

# Surveying Human Rights Awareness in Maldives\*

UNDP Maldives

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**T**HE “RIGHTS” SIDE OF LIFE: A Baseline Human Rights Survey (RSL) was first conducted in 2005 by the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM) in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to determine the extent of awareness among the general public about human rights; their attitudes towards human rights issues; and their awareness of the existence of HRCM, its functions and its effectiveness in performing them. The survey revealed that Maldivians remained largely unaware of what human rights were despite promotion by various authorities and the inclusion of individual rights of all persons residing in the Republic of Maldives in the second chapter of the Constitution of the Maldives. The results also indicated that even though HRCM is the primary state authority mandated to protect, promote and sustain human rights, only a few people were aware of the role of HRCM.

It was decided that this survey will be longitudinal in nature and be repeated every five years. Hence, the second baseline Human Rights Survey, *Six years on The “Rights” Side of Life’* (RSL2), was carried out by the HRCM in 2011 to assess the level of human rights awareness of the general public and to compare the differences, if any, that could be observed between the results of the first and the second survey.

Based on the lessons learned in the first cycle, the survey instrument was modified by the HRCM for the 2011 iteration to cater for the new developments and changes in the society. *RSL2* revealed that although the approval rating of HRCM had declined, there was a remarkable improvement and increase in the knowledge and awareness of human rights.

Reflecting 15 years: The “Rights” Side of Life (RSL3) was the first time a chapter focusing solely on the issue of domestic violence had been included in *The “Rights” Side of Life*.

\*This is an edited excerpt of the report entitled *Reflecting 15 years: The “Rights” Side of Life 2020* on the survey jointly undertaken by the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives, Family Protection Authority and the United Nations Development Programme in the Maldives. Full survey report is available at [www.undp.org/maldives/publications/reflecting-15-years-rights-side-life-survey-2020](http://www.undp.org/maldives/publications/reflecting-15-years-rights-side-life-survey-2020).

This study focused in empirically gauging the attitudes and awareness of the general public on a range of human rights issues and also recognizes and integrates domestic violence as a human rights issue. The study collected data on human rights and domestic violence to understand the current situation in the country and provide insights on the extent of the additional work required to address any shortcomings. The information obtained further helps prioritize future directions for human rights promotion, prevention of domestic violence and assists in identifying areas for more research.

### Research Objectives

The overall objective of the research was to understand attitudes, awareness and perceptions of the public on a range of human rights issues in the Maldives.

The more specific objectives include:

1. To examine the level of knowledge on human rights and awareness on HRCM among the public;
2. To examine the changes in the public's attitudes and perceptions on human rights and the performance of HRCM over the years;
3. To compare the difference in the knowledge, awareness and perceptions between individuals across regions, between locals and migrants and other demographic categories;
4. To examine the knowledge, perception and prevalence of domestic violence.

### Research Design

The success of the initial 2005 survey, *The "Rights" Side of Life*, and its robust conclusions, resulted in the decision to use the same sampling design of 2005 survey, with slight adjustments in 2011 and 2019.

### Sampling

This study adopted the same design and sampling methodology of the two previous surveys. The research involved a randomized sample of 1,160 (seven hundred and thirteen females and three hundred and eighty-four

males) individuals selected from households on twenty islands. A total of thirteen islands and the urban centers of Malé and Addu, were included in the sample. While RSL2 surveyed two resorts, RSL3 enumerated four resorts with a sample of twenty-five from each, which reflects a wider representation of the resorts as their number has increased since RSL2. The exact resorts surveyed have been revised for convenience. Thilafushi Island was selected to represent an industrial island.

Multistage sampling was adopted, and the country was stratified into seven regions, with one atoll randomly selected from each. Two islands were then chosen from the atoll, one being the administrative island and one other island was chosen at random. Sampling was carried out in two urban clusters (Malé and Addu) and in four resorts (randomly selected) and one industrial island (Thilafushi). Enumeration blocks were selected from these selected islands and all households in the block were enumerated until a pre-determined number of households was achieved. The respondents selected for the interview from the households were persons aged 16 or over.

The sampling design of RSL2 has been largely adopted in the methodology and the sampling frame of RSL3. The same atolls were followed with slight modifications to the island selection. Subject to the revised numbers available from census data from 2014, population and household numbers were aligned to RSL2. With the updated population figure, the sample size was drawn using a sampling software with 95 percent confidence interval, with 5 percent error and 50 percent response distribution. To this figure, a 10 percent non-response was added. Based on this, a total of 1,160 individuals were included as the sample.

The Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) were selected using house lists obtained from the island councils. The respondents were persons aged 16 and above on his or her last birthday, living in the selected PSU. Where the selected sample was not available on the island for any reason, a replacement was taken from the household itself, provided they were over 16 years of age. The PSUs for the islands in the sample were selected using a block list obtained from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). As for the resorts, the sample was agreed in consultation with the Ministry of Tourism, and for Thilafushi Island, it was decided in consultation with Thilafushi Corporation Limited.

Enumerators' Training

The survey was undertaken by Riyan Pvt Ltd, a Maldivian consultancy firm. The survey instrument initially developed by the international consultant for the 2005 report was used with minor modifications. The approval to conduct the survey was obtained from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the questionnaire was finalized and digitized using ‘latin’ in the local language. The topics in the enumerator training included familiarity with using the tablets, the questionnaire and terminology; the laws and regulations attached to the subject in question, and the conventions the country has signed and ratified with international bodies. Training was conducted to equip the enumerators with the supervisory skills designed to assist the Riyan team handling the survey. While the Riyan team conducted the training sessions in Malé and the Atolls, representatives from HRCM and the FPA actively participated in facilitating sessions. A supervisor from the Riyan team was assigned to each selected island and to Malé. He/she was present in the field for overall coordination of the data collection process. Prior to travelling to the sites, enumerators were sought from the selected islands using online advertisements. The final recruitment took place on site, and gender representation was emphasized. All of the selected enumerators had completed their education to at least GCE Ordinary Level (lower secondary exam). The enumerators underwent a half-day training session, focusing largely on the questionnaire. The training also included a session on human rights, the role of HRCM, the Domestic Violence Act and other key documents.

Some basic details of the samples are shared in the following table.

Table 1. Summary of sample

Total sample size	1,160
Malé	394
All Atolls	610
Industrial/Thilafushi	50
Resorts	106
Total number of locations surveyed	20
Total number of islands (excluding cities, resorts and industrial islands)	13
Cities (Male & Addu)	2
Resorts	4
Industrial/Thilafushi	1

## Data Collection

The survey data collection was carried out from 16 July – 10 September 2019. Data collection was initiated after the enumerators had been trained. The length of the data collection period, the number of enumerators, and other details of the process are shared in the following table.

**Table 2. Data collection schedule**

Islands	Travel (DD/MM)	Dates	Days	No. of Enumerators	Sample size
<b>Total</b>					1,160
<b>Malé</b>	15/7	3/9	48	20	394
Fuvahmulah	20/7	22/7	2	10	25
<b>Addu</b>	25/7	29/7	4	10	61
<b>AA. Atoll</b>					
Aa. Rasdhoo	27/7	28/7	1	8	45
Aa. Thoddoo	29/7	30/7	2	4	45
<b>Ha. Atoll</b>					
Ha. Utheemu	2/8	5/8	3	10	66
Ha. Dhidoo	2/8	5/8	3	8	66
<b>R. Atoll</b>					
R. Rasmaadhoo	2/8	3/8	1	9	65
R. Ungoofaaru	4/8	6/8	2	8	65
<b>Feafu Atoll</b>					
F. Nilandhoo	7/8	9/8	2	8	22
F. Bilehdhoo	8/8	8/8	1	6	22
<b>Th. Atoll</b>					
Th. Veymandhoo	23/8	24/8	2	8	32
Th. Gaadhifushi	24/8	26/8	2	8	32
<b>Gdh. Atoll</b>					
Gdh. Thinadhoo	23/8	24/8	2	8	32
Gdh. Madaveli	25/8	26/8	2	8	32
<b>Resorts</b>	26/7	10/9	6	26	106
<b>Industrial</b>	4/8	24/8	10	4	50

## Response Rate

The overall response rate for the survey was 95 percent. A more detailed breakdown is shared in the table below.

Table 3. Response rate

	Total Sample	Total Responses	Response rate
Outer islands	549	546	99.45%
Urban	455	422	92.75%
Resorts	106	94	88.68%
Industrial	50	39	78.00%
Total	1,160	1,101	94.91%

Although the total response rate is high, the response rate to questions in different sections of the questionnaire varied. Generally, refusals were received for different parts of questions 66 and 72, focusing on women’s rights.

Limitations

Survey instrument

The size of the questionnaire proved to be a challenge in obtaining information from the respondents. In total, there were one hundred and twenty-seven broad questions with two hundred and forty-eight sub-questions. On average, a minimum of thirty to forty-five minutes were spent conducting one full interview.

Timing of the survey

Several public holidays fell into the survey period creating challenges in getting access to households, especially in Malé. This resulted in an extension of the data collection period, and burnout of the enumerators in the capital .

Furthermore, there was a considerable gender disparity among the respondents. This occurred because the surveys were conducted on weekdays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., leading to more responses from women. Men were unavailable at home during these times and this is during weekdays and during office hours; a general phenomenon observed throughout the country and reflected in almost all the surveys.

In addition, the weather conditions deteriorated during the survey period, and travel was postponed occasionally, impacting on the fieldwork.

Availability of enumerators

One of the main challenges lay in recruiting enumerators and retaining them throughout the survey period, especially in Malé. Recruitment and training had to be conducted more than once. Initially, each Atoll/Island

Council was asked to assist the team in recruiting enumerators, however, in some islands, the interest level was low. Hence, enumerators had to be hired from other, nearby islands.

Some questions in this survey were designed to be administered by female enumerators with female respondents, and by male enumerators with male respondents, in order to increase the responses. But finding enumerators from both genders in some locations was a challenge, and this may have impacted on the responses to some gender-based questions.

Challenges were also encountered in finding enumerators from different age groups. The majority were below the age of 25, and hence difficulties were faced with questions which required probing and maturity in handling the responses.

### **Other**

Challenges in communicating with migrant workers due to the language barrier, led some participants to leave midway through the interview. During the data collection, assistance was sought from the workers' colleagues in answering the questions, creating interpreters' bias.

## **Key Findings<sup>1</sup>**

### **Awareness of the Human Rights Commission**

1. An increase in public awareness of HRCM (40.8 percent in 2005, 72.8 percent in 2011 to 84.8 percent in 2019).
2. A significant increase in migrant worker respondents awareness of HRCM (9.0 percent in 2011, 41.2 percent in 2019).
3. Similar to the findings of 2011, women's awareness of HRCM was high (84.9 percent in 2011 to 87.0 percent in 2019).
4. An increase in men's awareness of HRCM was observed (63.7 percent in 2011 to 80.7 percent in 2019).
5. A decline in the overall approval rating or the number of respondents who think HRCM is doing an excellent or good job since 2005 (39.7 percent in 2005, 27.0 percent in 2019). There was no significant difference between the results of the approval rating in 2011 and 2019 (26.7 percent in 2011).
6. There is also a decline in the number of respondents who believe that HRCM is doing a satisfactory job, down from 19.9 percent in 2011 to 13.4 percent in 2019.

7. 31.1 percent were dissatisfied and thought HRCM was not doing a good job.
8. A concerning lack of understanding on the functions and mandate of HRCM was observed. Over a quarter (27 percent) of respondents were not able to define the role of HRCM.
9. In 2011, 70.0 percent of the respondents stated that the role of HRCM was to protect human rights whereas this number had declined to 42.8 percent in 2019.
10. Understanding of HRCM's monitoring role has suffered a significant decline to 4.1 percent, down from 18.0 percent in 2011.
11. The investigative role of HRCM was stated as a function of HRCM by only 12.9 percent of the respondents as opposed to 31.0 percent in 2011.
12. When respondents were asked about the specific functions of HRCM that needed further strengthening, the strongest support was voiced for creating awareness on human rights (89.2 percent), closely followed by strengthening protection of the rights of vulnerable groups (89.0 percent).
13. 87.4 percent stated that HRCM should strengthen its function of advising the government on human rights issues, followed by 86.1 percent demanding improvement in the investigation of complaints regarding human rights abuses.
14. 85.8 percent suggested that HRCM should improve monitoring the government's compliance with human rights obligations.

### Community Awareness of Human Rights

1. Awareness of human rights, while 13.4 percent claimed to have high awareness and 23.2 percent reported having a poor understanding.
2. Women displayed increased confidence with their human rights awareness with 60.5 percent reporting moderate awareness, compared to 46.6 percent of men. There was no significant difference in the findings to the 2011 report.
3. Only 36.5 percent of respondents were able to name five human rights, suggesting a decline from 45.1 percent in 2011.
4. A significant positive change is in the decrease of the number of people who could not name any human rights (44.5 percent in 2011 compared to 15.4 percent in 2019).



5. More women (38.9 percent) were able to identify five human rights compared to men (32.0 percent) mirroring the greater awareness of human rights reported by women in the previous query.
6. The respondents believed that rights of the child were the most important from a provided list of twenty-one human rights. This is a considerable departure from previous findings of 2011 where the right to access education was cited as paramount.
7. Women's right to equality was identified as the second most important human right at 10.9 percent, with the right to education and right to adequate healthcare trailing closely at 10.5 percent and 10.1 percent respectively. In 2011, freedom of expression was ranked as the most important human right, with the right to education in second place.

### **Democratic Reform**

1. People overwhelmingly asserted (85.7 percent) the importance of knowing about the rights and freedoms guaranteed under second chapter of the Constitution. This view holds merit across the gender, geography and nature of local island/atoll/municipal administration without significant variation.
2. A marked improvement of 20.2 percent (up from 11.2 percent in 2011) of the respondents reported having read the Chapter II: Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of the Constitution.
3. More men (23 percent) than women (18 percent) reported having read the constitutional chapter on rights.
4. 77.6 percent of the respondents supported an initiative for the government to provide copies of the Constitution to every household in the country.
5. No significant difference was observed between respondents who thought the democratic process was successful (31.0 percent) and those who thought it was not (30.0 percent). 18% of respondents believe the democratic process has been successful to some extent.
6. Men were noted to be slightly more satisfied (38.0 percent) with democratic and political reform than women (28.1 percent).
7. Corruption (21.0 percent) and lack of trust between political parties (20.0 percent) were considered the leading factors undermining the success of the democratic process.

### The Right to Security of the Person/Crime

1. No significant difference was observed between respondents who reported knowing a victim of crime between 2011 (20.8 percent) and 2019 (21.7 percent).
2. Fewer migrant workers reported knowing a victim of crime, with a fall from 15.8 percent in 2011 to 4.1 percent in 2019.
3. Two thirds of people (74.9 percent) who reported knowing a victim of a crime were below the age of 39 years old.
4. A quarter of those who reported knowing a victim of crime, recalled that it was a member of their own community, while 14.0 percent said it was a neighbor, and 13.5 percent stated it was a member of their household.
5. Most of the respondents identified victims of crimes as male (45.3 percent) while 17.3 percent indicated that the victim was a female.
6. The high (37.4 percent) non-response rate (as opposed to 18.0 percent in 2011) contributes to the decline in the number of people who reported that the victim was male and those who reported the victim as female, compared to 2011.
7. 31.6 percent stated the age of the victim to be between 19-34 years. Almost half (49.6 percent) of these respondents were from urban regions as opposed to 23.7 percent from the outer islands.
8. 40.7 percent of people believe there has been a significant increase in crime.
9. The number of respondents who believed that the crime rate has increased, rose from 52.6 percent in 2011 to 60.0 percent in 2019. Similar to the findings of 2011, more women (45.0 percent) than men (33.0 percent) consider crime rate to have greatly increased.
10. More people living in urban areas (55.2 percent) reported an increase in crime compared to those in the outer islands (31.7 percent).
11. People in the 60-69 age group are of the opinion that the crime rate has greatly increased (58.7 percent), in contrast to 2011 where people in the 40-49 age group held this belief.
12. The other diverging finding is that 41.6 percent of people over the age of 70 were concerned that crime rate has increased when the previous survey found that people belonging to this age group were least concerned about crime rates.

13. Most respondents believe substance abuse is the main cause fueling an increase in crime (19.2 percent).
14. 11.2 percent of the respondents believe gangs to be the second most influential factor for the increase in crime.
15. 28.2 percent of the respondents said that everyone, including the executive, parliament, judiciary, other state institutions, oversight bodies such as HRCM and parents along with the general public, is responsible for the increase in crime.
16. 19.7 percent of the respondents identified the government as a whole and the police (16.3 percent) as institutions that should be held accountable for the inability to prevent crimes.

### **Human Rights and Religion**

1. An increase in the number of people who believe human rights are incompatible with Islam was observed (from 29.6 percent in 2011 to 33.7 percent in 2019), while a decline is noted in those who attest to its compatibility (from 45.6 percent in 2011 to 29.9 percent in 2019).
2. More women (36.0 percent) than men (29.2 percent) were of the opinion that human rights are incompatible with Islam.
3. A decrease in the number of women agreeing with compatibility between Islam and human rights from 41.0 percent in 2011 to 30.2 percent in 2019, as well as among men, with a drop from 49.0 percent in 2011 to 29.7 percent in 2019.
4. Over a third (35.6 percent) of the respondents living in urban regions were of the belief that there are no conflicts between human rights and Islam, whereas only 26.4 percent of those from outer islands tended to subscribe to the same view.
5. Over a third (34.0 percent) of the respondents from outer islands stated that they believed human rights and Islam are in conflict with one another and therefore incompatible.
6. Among those who considered human rights to be opposed to Islamic ideals, 50.0 percent were in the 60-69 age group. The greatest number of people who thought human rights and Islam are compatible were over 70 years of age (41.7 percent).
7. Concerningly, a third (36.2 percent) of the respondents who think human rights and Islam are not compatible belong to the 20-29 age group.

8. Among migrant workers, 15.5 percent believe human rights to be compatible with Islam.
9. Almost half of the respondents believed that human rights are not compatible with Islam because the nine punishments for offences prescribed in Islam conflicted with principles of human rights.
10. There were worrying responses from a considerable number of people who felt that gender equality and child rights are not compatible with Islam. And it is concerning that most of these respondents were women.
11. People also believed that human rights principles conflicted with Islamic values among which dress code, the use of music in schools, freedom of conscience and thought, inability to implement harsh punishments, detainee/prisoner rights and promotion of interaction between sexes are notable. It is also important to note that it was mostly young people who expressed concern regarding human rights hindering implementation of the death penalty.

#### **Attitudes to Family and Ideas about Acceptable Behavior in the Home**

1. 82.9 percent of respondents were strongly supportive of the statement 'A good wife always obeys her husband even if she disagrees'.
2. 45.9 percent of respondents from outer islands were in strong agreement with this statement compared to 20.1 percent from urban regions who strongly agreed.
3. Most of the respondents believed that problems within the family should not be discussed with outsiders (66.7 percent), where more women (72.1 percent) tended to believe this statement than men (56.8 percent).
4. Out of the total respondents 9.9 percent stated that a wife should be shown who is the boss. More women (10.4 percent) supported this statement compared to men (8.6 percent).
5. More respondents from the outer islands (24.3 percent) strongly agree with this statement when compared with urban dwellers (6.4 percent).
6. Majority of the respondents disagreed with the statement that a woman has to obey her husband if he asks her to do something that conflicts with Islam (80.4 percent). More women (84.7 percent) than men (72.9 percent) disagreed with this statement. Slightly

more respondents from urban regions (89.8 percent) did not support this statement when compared with people from outer islands (74.5 percent).

7. Over a half (52.2 percent) of the respondents feel that it is the duty of the wife to have sex with her husband even if she does not feel like it. 60 percent of women were in agreement with this statement.
8. Most people (57.0 percent) believe that people outside of the family are justified in attending to a woman being abused by her husband. The number of male respondents who agree that others outside the family should intervene if a man mistreats his wife increased from 48.2 percent in 2005 to 54.9 percent in 2011 to 59.1 percent in 2019.
9. Most of the people surveyed (67.85 percent) did not believe any of the justifications provided can condone a husband being physically abusive towards his wife.
10. 12.4 percent (13.5 percent females and 9.6 percent males) of the respondents believed that the husband can hit his wife if she fails to obey him.
11. 26.8 percent (29.9 percent females and 20.8 percent males) of the respondents said they believed it would be justified for a man to hit his wife if she went against Islam.
12. 12.1 percent (11.4 percent females and 12.8 percent males) of the respondents said a husband is justified in hitting his wife if she physically abuses the children.

## Domestic Violence

1. 21.2 percent of the respondents identified physical abuse as a form of domestic violence.
2. Half of the respondents believed that sexual abuse in a domestic relationship constituted an offence.
3. When the respondents were asked to identify what domestic relationships are, 20.4 percent said it was parents or persons who have or had parental responsibility for a child, 20.3 percent understood it as the relationship between people who are or were married to each other, 15.1 percent believed it is one that exists between persons who are family members related by consanguinity, affinity or marriage, and 14.1 percent thought persons who recently shared the same residence were in a domestic relationship.

4. 80.0 percent of the respondents stated that they were aware of protective provision in the law.
5. More women (54.6 percent) were aware of the right to claim a protection order as opposed to (25.0 percent) of male respondents.
6. 44.3 percent of the migrant workers were aware that they could seek a protection order in cases of domestic violence.
7. Majority (80.0 percent) of people said that they knew where to lodge complaints for domestic violence.
8. More than half (58.1 percent) of the respondents named Maldives Police Service as the institution where they can file a domestic violence complaint, while less than a third identified the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services as the institution to report cases of domestic violence.
9. 56.7 percent of migrant workers were aware of institution(s) to which they could report a domestic violence allegation.
10. Over a third (34.7 percent) of the respondents were disappointed with the performance of these institutions, while 29.3 percent said they were happy.
11. 17.6 percent said they were satisfied with the institutions handling domestic violence cases.
12. 39.8 percent of the respondents from the urban regions were less happy with the performance of state intuitions pertaining to domestic violence, while 31.3 percent of respondents from outer islands were happy with the performance of the institutions.
13. Majority of the respondents identified substance abuse (21.0 percent) as the most influential factor responsible for domestic violence. Financial difficulties (13.8 percent), inability to hold perpetrators accountable (13.8 percent), lack of education (12.3 percent) and lack of adequate housing (13.3 percent) were other factors that respondents said were the root causes.
14. 19.0 percent of respondents reported knowing a survivor of domestic violence. Women (26.7 percent) are more likely to know a survivor.
15. A very high non-response rate (71.3 percent) was observed for questions related to perpetrators. Most respondents to this question said survivors suffered domestic abuse by the spouse or the former spouse. Most female respondents stated that they suffered

domestic violence from their husbands while in the case of male respondents, a former lover was the most commonly reported perpetrator.

16. Most women responded that their husbands were the perpetrators of domestic violence, while most men reported having suffered abuse from previous partners.
17. From those who reported physical abuse most respondents said they were subjected to the violence by their husbands (13.6 percent) and in-laws (11.1 percent).
18. Most survivors related that the most recent type of abuse they suffered was physical abuse (39.0 percent) and the second most common response as verbal abuse (20.3 percent).
19. More women reported having suffered physical abuse (47.4 percent) compared to men.

### **Sexual Abuse of Children and Other Children's Rights**

1. 93.6 percent of the respondents affirmed child sexual abuse of girls as a serious issue. This concern has increased over the years with 82.1 percent in 2005 and 93.3 percent in 2011.
2. 91.7 percent of the respondents affirmed child sexual abuse of boys as a serious issue.
3. Less than a third of respondents (27.9 percent) reported being satisfied with the level of protection afforded to children, while the majority (48.2 percent) were dissatisfied.
4. From those who reported being satisfied with the level of protection given to children, 32.3 percent were men and 25.5 percent were women.
5. Respondents from the urban regions were more dissatisfied with the protection services for children (53.1 percent).
6. 20.8 percent of the respondents admitted that access to quality education needed to be improved and 12.9 percent of this group felt that response to violence against children needed to be strengthened.
7. 9.6 percent of people believed that gender discrimination needed to be prevented.

### **Rights of Older People and People with Disabilities**

1. 40.9 percent of respondents are dissatisfied with the protection and services assured for persons with disabilities and 39.0 percent reported being satisfied. 41.7 percent people from urban areas and 37.3 percent from outer islands were satisfied with the services.
2. 16.3 percent of the people said they were concerned over the lack of access to education for people with disabilities. Respondents identified discrimination as the second most prevalent issue that needed to be addressed (13.2 percent). Respondents were similarly concerned about the lack of schools for children with special needs (13.0 percent).
3. Close to half of the respondents (48.1 percent) reported being satisfied with the services provided for the elderly while a third (33.3 percent) exhibited dissatisfaction.
4. The most important area to ensure the rights of the elderly was to prevent neglect of elderly persons (23.0 percent) and the need to prevent abuse of the elderly (11.0 percent).

### **Rights to Equality of Access to Services**

1. 41.0 percent of the respondents were satisfied with schooling and education in the Maldives, 40.0 percent were noted to be disappointed.
2. People from urban areas (52.4 percent) appeared relatively more satisfied with education and schools than the respondents living in the outer islands (45.2 percent).
3. 23.3 percent of the respondents felt that better qualified and well-trained teachers in schools would improve the quality of education (23.3 percent) and 16.7 percent of the people thought improved education in higher grades of the outer islands would positively and generally affect education.
4. Majority (63.6 percent) of the people were dissatisfied with overall health services and especially those from outer islands (62.3 percent).
5. 64.4 percent of the respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of hospitals.



6. The overall dissatisfaction exhibited over the three components of health are congruous with the 2011 findings highlighting that people do not perceive health services have improved.
7. A third of respondents (31.4 percent) believed improving services at the hospitals would enhance access to health in general.
8. Majority of the respondents were dissatisfied with the available employment and work opportunities (43.1 percent).
9. Close to half of the respondents (45.2 percent) expressed concern over the limited access to markets for conducting economic activities.
10. The number of respondents dissatisfied with the judiciary accounted for 56.3 percent of the respondents.
11. Most commonly cited reason for the loss of judicial confidence pertained to corruption (39.2 percent).
12. A positive change can be observed towards the performance of security services including the police, with an increase in respondents expressing satisfaction with police work (43.5 percent).
13. The most commonly cited reasons for dissatisfaction with police services were corruption (25.1 percent) and their unavailability when in demand (19.4 percent).
14. A general dissatisfaction with the performance of prisons services (24.8 percent) was reported. Women expressed this more than men, and the reasons cited were corruption (10.7 percent), lack of supervision (5.2 percent), abuse (4.2 percent) and torture (2.5 percent) of prisoners.
15. Generally, people agreed that social services have not been expanded to facilitate better outreach over the years and thus have remained at the same level.
16. Close to half (46 percent) of the respondents were convinced that the government was taking adequate measures to improve housing services.
17. Most respondents believed that the government should prioritize health services' improvement and ensure the provision of social housing as well as financial assistance.
18. Majority of people stated that they were dissatisfied with the access to official information.

19. Over a third of the respondents (36.1 percent) reported that the enactment of the Rights to Information Act (2014) has been helpful.

### **Right to Participate in Government and Take Part in Decision-Making**

1. 77.0 percent of the respondents confirmed having participated in the parliamentary elections, with 83.3 percent of women and 65.4 percent of men responding positively.
2. 7.7 percent identified aggressive campaigning as an issue with the elections and 7.0 percent pointed to mismanagement or incomplete voter registration.
3. 9.6 percent of respondents found the lack of voter education problematic.
4. More than half (59.0 percent) of the respondents were dissatisfied over the allocations of resources between administrative atolls and islands.
5. People living in urban regions (67.5 percent) felt there is unequal distribution of resources between administrative atolls and those in the outer islands (53.8 percent).

### **Sexual Harassment**

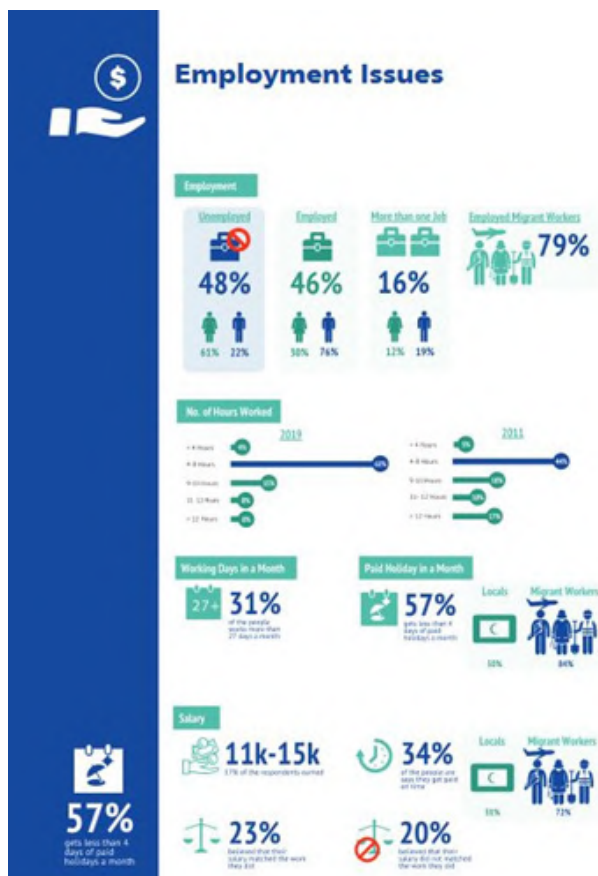
1. The most common type of harassment women were subjected to consisted of a man making obscene or offensive sexual comments (14.2 percent). The second was a man rubbing himself up against the respondents or touching them on their breasts or buttocks on the street, at the night market or any other public place (12.8 percent).
2. In 2011 the most common type of harassment was cited as grabbing the victim's hand in public (22.9 percent) and the least reported types of harassment were a man rubbing himself up against the respondents or touching the respondents on the breasts or buttocks or when getting on and off on ferries or other vessels (3.4 percent).
3. A woman rubbing herself against him or touching his private parts on the street or any other public place was reported as the most common type of harassment (8.0 percent) for men. The second most common type of harassment identified by men was having their hands grabbed by a woman at a public place (7.2 percent).
4. Majority of the respondents reported never having had any experiences of harassment they were queried about at their workplace.

5. It is concerning that 1.2 percent of the respondents reported that someone at work forced them to have sex with them against their will or attempted to do so.
6. Respondents who reported having been subjected to some form of sexual harassment when asked what action they took, decided not to respond (82.2 percent) by responding with 'did not know' and 'refused to answer'.
7. Among those who disclosed how they responded to the harassment, most (8.1 percent) did nothing about it.
8. People who admitted not taking any action following the harassment were then asked about the reasons why they did not pursue the issue. 34.2 percent of respondents did not believe it was a serious enough issue and in fact dismissed it as normal behavior. The second highest reason for non-action was reported as apprehension over disbelief (10.5 percent).
9. Only 1.0 percent said they reported the case to a relevant authority. It is to be acknowledged that 5.5 percent of the victims told a friend.
10. 4.3 percent who took of the aforementioned actions regarding the harassment reported that it did not help them. However, 2.9 percent admitted it helped them.
11. More women (3.3 percent) than men (2.1 percent) reported that taking an action provided them some relief.

## **Employment**

1. Just over a third of respondents admitted to being employed in a salaried position (46.0 percent).
2. 16.0 percent of the participants were employed in more than one job, of which 19.0 percent were men and 12.0 percent were women.
3. There has been a considerable decrease in the number of people working for more than 12 hours (20.0 percent in 2005, and 16.6 percent in 2011 to 7.5 percent in 2019).
4. Most people (61.2 percent) reported working for 4-8 hours a day. Most migrant workers (58.8 percent) also reported working for 4-8 hours a day.
5. The number of people who worked for more than 27 days in 2005 was 50.0 percent and this fell to 37.9 percent in 2011, with a further decline in 2019 to 31.2 percent indicating an improvement.

6. Majority of respondents felt that they get enough leisure time off work and thus report being satisfied with this free time (73.0 percent).
7. 56.5 percent of respondents reported that they get less than 4 days of paid holiday every month.
8. Fewer women (11.0 percent) reported earning a salary over MVR 15,000 in comparison to that of men (17.6 percent).
9. Majority (73.0 percent) of people reported getting timely payment of their salaries.
10. More women (57.4 percent) in comparison to men (22.7 percent) believe the salaries they receive are fair and adequate.



## **Analysis of Some Findings**

First established under a presidential decree in 2003, followed by reconstitution of the Commission under its own statute in 2006, HRCM is now a constitutional oversight body established with the broad mandate to promote respect for human rights in the Maldives.

Over this period of sixteen years, public awareness of HRCM has increased progressively from 40.8 percent in 2005, to 72.8 percent in 2011 and to 84.8 percent in 2019.

There is a significant increase in migrant worker respondents who were aware of HRCM with 41.2 percent in 2019 in relation to only 9.0 percent in 2011.

Findings of this survey reaffirm the 2011 outcome that more women are aware of HRCM, with 87.0 percent of the respondents reporting awareness of HRCM analogous to that of 84.9 percent in 2011. The increase in the percentage of men aware of HRCM from 63.7 percent in 2011 to 80.7 percent in 2019 is noteworthy and thus is one of the factors contributing to the overall increase in awareness of HRCM.

A decline from 39.7 percent in 2005 to 26.7 percent in 2011 was observed in the number of respondents who thought HRCM was doing an excellent or a good job. However, there was no significant difference in 2019 (27.0 percent) in the number of respondents who answered this question when compared to 2011. There is also a decline in the number of people who believe that HRCM is doing a satisfactory job from 19.9 percent in 2011 to 13.4 in 2019. Moreover, 31.1 percent of respondents were dissatisfied and thus of the opinion that HRCM was not doing a good job. Further inquiry is conceivably necessary to assess the phenomenon of 29.2 percent of the respondents not being able to arrive at a conclusion about their evaluation of the performance of HRCM. A direct correlation cannot be inferred between the increase in awareness of HRCM with the decline of its approval rating as probable contributing factors were not evaluated. The 2019 findings yet again manifest a narrowing gap between men and women who feel positively about the performance of HRCM, supporting the findings of 2011.

It is to be noted that when compared to women (28.0 percent), more men (37.0 percent) were disappointed with HRCM's performance.

There seems to be no significant difference between respondents from urban (25.2 percent) and outer islands (27.0 percent) who stated they were

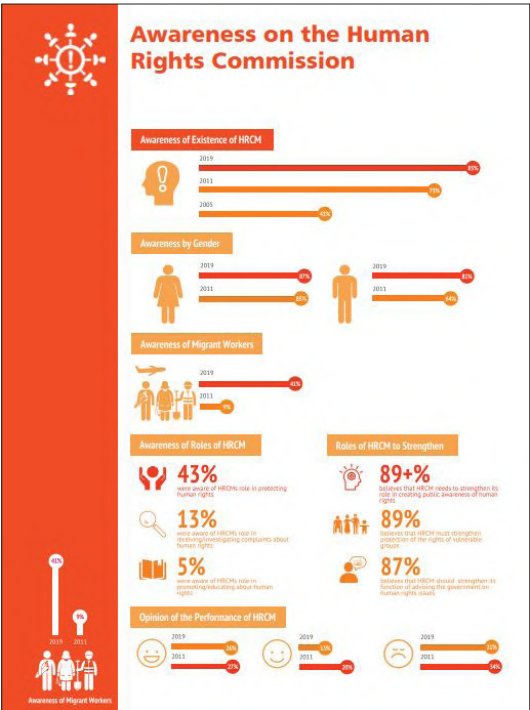
happy about the performance of HRCM. Yet, respondents from both urban and outer islands reported being unhappy with the performance of HRCM with 30.0 percent and 31.8 percent affirming dissatisfaction respectively.

Table 4. HRCM Performance, by gender

	Male	Female	Total
Excellent	3.63%	3.51%	3.54%
Good	21.75%	23.36%	22.73%
Satisfactory	13.60%	13.13%	13.43%
Not good	21.15%	18.02%	18.99%
Dissatisfactory	15.71%	10.23%	12.12%
RF	0.90%	0.60%	0.71%
DK/NA	23.26%	31.15%	28.48%

Awareness about the Role of HRCM

Despite a considerable increase in awareness about HRCM, there is a significant decline in the understanding of the role of HRCM. Over a quarter (27 percent) of respondents were not able to define the role of HRCM. In



2011, 70.0 percent of the respondents reported that they believe the role of HRCM is protecting human rights, compared to that of 42.8 percent in 2019. Understanding of HRCM’s monitoring role has suffered a significant decline to merely 4.1 percent from 18.0 percent in 2011. The investigative role of HRCM was stated as a function of HRCM by just 12.9 percent of the respondents. This is a concerning outcome as the trend manifests a decline in perception of the investigative role of HRCM from 2011 (31.0 percent).

When respondents were inquired about what function of HRCM needed to be further strengthened, the strongest support was for creating awareness about human rights (89.2 percent). This was closely followed by 89.0 percent of respondents who opined that HRCM must strengthen protection of the rights of vulnerable groups namely children, women, persons with disabilities and the elderly. Subsequently, 87.4 percent stated that HRCM should strengthen its function of advising the government on human rights issues, followed by 86.1 percent calling for strengthening the function of investigating complaints about human rights abuses. Also, 85.8 percent stated that HRCM should be strengthening its work on monitoring the government's compliance to human rights obligations.

### **Community Awareness**

More than half (55.6 percent) of the respondents reported being moderately aware of human rights. While 13.4 percent claimed to have a high and 23.2 percent reported to have a low understanding of human rights. Women appeared to be more confident about their awareness of human rights with 60.5 percent exhibiting moderate awareness, while 46.6 percent men stated the same. There was no significant difference in the findings in relation to that of 2011.

Interestingly though, when asked to name five human rights, only 36.5 percent of the respondents were able to do so. This outcome is concerning as it is a decline from 45.1 percent people who could name five human rights in 2011. However, a significant positive change is the decrease in the number of people who could not name any human right from 44.5 percent in 2011 to 15.4 percent in 2019. More women (38.9 percent) than men (32.0 percent) were able to name five human rights.

Rights of the child were identified as the most important human right, ranked the first place (18 percent) from a provided list of twenty-one rights. This is a divergence from findings of previous years. In 2005, the highest ranked right was access to health services (82.4 percent) and in 2011 it was the right to education (86.7 percent).

Interestingly, women's right to equality was identified as the second most important human right at 10.9 percent, with the right to education and right to adequate health following closely at 10.5 percent and 10.1 percent respectively.

**Table 5. Five Human Rights considered as the most important, by gender**

Top 5 rights (ranked)	Male	Female	Total
1. Children's rights	14.37%	19.93%	18.01%
2. Women's rights to equality	7.10%	12.90%	10.93%
3. Access to good quality of education	9.14%	11.23%	10.53%
4. Access to health services	8.78%	10.86%	10.14%
5. Adequate food	8.70%	8.00%	8.23%

Another interesting trend to be noted is the rise in ranking of women's right to equality over the years. In 2011, women's right to equality was ranked in sixth position, while in 2019 it has been identified as the second most mentioned human right.

This finding is significant as it strongly corresponds to the fact that the number of women who are aware of human rights has increased exponentially over the years. It is widely believed that women's rights and empowerment directly correspond to the rights of the child.<sup>2</sup> Women's right to equality was the second most important human right (10.9 percent) in this 2019 survey, replacing right to education which was ranked as the second most important in 2011. Followed closely by access to education at 10.5 percent, which replaces the right to housing as the third most important human right in 2011.

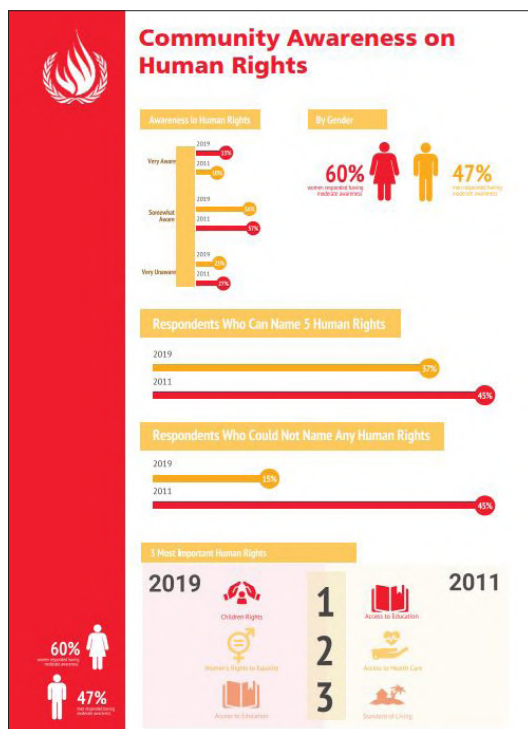
**Table 6. Five Human Rights considered as the most important, by region**

Urban	
1. Children's rights	14.84%
2. Access to health services	9.39%
3. Women's rights to equality	8.26%
4. A secure family life	7.89%
5. Access to good quality of education	7.61%
Outer Islands	
1. Children's rights	19.52%
2. Women's rights to equality	12.19%
3. Access to good quality of education	11.92%
4. Access to health services	10.50%
5. Adequate food	8.66%

The people living in outer islands and urban regions also ranked the rights of the child as the most important followed by access to healthcare in the urban region and women's equality in the outer islands.

Studies on the impact of women's awareness, education and empowerment show that when women are empowered with education, health and





human rights awareness, they are better able to ensure and prioritize the rights of their children, the health of the family and work to provide education for their children.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, in its resolution 32/20, the Human Rights Council has recognized that education was a multiplier right that empowered women and girls to make choices to claim their human rights, including the health and education of their families, economic growth and political participation.<sup>4</sup> Hence the outcome of this survey affirms with

the correlation between an increase in women's awareness of human rights and identification of the rights of the child, women empowerment and right to education as the most salient of human rights.

## Human Rights and Religion

Given the significance of perception on successful implementation of policies and interventions, HRCM decided it was important to understand how people perceived the relationship between Islam and human rights to facilitate the effective implementation of Human Rights in the Maldives. As the findings from other chapters show, attitudes on women and family life appear to have a significant correlation with religion. An additional factor considered was the high non-response rate from the 2011 survey on questions pertaining to Islam and human rights; this prompted the inclusion of these questions in this survey.

There is an increase in the number of people who believe human rights are incompatible with Islam (from 29.6 percent in 2011 to 33.7 percent in 2019), while a decline is observed in those who think it is compatible (from 45.6 percent in 2011 to 29.9 percent in 2019).

Table 14: Perceived conflict between Islamic views and human rights, by gender

	Yes	Some-times	No	No connect-ion	RF	DK/NA
Male	29.1%	10.42%	30.15%	0.56%	0.98%	28.91%
Female	36.04%	10.52%	30.15%	0.56%	0.98%	21.74%
Total	33.70%	10.63%	29.88%	0.54%	1.09%	24.16%

There is no change in the number of respondents who said there is no connection between Islam and human rights (1.00%) while the response rate to the question has also not improved (15.9 percent in 2011 compared to 25.2 percent in 2019). This is a significantly worrying change in perception and one that demands strengthened policy and programmatic interventions.

Similar to 2011 findings, more women (36.0 percent) than men (29.2 percent), were of the opinion that human rights are incompatible with Islam. There is significant decrease in respondents who said human rights and Islam were compatible (45.0 percent in 2011 to 29.9 percent in 2019). This holds true with all sexes. The number of women agreeing with compatibility between Islam and human rights decreased from 41.0 percent in 2011 to 30.2 percent in 2019, while the figure for men fell from 49.0 percent in 2011 to 29.7 percent in 2019. It is also to be noted that men (30.2 percent) appeared more hesitant to respond to this query in comparison to women (22.7 percent).

Over a third (35.6 percent) of the respondents living in urban regions were of the belief that there are no conflicts between human rights and Islam, while 26.4% of those from outer islands subscribe to this view. This shows a significant decline in the number of respondents living in urban regions who believe there is no conflict between human rights and Islam from 2011 (54.0 percent). Over a third (34.0 percent) of the respondents from outer islands stated that they believed human rights and Islam are in conflict and hence incompatible.

**Table 15: Conflict between Islamic views and human rights, by region**

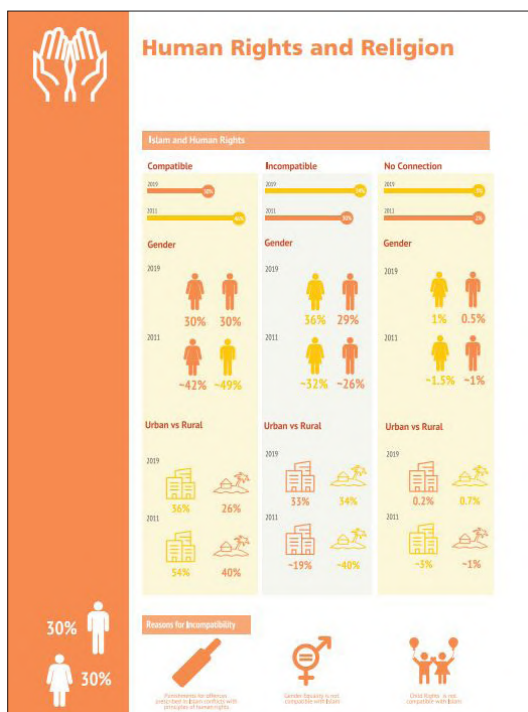
	Yes	Some-times	No	No connect-ion	RF	DK/NA
Outer island	34.02%	10.46%	26.36%	0.74%	1.77%	20.14
Urban	33.18%	10.90%	35.55%	0.24%	0.00%	21.74%
Total	33.70%	10.63%	29.88%	0.54%	1.09%	24.16%

Among those who considered human rights to be non-compliant with Islam, 50.0 percent were from the 60-69 age group. Interestingly, the greatest number of people who thought human rights and Islam are compatible were over 70 years of age (41.7 percent). This age group is also the lowest (25.0 percent) to report that there is conflict between human rights and Islam. It is notable that over a third (36.2 percent) of the respondents who think human rights and Islam are not compatible belong to the age group of 20-29 years.

Among migrant workers, 15.5 percent believe human rights to be compatible with Islam. However, it is to be noted that most migrant workers (75.3 percent) did not respond or know the answer to this query.

Those who replied that human rights are not compatible with Islam were further queried about the reasons for their stance. Close to a half of the respondents believed that human rights are not compatible with Islam because the punishments for offences prescribed in Islam conflict with principles of human rights. Several people also said it is problematic that human rights impede the implementation of death penalty. There were worrying responses from a considerable number of people who felt that gender equality and child rights are not compatible with Islam. It is more concerning that most of these respondents were women.

Another significant observation is that these respondents belonged to outer island regions. Freedom of religion was also named as one of the matter of incongruence between human rights and Islam. People also believed that human rights principles conflicted with Islamic values among which dress code, the use of music in schools, freedom of conscience and thought, inability to implement harsh punishments, detainee/prisoner rights and promotion of interaction between sexes are notable. Most people who thought human rights are not compatible with Islam because the punishments for offences prescribed in Islam conflicted with principles of human



rights, were from urban regions and mostly from Malé. It is also important to note that it was mostly young people who expressed concern regarding human rights hindering implementation of the death penalty.

Decreased respect for gender equality, calls for harsher punishments, glorification of violence and disillusionment about rights are manifestations of radicalization and violent extremism.<sup>5</sup> In December 2019, during the national decentralization symposium ‘Viyavathi Raajje’ conducted by the President’s Office, Maldives Police Services and the National Counter Terrorism Centre presented their findings on the nature and extent of radicalization and extremism in the Maldives, along with national indicators for profiling those manifesting radicalized and extremist views and beliefs.<sup>6</sup> During the live-streamed and broadcasted session, the Commissioner of Police, Mr Mohamed Hameed, revealed that the authorities have identified 1,400 people harboring extremist ideologies. He also confirmed that four hundred twenty-three Maldivians have to date, attempted to travel to Syria and Iraq to join rebel groups, and one hundred seventy-three of them have succeeded.<sup>7</sup>

The National Counter Terrorism Centre also disclosed the characteristics of those holding extremist and radicalized ideologies in the country. The Centre said they were people who do not accept the laws of the state and disregard them citing incongruence with Shariah; people migrating to or ready to move to countries with ongoing war in the name of jihad; people claiming Maldivians other than themselves to be infidels hence justifying/

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promoting/advocating and glorifying violence against them, depriving children and women of their basic human rights and propagating and promoting extremist ideologies.<sup>8</sup>

## **Conclusion**

This report highlights human rights concerns that have magnified over the past seven years since the publication of the previous *The “Rights” Side of Life* survey. These concerns have manifested into serious issues demanding immediate and concerted national responses.

The RSL2 highlighted a worrying decline in support for gender equality and conviction in equal rights for women. The support for gender equality has diminished and women’s rights seem to have suffered even more over the years.

What is significantly worse is the emergence of a religious extremist narrative that has been used to weaken support for gender equality and women’s rights. Gender equality remains one of the most commonly cited reasons for incompatibility of human rights with Islam.

Findings of the survey manifest the acceptance of both men and women that the woman has a subordinate relationship in marriage. It is not viewed as a partnership by most respondents and the man is accepted as dominant in the marriage more readily by women than men. This study brings to light the lack of support for the woman’s consent in marriage and requires immediate advocacy intervention. More than half of the respondents reported that a woman is expected to have sex with her husband even if she does not want to and increasingly, more women than men support this view.

There is an immediate and real concern regarding the persistent acceptance of violence against women, especially as an increasing number of women have begun to find justification and acceptance for acts of violence against them by their husbands.

The findings of several chapters in this survey evidently suggest associations with each other. Increasingly, more people are of the opinion that human rights and Islam are incompatible. The reasons cited for the perceived incompatibility; human rights advocate for equal rights for women and rights of the child; human rights impede Islamic Shariah; human rights conflict with Islamic values, are worrying. This manifests signs of radicalization and growing violent extremism. This survey also notes that women,

young girls and children as those who stand to lose most, when respect for human rights decline.

The fact that growing concern regarding child sexual abuse has been consistently highlighted in all three “Rights” Side of Life surveys, indicates the inadequate response of the State to remedy this issue. The majority of respondents were unhappy with the protection provided for children. This also aligns with the response of this survey, identifying child rights as the most important human right.

Similarly, most respondents were also dissatisfied with the protection ensured for persons with disabilities. Access to education and elimination of discriminations against persons with disabilities were identified as the most important areas to be strengthened for better protection. It is noteworthy that the majority of respondents were satisfied with the protection afforded to the elderly. People identified prevention of neglect and abuse of the elderly as imperative measures to ensure protection.

The newly incorporated chapter on domestic violence highlights significant issues. Neither women nor men recognize an intimate relationship between a man and a woman outside marriage as a domestic relationship. There is concern that violation of rights, abuse and violence in these relationships will go unreported.

It is heartening to note that an overwhelming majority of respondents know they can seek a protection order and are aware of the institutions they can report to. However, most respondents were dissatisfied with the performance of these institutions and this should be an imperative focus for policy makers, the judiciary, investigative and oversight bodies and institutional heads.

Substance abuse, financial stress and lack of adequate housing were named as root causes for domestic violence by the respondents. These socio-economic issues must be addressed with more expediency to prevent domestic violence.

Significant number of people reported knowing a domestic abuse survivor and also admitted to being a survivor themselves. Some survivors of domestic violence shared that the most abuse they suffered pertained to being forcefully impregnated while they were trying to remove themselves from harmful marriages. Additionally, the fact that so many survivors reported experiencing a range of acts of domestic violence from their in-laws needs to be addressed.

Synonymous to the concerning reports of sexual harassment on social media, the findings of this report reaffirm the rampant existence of harassment in both public places and at work. Several forms of verbal abuse and physical abuse in public places and at workplaces have been reported. Also, of concern is that many victims chose not to do anything about the harassment and the fact that a significant number of those respondents said they did not pursue any action because this kind of behavior is seen as normal and not 'serious enough'.

This study yielded strong support for democracy, with a significant number of respondents agreeing that a democratic form of government is good for the country, and perhaps this is linked to the high voter turnout in elections. Nevertheless, respondents do not appear convinced about the success of the democratic processes and have identified corruption as the main hindrance. The high voter turnout in the last two elections is reflected in the responses of the majority of respondents who confirmed they voted in the last parliamentary elections. More than half of the respondents were unhappy with the unfair allocation of resources between administrative atolls and islands.

While most people were satisfied with schooling and education in the Maldives, the majority, especially those from the outer islands, were highly disappointed with health services and believed that the sector has not progressed over the years. This year's survey highlighted that people were happy with the performance of the police and respondents' satisfaction rate has seen an increase from that of 2011. On the other hand, people remain dissatisfied with prison services as they reported corruption, lack of supervision, abuse of prisoners, and torture as the reasons for their disapproval. Generally, people were in agreement that social services have not improved over the years.

More than half of the respondents were convinced that the government was taking adequate measures to improve services in all areas except housing including financial assistance.

It is concerning that majority of the migrant workers get less than four days of paid leave in a month which is below the minimum standard set under the Employment Act.

Finally, the decline in the approval rate of HRCM in relation to the 2011 findings has to be considered with gravity. This inadvertently affects the respect for human rights among people in general, perception and faith in the

institution and the impact of the current and future work of HRCM. It underlies the findings in this report suggesting that the majority of Maldivians are now aware of HRCM. Similarly, the lack of awareness on the constitutional role and functions of HRCM as an oversight body, should also be a primary concern for the Commission to address.

## Final Note

This survey is a joint project of The Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM), The Family Protection Authority (FPA) and the United Nations Development Program, Maldives.

The Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM) is an independent and autonomous statutory body under Human Rights Commission's Act of Maldives. Its mission is to lead the promotion and protection of Human Rights under the Maldives Constitution, Islamic Shari'ah and regional and international Human Rights Conventions ratified by the Maldives. For more information, visit [hrcm.org.mv](http://hrcm.org.mv) or follow us @hrcmv

The Family Protection Authority (FPA) was established under the Domestic Violence Prevention Act (3/2012) to take lead nationally on the issue of domestic violence by creating public awareness; providing the required services to the victims of such violence; and by coordinating the work of the relevant government institutions including the police and the health sector, and various local efforts made by individuals to protect survivors of domestic violence. Learn more at [fpa.gov.mv](http://fpa.gov.mv) or follow at @FPAMaldives

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## Endnotes

1 The highlights of the survey results can be viewed on YouTube, "Rights" Side of Life 3: A Baseline Human Rights Survey - Key Findings, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_\\_Im8orRIIU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=__Im8orRIIU).

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5 Preventing Violent Extremism through Inclusive Development and the Promotion of Tolerance and Respect for Diversity, UNDP, 2016, [www.undp.org/publications/preventing-violent-extremism-through-inclusive-development-and-promotion-tolerance-and-respect-diversity](http://www.undp.org/publications/preventing-violent-extremism-through-inclusive-development-and-promotion-tolerance-and-respect-diversity).

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7 Fathimath Aruma Hussain, Commissioner of Police: Maldives has nearly 1,400 extremists, ooredoo, 16 December 2019, <https://en.sun.mv/57176>.

8 National Counter Terrorism Centre, <https://nctc.gov.mv/announcement/anncmnt4.pdf>.

