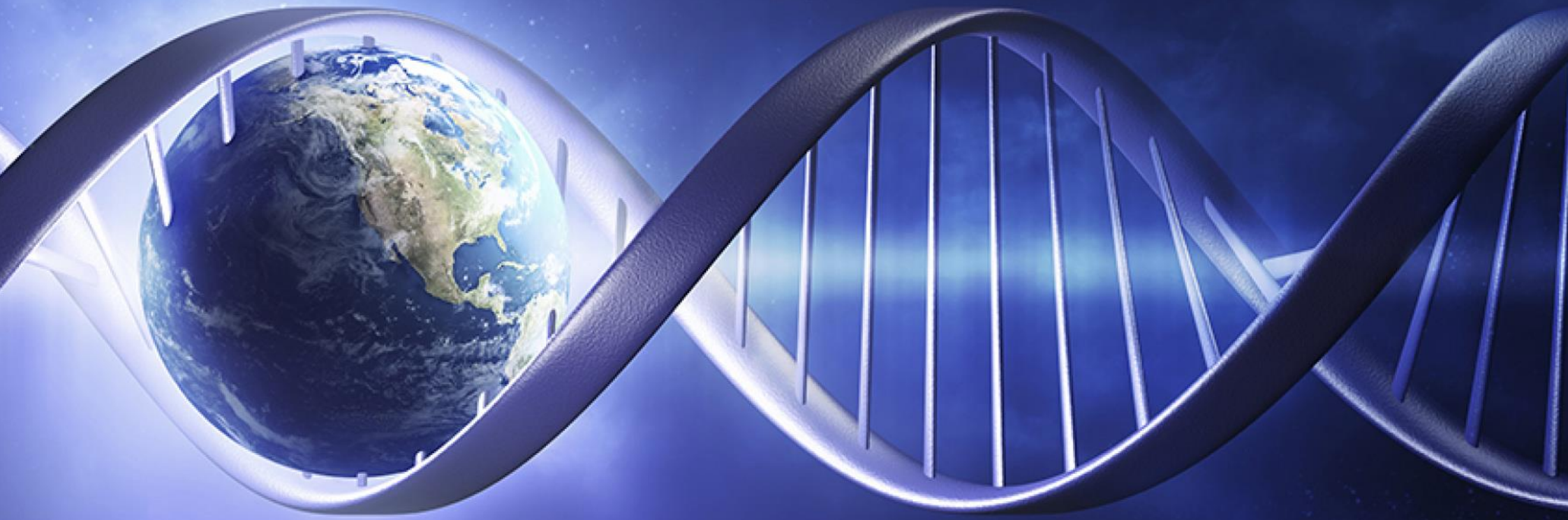


World Index of Moral Freedom 2018



Juan Pina & Emma Watson



**You or the state? Who takes the
moral decisions in your country?**



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**“There can be no truly moral
choice unless that choice is
made in freedom”**

Murray Rothbard

Foreword



Two years ago, our Foundation was very young and a newcomer to the international scene of pro-Liberty think tanks. As a deeply Libertarian organisation, we admired and praised the efforts that other think tanks have sustained over the years to capture the state of economic freedom, and we continue to do so. One of our concerns was to measure, compare and promote freedom in other areas, especially the ones that might have been neglected in the past. Conducting these similar studies on other aspects of freedom allows scholars, journalists and the public to complete the picture and work on correlations. We are nowadays proud to also run a deep and rigorous World Electoral Freedom Index (WEFI), but the first tool we produced was this World Index of Moral Freedom (WIMF), which appeared in April, 2016.

Back then, the first edition of this Index —then led by Andreas Kohl and Juan Pina— was well received by the Libertarian community, as well as by the mass media in several countries, and by many grassroots organizations in civil society. At the same time, it also met a surprisingly acrimonious reception by the more socially conservative leaning elements, even within the freedom movement. It needs to be stressed that our Index does not aim at promoting a particular conduct by the individuals on any of the matters reported. It takes the main moral issues of our time and analyzes who decides on them, country by country: whether it is the individuals, by exerting their free will, or the state by imposing rules and codes of moral conduct onto the population. I am glad to present this second edition, and thus to start the series allowing to watch each country's evolution.

Roxana Nicula,
Chair, Foundation for the Advancement of Liberty

Index, Indicators and Methodology

Is your country free in terms of individual moral decisions, or are these constrained by state intervention, whether derived from ideology, religion or traditional culture? In other words, to what extent is there a moral bias in your country's laws and its government's practice that reduces the scope of individual liberty? If freedom is rightly described as absence of coercion, *moral freedom* may equally be defined as absence of *moral coercion*. Strong social engineering may dramatically distort the spontaneous evolution of a society, as we see both in countries where a particular religion dominates the state and in those where all of them are forbidden. Fighting state moral interference is not about being right wing or left wing, Christian or Muslim, religious or atheist. It is about stopping government from taking our moral decisions for us. If it does, what would deter it from also taking any other types of decisions, including the economic ones? This Index benchmarks each country against the rest of the world and provides facts and figures shedding light on the situation in 160 sovereign states. Therefore, we believe the index to provide a rather accurate picture of moral freedom in the current world. In this second edition, we present the main rank and score data for the previous one, in order to highlight changes.

Indicators

The index is built on the most relevant moral debates of our time, and it works by measuring the degree of individual freedom enjoyed by the citizens of each country when confronted with those issues. **The purpose is not to endorse a particular position on any of those debates**, but to show whether tight rules are imposed or decisions are freely taken according to each person's particular beliefs and ideas, be they coincident or not with those of the majority or the state elite. This remark is important as some of the debates are controversial and tend to provoke heated discussions. We do not establish how "moral" or "immoral" a country's laws or government are, but how much they force their citizens to act in line with an officially sanctioned set of values –or to refrain from acting in line with particular sets of values not endorsed by the country's authorities.

Categories and Methodology

The index is divided into five categories of indicators, each of them worth 20% of the final score:

- a) *Religious indicators*. How free is the practice of any religion or none, and how religious-controlled is the state.
- b) *Bioethical indicators*. How free is individual decision making on matters posing bioethical questions.

- c) *Drugs indicators*. How free is the production, trade and consumption of substances deemed harmful.
- d) *Sexuality indicators*. How free are sexual intercourse, pornography and sex services among consenting adults.
- e) *Gender & family indicators*. How free are women, LGBTI individuals and unmarried couples living together.

Each category is made up of various indicators (normally one or two leading indicators adjusted by one or two lesser weighted ones), the weight of which is set in view of their inferred relevance towards the category's overall score as further detailed below. Countries have been classified towards each category according to the information available in the sources reviewed. All category results and the general index itself are presented in a 0-100 point scale. All original data considered and recombined in our research are chosen among rigorous and reputable sources. Where necessary, their values have been converted to our scale, or values have been attributed to the existing categories or intervals.

Religious Indicators

In this category we try to measure how free is the state from any religion, and, on the other hand, how free is the individual to practice any religion, or none. Roughly half of the points go to each of these matters. 37,5% of the weight is allocated to the amount of religious influence onto the state, including its formal institutional status and governmental practice. In addition to this, another 10% is assigned to moral censorship of online content. Likewise, 37,5% is allocated to religious freedom, mostly based on constitutional and legal provisions and adjusted to reflect breaches. 15% is given to the indicator reflecting religion-related Human Rights, also taking into account the incarceration of prisoners of conscience in each country.

Bioethical Indicators

All bioethical issues are at the frontline whenever moral freedom is discussed. One particularly important –and highly controversial– issue is abortion. Whatever the views anyone may have on this practice, this indicator is broadly perceived by both the pro-life and pro-choice sectors as revealing a country's broader policy on moral decisions. A certain abortion policy normally indicates a general approach to other bioethical issues and to the general role the state plays in shaping or guarding certain moral values in society. For this reason, and counting on abundant and accurate information, the legal status of abortion has been used as the main indicator and allocated 62,5% of this category, while euthanasia (where laws tend to be more similar around the world) weighs 12,5%. Another 25% is given to a combination of all other main bioethical freedom indicators: general biogenetic policy, rules on stem cell research, restrictions on therapeutical cloning, and constraints on surrogacy (the practice of hiring a woman to bear the child of a sterile or LGBT couple, with or without an economic compensation). The authors feel the need to stress that nothing in this category may be construed as support or rejection for any particular individual conduct.

Drugs Indicators

Cannabis is rapidly moving from social tolerance to legal acknowledgement. Just like abortion, policy on this particular substance strongly characterizes a country's choice for either an individual or a collective approach to moral issues. Therefore, 70% of this category goes to this leading indicator, but this is adjusted with the general policy on all drugs and with the actual amount of drug-related inmates in the country's prisons (which provides information on how strictly drugs laws are enforced). Each of these further indicators account for 15% of the total score in this category.

Sexuality Indicators

As the sexual revolution goes global, the amount of government interference provide useful information on a country's individual freedom on moral decisions. In this category, indicator weights are more distributed: 40% is allocated to the free consumption of pornographic content, as censorship still plays a significant role in many countries. 35% is reserved to the legal status of prostitution, and 25% to the legal age of sexual consent.

Gender & Family Indicators

In traditional societies still suffering from strong state control over morality, women are particularly victimized. Their freedom from government interference in their activities and movement is thus a valid indicator of a country's evolution regarding moral freedom. Therefore, 25% of this category's weight accounts for women's freedom, particularly focusing on their freedom of movement compared to that of the general population. Cohabitation of unmarried couples is worth another 25%. Because of its novelty, the status of same sex marriage is particularly relevant to figure out the general amount of moral freedom in a society. This leading indicator accounts for 40% of the points in this category. Finally, 10% is given to the status of transgender individuals in each country.

Classification of Countries

The following classification has been applied in view of the countries' performance:

<i>90-100 points</i>	–	<i>Highest moral freedom</i>
<i>80-90 points</i>	–	<i>Very high moral freedom</i>
<i>60-80 points</i>	–	<i>High moral freedom</i>

<i>50-60 points</i>	–	<i>Acceptable moral freedom</i>
<i>40-50 points</i>	–	<i>Insufficient moral freedom</i>
<i>20-40 points</i>	–	<i>Low moral freedom</i>
<i>10-20 points</i>	–	<i>Very low moral freedom</i>
<i>0-10 points</i>	–	<i>Lowest moral freedom</i>

The Second Edition

So that proper comparison can be made with the 2016 data, the same indicators and weights have been kept. The research work towards this second edition has either reintroduced all data for full indicators, where available, or reassigned particular country data on specific indicators to reflect changes occurred since May 1st, 2016. The 2018 research concluded on June 26th.

2018: The Second Edition Findings

1. Moral freedom has experienced moderate global advance since 2016

The state of moral freedom has improved globally, with less than ten countries having seen a significant regress (over one point in our 0-100 scale). While the Netherlands continue to be the only country scoring over ninety points and thus attaining “highest moral freedom”, the next label (“very high moral freedom”) has grown from three to nine countries. The amount of countries with “high”, “very high” or “highest” moral freedom has increased by five. All in all, countries passing the fifty point threshold are roughly as many as in 2016, while the levels within the morally unfree world are basically unchanged.

Contrary to the previous edition, none of the countries analyzed has fallen into the “lowest” moral freedom area by scoring less than ten points out of the one hundred available. Still, it is regrettable that almost a hundred countries around the world continue to receive “insufficient” or lower marks in moral freedom.

Progress has been particularly intense in the Western world, including Latin America. Out of the thirty-seven countries now having “high” moral freedom or better, twenty-four are North American or European, and this includes a few countries that used to be part of the socialist bloc or the Soviet Union itself. Nine of these thirty-seven countries are Latin American.

2. The Latin American surprise goes on

While the high score of Latin American countries came as a surprise in 2016, it has been confirmed in 2018. In fact, many of the region’s countries have improved their scores. Half of Latin America’s countries attain “high” or better moral freedom, four of them make it to the top fifteen in the world and only two tiny Central American countries (El Salvador and Nicaragua) are still placed in the “low” moral freedom area. We conclude that there’s a noticeable trend towards more moral freedom in the Spanish and Portuguese speaking world, which is probably helped to some extent by the excellent performance of Spain and Portugal, and by the region’s fast increasing cultural alignment with North America and Europe.

Within Latin America, the most remarkable improvements are observed in Mexico, Argentina and Colombia. The Aztec country scores almost six points more than in the previous edition and advances from the 10th to the 8th position. Mexico also surpasses the eighty point threshold to be labeled a “very high moral freedom” country. Mexico has just legalized the medical use of cannabis, and as many as seven further Mexican states have made same sex marriage legal, thus making this the norm in virtually the whole country. Argentina has advanced ten positions in the ranking as it now scores 6.63 points more than in 2016, mainly due to the legalization of pregnancy termination before the fourteenth week, in June of 2018.

In spite of a slightly better score, Colombia ranks one position below the one obtained in the first edition, but this is just due to the strong advance of other countries. Colombia legalized same sex marriage through a Constitutional Court ruling in April of 2018. Although a strict government monopoly on legalised drugs has lowered Uruguay’s score, this country keeps a very prominent index position and continues to lead the whole Latin American region.

Another Latin American country making strong progress is Chile, with almost four more points in score and moving from position 36 to 32. Chile also moves out of “acceptable” and into “high” moral freedom. Chile’s index progress is partly helped by a decision by the country’s parliament to allow official modification of gender (January 2018). This South American country also legalized abortion, albeit under strict circumstances, in September of 2017. Although by a small margin, Peru has made it this time to the “high” moral freedom group as well.

3. North America evolves towards more moral freedom

Both North American countries have progressed towards more moral freedom since the previous edition of this Index was published in 2016. The United States scores almost one more point, and this country’s loss of three positions in the ranking is only due to other countries advancing even more rapidly. In December of 2016, the U.S. improved religious freedom through amendments to an already existing act. But on the other hand, some states have recently toughened their restrictions on abortion, including Arkansas, Iowa and Mississippi.

Canada is one of the countries with the highest advance in score, just over ten points, and it advances in the ranking to reach the third position overall. On June 17th, 2016, the Canadian parliament passed a bill to legalize assisted suicide for the terminally ill. Later that year, Canada reformed its age of sexual consent law, so that it is now equal for all types of intercourse. In 2017, gender identity and gender expression were added to the federal act protecting human rights. In June of 2018, the country’s Senate has adopted the so called Cannabis Law, thus becoming the first G7 country to fully legalize this substance. Canada’s rapid progress in the World Index of Moral Freedom has displaced several other “top ten” countries down the ranking on this second edition.

4. Europe, a bulwark of moral freedom

Together with the Americas, Europe is the most morally free region of the world. The exceptions are the Southern Caucasus countries, together with Belarus and Ukraine, which fall in the “insufficient” moral freedom area of the chart. Oddly enough, some of the very small European micro-nations also maintain a rather disappointing performance, the exception being Malta. This Mediterranean archipelago, which adopted same sex marriage in 2017, has made the world’s largest score progress since the first edition. Within the “acceptable” moral freedom zone, Romania, Poland and —to a lesser extent— Russia, have also made significant progress (over one point).

The Netherlands continues to be the sole achiever of “highest” moral freedom status as it surpasses the ninety point threshold. The Czech Republic and Spain have gone down one position in the ranking in spite of their score improvements, due to the rapid progress made by other countries. Portugal was already third in the Index and has now climbed to the second position. Germany advances five points and becomes the sixth most morally free country, thus displacing Spain to the seventh position. The German same sex marriage law came into force in July, 2017. The same issue has also improved Finland’s position.

Switzerland’s strong advance has made this country reach the top ten and the “very high” moral freedom label. This progress has been partly influenced by the lower chamber of parliament’s decision to make cannabis legal, albeit still under strictly controlled “experimental” circumstances.

Ireland has climbed nine positions and left the “acceptable” label to join the “high moral freedom” zone, mostly due to the May 2018 referendum on abortion. In Italy, significant progress is due to minor improvements to the cohabitation rules and to the December 2017 law allowing individuals to write “living wills” to determine their end of life.

Some European countries, including France and Sweden, have experienced partial moral freedom regress as their laws on paid sex among consenting adults have become stricter since 2016.

Concern has arisen about the United Kingdom due to controls on the morality of online content. In several European countries, new laws have punished women for wearing a veil or other religious-driven attire, and this has had a minor impact on their scores.

On the other hand, Greece improved its index performance by introducing legal changes in October of 2017, in order to provide for individual choice on official gender identity. Similar measures have been adopted by Portugal and other countries.

5. Australia and New Zealand keep making progress

New Zealand has gone down one position due to other countries' evolution, but it has made significant progress by increasing 1.13 points in score. Australia is one of the success stories of this second edition in moving eight positions up after scoring over five points more than in the 2016 edition.

In 2016 Queensland paved the way for a standardisation of sex consent ages. Since December of 2017, same sex marriage is legal in the whole country. Also, the state of Victoria has legalised voluntary assisted dying. But on the other hand, Australia has also introduced stricter laws on human cloning, thus making it harder for individuals to use this medical technique towards therapeutical needs.

6. Little room for moral freedom in the Islamic world, and some improvement in Israel

The only three predominantly Islamic countries to even pass the 50 point threshold into “acceptable” moral freedom are Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and Kazakhstan. These three Islamic countries are ethnically European or Central Asian, and strongly exposed to neighbouring cultures. They have slightly gone down in their scores and ranking positions.

A fourth country in last edition's “acceptable” zone was Turkey, but it has experienced the largest ranking regress this year by losing fourteen positions and plummeting into the “insufficient” moral freedom area. Strengthened religious controls onto the population and a February 2018 law to implement moral censorship online explain this country's particularly bad performance.

Much worse continues to be the situation on the Arabic Peninsula and other parts of the Islamic world. Saudi Arabia continues to be the least morally free country in the world, although some minor, recent changes in women's freedom of movement make the kingdom leave the “lowest” moral freedom area by scoring just above ten points.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) have passed new bioethical laws that have had a great impact on the country's index performance, making it lose almost four score points and moving down to be the third least morally free country in the world. Among other things, sex change surgery, abortion and therapeutical cloning have all been forbidden in the UAE, and severe jail penalties are now imposed on perpetrators. Algeria's already deplorable performance is now slightly worse as it has prohibited therapeutical cloning since the first edition of the Index.

A positive move needs to be mentioned and commended in Pakistan, as transgender individual rights have been legally protected as of May of 2018. However, this change alone does not reflect in the country's score because Pakistan already had the maximum points available for the relevant subindicator in this category.

Israel has seen an improvement in its score, in spite of having introduced stricter laws against therapeutical cloning. The Jewish state has now made it to the “acceptable” moral freedom zone in the chart, albeit by just half a point in score.

7. Asia: a lot of room for improvement

Most Asian countries maintain a poor moral freedom performance, similar to the ones they obtained in the first edition of the Index. The outstanding exception continues to be Cambodia (ranking seventeenth in the Index), and one of the reasons for this might be found in the fact that most laws are actually made by foreign experts, mainly from the United Nations. It is anyway highly remarkable that Cambodia continues to be in the “high” moral freedom zone while most other Asian countries are much below. In fact, only India, Japan and Kazakhstan make it into the “acceptable” moral freedom zone.

In spite of legalizing passive euthanasia, India has gone slightly down in this edition due to stricter rules for surrogacy and because the country adopted a law against religious conversions in 2017.

South Korea has made significant progress and goes up fifteen positions but does not manage to leave the “insufficient” moral freedom zone. One of several issues in South Korea's performance continues to be an abnormally high age of majority (nineteen). Myanmar has experienced a significant regress, mainly in terms of religious freedom.

Another significant regress (almost two score points) has been observed in Thailand, where the room for legal surrogacy was narrowed in February of 2018. On the other hand, significant progress has been observed in Vietnam, where religious freedom is now legally protected, but the country continues to fall in the “low” moral freedom zone.

Likewise, China's “low” moral freedom status is now further confirmed by the country's introduction of harder online censorship, a part of which addresses moral issues. Since August of 2017, the authorities in Tajikistan impose a dress code to make Tajiks “stick to traditional and national clothes and culture”, which has slightly reflected in this country's score.

8. Moral freedom is mostly unheard of in Sub-Saharan Africa

South Africa continues to be a positive exception in an otherwise morally unfree continent. In fact, the country remains in the “high” moral freedom area of our chart. All other countries considered perform much more poorly. In Africa we also find the largest amount of countries for which no sufficient data are obtained towards the World Index of Moral Freedom.

Mozambique was the only other country passing the fifty point threshold in the 2016 edition, but it has now fallen down to the “insufficient” moral freedom zone. In fact, most other African countries analyzed experience a slight regression in the 2018 edition.

World Index of Moral Freedom 2018

RANK	SCORE	CLASSIFICATION	RELIGIOUS FREEDOM	BIOETHICAL FREEDOM	DRUGS FREEDOM	SEXUAL FREEDOM	GENDER & FAMILY FREEDOM
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Netherlands, The	1	91,33	Highest moral freedom	98,13	80,00	98,50	90,00	90,00
Portugal	2	86,93	Very high moral freedom	98,13	62,50	91,00	93,00	90,00
Canada	3	86,58	Very high moral freedom	98,13	75,00	88,75	81,00	90,00
Uruguay	4	84,50	Very high moral freedom	88,75	81,25	67,50	95,00	90,00
Czech Republic	5	83,63	Very high moral freedom	98,13	72,50	89,50	88,00	70,00
Germany	6	83,03	Very high moral freedom	98,13	67,50	62,00	100,00	87,50
Spain	7	81,60	Very high moral freedom	96,25	67,50	71,25	83,00	90,00
Mexico	8	81,33	Very high moral freedom	98,13	77,50	56,00	95,00	80,00
Switzerland	9	80,88	Very high moral freedom	98,13	75,00	71,25	90,00	70,00
United States of America	10	79,15	High moral freedom	97,13	89,38	45,75	73,50	90,00
Belgium	11	78,98	High moral freedom	86,88	85,00	50,00	83,00	90,00
Colombia	12	76,15	High moral freedom	80,00	52,50	80,25	93,00	75,00
Luxembourg	13	72,23	High moral freedom	98,13	75,00	15,00	83,00	90,00
Austria	14	72,13	High moral freedom	98,13	62,50	32,50	100,00	67,50
Argentina	15	71,08	High moral freedom	86,88	62,50	32,50	86,00	87,50
Denmark	16	71,08	High moral freedom	94,38	72,50	22,50	81,00	85,00
Cambodia	17	70,50	High moral freedom	77,50	62,50	85,00	60,00	67,50
Slovenia	18	69,63	High moral freedom	98,13	62,50	57,50	60,00	70,00
Estonia	19	69,03	High moral freedom	98,13	62,50	31,00	86,00	67,50
Brazil	20	68,93	High moral freedom	98,13	31,25	34,75	93,00	87,50
France	21	68,15	High moral freedom	88,75	67,50	13,50	81,00	90,00

	RANK	SCORE	CLASSIFICATION	RELIGIOUS FREEDOM	BIOETHICAL FREEDOM	DRUGS FREEDOM	SEXUAL FREEDOM	GENDER & FAMILY FREEDOM
Australia	22	66,48	High moral freedom	98,13	43,75	32,50	68,00	90,00
Italy	23	66,38	High moral freedom	89,38	72,50	34,00	86,00	50,00
New Zealand	24	66,38	High moral freedom	98,13	41,25	15,00	87,50	90,00
Sweden	25	65,95	High moral freedom	81,25	82,50	21,00	55,00	90,00
Greece	26	65,88	High moral freedom	71,88	62,50	32,50	95,00	67,50
Finland	27	65,83	High moral freedom	94,38	46,25	22,50	76,00	90,00
Bolivia	28	65,30	High moral freedom	96,25	31,25	51,50	100,00	47,50
Ecuador	29	65,13	High moral freedom	86,88	31,25	40,00	100,00	67,50
Hungary	30	64,75	High moral freedom	81,25	67,50	15,00	100,00	60,00
Ireland	31	64,05	High moral freedom	94,38	51,88	22,50	64,00	87,50
Chile	32	63,28	High moral freedom	81,25	15,63	66,00	86,00	67,50
Norway	33	62,50	High moral freedom	85,00	62,50	22,50	55,00	87,50
Slovakia	34	61,95	High moral freedom	88,75	62,50	13,50	95,00	50,00
South Africa	35	61,33	High moral freedom	96,63	72,50	7,50	40,00	90,00
United Kingdom	36	60,63	High moral freedom	94,38	50,00	18,75	52,00	88,00
Peru	37	60,58	High moral freedom	75,63	31,25	38,50	100,00	57,50
Montenegro	38	59,65	Acceptable moral freedom	88,75	62,50	13,50	86,00	47,50
Croatia	39	59,50	Acceptable moral freedom	85,00	62,50	32,50	60,00	57,50
Latvia	40	59,25	Acceptable moral freedom	88,75	62,50	7,50	90,00	47,50
Romania	41	56,50	Acceptable moral freedom	85,00	62,50	15,00	60,00	60,00
India	42	56,35	Acceptable moral freedom	73,25	77,50	53,75	46,00	31,25
Paraguay	43	55,63	Acceptable moral freedom	85,00	15,63	40,00	100,00	37,50
Malta	44	55,33	Acceptable moral freedom	90,63	0,00	32,50	66,00	87,50
Bosnia and Herzegovina	45	55,25	Acceptable moral freedom	88,75	62,50	22,50	65,00	37,50
Iceland	46	54,08	Acceptable moral freedom	89,13	31,25	40,00	20,00	90,00

	RANK	SCORE	CLASSIFICATION	RELIGIOUS FREEDOM	BIOETHICAL FREEDOM	DRUGS FREEDOM	SEXUAL FREEDOM	GENDER & FAMILY FREEDOM
Russia	47	54,00	Acceptable moral freedom	57,50	62,50	67,50	35,00	47,50
Macedonia	48	53,75	Acceptable moral freedom	88,75	62,50	15,00	65,00	37,50
Jamaica	49	53,50	Acceptable moral freedom	88,75	31,25	67,50	55,00	25,00
Costa Rica	50	53,45	Acceptable moral freedom	62,50	31,25	25,00	81,00	67,50
Cyprus	51	53,35	Acceptable moral freedom	82,00	31,25	15,00	71,00	67,50
Albania	52	53,13	Acceptable moral freedom	98,13	62,50	15,00	65,00	25,00
Serbia	53	53,13	Acceptable moral freedom	75,63	62,50	15,00	65,00	47,50
Poland	54	52,70	Acceptable moral freedom	81,25	31,25	15,00	81,00	55,00
Moldova	55	52,50	Acceptable moral freedom	65,00	62,50	32,50	55,00	47,50
Bulgaria	56	52,45	Acceptable moral freedom	66,25	62,50	32,50	66,00	35,00
Lithuania	57	52,25	Acceptable moral freedom	88,75	62,50	7,50	55,00	47,50
Panama	58	51,75	Acceptable moral freedom	92,50	31,25	7,50	80,00	47,50
Guyana	59	51,45	Acceptable moral freedom	88,75	62,50	13,50	55,00	37,50
Japan	60	50,85	Acceptable moral freedom	95,25	52,50	24,00	35,00	47,50
Kazakhstan	61	50,70	Acceptable moral freedom	65,00	67,50	7,50	76,00	37,50
Israel	62	50,53	Acceptable moral freedom	74,13	36,25	15,00	76,00	51,25
Venezuela	63	50,38	Acceptable moral freedom	81,25	15,63	15,00	90,00	50,00
Armenia	64	49,95	Insufficient moral freedom	53,75	67,50	15,00	76,00	37,50
Mozambique	65	49,70	Insufficient moral freedom	88,75	31,25	22,50	81,00	25,00
San Marino	66	49,55	Insufficient moral freedom	90,63	15,63	15,00	79,00	47,50
Georgia	67	49,25	Insufficient moral freedom	81,25	67,50	7,50	55,00	35,00
Cuba	68	49,00	Insufficient moral freedom	41,50	72,50	7,50	76,00	47,50
Guinea	69	49,00	Insufficient moral freedom	88,75	31,25	22,50	65,00	37,50
Monaco	70	48,95	Insufficient moral freedom	62,50	31,25	22,50	81,00	47,50
Nepal	71	48,83	Insufficient moral freedom	85,38	62,50	22,50	55,00	18,75

	RANK	SCORE	CLASSIFICATION	RELIGIOUS FREEDOM	BIOETHICAL FREEDOM	DRUGS FREEDOM	SEXUAL FREEDOM	GENDER & FAMILY FREEDOM
Ghana	72	48,63	Insufficient moral freedom	98,13	31,25	22,50	60,00	31,25
Malawi	73	48,45	Insufficient moral freedom	98,13	15,63	22,50	81,00	25,00
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	74	48,38	Insufficient moral freedom	98,13	31,25	15,00	60,00	37,50
Turkey	75	48,03	Insufficient moral freedom	32,13	72,50	15,00	73,00	47,50
Seychelles	76	47,88	Insufficient moral freedom	98,13	31,25	7,50	65,00	37,50
Mongolia	77	47,70	Insufficient moral freedom	70,00	62,50	13,50	55,00	37,50
Ukraine	78	47,58	Insufficient moral freedom	55,38	66,25	60,00	15,00	41,25
Tajikistan	79	47,50	Insufficient moral freedom	70,00	62,50	15,00	55,00	35,00
Senegal	80	47,25	Insufficient moral freedom	98,13	15,63	15,00	95,00	12,50
Ivory Coast	81	46,70	Insufficient moral freedom	94,38	15,63	22,50	76,00	25,00
Korea, South	82	46,38	Insufficient moral freedom	93,13	41,25	22,50	25,00	50,00
Madagascar	83	46,33	Insufficient moral freedom	70,00	15,63	22,50	86,00	37,50
Kyrgyzstan	84	46,00	Insufficient moral freedom	51,50	62,50	15,00	76,00	25,00
Cameroon	85	45,88	Insufficient moral freedom	98,13	31,25	15,00	60,00	25,00
Saint Lucia	86	45,88	Insufficient moral freedom	98,13	31,25	7,50	55,00	37,50
Solomon Islands	87	45,75	Insufficient moral freedom	98,13	15,63	22,50	55,00	37,50
Belarus	88	45,70	Insufficient moral freedom	56,00	62,50	7,50	55,00	47,50
Singapore	89	45,70	Insufficient moral freedom	65,00	72,50	7,50	36,00	47,50
Bahamas, The	90	45,50	Insufficient moral freedom	88,75	31,25	15,00	55,00	37,50
Liberia	91	45,50	Insufficient moral freedom	88,75	31,25	15,00	55,00	37,50
Gambia, The	92	45,43	Insufficient moral freedom	84,63	31,25	15,00	65,00	31,25
Mauritius	93	45,38	Insufficient moral freedom	88,75	15,63	15,00	60,00	47,50
Trinidad and Tobago	94	45,38	Insufficient moral freedom	98,13	31,25	15,00	45,00	37,50
Guinea-Bissau	95	45,25	Insufficient moral freedom	98,13	15,63	15,00	60,00	37,50
Andorra	96	45,00	Insufficient moral freedom	71,88	15,63	22,50	55,00	60,00

	RANK	SCORE	CLASSIFICATION	RELIGIOUS FREEDOM	BIOETHICAL FREEDOM	DRUGS FREEDOM	SEXUAL FREEDOM	GENDER & FAMILY FREEDOM
Suriname	97	45,00	Insufficient moral freedom	98,13	15,63	15,00	55,00	41,25
Laos	98	44,25	Insufficient moral freedom	70,00	31,25	22,50	60,00	37,50
Uzbekistan	99	43,93	Insufficient moral freedom	49,63	62,50	15,00	55,00	37,50
Guatemala	100	43,83	Insufficient moral freedom	77,50	15,63	22,50	66,00	37,50
Haiti	101	43,75	Insufficient moral freedom	98,13	15,63	22,50	45,00	37,50
Zimbabwe	102	43,70	Insufficient moral freedom	88,75	31,25	13,50	60,00	25,00
Papua New Guinea	103	43,25	Insufficient moral freedom	98,13	15,63	22,50	55,00	25,00
Equatorial Guinea	104	43,13	Insufficient moral freedom	86,88	31,25	15,00	45,00	37,50
Dominica	105	42,75	Insufficient moral freedom	98,13	15,63	7,50	55,00	37,50
Tunisia	106	42,58	Insufficient moral freedom	27,38	62,50	15,00	83,00	25,00
Honduras	107	42,45	Insufficient moral freedom	75,63	15,63	15,00	81,00	25,00
Azerbaijan	108	42,30	Insufficient moral freedom	51,50	62,50	7,50	55,00	35,00
Tuvalu	109	41,93	Insufficient moral freedom	77,50	15,63	15,00	64,00	37,50
Uganda	110	41,88	Insufficient moral freedom	75,63	31,25	22,50	55,00	25,00
Swaziland	111	41,50	Insufficient moral freedom	88,75	31,25	15,00	60,00	12,50
Dominican Republic	112	40,78	Insufficient moral freedom	86,88	0,00	13,50	66,00	37,50
Tonga	113	40,38	Insufficient moral freedom	64,75	15,63	15,00	69,00	37,50
Philippines, The	114	39,63	Low moral freedom	92,50	15,63	15,00	25,00	50,00
Botswana	115	39,50	Low moral freedom	88,75	31,25	32,50	20,00	25,00
China	116	39,30	Low moral freedom	39,00	72,50	15,00	25,00	45,00
Mali	117	39,30	Low moral freedom	84,25	31,25	22,50	46,00	12,50
El Salvador	118	39,20	Low moral freedom	85,00	0,00	7,50	66,00	37,50
Central African Republic	119	37,23	Low moral freedom	59,50	15,63	22,50	76,00	12,50
Kenya	120	36,95	Low moral freedom	87,25	31,25	15,00	20,00	31,25
Turkmenistan	121	36,88	Low moral freedom	15,88	62,50	13,50	55,00	37,50

	RANK	SCORE	CLASSIFICATION	RELIGIOUS FREEDOM	BIOETHICAL FREEDOM	DRUGS FREEDOM	SEXUAL FREEDOM	GENDER & FAMILY FREEDOM
Nicaragua	122	36,33	Low moral freedom	75,63	0,00	15,00	66,00	25,00
Rwanda	123	36,20	Low moral freedom	68,50	31,25	7,50	55,00	18,75
Angola	124	36,13	Low moral freedom	70,00	15,63	15,00	55,00	25,00
Jordan	125	35,88	Low moral freedom	34,38	31,25	57,50	25,00	31,25
Vietnam	126	35,38	Low moral freedom	59,38	62,50	15,00	5,00	35,00
Korea, North	127	34,50	Low moral freedom	37,50	62,50	15,00	20,00	37,50
Ethiopia	128	34,25	Low moral freedom	70,25	31,25	15,00	36,00	18,75
Lebanon	129	33,90	Low moral freedom	80,13	15,63	15,00	40,00	18,75
Thailand	130	29,38	Low moral freedom	59,75	20,63	1,50	20,00	45,00
Comoros	131	29,25	Low moral freedom	32,50	31,25	11,25	40,00	31,25
Djibouti	132	29,13	Low moral freedom	32,50	15,63	11,25	55,00	31,25
Mauritania	133	28,73	Low moral freedom	20,50	15,63	22,50	60,00	25,00
Bangladesh	134	28,53	Low moral freedom	32,00	15,63	22,50	60,00	12,50
Nigeria	135	27,28	Low moral freedom	57,63	31,25	22,50	15,00	10,00
Eritrea	136	26,80	Low moral freedom	41,50	31,25	15,00	15,00	31,25
Malaysia	137	26,20	Low moral freedom	46,00	31,25	15,00	15,00	23,75
Morocco	138	26,20	Low moral freedom	41,00	31,25	15,00	15,00	28,75
Myanmar	139	26,13	Low moral freedom	10,00	15,63	15,00	65,00	25,00
Maldives	140	25,75	Low moral freedom	25,00	31,25	7,50	40,00	25,00
Syria	141	23,30	Low moral freedom	30,88	15,63	18,75	20,00	31,25
Indonesia	142	22,93	Low moral freedom	28,38	31,25	22,50	0,00	32,50
Somalia	143	22,25	Low moral freedom	34,38	15,63	15,00	15,00	31,25
Sri Lanka	144	21,90	Low moral freedom	38,88	15,63	15,00	15,00	25,00
Sudan	145	21,43	Low moral freedom	13,38	31,25	22,50	15,00	25,00
Bahrain	146	21,25	Low moral freedom	15,00	67,50	11,25	0,00	12,50

	RANK	SCORE	CLASSIFICATION	RELIGIOUS FREEDOM	BIOETHICAL FREEDOM	DRUGS FREEDOM	SEXUAL FREEDOM	GENDER & FAMILY FREEDOM
Libya	147	21,00	Low moral freedom	25,00	31,25	22,50	0,00	26,25
Oman	148	20,63	Low moral freedom	43,13	31,25	22,50	0,00	6,25
Algeria	149	20,25	Low moral freedom	28,75	31,25	15,00	20,00	6,25
Brunei	150	19,88	Very low moral freedom	32,50	15,63	11,25	15,00	25,00
Pakistan	151	18,05	Very low moral freedom	14,00	31,25	22,50	0,00	22,50
Iran	152	17,75	Very low moral freedom	5,63	35,63	25,00	0,00	22,50
Egypt	153	17,25	Very low moral freedom	26,88	15,63	22,50	15,00	6,25
Afghanistan	154	16,50	Very low moral freedom	23,13	15,63	18,75	0,00	25,00
Kuwait	155	15,93	Very low moral freedom	33,38	31,25	15,00	0,00	0,00
Qatar	156	15,63	Very low moral freedom	31,88	31,25	15,00	0,00	0,00
Iraq	157	12,63	Very low moral freedom	32,50	15,63	15,00	0,00	0,00
United Arab Emirates	158	11,50	Very low moral freedom	22,13	15,63	13,50	0,00	6,25
Yemen	159	11,23	Very low moral freedom	18,00	15,63	22,50	0,00	0,00
Saudi Arabia	160	10,13	Very low moral freedom	5,63	31,25	7,50	0,00	6,25

WIMF 2018 versus WIMF 2016

RANK	SCORE	2016 RANK	2016 SCORE	RANK VAR.	SCORE VAR.
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HIGHEST MORAL FREEDOM (OVER 90 POINTS)

Netherlands, The	1	91,33	1	91,70	0	-0,37
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VERY HIGH MORAL FREEDOM (80-90 POINTS)

Portugal	2	86,93	3	83,80	1	3,13
Canada	3	86,58	9	76,58	6	10,01
Uruguay	4	84,50	2	88,75	-2	-4,25
Czech Republic	5	83,63	4	80,50	-1	3,13
Germany	6	83,03	8	78,03	2	5,01
Spain	7	81,60	6	78,60	-1	3,00
Mexico	8	81,33	10	75,53	2	5,80
Switzerland	9	80,88	13	72,38	4	8,51

HIGH MORAL FREEDOM (60-80 POINTS)

United States of America	10	79,15	7	78,20	-3	0,95
Belgium	11	78,98	5	79,35	-6	-0,37
Colombia	12	76,15	11	74,98	-1	1,18
Luxembourg	13	72,23	12	72,60	-1	-0,37
Austria	14	72,13	14	71,13	0	1,01
Argentina	15	71,08	25	64,45	10	6,63
Denmark	16	71,08	21	66,33	5	4,76
Cambodia	17	70,50	15	70,50	-2	0,00
Slovenia	18	69,63	16	70,00	-2	-0,37
Estonia	19	69,03	18	69,40	-1	-0,37

	RANK	SCORE	2016 RANK	2016 SCORE	RANK VAR.	SCORE VAR.
Brazil	20	68,93	19	69,30	-1	-0,37
France	21	68,15	17	69,93	-4	-1,78
Australia	22	66,48	30	61,35	8	5,13
Italy	23	66,38	26	64,25	3	2,13
New Zealand	24	66,38	23	65,25	-1	1,13
Sweden	25	65,95	20	66,95	-5	-1,00
Greece	26	65,88	29	61,38	3	4,51
Finland	27	65,83	31	60,58	4	5,26
Bolivia	28	65,30	22	65,30	-6	0,00
Ecuador	29	65,13	24	64,75	-5	0,38
Hungary	30	64,75	33	59,88	3	4,88
Ireland	31	64,05	40	57,33	9	6,72
Chile	32	63,28	36	59,40	4	3,88
Norway	33	62,50	35	59,63	2	2,88
Slovakia	34	61,95	27	62,33	-7	-0,38
South Africa	35	61,33	28	61,70	-7	-0,37
United Kingdom	36	60,63	39	58,05	3	2,58
Peru	37	60,58	38	59,08	1	1,51

ACCEPTABLE MORAL FREEDOM (50-60 POINTS)

Montenegro	38	59,65	32	60,03	-6	-0,38
Croatia	39	59,50	37	59,13	-2	0,38
Latvia	40	59,25	34	59,63	-6	-0,38
Romania	41	56,50	55	52,00	14	4,50
India	42	56,35	41	57,03	-1	-0,68
Paraguay	43	55,63	44	54,13	1	1,51
Malta	44	55,33	96	45,20	52	10,13
Bosnia and Herzegovina	45	55,25	42	55,63	-3	-0,38

	RANK	SCORE	2016 RANK	2016 SCORE	RANK VAR.	SCORE VAR.
Iceland	46	54,08	51	52,95	5	1,13
Russia	47	54,00	53	52,88	6	1,13
Macedonia	48	53,75	43	54,13	-5	-0,38
Jamaica	49	53,50	45	53,88	-4	-0,38
Costa Rica	50	53,45	50	53,08	0	0,38
Cyprus	51	53,35	46	53,73	-5	-0,37
Albania	52	53,13	47	53,50	-5	-0,37
Serbia	53	53,13	49	53,13	-4	0,01
Poland	54	52,70	64	50,08	10	2,63
Moldova	55	52,50	52	52,88	-3	-0,38
Bulgaria	56	52,45	48	53,33	-8	-0,88
Lithuania	57	52,25	54	52,63	-3	-0,38
Panama	58	51,75	57	51,75	-1	0,00
Guyana	59	51,45	56	51,83	-3	-0,38
Japan	60	50,85	60	50,85	0	0,00
Kazakhstan	61	50,70	58	51,08	-3	-0,38
Israel	62	50,53	82	46,28	20	4,26
Venezuela	63	50,38	62	50,75	-1	-0,37

INSUFFICIENT MORAL FREEDOM (40-50 POINTS)

Armenia	64	49,95	65	49,58	1	0,38
Mozambique	65	49,70	63	50,08	-2	-0,38
San Marino	66	49,55	71	48,43	5	1,13
Georgia	67	49,25	79	46,63	12	2,63
Cuba	68	49,00	59	50,88	-9	-1,88
Guinea	69	49,00	67	49,38	-2	-0,38
Monaco	70	48,95	77	47,08	7	1,88
Nepal	71	48,83	66	49,58	-5	-0,75

	RANK	SCORE	2016 RANK	2016 SCORE	RANK VAR.	SCORE VAR.
Ghana	72	48,63	68	49,00	-4	-0,37
Malawi	73	48,45	69	48,83	-4	-0,38
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	74	48,38	70	48,75	-4	-0,37
Turkey	75	48,03	61	50,78	-14	-2,75
Seychelles	76	47,88	73	48,25	-3	-0,37
Mongolia	77	47,70	74	48,08	-3	-0,38
Ukraine	78	47,58	76	47,58	-2	0,00
Tajikistan	79	47,50	72	48,38	-7	-0,88
Senegal	80	47,25	75	47,63	-5	-0,38
Ivory Coast	81	46,70	81	46,33	0	0,38
Korea, South	82	46,38	97	44,88	15	1,51
Madagascar	83	46,33	78	46,70	-5	-0,37
Kyrgyzstan	84	46,00	80	46,38	-4	-0,38
Cameroon	85	45,88	83	46,25	-2	-0,37
Saint Lucia	86	45,88	84	46,25	-2	-0,37
Solomon Islands	87	45,75	86	46,13	-1	-0,38
Belarus	88	45,70	87	46,08	-1	-0,38
Singapore	89	45,70	88	46,08	-1	-0,38
Bahamas, The	90	45,50	89	45,88	-1	-0,38
Liberia	91	45,50	90	45,88	-1	-0,38
Gambia, The	92	45,43	91	45,80	-1	-0,37
Mauritius	93	45,38	92	45,75	-1	-0,37
Trinidad and Tobago	94	45,38	93	45,75	-1	-0,37
Guinea-Bissau	95	45,25	94	45,63	-1	-0,38
Andorra	96	45,00	85	46,13	-11	-1,13
Suriname	97	45,00	95	45,38	-2	-0,38

	RANK	SCORE	2016 RANK	2016 SCORE	RANK VAR.	SCORE VAR.
Laos	98	44,25	98	44,63	0	-0,38
Uzbekistan	99	43,93	101	43,93	2	0,01
Guatemala	100	43,83	104	43,45	4	0,38
Haiti	101	43,75	99	44,13	-2	-0,38
Zimbabwe	102	43,70	100	44,08	-2	-0,38
Papua New Guinea	103	43,25	103	43,63	0	-0,38
Equatorial Guinea	104	43,13	102	43,88	-2	-0,74
Dominica	105	42,75	105	43,13	0	-0,38
Tunisia	106	42,58	107	42,58	1	0,00
Honduras	107	42,45	108	42,45	1	0,00
Azerbaijan	108	42,30	106	42,68	-2	-0,38
Tuvalu	109	41,93	113	40,05	4	1,88
Uganda	110	41,88	110	41,88	0	0,01
Swaziland	111	41,50	109	41,88	-2	-0,38
Dominican Republic	112	40,78	117	38,90	5	1,88
Tonga	113	40,38	112	40,75	-1	-0,37

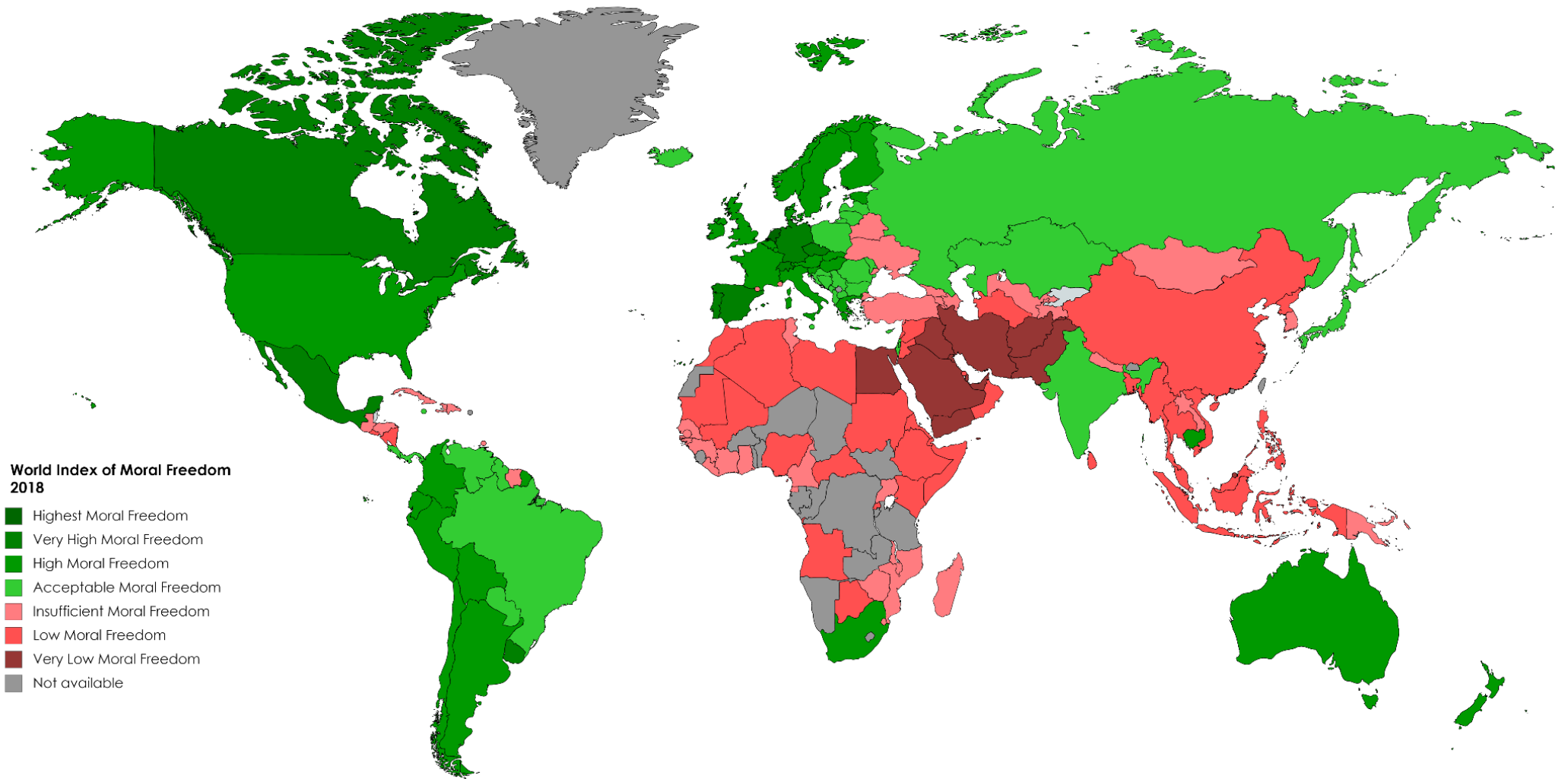
LOW MORAL FREEDOM (20-40 POINTS)

Philippines, The	114	39,63	116	39,63	2	0,01
Botswana	115	39,50	115	39,88	0	-0,38
China	116	39,30	114	40,00	-2	-0,70
Mali	117	39,30	111	41,55	-6	-2,25
El Salvador	118	39,20	118	37,70	0	1,50
Central African Republic	119	37,23	119	37,60	0	-0,37
Kenya	120	36,95	120	37,33	0	-0,38
Turkmenistan	121	36,88	121	36,88	0	0,01
Nicaragua	122	36,33	124	36,33	2	0,00
Rwanda	123	36,20	122	36,58	-1	-0,38

	RANK	SCORE	2016 RANK	2016 SCORE	RANK VAR.	SCORE VAR.
Angola	124	36,13	123	36,50	-1	-0,37
Jordan	125	35,88	125	35,88	0	0,01
Vietnam	126	35,38	129	33,88	3	1,51
Korea, North	127	34,50	127	34,50	0	0,00
Ethiopia	128	34,25	126	34,63	-2	-0,38
Lebanon	129	33,90	128	33,90	-1	0,00
Thailand	130	29,38	130	30,75	0	-1,37
Comoros	131	29,25	134	28,13	3	1,13
Djibouti	132	29,13	131	29,50	-1	-0,37
Mauritania	133	28,73	133	28,73	0	0,00
Bangladesh	134	28,53	132	28,90	-2	-0,37
Nigeria	135	27,28	135	28,03	0	-0,74
Eritrea	136	26,80	138	26,80	2	0,00
Malaysia	137	26,20	140	25,08	3	1,13
Morocco	138	26,20	137	27,08	-1	-0,88
Myanmar	139	26,13	136	27,63	-3	-1,50
Maldives	140	25,75	139	25,75	-1	0,00
Syria	141	23,30	141	23,30	0	0,00
Indonesia	142	22,93	146	21,43	4	1,51
Somalia	143	22,25	142	22,25	-1	0,00
Sri Lanka	144	21,90	144	21,90	0	0,00
Sudan	145	21,43	147	21,43	2	0,00
Bahrain	146	21,25	145	21,63	-1	-0,38
Libya	147	21,00	143	22,00	-4	-1,00
Oman	148	20,63	149	20,63	1	0,00
Algeria	149	20,25	148	20,63	-1	-0,38

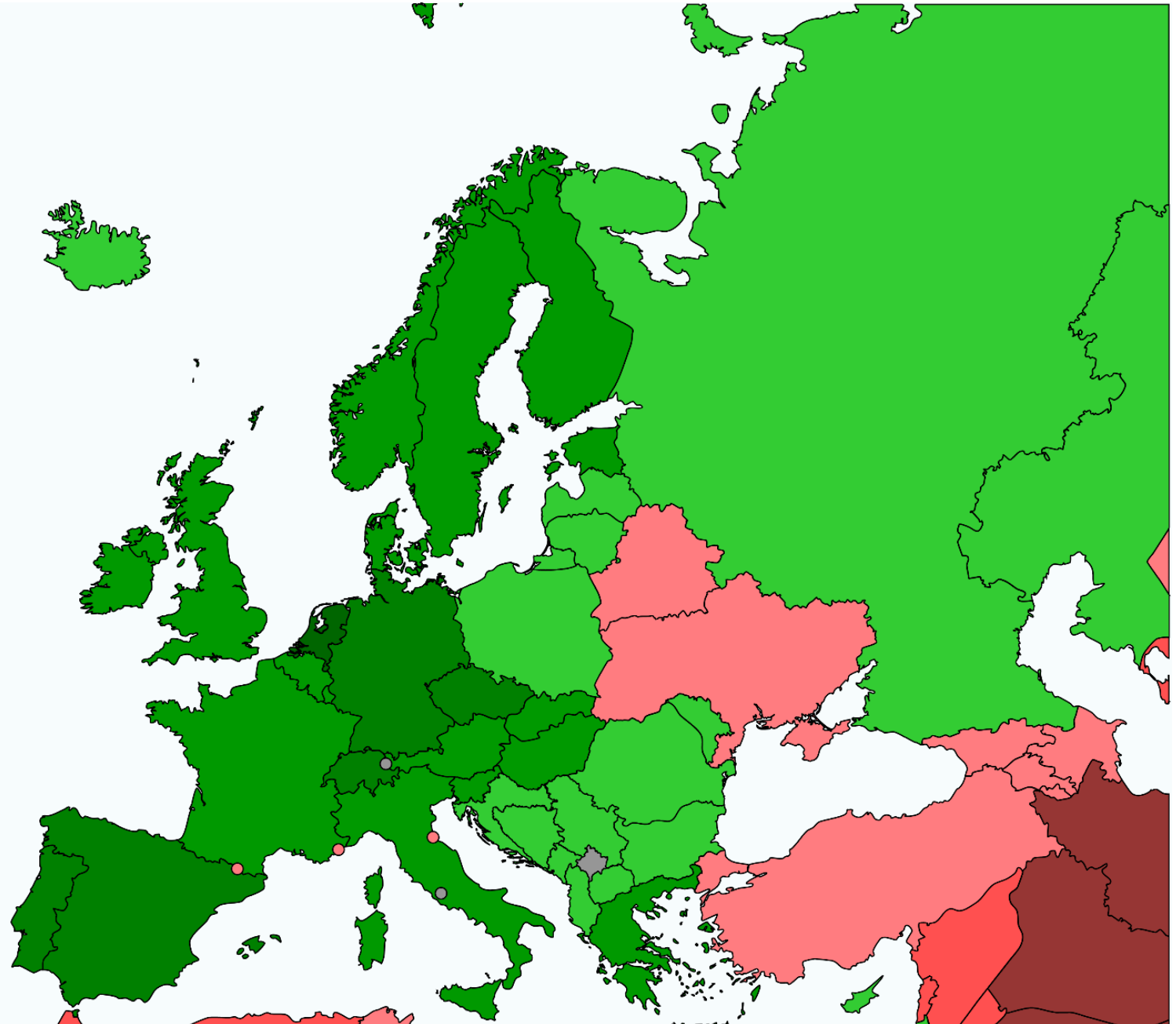
	RANK	SCORE	2016 RANK	2016 SCORE	RANK VAR.	SCORE VAR.
VERY LOW MORAL FREEDOM (10-20 POINTS)						
Brunei	150	19,88	150	18,75	0	1,13
Pakistan	151	18,05	151	18,05	0	0,00
Iran	152	17,75	154	16,63	2	1,13
Egypt	153	17,25	153	16,88	0	0,38
Afghanistan	154	16,50	152	16,88	-2	-0,38
Kuwait	155	15,93	155	15,93	0	0,00
Qatar	156	15,63	156	15,63	0	0,01
Iraq	157	12,63	158	13,00	1	-0,37
United Arab Emirates	158	11,50	157	15,38	-1	-3,88
Yemen	159	11,23	159	11,23	0	0,01
Saudi Arabia	160	10,13	160	7,75	0	2,38

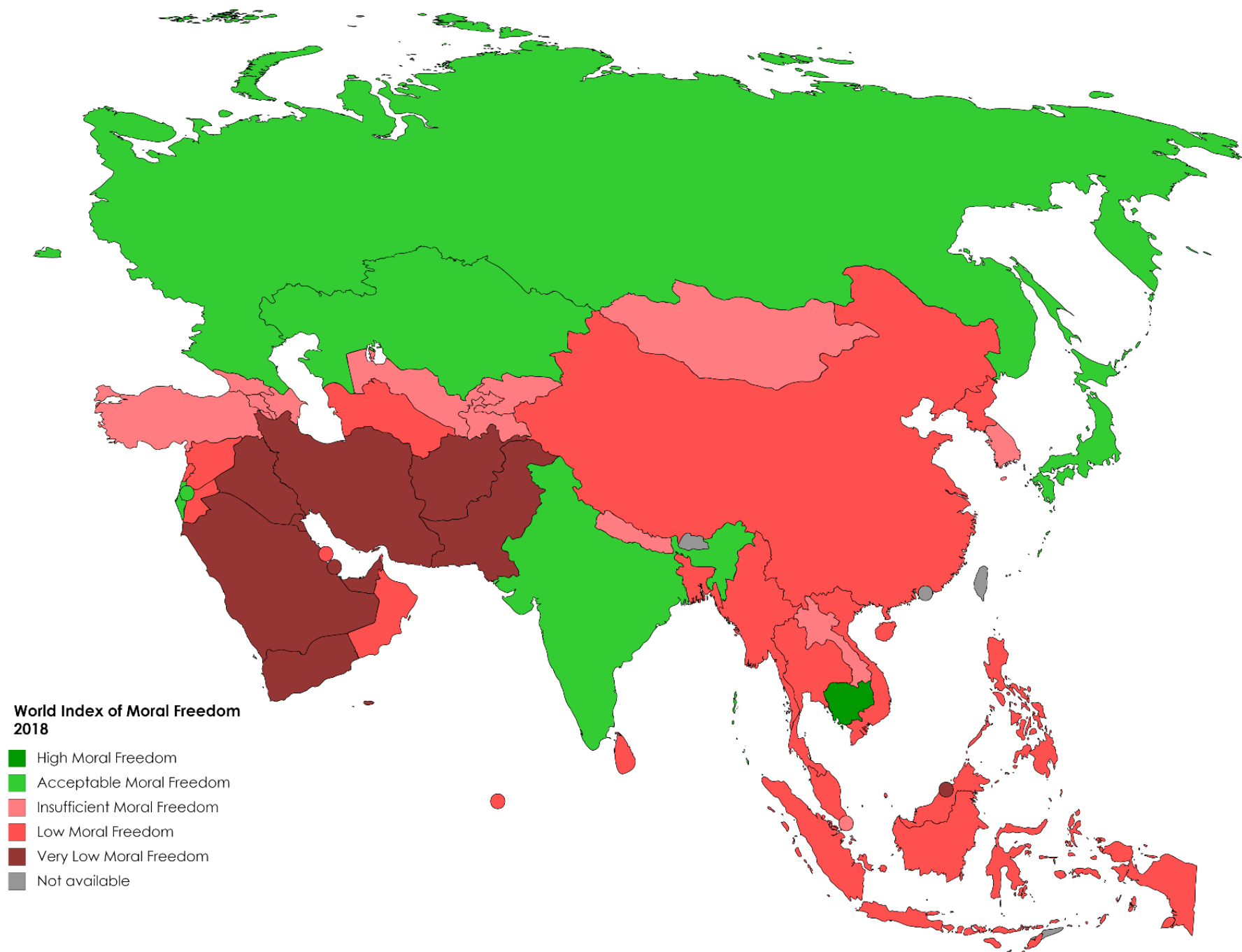
WIMF 2018 Maps



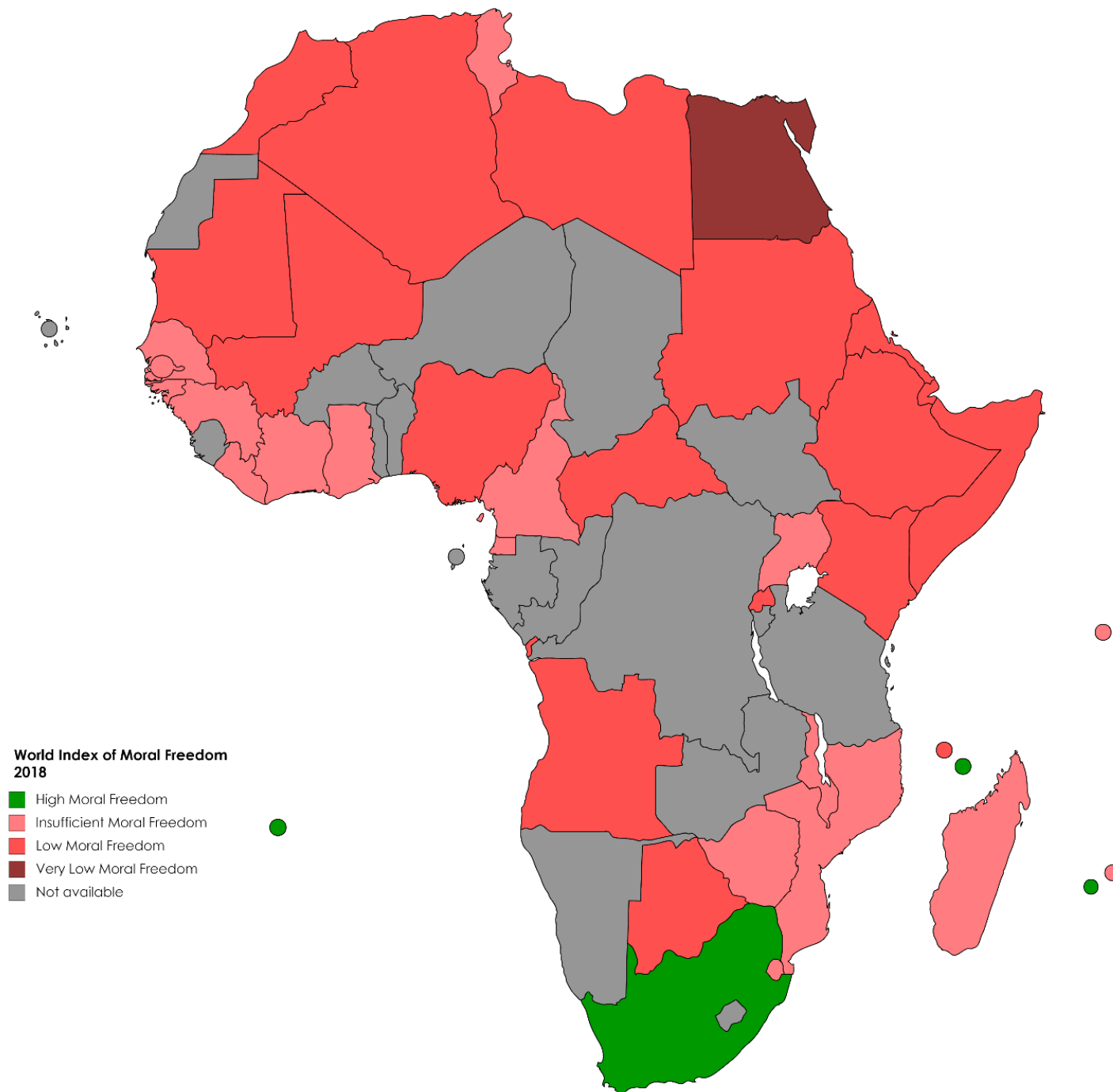
**World Index of Moral Freedom
2018**

- Highest Moral Freedom
- Very High Moral Freedom
- High Moral Freedom
- Acceptable Moral Freedom
- Insufficient Moral Freedom
- Low Moral Freedom
- Very Low Moral Freedom
- Not available









Final Remarks

International moral freedom is still insufficiently compared by scholars and rarely discussed by the media. The actual room for individuals to take their own moral decisions is thus neglected even in studies attempting to benchmark freedom. By ranking each country on the most relevant moral issues of our time, we aim to cover this gap and to provide a reasonable picture of how morally free the one hundred and sixty countries measured are. Unfortunately, sufficient data are not available for the remaining sovereign states, mostly in Africa and the Pacific islands.

In the past twenty-six months, since this Index was first published, we have seen heated discussions in many countries, regarding the ethical boundaries of freedom. As medical and other technologies keep making progress, and as societies evolve, these boundaries will continue to be an issue of growing importance. This second edition of the World Index of Moral Freedom seeks to raise further awareness of individual moral freedom as an inextricable part of a person's fundamental sovereignty. This does not mean either endorsing or rejecting a certain ethical conduct on any of the issues that we use to measure a country's level of moral freedom.

All in all, we are optimistic. While many countries continue to stagnate in the morally unfree zone of our table, some sparks of light at the end of the tunnel can be noticed even there. At the same time, the most dynamic and developed countries in the world have fully adopted individual moral freedom as their cultural and legal standard. These countries even compete in the upper part of the chart, and they are also joined by many other countries and entire regions, the case of Latin America being particularly noticeable.

Juan Pina and Emma Watson
July, 2018

Relevant Resources

Ageofconsent.net
Amnesty International reports
Assemblée Nationale
Center for Genetics and Society
Center for Reproductive Rights
Central Intelligence Agency: The World Factbook
California Legislative Information
Cato Institute: The Human Freedom Index
Dignity South Africa: Assisted Suicide Laws around the World
Europa.eu: Unmarried Couples
Euthanasia Research and Guidance Organization: World Laws on Assisted Suicide
Euthanasia.com
Freedom House: Freedom in the World and Freedom on the Net reports
Federal Registration of Legislation
Government of Canada
Government Offices of Sweden
Heritage Foundation, The: Index of Economic Freedom
Human Rights Watch: World Report
International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA): Worldwide Legislation
Internet Censorship World Map
Legislation.gov.uk
OECD: Social Institutions & Gender Index; and OECD Social Policy Division: Partnership and prevalence of cohabitation
OpenNet Initiative: Global Internet Filtering and Country Profiles
Pew Research Center, Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life
Procon.org: World chart of prostitution legal status

Queensland Legislation: Criminal Code Act 1899
The Guardian: Women's Rights Country By Country
TGEU: Trans Rights Europe Index
United Kingdom Government Publications: Drugs International Comparators
United Nations Organization: Human Development Report
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC): World Drug Report
United Nations Organization – Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: Human Rights by Country
United States Department of State: International Narcotics Control Strategy Report
United States Department of State: International Religious Freedom Report; and Religious Freedom Act 1998
United States Commission on International Religious Freedom
World Bank: Women, Business and the Law
World Justice Project: Rule of Law Index

About the Authors



Juan Pina holds a masters degree in institutional communication. He's been very in Spanish politics as the founder and first chairperson of the Libertarian Party. Author of countless opinion articles and two published novels, his essay book *Una política para la Libertad* ("A Policy for Liberty") appeared in 2014. For five years, Juan was editor in chief of *Perfiles Liberales*, a social sciences magazine with a classical liberal and libertarian perspective sponsored by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation. Since 2015 he has been involved with the Foundation for the Advancement of Liberty as a Council member and as secretary to the Board of Trustees. In these capacities he's been particularly involved with the launching of several specific associations furthering the cause of Liberty, like the Taxpayers Union.



Emma Watson is a legal analyst and she has conducted her research during her stay at the Foundation for the Advancement of Liberty. She's a scholar at the Mannkal Economic Education Foundation in Australia. She has studied at the University of Notre Dame Australia and has worked in a variety of organisations, from law firms to property companies. Emma was granted the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce award in Management in 2015 for achieving the highest mark in organisational dynamics within Notre Dame University across the units of Change Management and Organisational Development. She has also been the finalist in the AMPLA Mining Law Moot Grand Final. Emma has also worked in Cambodia within a voluntary legal team that has undertaken the task to review the country's laws.

About the Foundation

The Foundation for the Advancement of Liberty is a Libertarian think tank and an incubator of grassroots movements in civil society, including Spain's pension reform association and the country's taxpayers movement. The Foundation started its activity in 2015. It is a member of the Atlas Network, the world organization of free market and civil liberty institutions.

Among other projects, the Foundation currently publishes two international indices: moral freedom and electoral freedom. The Foundation's research on the Spanish regions' tax competitiveness was one of three finalists to the Liberty Award Europe in Copenhagen (May, 2018). Other activities include book publishing and inviting prominent international Libertarian speakers to Spain.

The vision that inspires the Foundation is that of prosperous human societies, organized through the spontaneous order of culture and markets, and respectful of all of their members' individual freedom. This vision is further set in the following mission statement:

"Our mission is to promote the advancement of individual human Liberty in all of its aspects and the success of the organizations and entities which further and defend it".

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Who takes the moral decisions in a country? Is it the state or each individual? This is the question the Foundation for the Advancement of Liberty aims to answer. Researchers Juan Pina and Emma Watson author this second edition of the World Index of Moral Freedom, which ranks 160 countries on the key moral issues of our time, from religious freedom to bio-ethics and from drugs to family and gender issues.

The index compares the current scores with the 2016 data, and the report highlights the main changes. While most countries continue to suffer from insufficient or lower moral freedom, a strong trend towards improvement is observed globally, and particularly in the developed world and Latin America.

For further information please visit www.fundalib.org

