

Freedom in the World 2025 - Ghana

Overview

Since 1992, Ghana has held competitive multiparty elections and undergone peaceful transfers of power between the two main political parties, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP). Although the country has a relatively strong record of upholding political rights and civil liberties, discrimination against women persists, and LGBT+ people face widespread discrimination, intimidation, and violence. There are some weaknesses in judicial independence, key governance institutions, and the application of the rule of law. Corruption and public service delivery present challenges to government performance. Politically motivated violence remains a concern.

Key Developments in 2024

- General elections in December resulted in a peaceful rotation of power, with the opposition NDC capturing both the presidency and a majority in the legislature. In the presidential race, former President John Mahama of the NDC took more than 56 percent of the vote, defeating incumbent Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia of the NPP, who took less than 42 percent; incumbent President Nana Akufo-Addo was term limited and could not run. The country's first woman vice president, Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang, was elected on the NDC's ticket.
- In the legislative elections, the NDC won 183 of 276 seats, the NPP took 88, and independents captured 4; the remaining seat had yet to be declared at year's end. While results were disputed in 12 constituencies, prompting electoral authorities to review vote tallies, both the parliamentary and presidential elections were generally described as free and fair by domestic and international observer groups. Some incidents of election-related violence were reported, resulting in at least six deaths, and cases of vote buying were also alleged.
- In February, Parliament passed legislation that would impose prison sentences of up to three years on people who identify as LGBT+ and up to five years on those who organize or finance LGBT+ advocacy groups; same-sex sexual conduct was already illegal. The Supreme Court dismissed legal challenges against the new measure in December, but the president had yet to sign it at year's end.
- In July, after years of deliberation, Parliament passed a law on affirmative action to achieve gender equity, and the president signed it in September. The law set targets for reaching gender balance in political posts, corporate leadership, and other sectors by 2030, and prescribed fines and jail terms for acts of gender discrimination in employment.
- The year featured a series of antigovernment protests and demonstrations on issues such as the cost of living, poor infrastructure, and the increasingly acute problem of illegal mining with links to transnational crime and corruption. While the protests were largely peaceful, some led to clashes with the police, gunshots, and arrests. In September, police arrested more than 50 people who had staged a three-day demonstration against illegal mining practices, and many were detained for about two weeks before being granted bail.

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For additional background information, see last year's [full report](#).

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?	4 /
	4

A2 0-4 pts

Were the current national legislative representatives elected through free and fair elections?	4 /
	4

A3 0-4 pts

Are the electoral laws and framework fair, and are they implemented impartially by the relevant election management bodies?	4 /
	4

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?	3 /
	4

B2 0-4 pts

Is there a realistic opportunity for the opposition to increase its support or gain power through elections?	4 /
	4

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?	3 /
	4

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?	3 / 4
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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?	4 / 4
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C2 0-4 pts

Are safeguards against official corruption strong and effective?	3 / 4
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C3 0-4 pts

Does the government operate with openness and transparency?	3 / 4
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Civil Liberties

D Freedom of Expression and Belief

D1 0-4 pts

Are there free and independent media?	3 / 4
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D2 0-4 pts

Are individuals free to practice and express their religious faith or nonbelief in public and private?	3 / 4
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D3 0-4 pts

Is there academic freedom, and is the educational system free from extensive political indoctrination?	4 / 4
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D4 0-4 pts

Are individuals free to express their personal views on political or other sensitive topics without fear of surveillance or retribution?	4 / 4
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E Associational and Organizational Rights

E1 0-4 pts

Is there freedom of assembly? 3 / 4

E2 0-4 pts

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

4 / 4

E3 0-4 pts

Is there freedom for trade unions and similar professional or labor organizations? 3 / 4

F Rule of Law

F1 0-4 pts

Is there an independent judiciary? 2 / 4

F2 0-4 pts

Does due process prevail in civil and criminal matters? 3 / 4

F3 0-4 pts

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

3 / 4

F4 0-4 pts

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

2 / 4

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?

3 / 4

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?

3 / 4

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?

3 / 4

G4 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy equality of opportunity and freedom from economic exploitation? | **2 / 4**