

STAY UP TO DATE: The Effects of the US Foreign Aid Freeze on Freedom House



FREEDOM IN THE WORLD 2025

Nepal

PARTLY FREE

62

/100

Political Rights	28 /40
Civil Liberties	34 /60

LAST YEAR'S SCORE & STATUS

62 /100 **Partly 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

Nepal's elections are competitive and credible, with parties and citizens largely committed to democratic processes. The country's anticorruption authority has been active in pursuing official misconduct, though corruption persists.

Journalists and civil society face some restrictions, while gender-based violence, underage marriage, and bonded labor remain problems.

Key Developments in 2024

- In May, Kantipur Media Group chair Kailash Sirohiya was arrested over allegations of holding multiple citizenships, which is prohibited by Nepalese law, and held for nine days. Kathmandu Post editor Biswas Baral told the US-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) that Sirohiya was not questioned or permitted an opportunity to produce valid documents. Local and international press freedom advocates expressed concern over the arrest, with a CPJ representative saying it “appears to be an effort to muzzle the critical reporting of Nepal’s largest media group.”
- There were several reported instances of Christians experiencing police or other harassment. In March, four Nepali and seven Australian Christians were detained by police in Terai on what local Christian leaders described as trumped-up allegations of engaging in forced conversions. The Australian nationals were held for three days and either asked to leave Nepal or were deported, according to media reports; the Nepalis were reportedly detained for three weeks and would face trial for proselytizing, which is legally prohibited.
- In April, hundreds of pro-monarchy Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) supporters protesting against corruption and the republic system clashed with police, who were reportedly trying to prevent them from entering restricted areas around government buildings. State authorities employed water cannons and beat protesters with bamboo batons, while some protesters threw stones at police. No major injuries were reported, but the events were seen as a departure from a norm of more peaceful assembly and less heavy-handed state responses.

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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?

3/4

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?

3/4

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?

2/4

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?

3/4

C2 0-4 pts

Are safeguards against official corruption strong and effective?

2/4

C3 0-4 pts

Does the government operate with openness and transparency?

1/4

Civil Liberties

D. Freedom of Expression and Belief

D1 0-4 pts

Are there free and independent media?

2/4

D2 0-4 pts

Are individuals free to practice and express their religious faith or nonbelief in public and private?

2/4

D3 0-4 pts

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

3/4

D4 0-4 pts

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

3/4

E. Associational and Organizational Rights

E1 0-4 pts

Is there freedom of assembly?

4/4

E2 0-4 pts

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

2/4

E3 0-4 pts

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

2/4

F. Rule of Law

F1 0-4 pts

Is there an independent judiciary?

3/4

F2 0-4 pts

Does due process prevail in civil and criminal matters?

1/4

F3 0-4 pts

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

2/4

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?

2 / 4

G3 0-4 pts

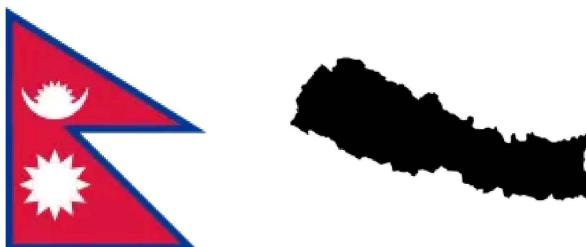
Do individuals enjoy personal social freedoms, including choice of marriage partner and size of family, protection from domestic violence, and control over appearance?

2 / 4

G4 0-4 pts

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

1 / 4



On Nepal

See all data, scores & information on this country or territory.

[See More >](#)

Country Facts

Population

30,550,000

Global Freedom Score

62 / 100 **Partly Free**

Other Years

2024

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ADDRESS

1850 M St. NW Floor 11
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 296-5101

GENERAL INQUIRIES

info@freedomhouse.org

PRESS & MEDIA

press@freedomhouse.org

@2025 FreedomHouse