**Resource Sheet – Social Justice Project – Session 2**

You can pick an area you are interested in, or dip in and of areas!

**Wealth inequality:**

* Male and the tourist heavy islands make a lot more money than other islands. Who keeps this money? How is this money used?
* Buying things on islands other than Male is expensive because it is expensive to transport things from the capital to other islands.
* How connected are the islands amongst themselves? Not very well. What comes with connectivity? Tourists, jobs…
* Tourism makes up 75% of the income for the Maldives. If you want tourists to come, you need to make sure everything looks nice and pretty. Does this mean you try and help those with less money, or you try and hide the problems from tourists?

**Gender inequality:**

* Females are underrepresented politically. In the 2011 Local Council elections, 1000 of the councillors were men, 58 women. In 2014, the local council election candidates were 2181 men… 282 women.
* In the 2014 parliament, there were 80 men, and 5 women (that’s 6%. Compared to 23% in the UK. Is 23% good enough?). In the judiciary (judges), there are 186 men, and 8 women.
* Women are not banned from banned from political life, but the male dominated culture doesn’t encourage them to join.
* High unemployment. Women largely not allowed to work in the tourist sector, for religious or safety reasons. Since many islands don’t have higher education opportunities, or many jobs, women are often forced into unemployment, early marriage, and teen pregnancy.

**Education inequality:**

* There are many islands, so it is hard for everyone to access education. Primary education has now been guaranteed, and is widespread.
* Lack of higher secondary and tertiary (university) education facilities on many islands.
* In Male, on average people have 8 years of schooling when the expected amount is 14 years. In the islands, it’s worse: about 4.5 years instead of the expected 11. For comparison, in the UK the average amount is 13, and the expected is 16 years.
* People get into positions of power without necessarily having an education (this is changing, though!) Other people who aren’t educated don’t have the confidence, capacity, or power, to challenge them.

**Health inequality:**

* The only hospital in the Maldives is in Male. If you have a health problem, you have to travel to Male.
* A lot of the health budget is spend on evacuating people to Male (even for minor illnesses).
* If you are transported to Male, you are away from home, and still have to pay for accommodation and food (which is expensive!)

**Global warming:**

The Maldives is the lowest country in the world. It is 1.5 meters above sea level. If sea levels rise due to global warming… game over. Does the rest of the world have a duty to help The Maldives, and reduce global warming? Even at the cost of other nation’s financial development? (Some nations, like China and India, are burning lots of fossil fuels because it is giving a boost to their economy… which is what the USA and Great Britain did years ago, and what helped make them rich. Should India and China stop burning fossil fuels, miss out on becoming richer, just to save the Maldives?)

**Political unrest:**

* The Maldives were ruled by a dictator for 30 years, until 2008.
* In 2008 Mohammed Nasheed was democratically elected.
* In 2012, Nasheed says he was pushed out of the presidency in a political coup (he was overthrown). There were suspicious 3 rounds of voting… when in the first two it seemed Nasheed would win again, they restarted the voting process.
* Some people make the most out of political unrest, like gangs (by the way, Eva Abdulla is quoted in this article as receiving threats from gangs): <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/oct/22/maldives-political-instability-gang-violence>
* The current president – Yamin Abdul Gayoom – is the half-brother of the dictator who ruled the Maldives for 30 years.

**Session 4 resources**

Education

**At a Glance: Education in the Maldives**

**Source:** <http://www.unicef.org/maldives/media_3333.htm>

***At a Glance: Education in the Maldives***

* ***100% enrolment ratio in primary education***
* ***99% of pupils starting grade 1 reach grade 5***
* ***65% enrolment ratio in lower secondary education***
* ***7% enrolment ratio in higher secondary education***
* ***92  boys for every 100 girls in primary education***
* ***112 boys for every 100 girls in secondary education***

**Situation of Education in the Maldives**  
Roughly 35% of the Maldives is under 18 years old, making education a key area for social investment in the national future. Since the Maldives unified its education system in 1978, it has gone from 70% literacy, with women more likely to be illiterate than men, to universal primary education and a 98% literacy rate. Real challenges remain, however. The country is dependent on expatriate teachers, and the quality of education is uneven for the 70% that live on islands far from the capital, where two-thirds of teachers remain untrained; libraries and separate toilets for girls are unavailable; and children with special needs have little access to school. While there is no significant gender disparity in pre and primary school education, which is available on all islands, inequality emerges at the secondary school level, where travel is required to other islands and the exchange of room and board for domestic labour makes families reluctant to send daughters away for education. Curriculum materials and textbooks show gender bias, educators often have no training in gender sensitivity, and most teaching is still based on old-style rote memorization.

**UNICEF's Response**  
To address these challenges, UNICEF and the Ministry of Education have created national tsunami recovery programs that aim to build a development bridge into the future, raising educational standards throughout the country, integrating distant and isolated island schools, and leveling national inequalities through:

* 20 Teacher Resource Centres (TRCs), using broadband internet and a specially-developed website with teaching and learning tools to integrate island teachers into national and global learning communities that develop and share best practices
* Child-friendly schools that encourage participatory, creative, flexible and proactive learning
* Programmes that make active involvement of caregivers in their children's education the norm
* Revision of curricula to make them relevant to national development priorities
* A  sustainable, collaborative, and continuous review and knowledge sharing system at the national and atoll levels

**The Future of Education**  
The 20 atoll-based TRCs are designed to be a path-breaking system for low cost/high output information sharing, new knowledge creation, and peer to peer training. They aim to provide the infrastructure to ensure that child-friendly learning continues to gain momentum, by providing a self-sustaining and participatory network that brings educational collaboration and capacity building into the distant capillaries of a unified, but highly dispersed educational system.

Child-friendly teaching methods have been so successful in the Maldives that many communities have joined voluntarily. The government has also committed to developing its own programme to expand participatory learning into secondary schools in the coming years, so that the pre- and primary-schoolers of today can continue to be fully involved in their own educations far into the future.  
  
  
**Our Partners in Education**  
The Ministry of Education, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), Australian Volunteers International, and Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO)

**Resources for Education**  
To carry out planned Education activities throughout 2008-2010, UNICEF requires US$820,000 (pending UNICEF Exec. Board approval).   
  
  
**Key Achievements since December 2004**

* All students in the Maldives back in school within a month of the tsunami
* 25 schools rebuilt, 143 pre and primary schools made child-friendly
* 2,622 children in IDP camps and tsunami affected schools received school supplies
* 400 plus educators and 350 mothers and fathers trained in child-friendly education
* Mapping of special education needs for children 3-5 years old commenced
* 2  of 20 TRCs established to date, for online and other training and information exchange

## Education in Maldives

Source: <http://www.themaldives.com/maldives/education.html>

The traditional system of education that has evolved for centuries composed of three types of institution: Kiyavaage, Makthab, and Madharsaa. Madharsaa usually expanded the curriculum to include more subjects such as literacy skills. This system deserves credit for the high (93% in 1986) literacy rate of The Maldives. Most of the Makthabs teach the young to read and write Dhivehi and Arabic as well as simple arithmetic. Continuous research in upgrading the curriculum goes on. A new national curriculum for primary and middle schools was designed and introduced in 1984. This curriculum incorporate environmental studies, science, Dhivehi language, mathematics, English language, fine arts, physical education and calligraphy.

A number of English medium schools prepare older students as London GCE '0' level candidates. The Center For Higher Secondary Education, a government based educational centre, readies students to sit for the London GCE 'A' level examinations. Maintaining an affiliation to a reputed external examination system at secondary level, the Government has most appropriately innovated and introduced a Fisheries Science Programme into the secondary school, the subject having been offered at GCE '0' level since 1987.

As is common in other developing nations, students must travel abroad for a higher education in college or university. In their continuing efforts to upgrade the educational standards, the Maldives' government maintains education as a priority.

## History of English education[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Education_in_England&action=edit&section=1)]

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_England>

Until 1870 all schools were charitable or private institutions, but in that year the [Elementary Education Act 1870](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elementary_Education_Act_1870) permitted local governments to complement the existing elementary schools in order to fill any gaps. The [Education Act 1902](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_Act_1902) allowed local authorities to create secondary schools. The [Education Act 1918](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_Act_1918) abolished fees for elementary schools.

## Legally compulsory education

Full-time education is compulsory for all children aged 5 to 18, either at school or otherwise, with a child beginning primary education during the school year he or she turns 5.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_England#cite_note-8)Children between the ages of 3 and 5 are entitled to 600 hours per year of optional, state-funded, pre-school education. This can be provided in "playgroups", nurseries, community childcare centres or nursery classes in schools.

The age at which a student may choose to stop education is commonly known as the "leaving age" for compulsory education. This age was raised to 18 by the [Education and Skills Act 2008](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_and_Skills_Act_2008); the change took effect in 2013 for 16-year-olds and 2015 for 17-year-olds.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_England#cite_note-ESA2008-9) State-provided schooling and sixth-form education are paid for by taxes.

All children in England must currently therefore receive an effective education (at school or otherwise) from the first "prescribed day", which falls on or after their fifth birthday to the last Friday in June of the school year in which they turn 18 (formerly 16).[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_England#cite_note-10)[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_England#cite_note-School_attendance-11) The leaving age was raised in 2013 to the year in which they turn 17 and in 2015 to their 18th birthday for those born after 1 September 1997.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_England#cite_note-ESA2008-9) The prescribed days are 31 August, 31 December and 31 March.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_England#cite_note-12)[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_England#cite_note-13) The school year begins on 1 September (or 1 August if a term starts in August).[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_England#cite_note-14)

The Compulsory stages of education are broken into a [Foundation Stage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foundation_Stage) (actually covering the last part of optional and first part of compulsory education), four [Key Stages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Key_Stage), and [Sixth Form](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sixth_Form) (which covers the last 2 years of Secondary Education).

**Session 4 Resources**

**Gender Inequality**

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* In the 2014 parliament, there were 80 men, and 5 women (that’s 6%. Compared to 23% in the UK. Is 23% good enough?). In the judiciary (judges), there are 186 men, and 8 women.
* Women are not banned from banned from political life, but the male dominated culture doesn’t encourage them to join.
* High unemployment. Women largely not allowed to work in the tourist sector, for religious or safety reasons. Since many islands don’t have higher education opportunities, or many jobs, women are often forced into unemployment, early marriage, and teen pregnancy.

# Maldives admits challenges for gender equality, says committed to women's empowerment

Ali Naafiz, Haveeru Online

Source: <http://www.haveeru.com.mv/news/63152>

Oct 18, 2015 - 09:22

Maldives still faces several challenges in achieving gender equality, the country's top diplomat admitted Saturday as she sought out to reassure her government's commitment to empower women.

Speaking at the ASEAN Conference on Women in Politics being held in Malaysia, foreign minister Dhunya Maumoon said the number of women standing for and in elected public office remains disappointingly low in the Maldives. She highlighted several challenges faced by Maldivian women’s interests and ability to participate in politics saying that they are impacted by a combination of legal, political, social, economic and cultural factors.  
  
“Political participation of women is disproportional to the strides Maldives have made in reducing gender inequality,” the minister, who was representing the ruling Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) women’s wing, said.   
  
Dhunya stressed that it is essential to ensure that laws, regulations and politics reflect the reality of women’s everyday lives. Women’s political participation, role in civil society and government decision-making are key ingredients to building democracy, she added.  
  
“Democracy without the full participation of women is a paradox in terms,” Dhunya said.  
  
She emphasised that eliminating the gap of inequality between men and women is a key priority for the PPM and for the government, which she said is fully committed to the achievement of true empowerment for women in the Maldives. The current government came to power with an ambitious manifesto with important pledges for the advancement of women socially, economically and politically, she added.  
  
“The government firmly believes that women and men have an equal share and should make equal contribution in decisions for the advancement of the society and the nation,” the minister said, reflecting on the progress made in the area of empowerment of women under the leadership of President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom.  
  
The minister said that men can play a vital role in increasing women’s participation in politics, adding that the equality between men and women come from mostly the stereotyping of roles, duties and professions based on gender. For several decades, voices raised for women’s advancement came primarily from women, she said.  
  
“Understand the current distressful inequalities women experience, by your sisters, wives and fellow women colleagues.  Listen to women‘s voices raising concerns for equal opportunities. Be supportive. Break the stereotype gender roles. Hold our hands and let us walk together and not ask us women to follow behind. Understand the urgent need for gender equality! It is a human right,” she said.  
  
Dhunya also stated that equality should be seen as equality of outcomes and not by the same provisions for men and women.   
  
“We need affirmative action to ensure equality of outcomes including quota systems in elected posts. If we are to have peace and prosperity in the world and for the legitimacy of democratic systems and for good governance, men and women have to equally participate in the development process and decision making both nationally and globally,” she said.  
  
The minister called upon “enlightened men” to work closely with women’s rights movements and civil society organisations to encourage and support more women to stand for political office and to win elections.   
  
“Empowering women does not mean disempowering men,” she said.

# Women in the Maldives

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_the_Maldives>

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| --- | --- |
| [**Gender Inequality Index**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender_Inequality_Index) | |
| **Value** | 0.357 (2012) |
| **Rank** | 64th |
| [**Maternal mortality**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maternal_death) **(per 100,000)** | 60 (2010) |
| [**Women in parliament**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_government) | 6.5% (2012) |
| **Females over 25 with** [**secondary education**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secondary_education) | 20.7% (2010) |
| **Women in labour force** | 55.7% (2011) |
| [**Global Gender Gap Index**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_Gender_Gap_Report)[**[1]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_the_Maldives#cite_note-ggr-1) | |
| **Value** | 0.6604 (2013) |
| **Rank** | 97th out of 136 |

The status of **Women in the** [**Maldives**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maldives) was traditionally fairly high, as attested to in part by the existence of four [Sultanas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sultana_%28title%29). [Women](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women) do not [veil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veil), nor are they strictly secluded, but special sections are reserved for women in public places, such as [stadiums](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stadium) and [mosques](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mosque). Women do not accept their [husbands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Husband)' names after [marriage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marriage) but maintain their [maiden names](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Married_and_maiden_names). [Inheritance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inheritance) of property is through both males and females.

Catcalling and sexual harassment is a major problem in maldives. Women find that its a daily part of their lives to be harassed on the streets. Men of all ages find catcalling perfectly acceptable in especially Male' city. Little to no action is taken against people who harass women on the road

As [Muslims](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim), men may have as many as four wives, but there is little evidence to suggest that many have more than one.

Women have always had an important role in the family and community. In the early history of Maldives, it was not uncommon to have a woman as a Sultana or ruler and it has been suggested that the society was once a matriarchy.

In today’s society women hold strong positions in government and business. A large percentage of government employees are women. The male female ratio of enrollment and completion of education to secondary school standards remains equivalent. Women serve in the cabinet and the Parliament.

In 2013, a 15-year-old rape victim received a sentence of 100 lashes for [fornication](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fornication). The sentence was later overturned by the Maldivian High Court, following an international petition campaign led by [Avaaz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avaaz).

# Facts and statistics on gender inequality

Source: <http://ukfeminista.org.uk/take-action/facts-and-statistics-on-gender-inequality/>

## Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

#### **Prevalence of violence against women in the UK**

* On average two women a week are killed by a violent partner or ex-partner in the UK.
* Black and minority ethnic (BME) and migrant women experience a disproportionate rate of domestic homicide.
* Up to 3 million women and girls across the UK experience rape, domestic violence, stalking, or other violence each year.
* In 2011 the Forced Marriage Unit advised over 1,450 people related to a possible forced marriage, 78% of whom were women and girls.
* An estimated 66,000 women in England and Wales in 2001 had been subject to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and at least 24,000 girls were at risk of FGM in 2007.
* Almost 1 in 3 girls have experienced unwanted sexual touching at school.
* The economic cost to society and the emotional cost to victims of VAWG is estimated to exceed £40 billion a year in the UK. This includes costs to health and social services, the criminal justice system, lost economic outputs and monetary proxies for human and emotional costs.

#### **Attitudes towards VAWG**

* 36% of people believe that a woman should be held wholly or partly responsible for being sexually assaulted or raped if she was drunk and 26% believe this if she was in public wearing sexy or revealing clothes.
* 1 in 5 people think it would be acceptable in certain circumstances for a man to hit or slap his female partner in response to her being dressed in sexy or revealing clothing in public.
* Only 77% of young men agree that having sex with someone who has said no is rape.

#### **The impact of austerity on VAWG**

A 2012 report on the impact of cuts on VAWG services finds that:

* 31% of the funding to VAWG services from local authorities was cut between 2010/11 and 2011/12. Vital VAWG services are taking a disproportionate hit of the 27% overall cut to local authority budgets.
* Imkaan, a ‘second-tier’ [12] membership organisation for frontline VAWG services for Black, minority ethnic and refugee (BMER) women, report that in one local authority area, two of five specialist BMER refuges have closed due to funding cuts.
* 230 women, almost 9% of those seeking refuge, were turned away by Women’s Aid on a typical day in 2011 due to lack of space.
* Smaller organisations are being hit harder: the average cut for organisations with local authority funding of less than £20,000 was 70%, compared with 29% for those receiving over £100,000.
* Budget cuts between 2010 and 2011 meant that 78% of services working to reform male perpetrators of domestic violence run by RESPECT reduced the number of clients they were able to assist.

## Women and work

#### **Pay gap**

* The full time gender pay gap is 10% , and the average part-time pay gap is 34.5%.
* It is estimated that for each year a mother is absent from the workplace her future wages will reduce by 5%.
* Approximately 70% of people in national minimum wage jobs are women.
* 54% of women working part-time have been found to be ‘employed below their potential’, which amounts to 2.8 million women.

#### **Discrimination at work**

* Women make up only 17% board directors of FTSE 100 companies.
* A study by the Fawcett Society found that 51% of women and men from middle management to director level identify stereotyping as the major hurdle facing women at work.
* Up to 30,000 women are sacked each year simply for being pregnant and each year an estimated 440,000 women lose out on pay or promotion as a result of pregnancy.
* 14% of White British women have been asked about their plans for marriage and/or children at a job interview compared to 20-25% of Black Caribbean, Bangladeshi and Pakistani women.
* 26% of trade union branches have received enquiries from members who have been exposed to the sex industry – including pornography – at work.
* It is estimated that the UK would gain up to £23 billion (the equivalent to 2% of GDP) by better harnessing women’s skills in employment.

#### **Unpaid work**

* At least 75% of mothers have primary responsibility for childcare in the home.
* Women who work, with or without children, spend 15 hours a week on average doing chores, while men spend only five.
* More women than men work part-time after having children: 38% of women with dependent children and only 7% of men with dependent children work part-time.
* There is a large discrepancy in leave entitlements between mothers and their partners: mothers can take 39 weeks of paid maternity leave whilst fathers/partners can only take 2 weeks of paid leave.

#### **Childcare**

* Childcare costs in the UK are the highest in the EU and families pay on average 26.6% of their income on childcare fees, compared to an OECD average of 11.8%.
* Unmet demand for formal childcare at atypical times is substantial: in one survey, 67% of parents working atypical hours struggled to find childcare to meet their needs.

#### **Impact of austerity on women’s employment**

* Cuts to public sector jobs affect women disproportionately because women make up two thirds of the workforce.
* Women’s unemployment is a 24 year high[30]  and unemployment is highest amongst Black and minority ethnic women.
* Cuts to benefits disproportionately affect women as benefits typically make up a fifth of women’s incomes, as opposed to a tenth of men’s.
* A survey of over 2,000 working mums found that over half said they will be forced to stop work or significantly reduce their working hours as a result of the cut to support for childcare costs.

## Women’s representation

#### **Politics**

* Only 1 in 4 MPs is a woman and women from minority ethnic groups make up only 1.2% of MPs yet comprise 4% of the UK population.
* Women are outnumbered 5 to1 by men in the cabinet only 16% of senior ministerial posts are held by women.
* The UK is ranked joint 58th in the world with regards to the number of women in national parliaments.
* Just 34.7% of senior civil servants are women.
* Locally, just 35% of elected councillors are women and only 13% of local authority council leaders are women.
* At the current rate of progress we would have to wait more than 150 years before seeing an equal number of women and men elected to English local councils.
* The Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly do better than Westminster on women’s representation with Scotland at 35% and in Wales at 40% but both have seen declines since initially established
* A poll of 2,408 women found that less than a third (30%) say that they take an interest in politics, compared with around half of men (47%). Yet 44% of women in the poll stated that Britain would be a better place to live if women were more represented in the corridors of Westminster.
* Current percentages of women MPs by party are: Conservatives: 16%; Labour: 31%; Liberal Democrats: 12%.

#### **Media**

* Just 23% of reporters on national daily newspapers in the UK are women with only 1 female editor of a national daily.
* Only 24% of news subjects (the people in the news) across global news channels are female and only 6% of stories highlight issues of gender equality or inequality.
* Women are under-represented in the creation of news. Only 22.6% of reporters on national daily newspapers in the UK being women.
* Women reporters are more likely to report women as the subjects of their stories than are men and are more likely to challenge, and less likely to reinforce, stereotypes in their reports than male reporters.
* 46% of global news content reinforces gender stereotypes, almost eight times higher than stories that challenge such stereotypes (6%).
* Research on UK media found that men typically outnumber women as ‘experts’ by 4:1 on major TV and radio programmes across channels.
* 50% of women in survey of 327 reported experience of sex discrimination in the last 5 years and 23% had experienced sexual harassment in that period.

#### **Work**

* Women make up 17.3% of FTSE 100 board directors.
* The Equalities and Human Rights Commission estimates it will take 70 years at the current rate of progress to see an equal number of female and male directors of FTSE 100 companies.
* Approximately 70% of people in national minimum wage jobs are women.
* Women occupy on average 30.9% of ‘top jobs’ across 11 sectors.
* Using boardroom quotas, Norway increased women’s representation on company boards from 6% in 2002 to 44% in 2010. During that same period European board representation only rose from 2% to 9.7%.
* Membership of Britain’s largest public sector union, Unison, is 80% women. However, only 28% of the working population is unionised and this is less than 20% in the private secto

**Session 4 resources**

**LGBTQ Awareness**

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_the_Maldives>

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [**LGBT rights**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_by_country_or_territory)**in Maldives [Maldives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maldives)** | |
| [Maldives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:LocationMaldives.png)  [Maldives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maldives) | |
| [**Same-sex sexual activity legal**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_by_country_or_territory)**?** | Illegal[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_the_Maldives#cite_note-ILGA_2013-1) |
| **Penalty:** | Up to death.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_the_Maldives#cite_note-ILGA_2013-1) Shariah law applies. Whippings, house arrest, deportation, and up to 6 years in jail. Vigilante attacks and executions occur. |
| [**Gender identity**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender_identity)**/**[**expression**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender_expression) | illegal |
| **Family rights** | |

Same-sex relationships are illegal in the [Maldives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maldives) under [Sharia law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharia_law), though not under national law. In addition, the [Maldives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maldives) was one of the initially 57 (now 54) signatory nations to a statement opposing the [UN declaration on sexual orientation and gender identity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UN_declaration_on_sexual_orientation_and_gender_identity) which was introduced for the General Assembly in 2008 originally and remains open for signature. The country further opposed a landmark [LGBT rights](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights) [resolution in the United Nations Human Rights Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UN_declaration_on_sexual_orientation_and_gender_identity#UN_Human_Rights_Council_Resolution), proposed by the Republic of South Africa and backed by most developed countries which passed in 2011.

In April 2013 the first openly gay and secular blogger in the Maldives, Hilath Rasheed was attacked.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_the_Maldives#cite_note-2)

Recognition of same-sex relationships[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=LGBT_rights_in_the_Maldives&action=edit&section=1)]

The [Maldives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maldives) does not recognize [same-sex marriages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Same-sex_marriage), [civil unions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_union), or [domestic partnerships](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domestic_partnership).

Discrimination protections[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=LGBT_rights_in_the_Maldives&action=edit&section=2)]

There is no legal protection against discrimination based on [sexual orientation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_orientation) or [gender identity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender_identity).

Summary table[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=LGBT_rights_in_the_Maldives&action=edit&section=3)]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Same-sex sexual activity legal | [No](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:X_mark.svg) (Penalty: Up to death. Sharia law applies. Whippings, house arrest, deportation, and up to 6 years in jail. Vigilante attacks and executions occur.) |
| Equal age of consent | [No](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:X_mark.svg) |
| Anti-discrimination laws in employment only | [No](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:X_mark.svg) |
| Anti-discrimination laws in the provision of goods and services | [No](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:X_mark.svg) |
| Anti-discrimination laws in all other areas (incl. indirect discrimination, hate speech) | [No](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:X_mark.svg) |
| Recognition of same-sex couples (e.g. Civil Partnerships) | [No](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:X_mark.svg) |
| Adoption by same-sex couples | [No](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:X_mark.svg) |
| Gays allowed to serve in the military | [No](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:X_mark.svg) |
| Right to change legal gender | [No](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:X_mark.svg) |
| Commercial surrogacy for gay male couples | [No](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:X_mark.svg) |
| Access to IVF for lesbians | [No](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:X_mark.svg) |
| [MSMs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Men_who_have_sex_with_men) allowed to donate blood | [No](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:X_mark.svg) |

[**Maldives: Lenient no more, island nation arrests 2**](http://76crimes.com/2015/09/01/maldives-lenient-no-more-island-nation-arrests-2/)

**Source:** <http://76crimes.com/2015/09/01/maldives-lenient-no-more-island-nation-arrests-2/>

Local police in the island nation of the Maldives arrested two men on Aug. 29 on charges of homosexual activity, the [London-based LGBTI activist group Rainbow Warriors reported](http://rainbowwarriors.blogspot.com/2015/08/worrying-arrest-in-maldives.html).

The arrests follow a toughening of the Maldives law about LGBTI intimacy, which was extended last year to everyone in the country, not just Muslims, Rainbow Warriors stated.

The organization [reported earlier this month](http://rainbowwarriors.blogspot.com/2015/08/lgbt-rights-in-maldives-2015_14.html) about changes that the Indian Ocean nation made in this laws:

*“Same-sex relations are illegal in the Maldives under Sharia law, and with the publication of a new Penal code in 2014, also under national law, and may be punishable by death penalty. The new Penal code transposes into national law provisions which were previously just in Sharia law and applicable to Muslim citizens. In any case these new provisions have not been put into legal practice so far and there is no record of trials for homosexual practices in the aftermath of the new penal code.”*

However, the latest arrests put an end to that period of inactivity.

“This is a worrying move by local police,” Rainbow Warriors stated, “as up until now private behaviour was not being tackled. Also concerning for the tourist community on holiday in the country who could be subject to similar threats by local police.”

Rainbow Warriors said that the two men, ages 56 and 27, were arrested in their private home on the island of Dhaandhoo after police received a complaint alleging homosexual activity there..

The new anti-gay repression intensifies a homophobic climate that led LGBTI people “to flee persecution based on their sexual orientation throughout Maldives in 2014,” according to the New Zealand immigration agency.

The laws in Maldives had been more lenient, as described in the [2015 State-Sponsored Homophobia report](http://old.ilga.org/Statehomophobia/ILGA_State_Sponsored_Homophobia_2015.pdf) from ILGA, the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association.  According to that report, the nation’s Penal Code of Maldives did not directly apply to sexual conduct, which instead was left to Sharia law, applying only to Muslims. The ILGA report stated:

*“[Sexual conduct] is instead regulated by uncodified Muslim Sharia law, which criminalises same-sex sexual acts between both men and between women. For men, the punishment is banishment for nine months to one year or a whipping of 10 to 30 strokes, while the punishment for women is house arrest for nine months to one year.”*

That report also included background about international opposition to the Maldives’ treatment of LGBTI people, as expressed in 2010 and 2015 during its U.N. Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which scrutinizes each country’s human rights record every four years:

*“At its 1st UPR in November 2010, recommendations to Maldives were to decriminalise, protect against violence and remove discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in national laws.*

*“Maldives rejected all five of these recommendations. In a Briefing Paper submitted to Maldives’ 2nd cycle UPR in May 2015, the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) says, ‘[u]ncodified Muslim Sharia Law criminalises homosexual conduct, thus making the Maldives a very insecure place to advocate for the rights of persons who identify themselves as LGBTI.’*

*“A panel of refugee appeals officers in the Immigration New Zealand Agency recognised that individuals are forced to flee persecution based on their sexual orientation throughout Maldives in 2014.”*

Rainbow Warriors noted:

*“In response to an appeal by a Maldivian asylum seeker in New Zealand, the*[*President’s Office*](http://minivannewsarchive.com/politics/maldivian-asylum-seekers-assured-of-prosecution-upon-return-says-presidents-office-86360#sthash.Nd9iWs9j.dpbs)*in the Maldives has*[*recognised*](http://globalvoicesonline.org/2014/06/06/homosexual-assylum-seekers-from-maldives-face-prosecution-upon-return/)*sexual orientation as a reason for prosecution in case of return to the country.*

*“The LGBT movement in the Maldives is only nascent and primarily limited to virtual groups that operate on the Internet, given the high level of homophobia and lack of trust even within the LGBT community.*

*“Maldives is one of the 54 members of the United Nations which in 2008 signed a statement opposing LGBT rights. ”*

# LGBT rights in the United Kingdom

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_the_United_Kingdom>

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [**LGBT rights**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_by_country_or_territory)**in the United Kingdom** | |
|  | |
| [**Same-sex sexual activity legal**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_by_country_or_territory)**?** | 1967 (England and Wales) 1980 (Scotland) 1982 (Northern Ireland)  **Age of consent equalised**  2001 (England and Wales, Scotland) 2009 (Northern Ireland) |
| [**Gender identity**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender_identity)**/**[**expression**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender_expression) | Right to change legal gender since 2005 |
| [**Military service**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_orientation_and_military_service) | Allowed to serve openly since 2000 |
| [**Discrimination protections**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-discrimination_law) | All protections since 2010; some existed since 2003 for sexual orientation and 1999 for gender identity |
| **Family rights** | |
| [**Recognition of relationships**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Same-sex_union) | [Same-sex marriage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Same-sex_marriage_in_the_United_Kingdom)since 2014 (England and Wales; Scotland) [Civil partnerships](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_partnership_in_the_United_Kingdom) since 2005 (nationwide) |
| **Restrictions:** | Same-sex marriages are not recognised or performed in Northern Ireland Non-[consummation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consummation) is not grounds for dissolution |
| [**Adoption**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_adoption) | Joint and stepchild adoption since 2005 (England and Wales) 2009 (Scotland) 2013 (Northern Ireland) |

[Lesbian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lesbian), [gay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gay), [bisexual](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bisexuality) and [transgender](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transgender) ([LGBT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT)) rights in the [United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom) have evolved dramatically over time though still vary slightly by jurisdiction in the [four nations of the United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Countries_of_the_United_Kingdom).

Before and during the formation of the UK, [Christianity and homosexuality](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity_and_homosexuality) clashed. Same-sex sexual activity was characterised as sinful and, under the [Buggery Act 1533](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buggery_Act_1533), was outlawed and punishable by death. LGBT rights first came to prominence following the decriminalisation of same-sex sexual activity across the UK between 1967 and 1982.

Since the turn of the 21st century, LGBT rights have increasingly strengthened in support. Some discrimination protections had existed for LGBT people since 1999, but were extended to all areas under the [Equality Act 2010](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equality_Act_2010). In 2000, [Her Majesty's Armed Forces](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Armed_Forces) removed its ban on LGBT individuals serving openly. The [age of consent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_consent) was equalised, regardless of [sexual orientation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_orientation), in 2001 at 16 in England, Scotland, and Wales. The age of consent was lowered to 16 in Northern Ireland in 2009, previously it was 17 regardless of sexual orientation. Transgender people have had the right to change their legal gender since 2005. The same year, same-sex couples were granted the right to enter into a [civil partnership](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_partnership_in_the_United_Kingdom), a similar legal structure to marriage, and also to [adopt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Same-sex_adoption_in_the_United_Kingdom) in [England and Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England_and_Wales). [Scotland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland) later followed on adoption rights for same-sex couples in 2009, and [Northern Ireland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Ireland) in 2013. [Same-sex marriage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Same-sex_marriage_in_the_United_Kingdom) was legalised in England, Wales and Scotland in 2014,[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_the_United_Kingdom#cite_note-1) but remains illegal in Northern Ireland where it is recognised as a civil partnership.

Today, LGBT citizens have most of the same legal rights as non-LGBT citizens and the UK provides one of the highest degrees of liberty in the world for its LGBT communities. In[ILGA-Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ILGA-Europe)'s 2015 review of LGBTI rights, the UK received the highest score in Europe, with 86% progress toward "respect of human rights and full equality" for LGBT people and 92% in Scotland alone.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_the_United_Kingdom#cite_note-2) Recent polls have indicated that a majority of British people support same-sex marriage[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_the_United_Kingdom#cite_note-3) and 76% of the UK viewed that homosexuality should be accepted by society, one of the highest in the world.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_the_United_Kingdom#cite_note-4) Additionally, the UK currently holds the world record for having the most LGBTI people in parliament with 27 LGBTI MPs elected at the[2015 election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom_general_election,_2015).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_the_United_Kingdom#cite_note-5)

An Integrated Household Survey estimated 1.5% people in the UK identify themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual – far lower than previous estimates of 5–7%.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_the_United_Kingdom#cite_note-ons2010-6) Interpreting the statistics, an Office for National Statistics (ONS) spokesperson said, "Someone may engage in sexual behaviour with someone of the same sex but still not perceive themselves as gay."[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_the_United_Kingdom#cite_note-7) It is also estimated that the trans population of the UK is between 300,000 and 500,000 people,[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_the_United_Kingdom#cite_note-8) but [Stonewall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stonewall_(charity)) concludes that it is hard to define the LGBT population of the UK because some LGBT people are not [out](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coming_out).[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_the_United_Kingdom#cite_note-9) [LGBT rights organisations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_organization) and very large LGBT communities have been built across the UK, most notably in [Brighton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_community_of_Brighton_and_Hove), which is widely regarded as the UK's unofficial "gay capital," [London](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Compton_Street), [Manchester](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canal_Street_(Manchester)) and [Birmingham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birmingham_Gay_Village) with other large communities in [Bristol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Market,_Bristol), [Leeds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Calls), [Liverpool](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_culture_in_Liverpool) and [Newcastle upon Tyne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newcastle_upon_Tyne), which all have[gay villages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gay_villages) and host annual [pride festivals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gay_pride).

Session 4 resources

Unjust Democracy

Former Maldives president Mohamed Nasheed jailed for 13 years

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/14/former-maldives-president-mohamed-nasheed-jailed-for-13-years>

Conviction on terrorism charge of nation’s first democratically elected leader likely to worsen acute instability in popular tourist destination

Mohamed Nasheed waves to reporters from inside a car outside the court after a three-judge panel pronounced his verdict. Photograph: Sinan Hussain/AP. [Mohamed Nasheed](http://www.theguardian.com/world/mohamed-nasheed), the first democratically elected leader of the Maldives, has been sentenced to 13 years in prison after being found guilty of terrorism. The verdict is likely to worsen the acute political instability in the popular luxury tourist destination and appears likely to provoke street violence. Nasheed, a respected human rights and environment campaigner, was elected president in the Maldives’ first free polls after the end of 30-year autocratic rule of Maumoon Abdul Gayoom in 2008.

The former president’s alleged offence – the detention of a judge – dates back to shortly before he was ousted in what supporters say was a coup in 2012.

“The prosecution’s evidence proved beyond reasonable doubt that Nasheed ordered the chief judge’s arrest or forceful abduction and detention,” the judge, Abdulla Didi, said in the court in the capital, Malé.

Nasheed smiled when the verdict was read out and shook hands with three family members when he was escorted from the courtroom. In a statement released by his office, the 47-year-old called on the people of the[Maldives](http://www.theguardian.com/world/maldives) to “to confront the dictatorial power of this regime” and “to take all of your lives in your hands and to go out on to the streets”.

“Do not consider either the security of your personal lives or the transitory happiness of your wives, husbands, children, parents and relatives; for the security of all of your children and their children is in jeopardy,” he said.

The three-judge bench’s verdict was unanimous and the office of the president, Abdulla Yameen, who has denied that the prosecution of his chief rival for power was political, confirmed the 13-year sentence. In February police dragged Nasheed into court despite his protests that he would go willingly on his own. Yameen is the half-brother of the former ruler Gayoom. The political struggle in the island nation sets Nasheed, who has favoured a pro-western foreign policy and launched efforts to counter growing local Islamic conservatism, against more rightwing elements, many close to the former regime. These have frequently sought to portray Nasheed as a threat to “traditional Islamic values” in the Maldives while favouring China in their foreign policy and the business community economically. Countries including India and the United States have expressed concern about Nasheed’s treatment and trial.

“We are deeply concerned over the developments in the Maldives. We are[monitoring the situation there](http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/13year-imprisonment-for-mohamed-nasheed-in-maldives-india-expresses-concern/article6993366.ece),” said a spokesman for the India’s Ministry of External Affairs on Saturday.

Amnesty International, the human rights group, said the conviction was politically motivated. Tension had been rising again as the verdict approached and hundreds of Nasheed’s supporters, some waving “Free Nasheed” posters, had gathered outside the court on Friday night and police said they had briefly detained 13 men. In an interview with the Guardian in Malé last month, Nasheed called for the international community to consider sanctions against the island nation “as a last resort” and called on tourists to learn more about the Maldives before they decide to visit.

“It is good and necessary to have a relaxing holiday but important [they] understand what is happening here too,” [he said, speaking at the headquarters of the Maldivian Democratic party](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/22/former-maldives-president-detained-under-anti-terror-law).

More than a million tourists visited the tropical island destination last year, many from the west. Few see much of the country beyond their resorts and are unaware of its deep social, political and economic problems. The arrest of the judge in 2012 triggered the crisis in which Nasheed has said he was forced to resign at gunpoint. Yameen then became president in November 2013 in an election whose second-round runoff was cancelled when early results put Nasheed ahead. When the second round was re-run, Nasheed lost by a narrow margin and conceded defeat. The prosecutor-general last month withdrew criminal charges that had been brought against Nasheed over the judge’s arrest, only to issue an arrest warrant shortly afterwards on new charges of terrorism relating to the same incident, bringing thousands out on to the streets in protest. Yameen’s supporters held numerous rallies in Malé last week calling for a swift sentence against Nasheed. The opposition leader’s supporters have been protesting daily since his arrest, sometimes at sea near the island where he was imprisoned. On Friday night they staged a sit-in near the court building, but were pepper sprayed and dispersed. The mood in Malé remains somber. Ali Waheed, chairman of the opposition Maldivian Democratic party, said: “We will free President Nasheed. This is atrocious sentence. An unjust 13 years. We will not forget this brutality. This is a time of profound pain, but we remain determined.” Home minister Umar Naseer has said he has ordered the police to keep the former president at the remand centre, until a special cell is constructed at the Maafushi Jail. Ibrahim Muaz Ali, a spokesman for the government, told the Guardian: “The charges are not politically motivated ... We have a system of separation of powers. In a democracy, the head of state does not interfere in judicial proceedings, and is not to blame for court proceedings.”

“President Yameen does not want to jail opposition politicians and plunge the country into unrest. He has an economic agenda. However, we will respect and enforce court verdicts.”

Ali denied any irregularities in the legal process and said Nasheed could still appeal the verdict at the high court.

“However, we will not allow civil unrest. Our aim is to establish peace and order,” he said.

The political turmoil comes amid worry about increasing Islamist militancy in the country. [Between 70 and 200 inhabitants of the 1,200 island archipelago have travelled to Syria to join Islamic State or other militant groups there](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/26/paradise-jihadis-maldives-islamic-extremism-syria). Amnesty International has raised the case of Ahmed Rilwan Abdulla, a well-known journalist who disappeared last year. Relatives of the disappeared man accuse police of being “either negligent or complicit in the abduction”. Several of those suspected of involvement in his abduction have been linked to extremist networks. A report released by Amnesty last month said the government had been “effectively undermining human rights protection by failing to strengthen the independent institutions of the state”. The campaign group alleged systematic impunity for human rights violations, especially for torture and other ill-treatment, and for excessive use of force by police against demonstrators. Transparency Maldives, a local NGO, issued a statement noting “with grave concern” the sentencing of Nasheed “despite a number of irregularities in the legal process”. The NGO said that Nasheed was “denied legal representation, denied right to appeal, his legal team denied adequate time to build a defence against the new charges of terrorism”. Tourism is the biggest industry for the country of 350,000 and has been boosted in recent years by growing numbers of Chinese holidaymakers. Most resorts are situated on uninhabited islands exempt from strict laws prohibiting alcohol in the Muslim state.

**[This is the judge that Nasheed jailed]**

**Source:** [**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdulla\_Mohamed**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdulla_Mohamed)

**Judge Abdulla Mohamed** is the Chief Judge of Criminal Court [Maldives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maldives)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdulla_Mohamed#cite_note-1) Judge Abdulla Mohamed started as a Judge at Criminal Court and was later promoted as Chief Judge after his predecessor was selected as Justice at Supreme Court.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdulla_Mohamed#cite_note-2) He holds BA (Hon.) in Shari'a & Law from [Al-Azhar University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Azhar_University) in Egypt. Before joining the judicial sector he was a teacher at Institute of Islamic Studies and Center for Higher Secondary Education in Malé. He is currently married to Aminath Shareef. He has four children.

## Military detention

On January 16, 2012, Mohamed was arrested for 14 instances of obstruction of police duty, including "ordering unlawful investigations, withholding warrants for up to four days, limiting the issuance of warrants to himself exclusively at times, disregarding decisions of higher courts, strategically delaying cases involving opposition members, and barring media from corruption trials", according to then Home Minister Hassan Afeef.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdulla_Mohamed#cite_note-minivannews1-3) Afeef further alleged that the chief judge “twisted and interpreted laws so they could not be enforced against certain politicians” and stood accused of “accepting bribes to release convicts.”[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdulla_Mohamed#cite_note-minivannews1-3) Protests against Mohamed's arrest led to [Mohamed Nasheed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Nasheed)'s resignation under duress.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdulla_Mohamed#cite_note-minivannews2-4)

## Arrest and aftermath

Allegedly on the orders of President Nasheed, the [Maldives National Defence Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maldives_National_Defence_Force) detained and arrested Mohamed on 16 January 2012 [[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdulla_Mohamed#cite_note-5) on charges of corruption, after he had made a ruling to support the release of government critic [Mohamed Jameel Ahmed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Jameel_Ahmed) (who had claimed that Nasheed was conspiring against [Islam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam) with the help of [Christians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity) and [Jews](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judaism)) [[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdulla_Mohamed#cite_note-6) and also after Mohamed had allegedly tried to block a police [summons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Summons" \o "Summons)containing allegations that he was corrupt and that his rulings were politically biased. (A government statement quoted foreign minister Ahmed Naseem as saying that Mohamed was arrested "for corruption, in particular for allowing his judicial decisions to be determined by political and personal affiliations and interests".)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdulla_Mohamed#cite_note-7)

The arrest led to street protests and a boycott of [sessions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sessions) by all the nation's courts.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdulla_Mohamed#cite_note-8)

### Calls to release the Judge

The [prosecutor general](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prosecutor_general)'s office stated that under the constitution a judge can be arrested only with the consent of the [Supreme Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court) decision to do so, and the Maldivian Supreme Court, Prosecutor General and Judicial Services Commission (JSC), as well as the office of the [United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_High_Commissioner_for_Human_Rights), all issued statements declaring the arrest illegal and calling for Mohamed's release.

The MNDF refused to comply with High Court and Supreme Court orders to release Mohamed, and ignored a High Court order to produce him issued on 26 January.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdulla_Mohamed#cite_note-9)[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdulla_Mohamed#cite_note-10)

### President Nasheed resigns

President [Mohamed Nasheed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohamed_Nasheed) resigned on 7 February 2012. After the resignation, he claimed that he was forced to resign by a coup d’état.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdulla_Mohamed#cite_note-minivannews2-4) On 30 August, the Maldives' National Commission of Inquiry stated that it had found no evidence to support Nasheed's version of events, a verdict supported by the US and the [Commonwealth of Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Nations).[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdulla_Mohamed#cite_note-The_Washington_Times-11)

# Corruption in the courts

**Source:** <http://www.newlawjournal.co.uk/nlj/content/corruption-courts>

**Date:**07 August 2013

Survey shows one quarter of people in UK do not trust judiciary

“Astonishing” claims have been made of corruption in the UK courts.

One in five people using the courts last year said they or a household member paid a bribe in relation to that, and nearly one quarter of people in the UK believe the courts and judiciary are corrupt, according to anti-corruption group Transparency International’s [Global Corruption Barometer 2013.](http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/pub/global_corruption_barometer_2013)

The survey was conducted among 1,000 people in each of 107 countries.

Dr Lawrence McNamara, deputy director of the [Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law](http://www.biicl.org/binghamcentre/), writing in [this week’s NLJ](http://www.newlawjournal.co.uk/nlj/content/sign-timesor-aberration), said the levels of public perception of corruption were “not out of kilter” with other common law countries, and could be explained by recent scandals in Parliament, the BBC and other institutions.

Among the respondents, 75 people had used the courts, of which 15 people reported paying a bribe, he said. Five of these people said the bribe was a thank you gift. Therefore, 10 people paid a bribe to a judge, court employee or lawyer for a cheaper or faster service.

That would translate to 13% of 3.78 million people using the civil and criminal courts and judiciary last year, or 490,000 people paying bribes, which would be “astonishing”, he said. Evidence of this is “scant”, however, which suggests it is “extremely unlikely”.

McNamara said the “remarkable” findings did not mean bribery was commonplace in British courtrooms, but should not be ignored. “It should lead us towards robust monitoring and research which examines rigorously and in depth the possibility that corruption may occur in the administration of justice, as it does in other institutions.”

In 2009, CPS barrister Sarfraz Ibrahim was convicted of accepting a share of a £20,000 bribe to drop a case. The first successful prosecution under the Bribery Act 2010 was against Munir Patel, a clerk at Redbridge Crown Court. Research among the legal profession has also indicated corruption is an issue in the UK justice system.

**Session 4 resources**

**Wealth Inequality**

**Rural poverty in the Republic of Maldives**

Source: <http://www.ruralpovertyportal.org/country/home/tags/maldives>

Maldives has no significant poverty, according to an assessment carried out in 2004 by the government with the support of the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Between 1997 and 2004, the number of persons living with incomes below one dollar a day fell from 8,000 to 2,000, less than 1 per cent of the population.

But some segments of the population remain vulnerable. Compared to neighbouring countries, income distribution in Maldives is relatively unequal. Between 1997 and 2005 there was a noteworthy increase in inequality between Malé, the capital island, and the atolls. During that period the median per capita income per day in Malé increased from 1.7 times to 2.3 times the income of people living in the atolls.

The islands that comprise Maldives are widely dispersed and have a low population density. This increases the cost of living, including transport costs, and the cost of delivering essential social and administrative services to people in the outer, remote atolls.

**Who and where are the country’s disadvantaged people?**

Although the overall incidence of poverty has decreased, some vulnerability persists, and poverty remains high on many farming and fishing islands. Islanders in the northern part of the country have particularly low incomes, and migration of at least one member of the household is a common coping strategy in those areas.  
  
Rural women in general and particularly women who are heads of households are more vulnerable to poverty. They own few, if any, assets and they cannot obtain credit. Women on the islands rarely travel outside their atoll. They are primarily in charge of caring for the home and family, cooking, farming, fish processing and collecting firewood and other necessities. Their role in fishing and marketing of fish is negligible. Inter-island trading by women is virtually non-existent and income-generating activities are limited to rudimentary and small-scale enterprises. Although women make a significant contribution to household income and food security by carrying out practically all fish processing and agricultural activity, their contribution of unpaid labour for the family is taken for granted.

**Why are they disadvantaged?**  
  
In rural areas of disadvantaged islands, incomes are low because of inadequate production, under-utilized fisheries resources, a lack of value chain development and inadequate credit for small-scale producers and enterprises.  Production is low because of the scarcity of land and water, unsuitable farming practices and the lack of support services.

# Economy of the Maldives

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Maldives#Poverty.2C_Income_and_Gender_Inequality>

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|  | |
| Currency | 1 [rufiyaa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maldivian_rufiyaa) (Rf) = 100 [laari](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maldivian_laari) |
| [**Fiscal year**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiscal_year) | Calendar year |
| Trade organisations | [WTO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WTO), [SAFTA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asian_Free_Trade_Area) |
| Statistics | |
| [**GDP**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gross_domestic_product) | $2.885 billion (nominal: [160th](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_%28nominal%29); 2014 est.) $4.551 billion (PPP: [168th](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_%28PPP%29); 2014 est.) |
| GDP rank | [165th](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_%28nominal%29) (nominal) / [168th](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_%28PPP%29) (PPP) |
| GDP growth | 6.1% (2014 est.) |
| GDP per capita | $13,300 (2014 est.) |
| GDP by sector | agriculture (4%), industry (23%), services (73%) (2012 est.) |
| [**Inflation**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inflation) ([**CPI**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consumer_price_index)) | 2.5% (2014 est.) |
| Population below [**poverty line**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poverty_threshold) | 16% (2008 est.) |
| Labour force | 110,000 (2010 est.) |
| Main industries | [fish processing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fish_processing), [tourism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tourism), [shipping](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shipping), [boat building](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boat_building), [coconut processing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coconut), [garments](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garments), [woven mats](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mat), [rope](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rope), [handicrafts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Handicrafts), [coral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coral), [sand mining](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sand_mining) |
| External | |
| Exports | $163 million (2009 est.) |
| Export goods | [fish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fish) |
| Main export partners | https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/cb/Flag_of_the_United_Arab_Emirates.svg/23px-Flag_of_the_United_Arab_Emirates.svg.png [United Arab Emirates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Arab_Emirates) 28% https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/48/Flag_of_Singapore.svg/23px-Flag_of_Singapore.svg.png [Singapore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Singapore) 16% https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/4/41/Flag_of_India.svg/23px-Flag_of_India.svg.png [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) 9% https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/1/11/Flag_of_Sri_Lanka.svg/23px-Flag_of_Sri_Lanka.svg.png [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) 6% https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/a/a9/Flag_of_Thailand.svg/23px-Flag_of_Thailand.svg.png [Thailand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thailand) 5% (2013 est.)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Maldives#cite_note-1) |
| Imports | $967 million (2009 est.) |
| Import goods | [petroleum products](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petroleum_products), [ships](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ships), [foodstuffs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foodstuffs), [clothing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clothing), intermediate and capital goods |
| Main import partners | https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/48/Flag_of_Singapore.svg/23px-Flag_of_Singapore.svg.png [Singapore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Singapore" \o "Singapore) 18% https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/cb/Flag_of_the_United_Arab_Emirates.svg/23px-Flag_of_the_United_Arab_Emirates.svg.png [UAE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Arab_Emirates) 18% https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/4/41/Flag_of_India.svg/23px-Flag_of_India.svg.png [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) 9% https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/66/Flag_of_Malaysia.svg/23px-Flag_of_Malaysia.svg.png [Malaysia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malaysia) 8.3% https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/fa/Flag_of_the_People%27s_Republic_of_China.svg/23px-Flag_of_the_People%27s_Republic_of_China.svg.png [China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China) 6.7% (2014 est.)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Maldives#cite_note-2) |
| Gross [**external debt**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/External_debt) | $943 million (2010 est.) |
| Public finances | |
| [**Public debt**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_public_debt) | $316 million (2004 est.) |
| Revenues | $758 million (2010 est.) |
| Expenses | $362 million; including capital expenditures of $80 million (2004 est.) |
| Economic aid | N/A |
| Foreign reserves | $368.3 million (31 December 2013 est.) |
| Main data source: [**CIA World Fact Book**](https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mv.html) *All values, unless otherwise stated, are in* [*US dollars*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_dollar)*.* | |

In ancient times the [Maldives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maldives) were renowned for [cowries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cowries), [coir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coir) rope, dried [tuna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuna) fish (Maldive fish), [ambergris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ambergris) (*maavaharu*) and [coco de mer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coco_de_mer) (*tavakkaashi*). Local and foreign trading ships used to load these products in the Maldives and bring them abroad.

Nowadays, the [mixed economy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mixed_economy) of the Maldives is based on the principal activities of [tourism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tourism), [fishing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fishing) and [shipping](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shipping).

Tourism is the largest industry in the Maldives, accounting for 28% of GDP and more than 60% of the Maldives' foreign exchange receipts. It powered the [current GDP per capita](http://earthtrends.wri.org/text/economics-business/variable-638.html) to expand 265% in the 1980s and a further 115% in the 1990s. Over 90% of government tax revenue flows in from import duties and tourism-related taxes.

Fishing is the second leading sector in the Maldives. The economic reform program by the government in 1989 lifted import quotas and opened some exports to the private sector. Subsequently, it has liberalized regulations to allow more foreign investment.

Agriculture and manufacturing play a minor role in the economy, constrained by the limited availability of cultivable land and shortage of domestic labour. Most staple foods are imported.

Industry in the Maldives consists mainly of garment production, boat building, and handicrafts. It accounts for around 18% of GDP. Maldivian authorities are concerned about the impact of erosion and possible global warming in the low-lying country.

Among the 1,900 islands in the Maldives, only 198 are inhabited. The population is scattered throughout the country, and the greatest concentration is on the capital island, [Malé](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mal%C3%A9). Limitations on [potable water](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drinking_water) and [arable land](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arable_land), plus the added difficulty of congestion are some of the problems faced by households in [Malé](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mal%C3%A9).

Development of the infrastructure in the Maldives is mainly dependent on the tourism industry and its complementary tertiary sectors, transport, distribution, real estate, construction, and government. Taxes on the tourist industry have been plowed into infrastructure and it is used to improve technology in the agricultural sector.

Poverty, Income and Gender Inequality

Maldives has successfully achieved their Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of halving the proportion of people living under the poverty line to a mere 1% as of 2011.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Maldives#cite_note-UNDP.2Cpoverty-11) Starvation is non-existent, HIV rates have fallen and malaria has been eradicated.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Maldives#cite_note-poverty-12) Despite these accomplishments and progressive economic growth, developmental issues remain. In particular, the country needs to address income and gender disparities.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Maldives#cite_note-UNDP_response-13) Development in Maldives has occurred predominantly in the capital Malé; islands outside the capital continue to encounter high poverty vulnerability, lower per-capita income, lower employment and limited access to social services.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Maldives#cite_note-UNDP_response-13) A country-wide household income survey in 1997-1998 showed that the average income in the capital Malé was 75% higher than in surrounding islands.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Maldives#cite_note-poverty-12) Maldives’s Gini co-efficient stands at 0.41.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Maldives#cite_note-14)

Poverty and Income Disparity

The factors that have led to Maldivians falling into or remaining in poverty are:[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Maldives#cite_note-poverty-12)

Geography: Residents of the northern regions of Maldives tend to remain in poverty more than other regions due to the relatively lower level of development in the North;

Health: Maldivians who do not work due to poor health remain in poverty possibly on account of lower accessibility to health services in the country;

Young household members: Larger proportion of young family members results in a lower overall household income;

Female household members: Lower female labour participation rate and therefore, households with a greater proportion of females will have lower household income.

The difficulty of accessing social services and infrastructure in the outer atolls has meant that geography is a key reason for poverty and income disparity in Maldives.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Maldives#cite_note-poverty-12) In islands far from the capital, there tends to be lack of production, inadequate use of fishery resources, low value chain development and insufficient credit for small-scale producers and entrepreneurs.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Maldives#cite_note-Rural-15) The scarcity of land and water, the underdeveloped farming practices and absence of support services in atolls has meant low production and thus low incomes in these regions.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Maldives#cite_note-Rural-15)

Gender Inequality

Maldives also faces gender inequality. In a nationwide survey in 2007, it was established that one in every three Maldivian women between the ages of 15-39 has been a victim of domestic violence.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Maldives#cite_note-news-16) The labour force participation rate of women decreased from 60% in 1978 to 37% in 2005.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Maldives#cite_note-assessment-17) Maldives faces skill shortages and human resource development constraints causing fewer women to be employed.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Maldives#cite_note-assessment-17)

Current Efforts

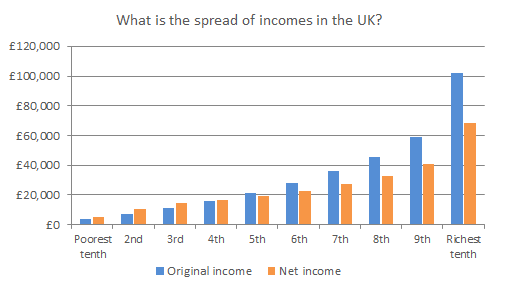
The government has recognized these issues of income and gender disparities and with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Maldives has implemented policies that directly address these issues.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Maldives#cite_note-18)[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Maldives#cite_note-19) In 2011, President Nasheed said, “The most important facility for a country’s development is its people… and since women are half of the population in any country, for a certainty their full participation will speed up the pace of development.” [[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Maldives#cite_note-news-16)

**The Scale of Economic Inequality in the UK**

**Source:** [**https://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/scale-economic-inequality-uk**](https://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/scale-economic-inequality-uk)

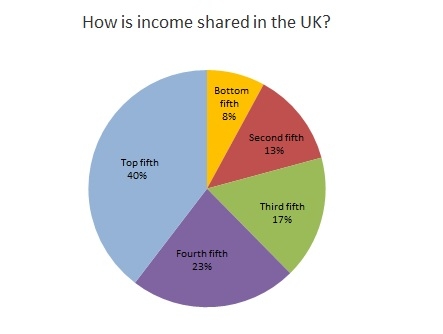
UK Income Inequality

The UK has a very high level of income inequality compared to other developed countries.

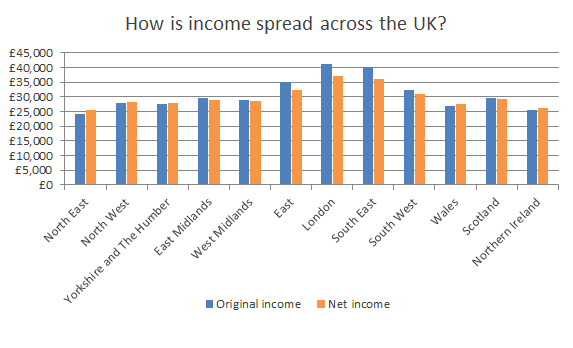
People in the bottom 10% of the population have on average a net income of £8,468. The top 10% have net incomes almost ten times that (£79,042). As can be seen from the graph, income inequality is much starker at the top of the income scale, with the group with the 9th highest incomes making only 60% of the top 10%’s income. Inequality is much higher amongst original income than net income with the poorest 10% having on average an original income of £3,738 whilst the top 10% have an original income over 27 times larger (£102,366).

[2]

**Differences Within the Top 1%**

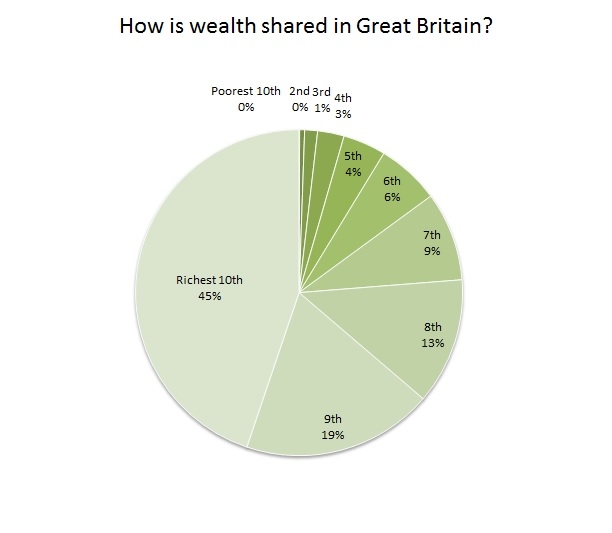
The graph above does not show the full extent of the difference between the richest and the rest of society. This is because the top 1% have incomes substantially higher than the rest of those in the top 10%. In 2012, the top 1% had an average income of £259,917 and the top 0.1% had an average income of £941,582.

**How Income is Shared**

The graph below shows how income is shared amongst households. The poorest fifth of society have only 8% of the total income, whereas the top fifth have 40%.

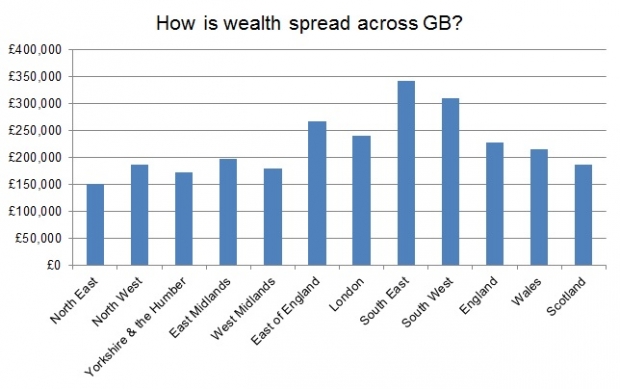
**Income Spread Between the UK’s Regions and Nations**

Income is also spread unequally across the UK’s regions and nations. The average household income in London is considerably higher than in the North East.



**GB Wealth Inequality**

Wealth in Great Britain is even more unequally divided than income. The richest 10% of households hold 45% of all wealth. The poorest 50%, by contrast, own just 8.7%.



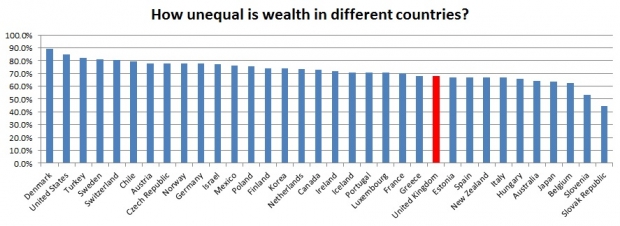
**Wealth Spread Between Great Britain's Regions and Nations**

Wealth is also unevenly spread across Great Britain. An average household in the South East has almost twice (183%) the amount of wealth of an average household in Scotland.

**How Does the UK Compare to Other Countries?**

**Wealth**

Compared to the other OECD countries the UK has a relatively equal distribution of wealth. The UK has a wealth GINI coefficient of 67.8% compared to an OECD average of 71.8%.

[8]

**Income**

Compared to other developed countries the UK has a very unequal distribution of income. Out of the 30 OECD countries in the LIS data set, the UK is the fifth most unequal, and within this data set it is the second most unequal in Europe.

