# EXECUTIVE FINDINGS </>

The first chapter of The Rule of Law in Qatar: Key Findings from the General Population Poll 2024 presents a comprehensive profile of Qatar’s rule of law ecosystem. The scores and rankings for Qatar’s country profile were calculated as though Qatar was included in the 2024 WJP Rule of Law Index. However, Qatar has not officially been added to the Index as of the publication of this country report, so its country profile is not included in the published Index report from 2024. As such, the scores and rankings presented in this report, for Qatar and its regional peers, will differ from the data presented in the 2024 Index report.

With an overall score of 0.61, Qatar would rank 46th out of 143 countries worldwide if it was included in the 2024 WJP Rule of Law Index. Among countries in the Middle East and North Africa region, Qatar would rank 2nd out of ten, behind the United Arab Emirates in the top position. Kuwait would round out the region’s top three performers at 3/10, while Egypt (10/10), Iran (9/10), and Lebanon (8/10) would be MENA’s lowest-ranked countries.

Examining Qatar’s Index performance at the indicator-level, the country’s strengths lie in Factor 5: Order and Security and Factor 6: Regulatory Enforcement. Qatar performs particularly well in its absence of civil conflict and law enforcement efforts to effectively curtail crime. In addition, Qatar’s scores for Factor 7: Civil Justice and Factor 8: Criminal Justice indicate a strong performance from the justice system’s anti-corruption mechanisms. In terms of weaknesses, Qatar’s lowest-scoring factors include Factor 3: Open Government and Factor 4: Fundamental Rights. While these challenges align with regional trends, Qatar underperforms MENA peer countries in such as areas as the right to life and security and the freedoms of expression and of association. Discrimination also persists in both civil and criminal courts.

This report’s second chapter examines Qatar’s performance across an array of critical rule of law themes, providing comprehensive insights into the functioning of the country’s institutions. To capture the breadth of topics included under the rule of law umbrella, this chapter separates its analysis into three thematic sections: Trust and Corruption, the Justice System, and Fundamental Rights and Discrimination.

1. Trust and Corruption: This section provides insights into the generally high levels of confidence members of the public hold for actors across Qatar’s various institutions. The majority of respondents are optimistic about the absence of corruption among government and judicial officials.

2. The Justice System: The second section in this chapter presents public perceptions of the criminal justice system and police performance. While most respondents feel positively about these institutions, some doubt whether services are equal across all geographic locations. Moreover, some report concerns about the police’s negative bias against certain demographic groups, including sexual orientation and citizenship status.

3. Fundamental Rights and Discrimination: The final section of this chapter provides an overview of the public’s opinions regarding the enjoyment of certain fundamental rights in Qatar, as well as individuals’ experiences with discrimination. Opinions vary when it comes to different categories of rights – for example, respondents are more optimistic about electoral freedoms but more pessimistic about freedom of expression.

Taken together, the findings presented in these three sections highlight a largely positive relationship between Qatari institutions and the people they serve. However, reforms may be necessary to ensure Qatar provides equitable access to justice for all, and to address discrimination against certain segments of the population.

This report concludes with a description of the methodological framework that the WJP employs in its production of the WJP Rule of Law Index. This output-oriented methodology, which relies on primary data collected through household surveys and expert questionnaires, combines public perceptions with insights from in-country legal practitioners and academics to ensure a comprehensive and comparable analysis of a country’s rule of law systems as experienced in practice. This chapter also outlines the WJP’s data validation measures, including cross-referencing with external data sources and various statistical tests that ensure the robustness of the data presented in the Index.

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