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FREEDOM IN THE WORLD 2025

Myanmar

NOT FREE

7
/100

<u>Political Rights</u>	0 /40
<u>Civil Liberties</u>	7 /60

LAST YEAR'S SCORE & STATUS

8 /100 Not Free

A country or territory's Freedom in the World status depends on its aggregate Political Rights score, on a scale of 0–40, and its aggregate Civil Liberties score, on a scale of 0–60. See the methodology.



Overview

Military commanders seized control of Myanmar's government in February 2021, ending a period of power sharing between military and civilian leaders under a 2008 constitution that had been drafted by a previous junta. Since the coup, the military has violently suppressed peaceful civic dissent and battled a sizable armed resistance movement that has widespread popular support and includes militias associated with various ethnic minority groups. The National League for Democracy (NLD), which led the civilian government before the coup and won a sweeping victory in the November 2020 elections, serves as the political backbone of a self-declared National Unity Government (NUG). Armed resistance groups with ties to the NUG exercise partial or effective control over a growing swathe of territory outside major population centers. Millions of people remain displaced or have been newly displaced by the ongoing civil war, with many seeking refuge abroad.

Key Developments in 2024

- Officials led by Min Aung Hlaing—the armed forces commander in chief and head of the military government—extended the junta-imposed state of emergency for a further six months in July, effectively delaying elections until at least 2025. The junta also activated the 2010 People's Military Service Law and other conscription measures in February, initiating forced conscription efforts aimed primarily at young men and veterans. The campaign prompted many potential recruits to flee the country.
- The military employed an increasingly brutal range of tactics to quash resistance activities. By the end of the year, nearly 6,100 civilians were verified to have been killed, more than 28,000 had been arrested, and more than 9,900 had been sentenced by military authorities since the coup, including 171 death sentences. Key NLD leaders such as Aung San Suu Kyi remained in incommunicado detention as they served sentences stemming from politically motivated trials.
- In late November, the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court announced that his office would request an arrest warrant for Min Aung Hlaing, who was accused of crimes against humanity associated with the military's 2017 crackdown against the Rohingya ethnic minority group.
- Building on an offensive that began in October 2023, ethnic minority militias, also known as ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), weakened or broke the

military's effective control in several areas during 2024, particularly in the northeast and along Myanmar's borders. In December, a major ethnic rebel alliance announced a unilateral cease-fire and called for talks with the military after facing pressure from the Chinese government, which was reportedly concerned about the possible effects of further rebel advances.

- The resurgence of the Arakan Army (AA), an EAO based in Rakhine State, and its assumption of effective control in the northern part of the state were followed by an uptick in killings, arson, and shelling by the group against the Rohingya population. Meanwhile, the military forcibly recruited many Rohingya, and its clashes with the AA contributed to a scarcity of food and other basic supplies for civilian residents.

Political Rights

A. Electoral Process

A1 0-4 pts

Was the current head of government or other chief national authority elected through free and fair elections?

0 / 4

The political order created by the 2008 constitution, which divided power between the military and elected civilian leaders, was overturned by a February 2021 coup. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, head of the armed forces, seized control and established a military-dominated junta, the State Administration Council (SAC), to run the country, with himself as chairman. Later that year he also took the post of prime minister in an SAC-backed interim government, and he assumed the role of acting president in July 2024 after First Vice President Myint Swe went on medical leave.

President Win Myint and State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi, both civilians representing the NLD, were detained in the early hours of the coup. Myint Swe, the vice president originally nominated by the military, was quickly installed as acting president and then declared a state of emergency, formally handing power to Min Aung Hlaing and the armed forces. Win Myint and Aung San Suu Kyi have since been convicted on spurious charges ranging from incitement against the

military to violating pandemic restrictions. As of 2024, they and other leading political prisoners remained in detention with limited access to legal counsel or medical care.

A2 0-4 pts

Were the current national legislative representatives elected through free and fair elections?

0 / 4

Under the 2008 constitution, the bicameral Assembly of the Union consisted of the 440-seat lower House of Representatives and the 224-seat upper House of Nationalities. Representatives served five-year terms. A quarter of the seats in both houses—and in state and regional legislatures—were reserved for the military and filled through appointment by the head of the armed forces. The remainder were filled through direct elections in a first-past-the-post system, including a total of 29 ethnic affairs ministers who were elected to state and regional legislatures by members of their respective ethnic groups.

Though the 2020 legislative elections were recognized as credible, they featured significant flaws, including the exclusion of many Muslim candidates and the disenfranchisement of hundreds of thousands of people from the Rohingya ethnic minority; the cancellation by the Union Election Commission (UEC) of voting in conflict-affected districts; limited access of opposition parties to state-run media; and pandemic-related restrictions on in-person campaigning. The governing NLD won a convincing majority, but the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) refused to accept the results, alleging widespread fraud. In February 2021, hours before the new representatives were to convene and choose new executive officials, the military seized control, dissolved the parliament, and detained or placed under house arrest hundreds of elected representatives.

A3 0-4 pts

Are the electoral laws and framework fair, and are they implemented impartially by the relevant election management bodies?

0 / 4

Various features of the electoral framework undermined the democratic nature of recent elections before the 2021 coup. These included the military's role in

presidential nominations and appointments to both chambers of parliament, the UEC’s lack of independence, and rigid citizenship laws and excessive residency requirements that prevented large numbers of people from voting or standing for office.

After seizing power in February 2021, the military leadership justified its rejection of the 2020 elections by citing the USDP’s fraud allegations, flaws in electoral administration, and the NLD’s “failure” to address alleged voter-list discrepancies. The military regime also dissolved the UEC before reinstating it with all new members. In July 2024, the military government extended the state of emergency by six months for the sixth time since the coup, effectively delaying elections until at least 2025 and raising further doubts about its commitment to restoring electoral processes.

B. Political Pluralism and Participation

B1 0-4 pts

Do the people have the right to organize in different political parties or other competitive political groupings of their choice, and is the system free of undue obstacles to the rise and fall of these competing parties or groupings?	1 / 4
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The 2008 constitution contains a requirement that political parties be loyal to the state, which carries the potential for abuse, and other laws allow for the deregistration of political parties that accept support from foreign governments or religious bodies, or that are deemed to have abused religion for political purposes.

Party competition in the lead-up to the 2020 elections was robust, with 7,000 candidates from more than 90 parties participating. Since the 2021 coup, however, politicians who oppose the junta have been imprisoned, and their parties have faced mounting restrictions. A new law imposed by the military regime in 2023 compelled political parties to reregister within 60 days and forbade anyone convicted of a crime from joining a party, effectively disqualifying a number of

political leaders. When dozens of parties and groups, including the NLD, refused to comply, they were formally dissolved, though the measure had no practical effect in areas outside the military's control. In practice, only parties that align themselves with the military have been able to register with the UEC and operate legally in regime-held areas. More than 80 parties had been banned by the UEC as of 2024.

B2 0-4 pts

Is there a realistic opportunity for the opposition to increase its support or gain power through elections?

1 / 4

The military's constitutional prerogatives, as well as its close ties to the USDP, limited the degree to which any other force could secure control over the executive or the legislature through elections prior to the 2021 coup. However, the coup leaders may have acted in response to the NLD's capture of a convincing parliamentary majority in the November 2020 elections.

Min Aung Hlaing has repeatedly declared that new elections would be delayed until the country is "peaceful." Nevertheless, the NUG and its diverse armed supporters have continued to gain strength as an alternative power base, and they have pledged to establish a democratic and federal political system.

B3 0-4 pts

Are the people's political choices free from domination by forces that are external to the political sphere, or by political forces that employ extrapolitical means?

0 / 4

The military leadership maintained considerable power over political affairs even before the 2021 coup. Since then, the SAC junta has consistently used harsh tactics to suppress civilian opposition in areas under its control, including the arrest and sentencing of political leaders and protesters, excessive violence and mass killings, and custodial abuse. As of December 2024, an NLD Central Working Committee member reported that about 3,000 party members had been arrested, of whom at least 1,600 remained in detention. The military continues to wage war against armed resistance groups across the country, further reducing the space for peaceful political activity.

B4 0-4 pts

Do various segments of the population (including ethnic, racial, religious, gender, LGBT+, and other relevant groups) have full political rights and electoral opportunities?

1 / 4

Members of Myanmar's Buddhist and ethnic Bamar majority have long held most senior leadership positions, including in major national political parties, the pre-2021 civilian government, and the military. Members of ethnic and religious minority groups have historically faced restrictions on their political rights and electoral opportunities, including through discriminatory citizenship, residency, and party registration laws.

The 1982 Citizenship Law does not allow for anyone who entered the country or is descended from someone who entered the country after 1948 to become a full citizen with political rights. Naturalization of spouses is only allowed if the spouse holds a Foreigner's Registration Certificate from before the law's enactment. Most members of the mainly Muslim Rohingya ethnic group were rendered stateless by the 1982 Citizenship Law, which also dictates that only those who are descended from ethnic groups deemed to be native to the country prior to 1823 are considered full citizens. A 2015 presidential decree revoked the temporary identification cards that had allowed Rohingya to vote, and most of the 600,000 Rohingya then remaining in Myanmar were unable to vote in the 2020 elections.

Women have been underrepresented in the government and civil service, due largely to societal biases that discourage their political participation.

Notwithstanding the prominence of Aung San Suu Kyi, whose father led Myanmar's independence struggle, few women have achieved ministerial-level appointments.

The NUG and its affiliated body of legislators who were ousted by the coup, the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), have made a concerted effort to include members of Myanmar's various ethnic groups in their leadership structures and to address the goals and demands of these constituencies. They have also formed alliances with many of the country's EAOs in opposition to military rule.

C. Functioning of Government

C1 0-4 pts

Do the freely elected head of government and national legislative representatives determine the policies of the government?

0 / 4

In February 2021, the military prevented the newly elected parliament from convening or choosing a new government, detained President Win Myint and other civilian officials, and installed First Vice President Myint Swe of the USDP as acting president, allowing him to declare a state of emergency and hand power to the military chief under a provision in the 2008 constitution. The state of emergency was renewed for another six months in July 2024, and Myint Swe, citing medical leave, handed his powers as acting president to Min Aung Hlaing.

The SAC junta's takeover of the state has led to a breakdown in governance, including in areas such as education, health care, local administration, and tax collection. The successes of the armed resistance movement have also reduced the amount of territory under the military government's effective control. An updated report published in May 2024 by the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar, an independent group of international experts, estimated that the junta exercised full stable control in townships covering only 14 percent of the country's territory.

Since its establishment by the CRPH in April 2021, the NUG has operated as an alternate power structure, offering some public services in areas controlled by affiliated People's Defense Forces (PDFs) and cooperating EAOs, though some EAOs have provided their own quasi-governmental services for decades. Shortly after it was formed, the military leadership classified the NUG, the PDFs, and the CRPH as terrorist organizations. In a first effort at statewide governance, a coalition of anticoup groups in Kayah State, also known as Karenni State, set up an interim executive council in 2023.

C2 0-4 pts

Are safeguards against official corruption strong and effective?

1 / 4

Despite government initiatives aimed at curbing official corruption, including an Anti-Corruption Commission established in 2014, the problem remains rampant at both the national and local levels. Following the 2021 coup, the military brought multiple illegitimate corruption charges against civilian political leaders, and Aung San Suu Kyi was convicted on a range of charges in 2022, despite the dubious evidence presented against her. The Supreme Court in October 2023 declined to consider her appeals of six corruption convictions.

Privatization of state-owned companies and other economic reforms in recent years have allegedly benefited family members and associates of military and government officials. After the February 2021 coup, the children of high-ranking military leaders allegedly attempted to use their connections to secure lucrative supply contracts and other assets. However, in a broad crackdown, several senior military officials were convicted on corruption charges and sentenced to lengthy prison terms in late 2023, and a wider range of figures at military-aligned companies were believed to be under investigation for price fixing and other irregularities.

The ongoing civil conflict has reportedly expanded opportunities for petty corruption and extortion, with civilians forced to pay bribes to obtain crucial documents, move through checkpoints, and avoid conscription.

C3 0-4 pts

Does the government operate with openness and transparency?	0/4
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After the military took power in 2021, the already limited transparency mechanisms of the previous government were dismantled; oversight by civil society groups and the media has been completely suppressed under military rule, and access to information is severely restricted, partly through internet censorship.

The military has long controlled an extensive network of “crony companies” whose revenues enable it to avoid accountability and public oversight and engage in human rights violations with impunity.

Add Q

Is the government or occupying power deliberately changing the ethnic composition of a country or territory so as to destroy a culture or tip the political balance in favor of another group?

-4

The central authorities have for decades used violence, displacement, and other tactics to alter the demographics of states with ethnic unrest or insurgencies. The Rohingya in Rakhine State have faced particularly harsh restrictions, including limits on family size and the ability and right to marry, the denial of legal status and social services, and disenfranchisement and loss of citizenship. In 2017, repression against the Rohingya escalated; military operations across the northern part of the state led to reports of torture, rape, indiscriminate killings, and the burning of villages, worsening already dire humanitarian conditions and causing 740,000 Rohingya to join the 200,000 others living as refugees in Bangladesh. In November 2024, the ICC prosecutor requested an arrest warrant for Min Aung Hlaing in connection with these abuses, which human rights experts and the United Nations have identified as crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing. Many critics—including the US government in 2022—have argued that they constitute either genocide or a precursor to genocide. The February 2021 coup and its aftermath have limited international observers' access to Myanmar, frustrating efforts to document ongoing ethnicity-based violence and hold perpetrators accountable. A resurgence in fighting between junta forces and the AA, coupled with atrocities committed by both sides, further displaced at least 320,000 people in Rakhine State and southern Chin State between November 2023 and August 2024.

Civil Liberties

D. Freedom of Expression and Belief

D1 0-4 pts

Are there free and independent media?	1/4
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Following the coup, the military seized control of state-owned broadcast media, took private broadcasters off the air, and severely restricted internet access, including access to social media platforms and news outlets. While licenses for independent media organizations were rescinded, some outlets have continued to provide news coverage while operating in hiding or in exile.

Many journalists have been forced to flee military-controlled areas or face imprisonment. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 35 journalists were behind bars in Myanmar as of December 2024. Several have been sentenced to lengthy prison terms, including Shin Daewe, a documentary filmmaker who received a life sentence on trumped-up terrorism charges in January after being arrested in October 2023.

D2 0-4 pts

Are individuals free to practice and express their religious faith or nonbelief in public and private?	1/4
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The constitution provides for freedom of religion. It distinguishes Buddhism as the majority religion, but also recognizes Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and animism. The government occasionally interferes with religious assemblies and attempts to control the Buddhist clergy. Authorities discriminate against minority religious groups—particularly Muslims—in practice, refusing them permission to hold gatherings and restricting educational activities, proselytization, and construction and repair of houses of worship. Since the 2021 coup, the junta's forces have deliberately destroyed numerous religious buildings in areas with strong armed resistance.

Muslims face systematic discrimination in obtaining identity cards, and “Muslim-free” villages have been established with the complicity of the authorities, who have at times amplified hate speech. Ultranationalist Buddhist groups have urged boycotts against Muslim-run businesses and disseminated anti-Muslim propaganda.

D3 0-4 pts

Is there academic freedom, and is the educational system free from extensive political indoctrination?

0 / 4

Political activity on university campuses is restricted, and universities are not autonomous. Before the coup, student unions—which had historically been important advocates for human rights—were discouraged, had no formal registration mechanisms, and were viewed with suspicion by authorities. University students and staff played a key role in protests and strikes following the military takeover; in response, the military stormed dozens of universities, seizing control of the campuses and detaining or suspending thousands of students and faculty members. Student unions have since been unable to operate openly.

Below the university level, many schoolteachers joined the anticoup Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM). While some later returned to work in regime-administered schools out of necessity, others sought to teach children in areas outside of the junta's control, where a robust network of CDM schools has been established. The junta has sought to detain CDM faculty and crack down on unauthorized schools, enforcing a 2023 law that required private educational institutions at all levels to register or face closure.

D4 0-4 pts

Are individuals free to express their personal views on political or other sensitive topics without fear of surveillance or retribution?

1 / 4

Private discussion and personal expression—already constrained by state surveillance and laws inhibiting online speech—became more difficult and dangerous following the 2021 coup. The junta enacted sweeping revisions of existing legal code, removing key protections against arbitrary surveillance and banning the use of circumvention tools to evade online censorship and monitoring. Thousands of people have been arrested and prosecuted for speech-related offenses under the revised laws, or have been forced into hiding or exile to avoid arrest.

E. Associational and Organizational Rights

E1 0-4 pts

Is there freedom of assembly?

0/4

Unauthorized demonstrations are punishable with up to six months in prison under the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law; a variety of other vaguely defined violations can draw lesser penalties. Within a week of seizing power in 2021, the military banned all gatherings of more than five people, imposed a strict curfew, and began using lethal and indiscriminate force against peaceful protesters. Widespread internet restrictions also hindered the CDM's organization of protests. Military violence has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of protesters and the arrest of thousands more since the coup, but mass protests have become less common after years of sustained pressure.

E2 0-4 pts

Is there freedom for nongovernmental organizations, particularly those that are engaged in human rights– and governance-related work?

1/4

Many nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have effectively disbanded since the 2021 coup. NGO staff face arrest and prosecution, many prominent activists have been forced into hiding or exile, and registration and banking restrictions have increased. Despite these obstacles, several organizations and individuals—many of them operating at least partly from abroad—continue to document human rights abuses in the country and engage in international advocacy.

The 2022 Organization Registration Law tightened registration and operating requirements for NGOs and imposed severe penalties for violations, making it increasingly difficult for NGOs to engage even in development or humanitarian aid work. Military authorities have repeatedly warned that local and international aid groups are required to register with the government and obtain permits from the

townships in which they seek to operate; activists indicate that securing official approval is extremely difficult in practice.

E3 0-4 pts

Is there freedom for trade unions and similar professional or labor organizations?

1 / 4

Unions took on a leading role in organizing protests and strikes immediately following the 2021 coup. In response, military authorities declared most unions illegal, conducted violent raids and mass arrests targeting union members, and detained or threatened dozens of key labor leaders, causing many to flee. Thousands of civil servants and private-sector employees were fired for their participation in the CDM. As of 2024, independent unions remained effectively banned, forcing them to operate illegally or in exile, and many labor leaders were still in detention, in some cases serving lengthy prison sentences on trumped-up charges.

F. Rule of Law

F1 0-4 pts

Is there an independent judiciary?

0 / 4

The judiciary is not independent. Before the military coup, the courts generally adjudicated cases in accordance with the government's interests, particularly in major cases with political implications. Following the coup, the military forcibly took complete control of Myanmar's judicial system, which has since issued rulings in support of the SAC regime.

F2 0-4 pts

Does due process prevail in civil and criminal matters?

0 / 4

Since the 2021 coup, revisions to the criminal code and the imposition of a state of emergency have allowed the regime to disregard existing safeguards against

arbitrary arrest and detention. The junta empowered military tribunals to impose death sentences on civilians, and by the end of 2024, closed-door tribunals had sentenced more than 170 people to death. Defense lawyers who take on politically sensitive cases are also subject to arrest and abuse.

According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) at the end of 2024, a total of 28,051 individuals had been arrested for political reasons since the coup, including 21,479 who were still detained and more than 9,900 who were serving prison sentences.

F3 0-4 pts

Is there protection from the illegitimate use of physical force and freedom from war and insurgencies?

0 / 4

The civil conflict set off by the 2021 coup has exposed the civilian population to growing violence. Indiscriminate shelling and aerial attacks, the destruction of villages, extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, torture, rape, and other abuses by the military have escalated in intensity and brutality. Over the past two years, the military has reportedly turned to more deadly ordnance, including thermobaric bombs, cluster munitions, and chemical weapons.

Long-standing armed conflicts between ethnic rebel groups and the central government continued in 2024 in Shan, Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Kayah, and Rakhine States, but the EAOs based in these areas have increasingly cooperated with PDF groups even in ethnically Bamar areas, such as the Sagaing and Magway Regions. Since late 2023, they have captured numerous military outposts, airports, and important towns, particularly in the northeast of the country. Meanwhile, resistance forces in major urban centers continued to carry out guerrilla attacks against junta-related targets, including assassinations and small bombings. Antijunta groups, which operate with considerable autonomy in practice, have been credibly accused of committing extrajudicial executions and other human rights abuses.

Prisons in Myanmar are severely overcrowded, and conditions for inmates are extremely unsanitary, sometimes to the extent that they endanger the lives of inmates. Following the coup, the numbers of detainees rapidly increased; grave

abuses that had been prevalent during previous periods of military rule have been regularly reported.

F4 0-4 pts

Do laws, policies, and practices guarantee equal treatment of various segments of the population?

0 / 4

For decades, the military's worst human rights abuses have often targeted ethnic and religious minority populations. The government's failure to protect victims, conduct investigations, and punish perpetrators is well documented. The period since the 2021 coup has been characterized by further deterioration in the country's human rights situation and a lack of accountability for offenders.

Ethnic minority groups such as the Shan, Mon, Chin, Karen, and Kachin, as well as Rohingya and non-Rohingya Muslims, have also faced some societal discrimination, with the ethnic Bamar and Buddhist majority retaining a privileged position, though societal opposition to the coup has been accompanied by more positive views toward ethnic groups that play an important role in the resistance movement.

In addition to conflict-related violence, women are subject to discrimination in employment, against which there are no explicit legal protections. Several laws create a hostile environment for LGBT+ residents. Same-sex sexual activity is criminalized, and police reportedly harass, extort, and physically and sexually abuse LGBT+ people.

G. Personal Autonomy and Individual Rights

G1 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy freedom of movement, including the ability to change their place of residence, employment, or education?

0 / 4

Since the 2021 coup, movement has been increasingly restricted across the country. The military has erected roadblocks and checkpoints; enforced exit controls, curfews, and residency rules for private dwellings that require reporting overnight guests; and engaged in violent raids of neighborhoods and villages. A 2022 decree required a national registration card to travel internally or stay somewhere outside one's home, and an October 2023 directive obliged air passengers flying between the cities of Mandalay and Yangon to submit arrival and departure documents as well. In February 2024, the junta began enforcing a 2010 law and other measures that allowed forced military conscription, and in the subsequent months it imposed a series of new restrictions on young people's ability to leave the country, as the conscription drive prompted many to flee abroad.

The United Nations estimated that almost an additional one million people were displaced during 2024, bringing the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Myanmar to 3.5 million. Myanmar's large population of stateless residents are subject to significant restrictions on their movement, particularly the 600,000 Rohingya who remain in Rakhine State and are confined to designated camps and villages; those who attempt to travel outside these areas are regularly detained.

Score Change: The score declined from 1 to 0 because the junta's forced conscription policies exacerbated widespread displacement and were accompanied by new rules aimed at preventing potential conscripts from leaving the country.

G2 0-4 pts

Are individuals able to exercise the right to own property and establish private businesses without undue interference from state or nonstate actors?

1/4

Disputes over land-grabbing and business projects that violate human rights are common. Myanmar's property-transfer laws prohibit transfers to or from a foreigner except in certain state-approved cases of inheritance and require registration of foreign-owned property. Stateless residents, including the Rohingya, cannot legally buy or sell property or set up a business.

Instances of forced eviction and displacement, confiscation, lack of sufficient compensation, and direct violence against landholders by state security officials abound. Court cases are frequently brought against farmers for trespassing on land that was taken from them. The civil conflict since the 2021 coup has involved widespread destruction of property, including the leveling of entire villages, and the deployment of land mines by multiple armed groups has prevented productive activity on the affected land. The military has also engaged in seizures of property belonging to its perceived political opponents.

G3 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy personal social freedoms, including choice of marriage partner and size of family, protection from domestic violence, and control over appearance?

1 / 4

Legal restrictions require Buddhist women to submit an application to marry non-Buddhist men. Laws that might protect women from domestic abuse and rape are weak and poorly enforced, and such violence is an acute and persistent problem. The military has a record of using rape as a weapon of war against ethnic minority women, and security personnel typically enjoy impunity for sexual violence. Since the 2021 coup, numerous instances of sexual violence have been reported by detainees, and worsening poverty and insecurity in general have increased women's vulnerability to forced marriage, domestic violence, and sexual exploitation.

G4 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy equality of opportunity and freedom from economic exploitation?

0 / 4

Human trafficking, forced labor, child labor, and the recruitment of child soldiers are serious problems in Myanmar, and all have worsened since the 2021 coup, partly because IDPs are especially vulnerable to various forms of exploitation. Under the 2010 law and other measures on forced conscription that the junta began to implement in February 2024, about 25,000 people—mostly young men—were enlisted between April and September. Women were registered for potential conscription under the law, and authorities also abducted thousands of

Rohingya men and boys for military service despite their lack of recognized citizenship, according to Human Rights Watch. The International Labour Organization found that the enforcement of the conscription law was contributing to an increase in child labor. Child soldiers are enlisted by the military and EAOs. Armed groups and commercial interests continue to use forced labor despite a formal ban on the practice. Trafficking victims include women and girls subjected to forced sex work and domestic servitude, as well as women who are sold as brides to men in China. More recently, there have been increased reports of individuals being trafficked from neighboring countries into Myanmar to engage in sex work or forced labor in large cyber-scam operations run by criminal organizations.



On Myanmar

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Country Facts

Population

54,180,000

Global Freedom Score

7/100 **Not Free**

Internet Freedom Score

9/100 **Not Free**

Other Years

2024

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