATORS	SEXUALITY INDICATORS	GENDER INDICATORS	OVERALL MORAL FREEDOM CLASSIFICATION
18,41	17,88	17,00	17,75	18,80	VERY HIGH
19,64	16,25	16,40	16,30	18,20	VERY HIGH
16,02	14,50	19,00	18,05	19,20	VERY HIGH
19,25	18,25	14,20	15,40	19,20	VERY HIGH
18,01	19,00	14,50	14,55	19,20	VERY HIGH
18,39	15,00	16,50	15,25	19,20	VERY HIGH
18,79	19,00	14,50	12,65	19,20	VERY HIGH
17,97	15,63	12,00	18,80	19,20	VERY HIGH
15,94	16,63	14,50	16,30	19,20	VERY HIGH
17,34	14,38	13,80	17,00	19,20	VERY HIGH
17,81	10,63	15,90	18,80	18,40	VERY HIGH



#	COUNTRY	2026 SCORE	2022 SCORE	VARIATION IN SCORE	2022 RANK	VARIATION IN RANK
12	New Zealand	81,17	83,78	-2,61	14	2
13	Luxembourg	80,39	83,40	-3,01	6	-7
14	Slovenia	78,94	83,32	-4,38	19	5
15	Denmark	77,48	81,51	-4,03	15	=
16	Switzerland	76,94	81,33	-4,39	9	-7
17	Argentina	76,12	80,76	-4,64	24	7
18	Brazil	76,07	79,62	-3,55	25	7
19	Austria	75,69	78,22	-2,53	10	-9
20	Czech Republic	75,24	75,54	-0,30	16	-4
21	Italy	72,99	74,82	-1,83	11	-10
22	Chile	72,97	74,18	-1,21	22	=
23	South Africa	71,59	73,77	-2,18	18	-5
24	Greece	71,51	72,82	-1,31	26	2
25	Ecuador	71,22	72,59	-1,37	42	17
26	Estonia	70,62	72,54	-1,92	23	-3
27	Sweden	70,08	72,43	-2,35	34	7
28	Norway	69,93	72,08	-2,15	29	1

RELIGION INDICATORS	BIOETHICAL INDICATORS	DRUGS INDICATORS	SEXUALITY INDICATORS	GENDER INDICATORS	OVERALL MORAL FREEDOM CLASSIFICATION
19,72	18,25	8,60	15,40	19,20	VERY HIGH
18,39	13,75	13,80	15,25	19,20	VERY HIGH
18,39	10,00	13,00	18,75	18,80	HIGH
17,23	16,25	8,20	17,00	18,80	HIGH
16,29	11,75	14,20	16,30	18,40	HIGH
17,77	10,00	11,40	17,75	19,20	HIGH
19,02	7,50	11,80	17,75	20,00	HIGH
16,64	11,25	11,00	18,80	18,00	HIGH
18,39	11,25	15,40	17,00	13,20	HIGH
18,39	11,25	12,60	17,75	13,00	HIGH
18,67	6,25	12,00	17,75	18,30	HIGH
18,04	13,75	13,80	8,40	17,60	HIGH
12,71	13,75	8,20	18,05	18,80	HIGH
17,07	10,75	10,40	18,80	14,20	HIGH
14,77	10,00	12,60	15,25	18,00	HIGH
17,23	12,50	8,20	14,55	17,60	HIGH
17,23	12,50	8,60	12,80	18,80	HIGH



#	COUNTRY	2026 SCORE	2022 SCORE	VARIATION IN SCORE	2022 RANK	VARIATION IN RANK
29	Taiwan	68,20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
30	Croatia	67,81	71,90	-4,09	20	-10
31	Malta	67,39	70,90	-3,51	28	-3
32	Ireland	67,36	70,14	-2,78	31	-1
33	Costa Rica	67,06	68,88	-1,82	40	7
34	Finland	66,95	67,45	-0,50	21	-13
35	France	66,87	67,44	-0,57	32	-3
36	United Kingdom	66,74	66,74	0,00	33	-3
37	Latvia	66,29	66,72	-0,43	44	7
38	Israel	65,12	66,59	-1,47	30	-8
39	Iceland	63,26	66,25	-2,99	35	-4
40	Peru	61,06	65,40	-4,34	36	-4
41	San Marino	61,06	64,03	-2,97	41	=
42	Bolivia	60,22	63,93	-3,71	48	6
43	Montenegro	60,21	63,62	-3,41	54	11
44	Poland	59,74	63,40	-3,66	51	7
45	Romania	59,64	63,23	-3,59	56	11

RELIGION INDICATORS	BIOETHICAL INDICATORS	DRUGS INDICATORS	SEXUALITY INDICATORS	GENDER INDICATORS	OVERALL MORAL FREEDOM CLASSIFICATION
19,37	12,38	4,20	15,25	17,00	HIGH
16,06	10,00	12,60	13,15	16,00	HIGH
16,64	2,50	13,80	15,25	19,20	HIGH
17,31	11,25	8,20	11,80	18,80	HIGH
13,61	6,25	13,00	17,00	17,20	HIGH
14,70	10,00	8,20	15,25	18,80	HIGH
15,52	12,00	7,60	12,95	18,80	HIGH
18,24	11,25	7,40	12,65	17,20	HIGH
18,39	11,25	10,40	15,25	11,00	HIGH
12,87	11,25	11,40	12,80	16,80	HIGH
13,61	12,50	8,60	9,75	18,80	HIGH
15,91	6,75	12,40	18,80	7,20	HIGH
17,31	11,25	5,40	13,90	13,20	HIGH
19,37	6,25	4,80	18,80	11,00	HIGH
17,46	11,25	7,40	13,90	10,20	HIGH
18,39	6,25	9,40	17,00	8,70	ACCEPTABLE
16,64	11,25	8,20	15,25	8,30	ACCEPTABLE



#	COUNTRY	2026 SCORE	2022 SCORE	VARIATION IN SCORE	2022 RANK	VARIATION IN RANK
46	Bosnia and Herzegovina	59,61	63,05	-3,44	49	3
47	Albania	59,14	62,37	-3,23	59	12
48	Georgia	59,14	62,06	-2,92	38	-10
49	Paraguay	58,97	60,43	-1,46	57	8
50	Thailand	58,80	59,23	-0,43	104	54
51	Monaco	58,40	58,81	-0,41	83	32
52	Slovakia	58,11	57,34	0,77	46	-6
53	Hungary	57,91	57,20	0,71	43	-10
54	Trinidad and Tobago	56,47	56,58	-0,11	60	6
55	Panama	56,25	55,53	0,72	55	=
56	Macedonia, North	56,16	55,20	0,96	39	-17
57	Cuba	56,06	55,10	0,96	102	45
58	Bulgaria	55,26	54,50	0,76	45	-13
59	Moldova	55,16	53,99	1,17	58	-1
60	Venezuela	54,26	53,94	0,32	101	41
61	Ukraine	54,12	53,72	0,40	69	8
62	Kyrgyzstan	52,50	53,63	-1,13	84	22

RELIGION INDICATORS	BIOETHICAL INDICATORS	DRUGS INDICATORS	SEXUALITY INDICATORS	GENDER INDICATORS	OVERALL MORAL FREEDOM CLASSIFICATION
18,01	11,25	5,40	17,75	7,20	ACCEPTABLE
16,99	11,25	10,20	13,90	6,80	ACCEPTABLE
14,34	15,00	12,00	11,40	6,40	ACCEPTABLE
17,07	3,75	13,20	17,75	7,20	ACCEPTABLE
8,35	16,25	5,60	12,20	16,40	ACCEPTABLE
18,55	6,25	6,40	17,00	10,20	ACCEPTABLE
17,81	10,00	5,40	17,00	7,90	ACCEPTABLE
17,46	7,50	5,40	17,75	9,80	ACCEPTABLE
19,37	6,25	10,40	13,25	7,20	ACCEPTABLE
18,20	6,25	5,40	18,80	7,60	ACCEPTABLE
17,46	11,25	5,40	15,25	6,80	ACCEPTABLE
11,66	14,25	3,80	8,85	17,50	ACCEPTABLE
17,11	10,00	9,80	10,45	7,90	ACCEPTABLE
17,46	12,50	13,00	5,00	7,20	ACCEPTABLE
14,66	3,75	12,60	15,25	8,00	ACCEPTABLE
15,52	15,00	11,00	5,00	7,60	ACCEPTABLE
10,45	15,00	5,40	15,25	6,40	ACCEPTABLE



#	COUNTRY	2026 SCORE	2022 SCORE	VARIATION IN SCORE	2022 RANK	VARIATION IN RANK
63	Andorra	52,41	53,03	-0,62	53	-10
64	Serbia	52,29	52,21	0,08	67	3
65	Cyprus	52,28	52,03	0,25	37	-28
66	Japan	51,99	51,54	0,45	62	-4
67	Guatemala	51,07	51,45	-0,38	81	14
68	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	50,52	51,43	-0,91	52	-16
69	Russia	49,98	51,12	-1,14	88	19
70	Mongolia	49,24	50,76	-1,52	70	=
71	Dominica	49,12	50,65	-1,53	114	43
72	Korea, South	49,02	50,62	-1,60	61	-11
73	Lithuania	48,99	50,30	-1,31	50	-23
74	Saint Lucia	48,27	49,40	-1,13	85	11
75	Guyana	48,22	49,27	-1,05	110	35
76	Suriname	47,82	48,94	-1,12	91	15
77	Tajikistan	47,53	48,63	-1,10	77	=
78	Mozambique	47,46	48,41	-0,95	65	-13
79	Ivory Coast	47,44	48,22	-0,78	87	8

RELIGION INDICATORS	BIOETHICAL INDICATORS	DRUGS INDICATORS	SEXUALITY INDICATORS	GENDER INDICATORS	OVERALL MORAL FREEDOM CLASSIFICATION
15,96	1,25	6,40	10,00	18,80	ACCEPTABLE
15,59	10,00	4,80	13,90	8,00	ACCEPTABLE
10,88	13,75	3,00	14,25	10,40	ACCEPTABLE
19,29	10,00	4,60	9,80	8,30	ACCEPTABLE
16,37	3,75	6,00	17,75	7,20	ACCEPTABLE
17,42	8,75	11,00	6,95	6,40	ACCEPTABLE
8,78	15,00	11,60	8,20	6,40	INSUFFICIENT
18,59	11,25	6,00	6,60	6,80	INSUFFICIENT
18,12	3,75	10,40	10,45	6,40	INSUFFICIENT
15,97	13,75	4,20	6,80	8,30	INSUFFICIENT
16,99	10,00	8,20	3,60	10,20	INSUFFICIENT
18,12	6,25	11,40	6,60	5,90	INSUFFICIENT
19,37	11,25	5,80	5,00	6,80	INSUFFICIENT
19,37	3,75	5,40	11,40	7,90	INSUFFICIENT
10,03	11,25	4,60	15,25	6,40	INSUFFICIENT
15,01	11,25	5,40	8,60	7,20	INSUFFICIENT
18,79	6,25	5,40	10,60	6,40	INSUFFICIENT



#	COUNTRY	2026 SCORE	2022 SCORE	VARIATION IN SCORE	2022 RANK	VARIATION IN RANK
80	Jamaica	47,39	47,90	-0,51	47	-33
81	Seychelles	46,56	47,82	-1,26	106	25
82	Solomon Islands	45,87	47,47	-1,60	95	13
83	Cambodia	45,63	47,35	-1,72	92	9
84	El Salvador	45,02	46,70	-1,68	109	25
85	Armenia	44,93	46,64	-1,71	76	-9
86	Tuvalu	44,70	46,64	-1,94	117	31
87	Mauritius	44,69	46,33	-1,64	112	25
88	Kazakhstan	44,53	45,65	-1,12	82	-6
89	Guinea-Bissau	44,44	45,47	-1,03	68	-21
90	Mali	44,18	45,20	-1,02	72	-18
91	Singapore	43,23	44,84	-1,61	66	-25
92	Belarus	43,15	44,80	-1,65	96	4
93	Nepal	43,12	44,63	-1,51	98	5
94	Honduras	42,57	44,60	-2,03	63	-31
95	Tonga	42,46	44,53	-2,07	94	-1
96	Botswana	41,77	44,12	-2,35	64	-32

RELIGION INDICATORS	BIOETHICAL INDICATORS	DRUGS INDICATORS	SEXUALITY INDICATORS	GENDER INDICATORS	OVERALL MORAL FREEDOM CLASSIFICATION
15,94	6,25	11,40	6,60	7,20	INSUFFICIENT
15,36	6,25	5,40	13,15	6,40	INSUFFICIENT
18,12	3,75	5,40	12,20	6,40	INSUFFICIENT
11,23	10,00	7,40	10,60	6,40	INSUFFICIENT
16,37	1,25	6,40	13,80	7,20	INSUFFICIENT
7,88	15,00	6,00	8,85	7,20	INSUFFICIENT
16,95	3,75	5,40	12,20	6,40	INSUFFICIENT
15,04	6,25	5,40	11,40	6,60	INSUFFICIENT
9,28	15,00	4,60	8,85	6,80	INSUFFICIENT
18,79	11,25	6,40	3,60	4,40	INSUFFICIENT
16,03	6,25	5,40	10,60	5,90	INSUFFICIENT
10,88	12,50	1,00	12,05	6,80	INSUFFICIENT
9,75	15,00	4,60	6,60	7,20	INSUFFICIENT
9,87	13,75	4,60	6,00	8,90	INSUFFICIENT
14,77	1,25	4,80	14,55	7,20	INSUFFICIENT
13,61	3,75	5,40	13,80	5,90	INSUFFICIENT
16,87	6,25	5,40	6,85	6,40	INSUFFICIENT



#	COUNTRY	2026 SCORE	2022 SCORE	VARIATION IN SCORE	2022 RANK	VARIATION IN RANK
97	Azerbaijan	41,52	43,95	-2,43	113	16
98	Bahamas, The	41,39	43,94	-2,55	99	1
99	Ghana	41,37	43,84	-2,47	71	-28
100	Madagascar	41,11	43,77	-2,66	80	-20
101	Dominican Republic	40,86	43,62	-2,76	118	17
102	India	40,82	43,55	-2,73	74	-28
103	Kenya	40,66	43,53	-2,87	75	-28
104	Angola	40,19	43,15	-2,96	90	-14
105	Vietnam	39,27	42,70	-3,43	119	14
106	Nicaragua	39,25	42,69	-3,44	103	-3
107	Haiti	39,18	42,61	-3,43	111	4
108	Guinea	39,11	42,26	-3,15	97	-11
109	Malawi	39,03	42,14	-3,11	93	-16
110	Senegal	38,82	42,01	-3,19	73	-37
111	Eswatini	38,53	41,12	-2,59	124	13
112	Uzbekistan	37,80	41,11	-3,31	122	10
113	Gambia, The	37,71	40,74	-3,03	100	-13

RELIGION INDICATORS	BIOETHICAL INDICATORS	DRUGS INDICATORS	SEXUALITY INDICATORS	GENDER INDICATORS	OVERALL MORAL FREEDOM CLASSIFICATION
8,67	11,25	5,40	9,80	6,40	INSUFFICIENT
15,09	6,25	4,80	8,85	6,40	INSUFFICIENT
16,72	6,25	5,40	6,60	6,40	INSUFFICIENT
15,71	1,25	6,40	11,35	6,40	INSUFFICIENT
16,06	3,75	5,40	8,45	7,20	INSUFFICIENT
8,12	11,25	6,60	6,85	8,00	INSUFFICIENT
14,66	6,25	5,40	8,45	5,90	INSUFFICIENT
13,84	6,25	5,40	7,50	7,20	INSUFFICIENT
8,82	16,25	3,80	3,60	6,80	LOW
10,15	1,25	5,40	15,25	7,20	LOW
13,88	3,75	5,40	9,95	6,20	LOW
14,31	6,25	5,40	6,75	6,40	LOW
15,13	3,75	5,40	8,85	5,90	LOW
14,92	3,75	5,40	8,85	5,90	LOW
13,38	6,25	5,40	7,80	5,70	LOW
9,75	11,25	4,60	5,00	7,20	LOW
14,66	6,25	5,40	5,00	6,40	LOW



#	COUNTRY	2026 SCORE	2022 SCORE	VARIATION IN SCORE	2022 RANK	VARIATION IN RANK
114	Laos	37,63	40,59	-2,96	107	-7
115	Turkey	37,47	39,48	-2,01	108	-7
116	China	36,77	39,25	-2,48	121	5
117	Papua New Guinea	35,21	39,01	-3,80	126	9
118	Liberia	34,34	38,77	-4,43	86	-32
119	Sri Lanka	34,21	38,31	-4,10	128	9
120	Cameroon	34,00	37,90	-3,90	120	=
121	Rwanda	33,93	37,85	-3,92	127	6
122	Zimbabwe	33,84	36,86	-3,02	116	-6
123	Central African Republic	33,50	36,73	-3,23	129	6
124	Philippines, The	32,97	36,27	-3,30	79	-45
125	Tunisia	32,88	35,75	-2,87	78	-47
126	Nigeria	31,98	35,75	-3,77	115	-11
127	Bangladesh	31,76	35,41	-3,65	130	3
128	Uganda	31,46	34,54	-3,08	134	6
129	Morocco	31,33	34,26	-2,93	135	6
130	Djibouti	31,13	33,50	-2,37	140	10

RELIGION INDICATORS	BIOETHICAL INDICATORS	DRUGS INDICATORS	SEXUALITY INDICATORS	GENDER INDICATORS	OVERALL MORAL FREEDOM CLASSIFICATION
7,53	8,75	6,60	8,35	6,40	LOW
6,37	10,00	6,40	7,90	6,80	LOW
6,37	12,50	6,60	4,50	6,80	LOW
14,66	3,75	5,40	5,00	6,40	LOW
13,29	6,25	5,40	3,00	6,40	LOW
9,01	3,75	3,80	10,45	7,20	LOW
12,95	6,25	5,40	5,00	4,40	LOW
10,38	8,75	5,40	3,00	6,40	LOW
13,29	6,25	5,40	3,00	5,90	LOW
9,10	6,25	5,40	6,85	5,90	LOW
13,72	1,25	3,60	6,60	7,80	LOW
8,23	11,25	5,40	1,60	6,40	LOW
10,88	3,75	4,60	6,85	5,90	LOW
7,76	3,75	6,60	7,25	6,40	LOW
12,01	6,25	5,40	1,40	6,40	LOW
6,48	6,25	8,20	5,60	4,80	LOW
10,88	6,25	5,40	4,60	4,00	LOW



#	COUNTRY	2026 SCORE	2022 SCORE	VARIATION IN SCORE	2022 RANK	VARIATION IN RANK
131	Algeria	30,70	33,26	-2,56	133	2
132	Lebanon	30,41	32,96	-2,55	89	-43
133	Ethiopia	29,50	32,65	-3,15	105	-28
134	Eritrea	29,27	32,47	-3,20	141	7
135	Turkmenistan	29,15	32,34	-3,19	139	4
136	Comoros	28,71	30,18	-1,47	123	-13
137	Equatorial Guinea	28,35	29,79	-1,44	131	-6
138	Myanmar	27,18	29,58	-2,40	136	-2
139	Egypt	26,83	27,11	-0,28	143	4
140	Syria	25,33	26,89	-1,56	148	8
141	Indonesia	25,25	26,73	-1,48	138	-3
142	Jordan	24,63	25,28	-0,65	137	-5
143	United Arab Emirates	24,35	22,57	1,78	158	15
144	Malaysia	23,88	22,54	1,34	132	-12
145	Korea, North	23,15	22,20	0,95	125	-20
146	Pakistan	22,18	21,55	0,63	144	-2
147	Qatar	21,68	20,47	1,21	146	-1

RELIGION INDICATORS	BIOETHICAL INDICATORS	DRUGS INDICATORS	SEXUALITY INDICATORS	GENDER INDICATORS	OVERALL MORAL FREEDOM CLASSIFICATION
5,90	6,25	3,80	8,85	5,90	LOW
11,46	3,75	5,40	3,00	6,80	LOW
5,00	6,25	4,60	6,85	6,80	LOW
7,42	6,25	4,60	4,60	6,40	LOW
4,65	10,00	4,60	5,00	4,90	LOW
7,31	6,25	5,40	6,75	3,00	LOW
7,30	8,75	5,40	3,00	3,90	LOW
5,43	3,75	6,60	5,00	6,40	LOW
5,23	5,00	6,60	4,60	5,40	LOW
5,23	3,75	6,60	6,75	3,00	LOW
6,40	5,00	3,80	5,25	4,80	LOW
7,88	6,25	4,20	3,00	3,30	LOW
6,05	7,50	3,80	1,60	5,40	LOW
5,23	5,00	1,00	8,85	3,80	LOW
6,30	5,00	3,80	3,75	4,30	LOW
4,18	5,00	7,40	1,60	4,00	LOW
5,93	6,25	3,80	3,20	2,50	LOW



#	COUNTRY	2026 SCORE	2022 SCORE	VARIATION IN SCORE	2022 RANK	VARIATION IN RANK
148	Oman	21,68	19,92	1,76	153	5
149	Sudan	21,33	19,78	1,55	155	6
150	Kuwait	21,17	18,88	2,29	152	2
151	Maldives	20,66	18,40	2,26	150	-1
152	Mauritania	20,66	17,98	2,68	142	-10
153	Iran	20,19	16,02	4,17	154	1
154	Bahrain	19,83	15,77	4,06	145	-9
155	Somalia	19,64	15,51	4,13	149	-6
156	Libya	19,60	14,79	4,81	151	-5
157	Iraq	18,47	14,18	4,29	147	-10
158	Yemen	16,54	12,86	3,68	159	1
159	Brunei	14,10	10,27	3,83	156	-3
160	Saudi Arabia	11,79	10,19	1,60	157	-3
161	Afghanistan	9,66	9,59	0,07	160	-1

Notes:
A. All decimals are expressed with a comma, not dot, separation.
B. Due to the inclusion of Taiwan in 2026, countries ranking below its position drop one place in their comparison with the 2022 edition (last column in the left side pages of this table).

RELIGION INDICATORS	BIOETHICAL INDICATORS	DRUGS INDICATORS	SEXUALITY INDICATORS	GENDER INDICATORS	OVERALL MORAL FREEDOM CLASSIFICATION
7,53	6,25	3,80	1,60	2,50	LOW
4,18	6,25	3,80	4,60	2,50	LOW
6,52	6,25	3,80	1,60	3,00	LOW
3,41	6,25	3,80	3,20	4,00	LOW
6,61	3,75	3,80	3,00	3,50	LOW
1,19	10,00	6,60	0,00	2,40	LOW
4,88	3,75	3,80	1,60	5,80	VERY LOW
3,99	3,75	5,40	3,00	3,50	VERY LOW
6,95	3,75	3,80	1,60	3,50	VERY LOW
4,42	3,75	3,80	1,60	4,90	VERY LOW
4,89	3,75	3,80	1,60	2,50	VERY LOW
4,75	3,75	1,00	1,60	3,00	VERY LOW
1,19	5,00	1,00	1,60	3,00	VERY LOW
0,96	2,50	4,60	1,60	0,00	LOWEST

C. Contrary to the 2022 edition, no country attains "highest" moral freedom as an unfortunate, general decrease has occurred all throughout the best performing parts of the world. As in the previous edition, only one country, Aghanistan, received the "lowest" moral freedom label.
D. Some of the most extreme increases or decreases in 2026 may be partly triggered by source or methodology improvements.



1. General methodology

The World Index of Moral Freedom (WIMF) 2026 measures the degree to which individuals are legally and materially free to make personal choices in morally charged matters and ethical conundrums without coercive interference by the state. The 2026 edition covers 161 countries (the same ones as in the four previous editions plus Taiwan) and consists of 17 indicators, grouped into five thematic areas: Beliefs, Bioethical, Drugs, Sexual and Gender.

Each of the five areas therefore carries exactly 20% of the final WIMF score. The indicators within each area are not equally weighted: greater weight is assigned to variables considered more central to the particular dimension of moral freedom, while narrower or complementary indicators receive a smaller weight. Most underlying indicators are expressed on a 0–100 scale, where 100 represents the greatest degree of freedom or permissiveness and 0 the greatest degree of legal or material restriction. Each indicator score is multiplied by its weighting coefficient to determine its contribution to the final WIMF score.

The methodology prioritises recent, internationally comparable sources wherever possible. A single high-quality international dataset is preferred when it provides adequate coverage and a sufficiently consistent definition. Secondary sources are normally used only to confirm recent legal changes, resolve ambiguous cases or distinguish between neighbouring scoring categories. The Index does not seek infinitesimal legal precision at the expense of comparability. Where a country's position cannot be established reliably without disproportionate

legal research, the relevant observation is left blank rather than estimated or inferred.

For a number of indicators involving federal or otherwise decentralised systems, the methodology uses the most permissive effective subnational regime. This convention is stated explicitly in the methodology of the indicators to which it applies.

2. Indicator-specific methodologies

AREA A: BELIEFS

A1 - Religious influence on the state. Weight coefficient: 0.0700 — maximum contribution: 7 WIMF points. This indicator aims to assess the extent to which a particular religion influences the state. For the 2026 edition, three components of the Pew Research Center Government Restrictions Index are reused and adapted: government deference to religious authorities, texts or doctrines on legal issues (Q20.5); government provision of funds or other resources to religious groups (Q20.3); and compulsory religious education in public schools (Q20.4). The original 2023 Pew results are rescaled and statistically transformed to the WIMF 0–100 framework without altering their relative proportions, with higher scores representing lower religious influence over state institutions. Following this quantitative calculation, materiality-check correctors derived from multiple comparative sources concerning the actual type of legal and institutional system in force are applied within a range of –10 to +20 points. These adjustments are intended to capture significant institutional realities that may not be fully reflected in the three underlying Pew variables.

A2 - Constitutional and legal protection of Religious freedom. Weight coefficient: 0.0700 — maximum contribution: 7 WIMF points. The Constitutional and Legal Protection of Religious Freedom indicator combines three independent measures: Pew Research Center GRI Q3 (2023), V-Dem's Freedom of Religion indicator (v2clrelig_ord, 2025), and Freedom House's Freedom in the World D2 score (2026 edition, assessing 2025). All source measures are converted to a common 0–100 scale, where 0 represents the weakest and 100 the strongest protection of religious freedom. Pew Q3's four ordered categories are scored 100, 66.67, 33.33 and 0, from best to worst, while the original 0–4 V-Dem and Freedom House scores are converted to 0, 25, 50, 75 and 100. The final country score is the arithmetic mean of all available components. Where one source is unavailable, the score is calculated as the mean of the remaining two. If only one source were available, that observation would exceptionally constitute the country score rather than imputing missing data.

Two-source averages were required for Andorra, Bahamas, The, Brunei, Dominica, Korea, North, Monaco, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Seychelles, Tonga and Tuvalu. No country required calculation from only one available source. Following this calculation, materiality-check correctors based on multiple sources concerning the actual legal and institutional system in force are applied within a range of –5 to +10 points.

A3 - Prisoners of conscience or religious harassment. Weight coefficient: 0.0350 — maximum contribution: 3.5 WIMF points. This indicator uses Pew Research Center Q19 as its principal source.

Pew was preferred to alternative sources because it provides a systematic and internationally comparable classification for a substantially larger number of countries. The most recent data used are for 2023. Pew's reported intervals are converted directly into the WIMF scale: 100 for no reported cases; 80 for 1–9; 60 for 10–200; 40 for 201–1,000; 20 for 1,001–9,999; and 0 for 10,000 or more. Higher scores therefore indicate a lower incidence of imprisonment, detention or comparable state harassment on grounds of conscience or religion.

A4 - Internet censorship for religious/moral reasons. Weight coefficient: 0.0250 — maximum contribution: 2.5 WIMF points. This indicator measures internet censorship motivated primarily by religious or moral restrictions, using the Pornography variable in the Comparitech Internet Censorship Map 2026 as the principal comparative source. Its purpose is not to measure general political internet censorship, but restrictions aimed specifically at sexually explicit material and comparable morality-based content. Countries receive 100 where no relevant restriction is identified, 50 where pornographic content is restricted but remains materially accessible, and 0 where it is formally banned or substantially blocked. Countries whose status cannot be established clearly from the comparative source are left blank rather than subjected to extensive country-specific research.

AREA B: BIOETHICAL

B1 - Surrogacy. Weight coefficient: 0.0500 — maximum contribution: 5 WIMF points. This indicator measures the legal



permissiveness of surrogacy arrangements, distinguishing commercial from altruistic surrogacy and taking into account the extent of legal restrictions. General international comparative sources, including current Wikipedia country tables, are used as the principal matrix and supplemented by recent comparative or legal sources where necessary. No systematic country-by-country investigation of primary legislation is undertaken. Scores are assigned as follows: 100 where commercial surrogacy is broadly permitted; 80 where commercial surrogacy is permitted subject to substantial restrictions; 60 where altruistic surrogacy is broadly permitted; 40 where altruistic surrogacy is permitted but subject to substantial restrictions; 20 where the practice is unregulated, legally uncertain or available only under exceptionally limited circumstances; and 0 where surrogacy is prohibited.

B2 - Euthanasia. Weight coefficient: 0.0250 — maximum contribution: 2.5 WIMF points. This indicator measures the legal availability of voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide. Active voluntary euthanasia is treated as the most permissive regime, followed by assisted suicide. Passive euthanasia, withdrawal of treatment and ordinary refusal of life-sustaining medical intervention are not counted for the purposes of this indicator. Scores are assigned as follows: 100 where voluntary euthanasia is broadly legal; 80 where euthanasia is legal but subject to substantial restrictions; 60 where assisted suicide is broadly legal; 40 where assisted suicide is legally available only under substantial restrictions; 20 for exceptional, transitional or legally incomplete frameworks; and 0 where neither voluntary euthanasia

nor assisted suicide is legally available. For federal systems, the most permissive effective subnational regime is used.

B3 - Abortion. Weight coefficient: 0.1250 — maximum contribution: 12.5 WIMF points. This indicator measures the legal freedom to obtain an abortion. The principal comparative source is the current international Wikipedia table, with the Center for Reproductive Rights and the WHO Global Abortion Policies Database used as secondary checks where necessary. Scores are assigned according to the ordinary legal grounds and gestational limits: 100 where abortion on request is available without an ordinary gestational limit or with a limit above 17 weeks; 80 where abortion on request is available between 7 and 17 weeks; 60 where abortion on request is limited to less than 7 weeks or abortion is permitted on broad socioeconomic grounds; 40 where abortion is available on substantive grounds such as health, rape or incest, or fetal impairment; 20 where it is essentially permitted only to save the pregnant woman's life; and 0 where abortion is totally prohibited. For federal systems, the most permissive effective subnational regime is used.

AREA C: DRUGS

C1 - Restriction of hard drugs. Weight coefficient: 0.0300 — maximum contribution: 3 WIMF points. This indicator measures the restrictiveness of laws governing the personal possession and use of drugs such as cocaine, heroin and other opioids, methamphetamine or amphetamines, and MDMA. Cannabis is excluded because it is measured separately. The

principal source is UNAIDS, using comparative data on whether possession of small quantities of drugs for personal use is criminalised. Harm Reduction International (HRI) is used specifically to identify jurisdictions retaining the death penalty for drug offences. Wikipedia or another general comparative source is used only as a quick tie-breaker where necessary to distinguish intermediate categories. Scores are assigned as follows: 100 where personal possession and use of small quantities are effectively unrestricted and no meaningful punitive sanction applies; 80 where possession is decriminalised but administrative sanctions, fines, referral or treatment requirements may apply; 60 for partial or practical decriminalisation or another sufficiently clear tolerance regime; 40 where possession remains criminalised but sanctions for personal possession are comparatively moderate; 20 where personal possession is severely criminalised and may entail substantial imprisonment or another particularly harsh penal regime; and 0 where the death penalty exists for drug offences.

C2 - Cannabis. Weight coefficient: 0.1400 — maximum contribution: 14 WIMF points. This indicator measures the legal freedom of adults to possess, use, cultivate and obtain cannabis for non-medical purposes. The principal comparative source is the current international Legality of cannabis table, with the UNODC World Drug Report 2026 used as the principal institutional cross-check and EUDA material used where necessary for straightforward European distinctions. Scores are assigned as follows: 100 where recreational cannabis is legal and adults have access to a lawful regulated commercial market; 80 where possession

and use are legal but lawful supply is substantially restricted, for example to home cultivation or non-profit associations; 60 where personal possession or use is decriminalised or subject to a clear tolerance regime; 40 where cannabis remains unlawful but small-scale personal possession normally attracts relatively minor sanctions, fines, diversion or clearly lenient enforcement; 20 where possession and use remain criminalised and may lead to imprisonment or substantial penalties; and 0 for exceptionally severe cannabis prohibition involving very long imprisonment, corporal or capital punishment, or a comparably harsh penal regime. Medical cannabis alone does not increase a country's score. For federal systems, the most permissive effective subnational regime is used.

C3 - Drug-related incarceration. Weight coefficient: 0.0300 — maximum contribution: 3 WIMF points. This indicator uses exclusively the UNODC/UN-CTS Prisons and Prisoners dataset in order to maximise international comparability and avoid combining heterogeneous national sources. For each country, the indicator uses the most recent year for which UNODC reports both Drug possession (ICCS 06011) and Drug trafficking (ICCS 06012). The two UNODC rates, already expressed per 100,000 population, are added together. No independent per-capita calculation or external population dataset is used. Scores are assigned as follows: 100 for 0–1 drug-related prisoners per 100,000 inhabitants; 80 for more than 1–5; 60 for more than 5–15; 40 for more than 15–30; 20 for more than 30–60; and 0 for more than 60. Higher scores therefore represent a lower incidence of imprisonment for drug-related offences.



AREA D: SEXUAL

D1 - Age of free sexual consent. Weight coefficient: 0.0500 — maximum contribution: 5 WIMF points. This indicator measures the ordinary legal age at which a person may consent to non-commercial sexual activity with an older person who is not in a position of trust or authority. The principal source is the current comparative Age of consent by country table on Wikipedia, supplemented only where necessary by regional tables or authoritative comparative material such as UNICEF, UNFPA or ICMEC. Close-in-age or “Romeo and Juliet” exceptions are disregarded, as are higher special thresholds applying only to teachers, guardians or other persons in positions of authority. Where different ordinary ages apply according to sex or sexual orientation, the lowest generally applicable age is used so that the indicator measures the age threshold itself rather than separately penalising unequal treatment. Scores are assigned as follows: 100 for an ordinary age of consent of 13 or below; 80 for 14; 60 for 15; 40 for 16; 20 for 17; and 0 for 18 or above. For federal systems, the most permissive effective subnational ordinary age is used.

D2 - Prostitution. Weight coefficient: 0.0700 — maximum contribution: 7 WIMF points. This indicator measures the legal permissiveness of consensual adult prostitution or sex work, taking into account the legality of selling sexual services, purchasing them and consensual third-party organisation, including brothels or other managed premises. The principal source is the NSWP Global Mapping of Sex Work Laws, which provides internationally comparable classifications of selling sex, buying sex and

third-party activity. UNAIDS Laws and Policies Analytics is used only as a secondary check, with current comparative sources such as Wikipedia used for quick resolution of straightforward or hybrid cases. Scores are assigned as follows: 100 for full or essentially full decriminalisation, where consensual adult selling, buying and third-party organisation are not specifically criminalised; 80 for legalised and regulated systems permitting selling, buying and organised premises subject to substantial special regulation or licensing; 60 where selling and buying sex are lawful but important associated activities such as brothel-keeping, procuring, third-party organisation or solicitation remain prohibited; 40 for Nordic/end-demand or equivalent asymmetric systems in which selling sex is lawful or decriminalised but purchasing it is criminalised; 20 where selling sex itself is prohibited or punishable but criminalisation is partial, asymmetric or comparatively limited; and 0 for comprehensive or exceptionally severe prohibitionist systems. Where legislation varies subnationally, the most permissive effective subnational regime is used. No systematic investigation of enforcement practice is undertaken; obvious and well-documented material tolerance is considered only where it clearly affects interpretation of the applicable regime.

D3 - Pornography. Weight coefficient: 0.0800 — maximum contribution: 8 WIMF points. This indicator measures the general legal and practical permissiveness of consensual adult pornography, including its production, possession, sale, distribution and commercial exhibition. It is not designed specifically as an internet-censorship indicator. The principal source is the current comparative Pornography laws by region material on Wikipedia.

Regional country pages are used for straightforward distinctions not captured by the global classification, while World Population Review 2026 is used only as a quick secondary legality check where comparative data are missing. Its separate internet-restriction measure is not used to score countries. Scores are assigned as follows: 100 where adult pornography is broadly legal to produce, possess, distribute, sell and commercially exhibit; 80 where it is generally legal but subject to substantial special censorship, classification, licensing or venue restrictions; 60 for partially legal regimes in which important forms or activities are prohibited while substantial lawful adult access or commerce remains; 40 where production, distribution or commercial exhibition is broadly prohibited but private possession or viewing remains lawful or clearly tolerated, or where prohibition is materially weakly enforced; 20 for broad criminal prohibition; and 0 for exceptionally severe prohibition involving very long imprisonment, forced-labour-type penalties, capital-punishment exposure or a comparably harsh regime. Ordinary age restrictions protecting minors, and prohibitions on child pornography, non-consensual material or other independently illegal content, do not reduce a country's score.

AREA E: GENDER

E1 - Women's freedom of movement. Weight coefficient: 0.0400 — maximum contribution: 4 WIMF points. This indicator measures women's legal personal and economic autonomy using the World Bank Women, Business and the Law 2026 (WBL 2026) Legal Frameworks dataset. Eight equally weighted binary variables are

used: whether a woman can choose where to live; travel abroad; obtain a passport; leave the marital home and travel domestically; sign a contract; register a business; open a bank account; and enjoy equal ownership and administrative rights over immovable property. Each unrestricted element receives one point and each sex-specific legal restriction zero points. The WIMF indicator score equals the number of unrestricted elements divided by eight and multiplied by 100, producing possible scores from 0 to 100 in increments of 12.5 points. A score of 100 therefore means that no sex-specific legal restriction is identified in any of the eight dimensions. Only WBL Legal Frameworks data are used. Supportive-policy and enforcement-perception scores are excluded in order to keep the indicator transparent and avoid mixing legal restrictions with broader gender-policy measures or subjective assessments.

E2 - Cohabitation. Weight coefficient: 0.0400 — maximum contribution: 4 WIMF points. This indicator measures both the freedom of unmarried adults to cohabit and the extent to which the law recognises a non-marital partnership as producing meaningful family rights. The principal comparative sources are current material on cohabitation and common-law marriage, supplemented by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) 2026 list of recognised non-traditional unions. For European cases, the EU's Your Europe material is used as a limited additional check. Scores are assigned as follows: 100 where cohabitation is fully lawful and de facto or common-law partners receive broad, essentially marriage-like legal recognition without a substantial constitutive registration or minimum-duration barrier; 80 where



cohabitation is lawful and a substantial legal framework exists but important rights require registration, declaration, a minimum period of cohabitation, judicial or notarial proof, or otherwise remain somewhat below marriage; 60 where cohabitation is lawful and receives some meaningful statutory protection but no broad marriage-like framework; 40 where cohabitation is lawful but partners receive little or no automatic legal recognition merely from living together; 20 where unmarried cohabitation or the underlying sexual relationship is legally restricted or criminalised under a comparatively limited, complaint-dependent or less severe regime; and 0 where sex or cohabitation outside marriage is subject to a serious prohibitionist regime with substantial criminal penalties. No systematic country-by-country investigation of succession, taxation, pensions, maintenance or property law is undertaken.

E3 - Same sex marriage + adoption. Weight coefficient: 0.1000 — maximum contribution: 10 WIMF points. This indicator combines two equally weighted dimensions of legal family freedom for same-sex couples: relationship recognition, accounting for 50% of the indicator score, and adoption rights, accounting for the remaining 50%. The principal legal reference is the ILGA World Database, using its global tables on same-sex marriage/civil unions and adoption by same-sex couples. Current Our World in Data / Equaldex comparative datasets are used as secondary tabular cross-checks. For the marriage component, countries receive 50 points for full same-sex marriage, 30 for a civil union or other substantial registered partnership, 15 for limited recognition such as recognition of foreign same-sex marriages, unregistered

partnership recognition or a comparably incomplete status, and 0 where same-sex couples receive no legal relationship recognition. For the adoption component, countries receive 50 points where same-sex couples can jointly adopt, 30 where only second-parent or stepchild adoption is available, 15 for genuinely partial or subnational couple-adoption rights, and 0 where couple-adoption rights are unavailable. Eligibility of an LGBT person to adopt solely as an individual is not counted as couple-adoption freedom. The two components are added to produce a single 0–100 indicator score. A score of 100 therefore means both full marriage equality and full joint-adoption rights. In federal systems, the most permissive effective subnational regime is used. Where comparative sources conflict, ILGA is treated as the controlling legal source.

E4 - Gender identity. Weight coefficient: 0.0200 — maximum contribution: 2 WIMF points. This indicator measures the legal ability of adults to obtain recognition of a gender different from that assigned at birth, with higher scores reflecting greater individual self-determination. The principal source is the ILGA World Database and its Legal Gender Recognition classification, which distinguishes self-identification, non-medical requirements, medical requirements, surgery or sterilisation requirements, and jurisdictions where legal recognition is not possible. The TGEU Trans Rights Index & Map 2026 is used only for limited checks of recent European and Central Asian changes. Wikipedia or another current legal source may be used only as a quick tie-breaker in genuinely unclear cases. Scores are assigned as follows: 100 for self-identification or self-determination without

medical or equivalent third-party approval; 80 where legal recognition is available without medical requirements but involves an additional administrative, judicial or evidentiary procedure; 60 for substantial non-medical legal or judicial gatekeeping; 40 where a medical diagnosis, psychological or psychiatric assessment, or another non-surgical medical requirement applies; 20 where surgery and/or sterilisation is required; and 0 where legal gender recognition is not possible. Where legal recognition varies subnationally, the most permissive effective subnational regime is used. The indicator does not separately reward non-binary gender markers, access to gender-affirming healthcare, protections for minors or anti-discrimination legislation.



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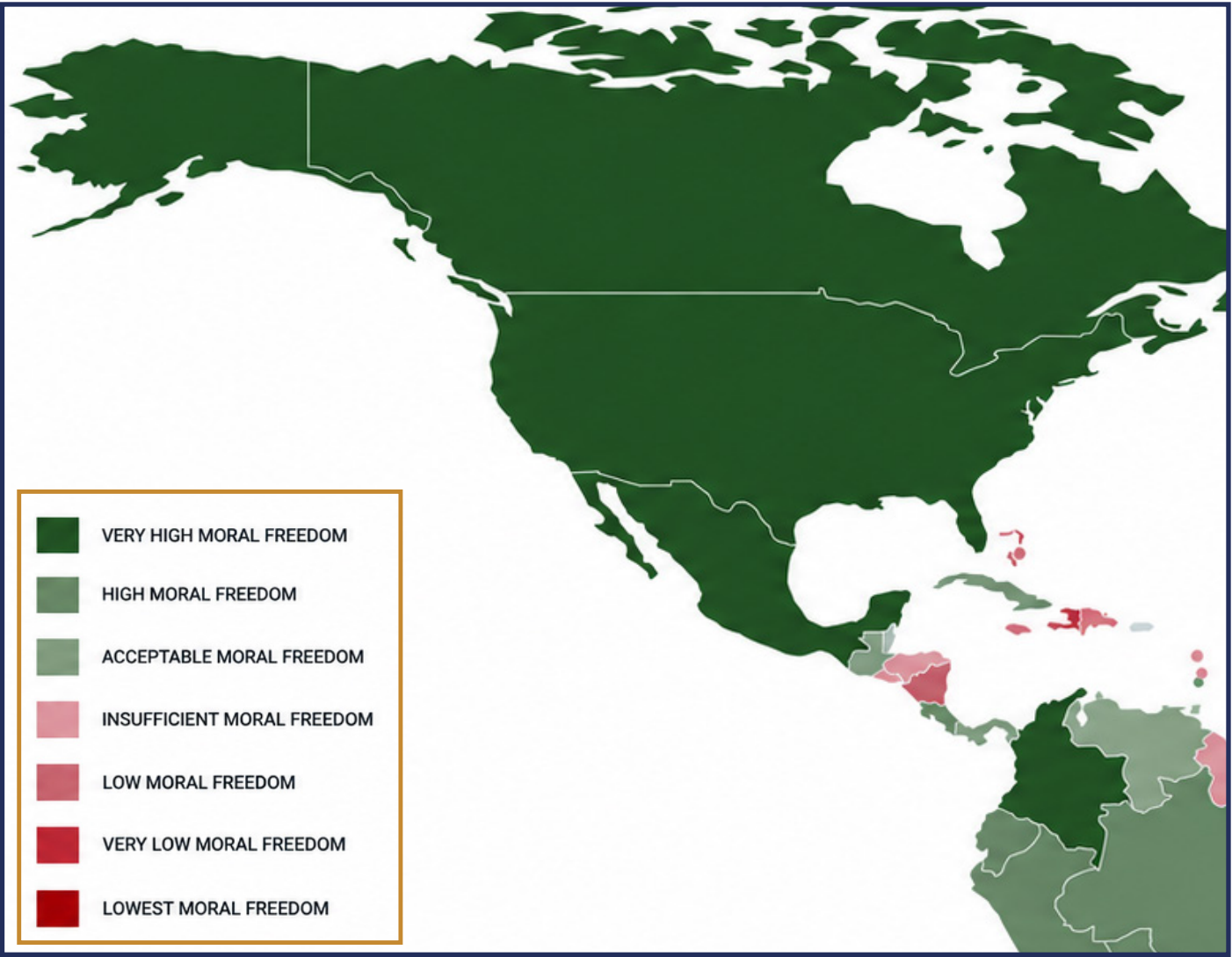
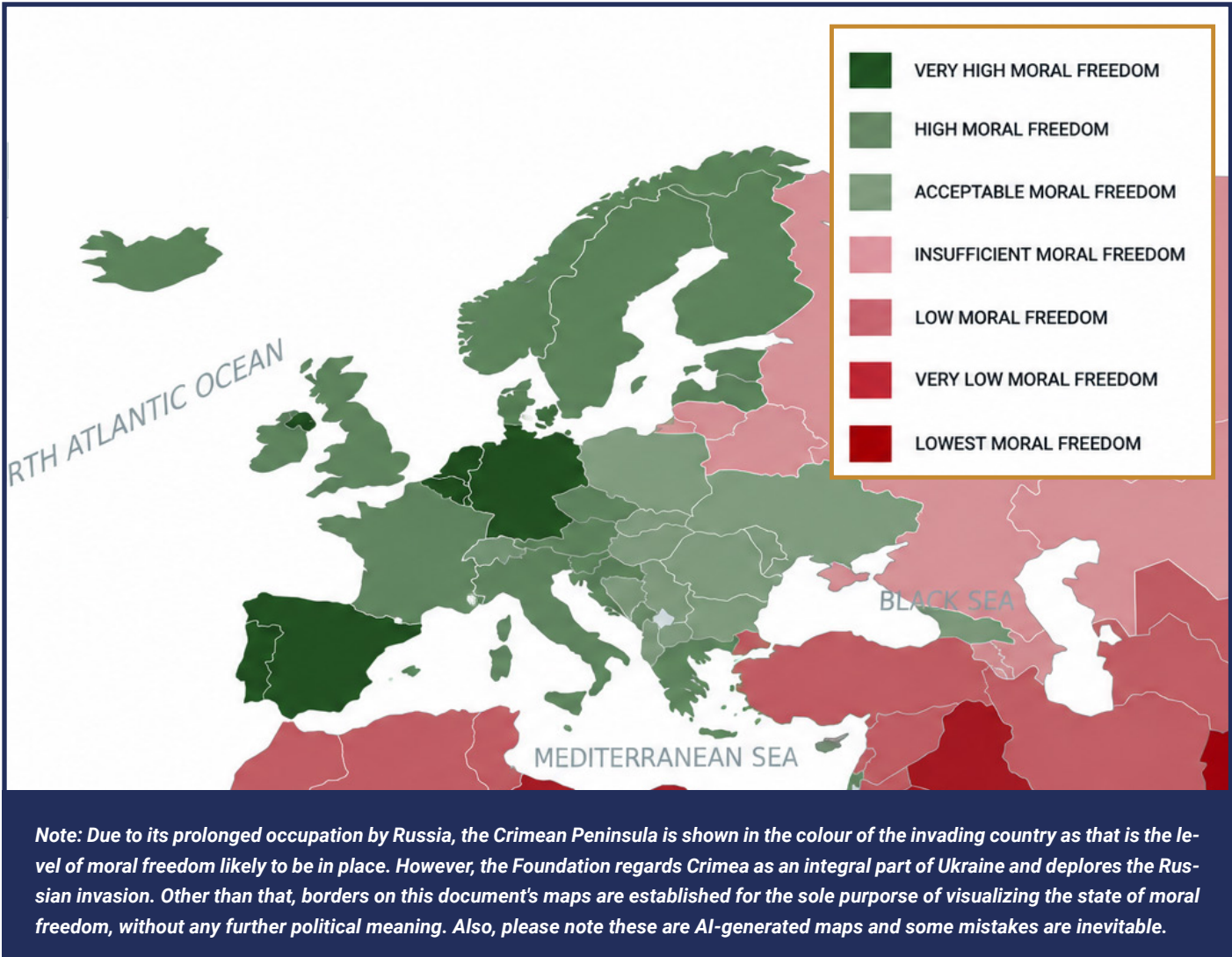
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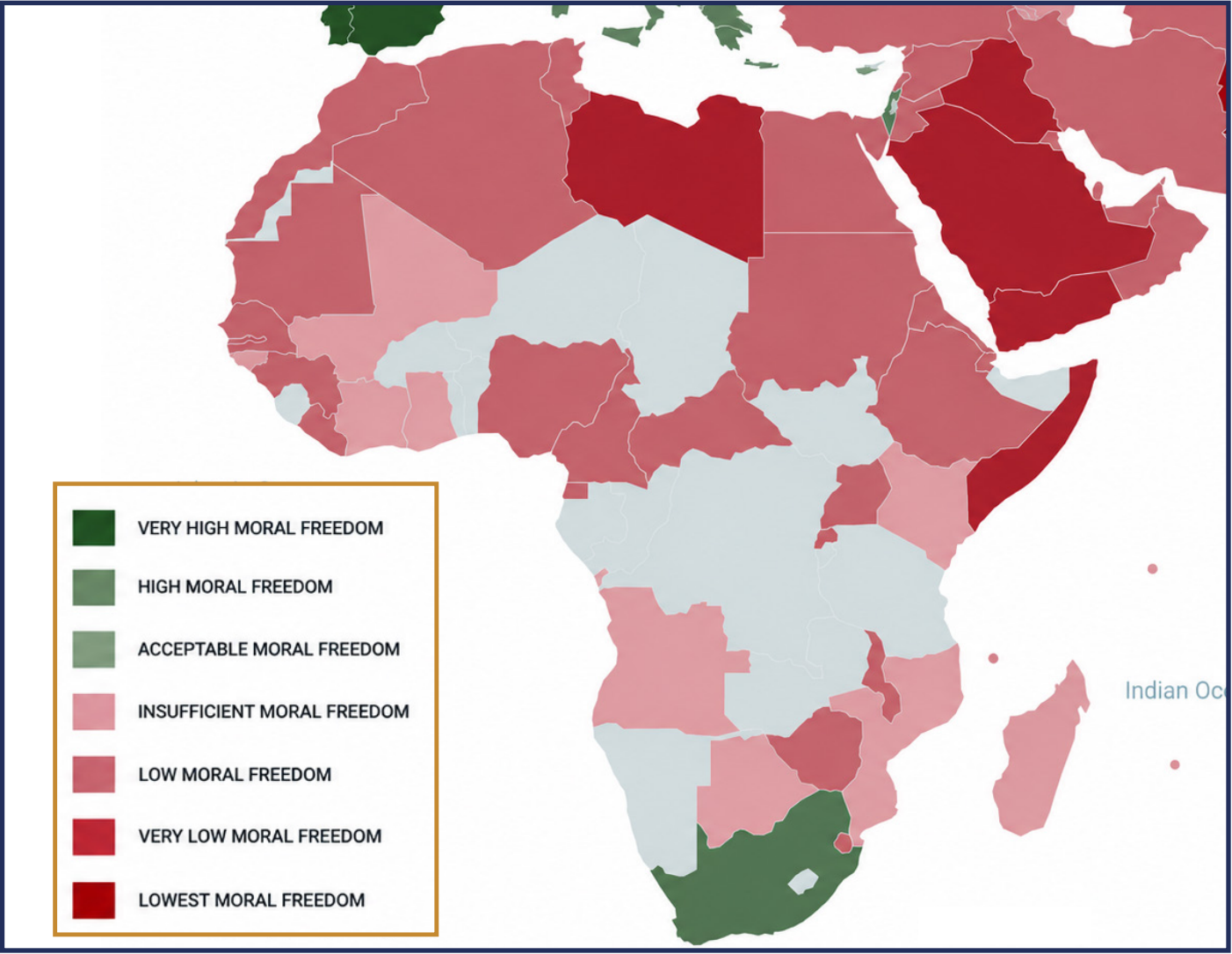
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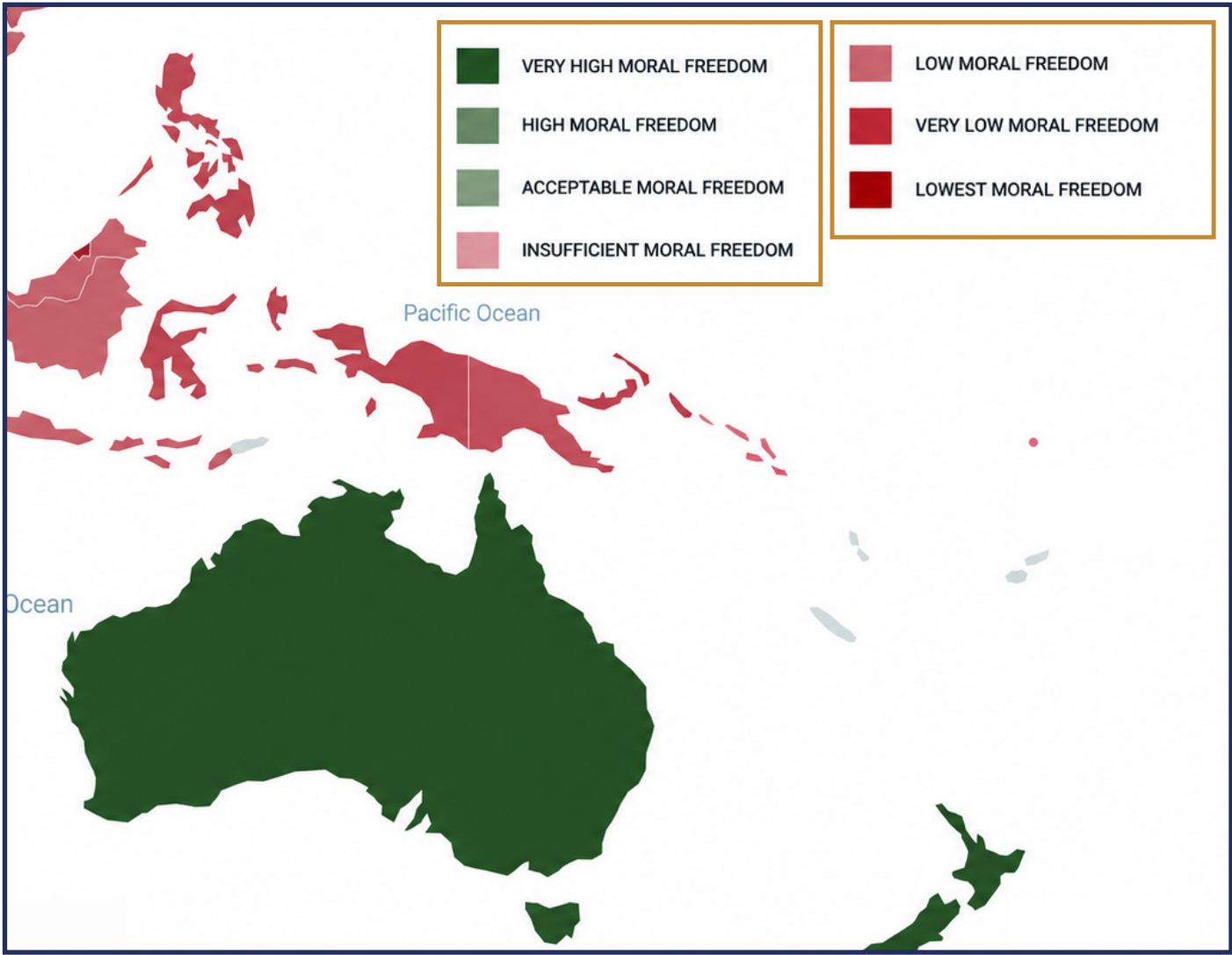
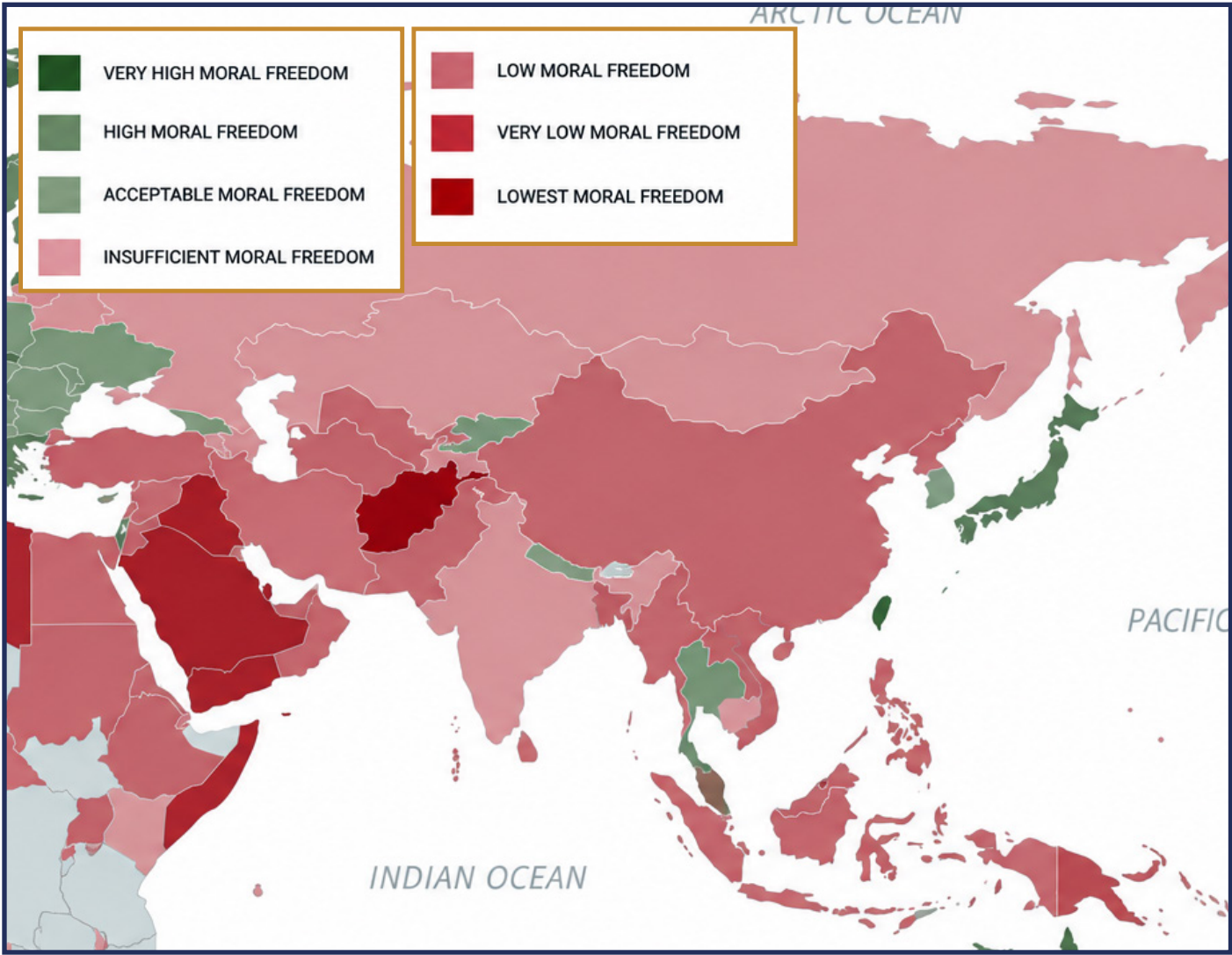
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URL: worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-where-porn-is-illegal
Indicators: D3



A glance at the maps







About the authors and the Foundation



Gloria ÁLVAREZ

Gloria Álvarez is a Guatemalan political scientist, author, lecturer, and media commentator known for her advocacy of individual liberty, free markets, limited government, and republican institutions. She studied at UFM and later pursued further studies at Georgetown University, KU Leuven in Belgium, and Sapienza University of Rome. She is the co-author of *El engaño populista*, and the author of *Cómo hablar con un progre* (2017) and *Cómo hablar con un conservador* (2019). Her most recent book, *Cómo defender la libertad y no suicidarte en el intento* (2025), addresses cyberbullying, freedom of expression, and the personal costs of participating in public debate in the digital age. Among her recognitions are the Hayek Lifetime Achievement Award, presented in Vienna in 2018, and her inclusion in Forbes Central America's 100 Most Powerful Women in 2023.



Juan PINA

A political scientist and Master in Institutional Communication, Juan Pina is the secretary-general of Spain's Foundation for the Advancement of Liberty, and leads its comparative research area, which produces several freedom indices. He has co-authored all four editions of WIMF since 2016. He directs the Foundation's *AVANCE* magazine, which is published monthly both onpaper and online. He's the author of several books on political science matters, and countless opinion articles in the media.



Victor VASILESCU

A political scientist with a Master's degree in International Relations and African Studies, he is a regular contributor to *AVANCE* magazine. Victor has appeared as a panellist on public affairs and debate programmes, and has written articles for the media. His areas of research include the consolidation of authoritarian and illiberal systems, disinformation on social media, and forced migration. He has represented the Foundation for the Advancement of Liberty at events focusing on migration studies.

Fundallib

Since 2015, the Foundation for the Advancement of Liberty, or Fundalib, is one of the key private think tanks and activism entities furthering the cause of freedom. It is based in Madrid, Spain.

Fundalib works both to boost personal (including moral) and economic freedom in society, as well as its liberal-democratic governance. To pursue these aims, Fundalib organizes events, conferences and campaigns, runs its own publishing imprint which has already published over 40 books, produces an extensive monthly opinion magazine on freedom (both onpaper and online), films audiovisual material including two awarded documentaries, and conducts its own research. The intellectual production emerging from Fundalib's research often comes in the form of indices that compare specific aspects of freedom, whether internationally or within Spain. The Foundation is keen on acting upon the ideas its research teams produce, and thus engages in permanent advocacy and lobbying efforts to further economic and personal freedom. Thus Fundalib does not limit itself to being a think tank and holds the "think & act" expression dear. Among other ways to promote its ideas in society, Fundalib is the national organiser for the International Economics Olympics. The Foundation conducts permanent activities to advocate for more individual freedom and less state coercion, and to inform politicians, entrepreneurs, media personalities and other stakeholders about its research findings and its policy reform positions. Over the years, Fundalib has received over ten international awards for its academic and advocacy projects on various fronts.

Fundalib's efforts are greatly helped by its donors and several grant institutions. Fundalib is a partner to all the key pro-liberty international networks including Atlas Network, Epicenter, the FNF, ELF as well as major national think tanks in specific countries. Help Fundalib help freedom by scanning one of the support QRs on this page, or visit www.fundalib.org



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World Index of Moral Freedom (WIMF) 2026

Is it you or the state? Who takes the moral decisions in your country? The World Index of Moral Freedom 2026 measures something that most international rankings overlook: the freedom of individuals to make their own choices on the most personal, controversial and ethically charged questions of human life. This fifth edition compares 161 countries through 17 indicators grouped into five areas: beliefs, bioethics, drugs, sexuality and gender. It does not attempt to decide what is moral or immoral but to assess how much room the law leaves for each person to decide.

And the answer in 2026 is increasingly troubling. Only 68 out of 161 countries now achieve at least an acceptable level of moral freedom, down from 72 in 2022 and 76 in 2020. In several parts of the world, progress has stalled or gone into reverse, while state coercion, religious or ideological interference, censorship and restrictions on private choice remain deeply entrenched. Yet the picture is not uniformly bleak. Reform continues, laws change and freedoms once considered politically impossible become established realities.

From religious liberty and censorship to abortion and euthanasia, from drug policy and sexual autonomy to cohabitation, same-sex families and gender identity, the WIMF offers a global map of who is trusted to make moral choices – the individual or the authorities. So, this is ultimately an index of intimate personal freedom. Explore the ranking. Compare countries and regions. See where moral freedom is advancing – and where it is being taken away.



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