

# FREESUN NEWS

## Taiwan ranked 24th in global human freedom report

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Taiwan was listed 24th among 152 countries and areas ranked in the Human Freedom Index (HFI), which is based on personal, civil and economic freedom, as assessed by the Washington-based CATO Institute.

The countries were evaluated on a scale of 0 to 10, with 10 representing the highest level of freedom, using available data for 2012.

The countries and areas in the top-10 global rankings were Hong Kong, Switzerland, Finland, Denmark, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, Ireland, United Kingdom and Sweden.

Hong Kong scored comparatively high in the economic freedom index at 8.98, though its personal freedom index at 9.09 was lower than some of the other top 10 countries.

Taiwan's personal freedom index was listed at 8.73, and its economic freedom at 7.71.

Among the Asian countries, Taiwan at 24th globally was second to Hong Kong, followed by Japan at 28th, South Korea 31st, Singapore 43rd, and China 132nd.

In regional terms, the highest levels of freedom were found in Northern Europe, North America and Western Europe, and the lowest levels in the Middle East, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

The institute also evaluated women's freedom in different regions, using five indicators, namely legal protection, freedom of movement, freedom of religion and association, freedom of expression, and freedom in relationships.

The report showed that women have the best legal protection in Europe and North America, and the least protection in South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa.