



World Justice  
Project

# A Rule of Law Crisis at Home

What Bar Associations and Lawyers Can Do

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World Justice Project

*August 4, 2023*

# What is the Rule of Law

The rule of law is an **enduring system** of laws, institutions, norms, and community commitment that delivers:



## Accountability

The government as well as private actors are accountable under the law.



## Just Law

The law is clear, publicized, and stable and is applied evenly. It ensures human and procedural rights as well as property and contract rights.



## Open Government

The processes by which the law is adopted, administered, adjudicated, and enforced are accessible, fair, and efficient.

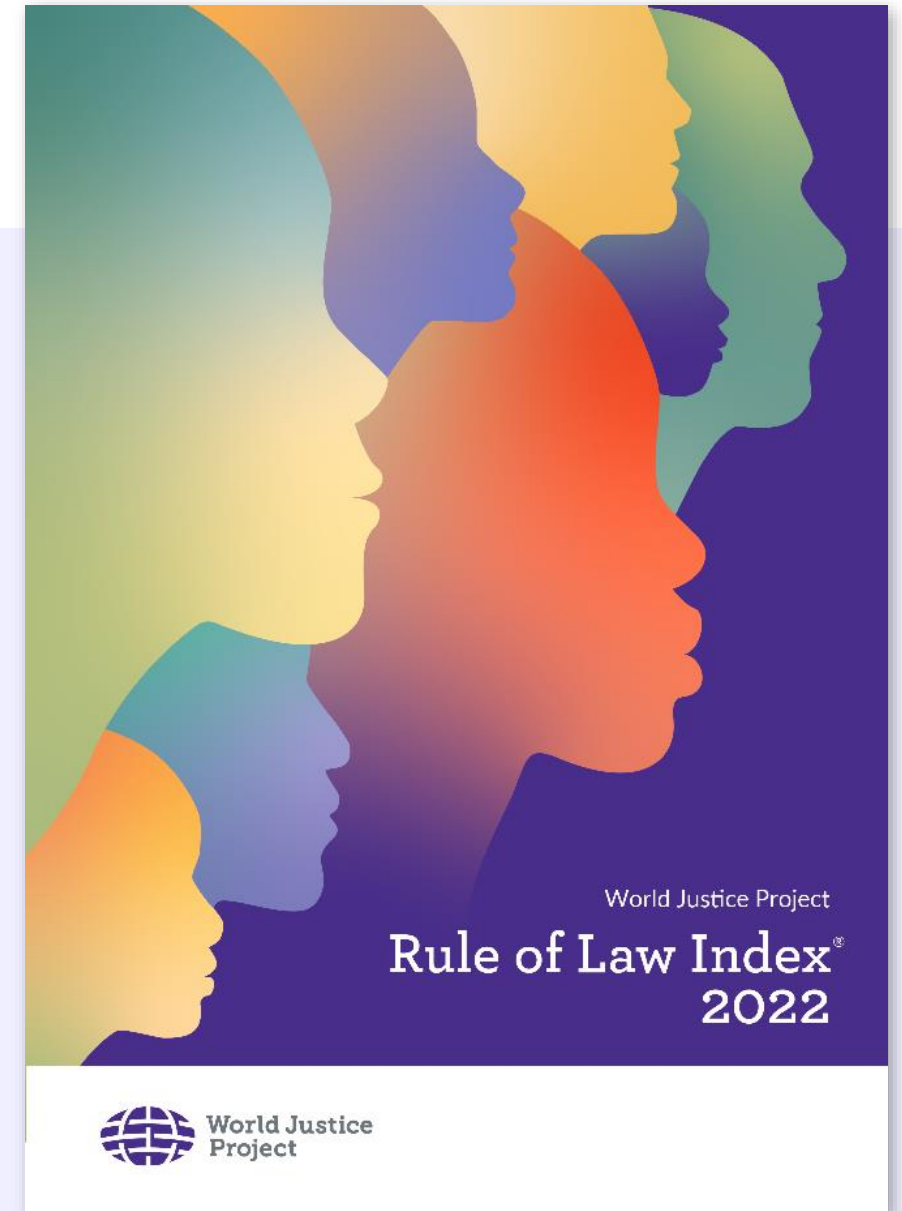


## Accessible and Impartial Justice

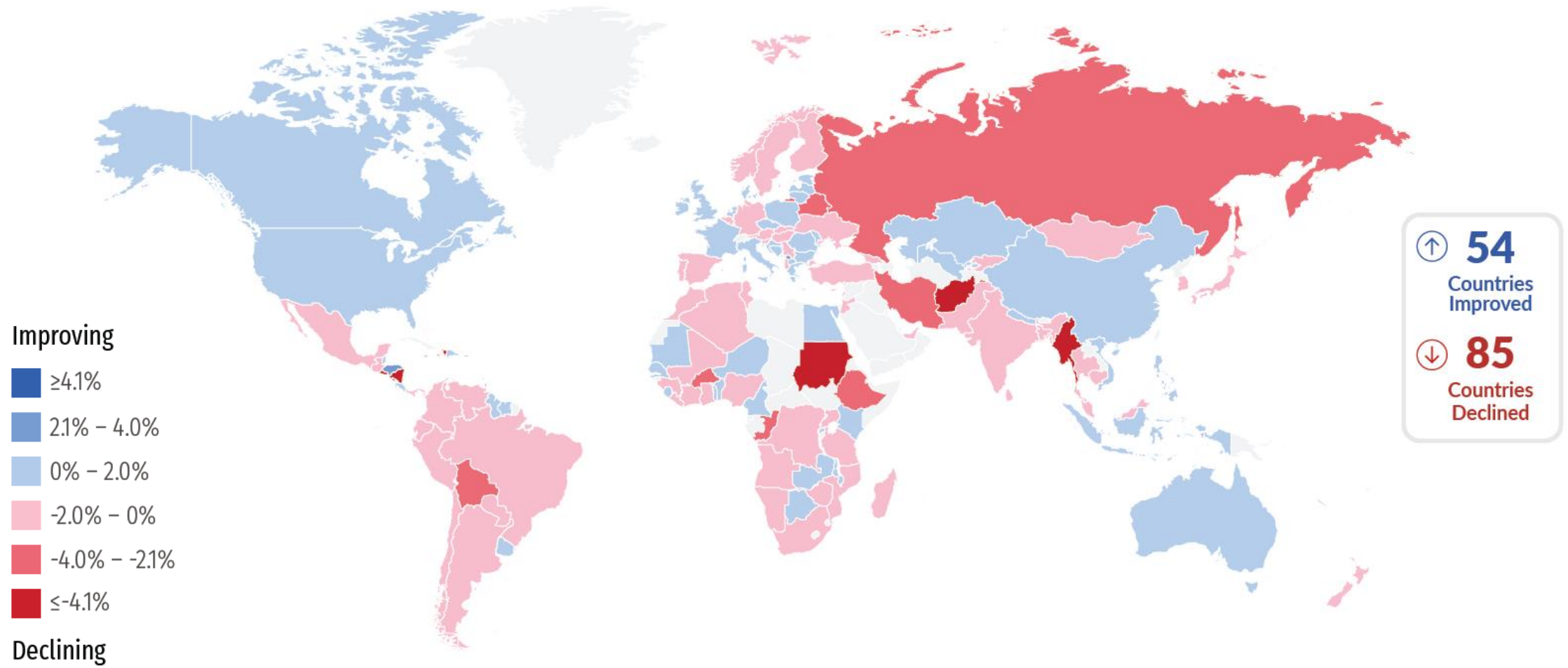
Justice is delivered timely by competent, ethical, and independent representatives and neutrals who are accessible, have adequate resources, and reflect the makeup of the communities they serve.

# WJP Rule of Law Index

- Measures rule of law in **140 countries** and jurisdictions.
- Draws on surveys of **154,000+ households** and **3,600+ experts**.
- Captures people's experiences and perceptions.
- Evaluates **8 factors, 44 sub-factors**

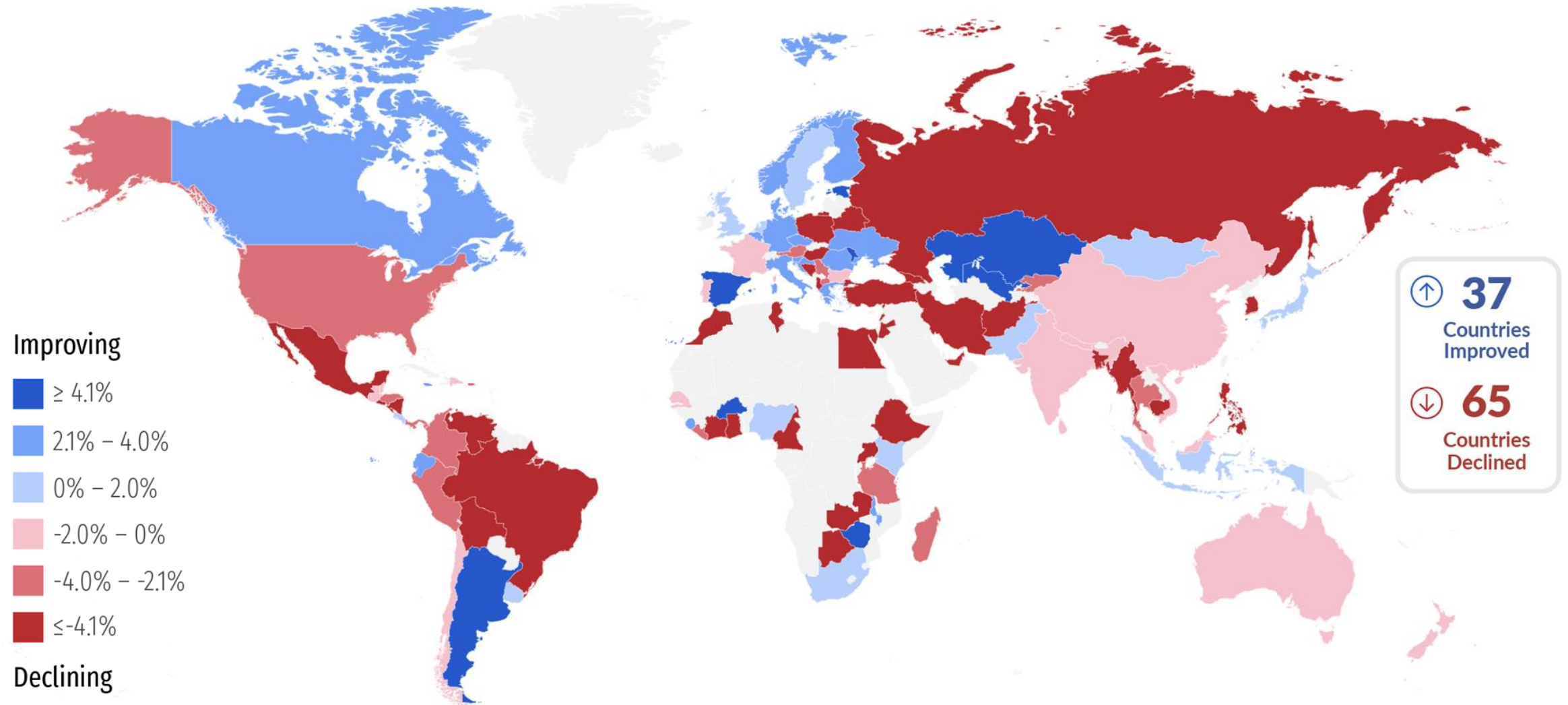


# Rule of Law Declined in 61% of Countries 2021-2022



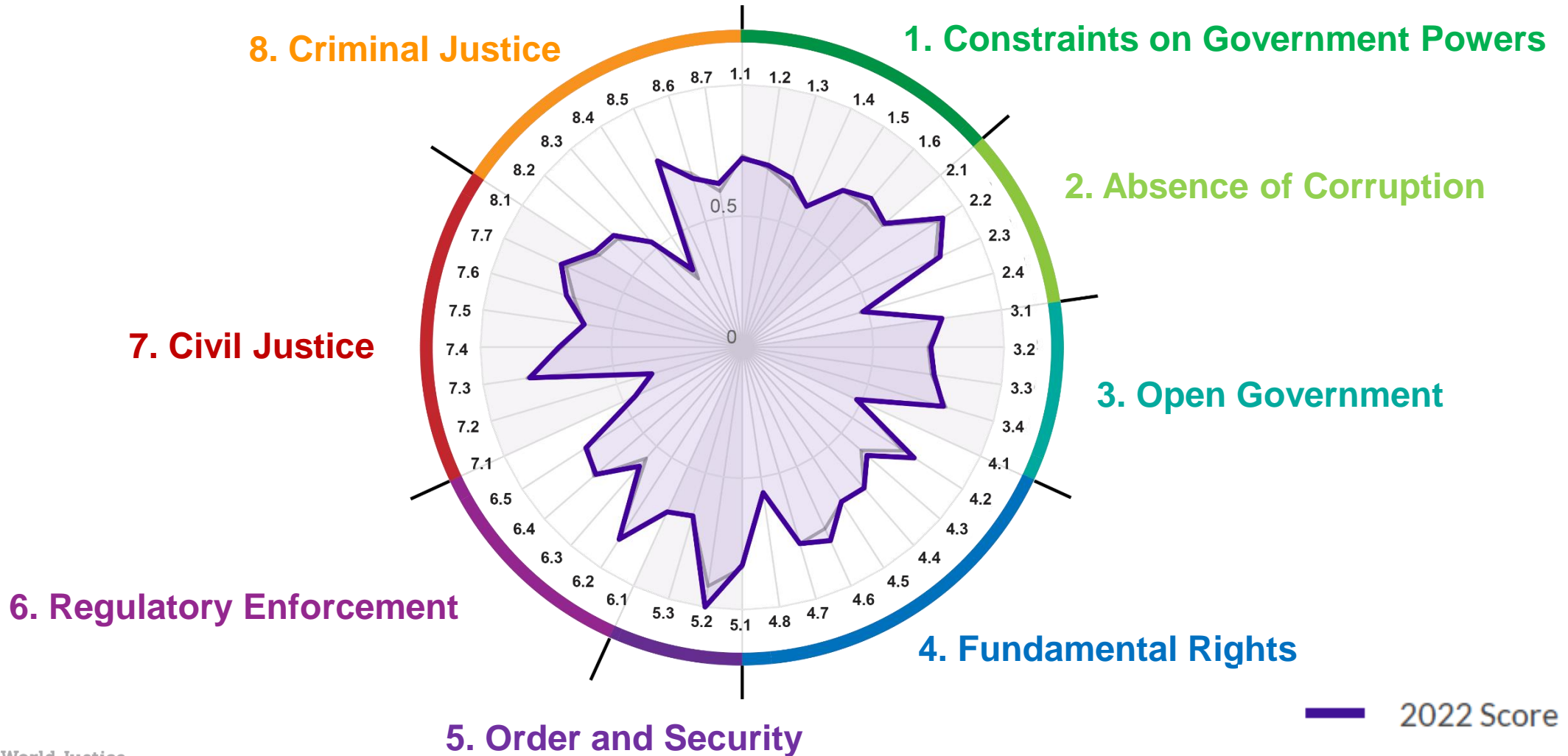
Source: WJP Rule of Law Index 2022

# Rule of Law Declined in 64% of Countries 2015-2022



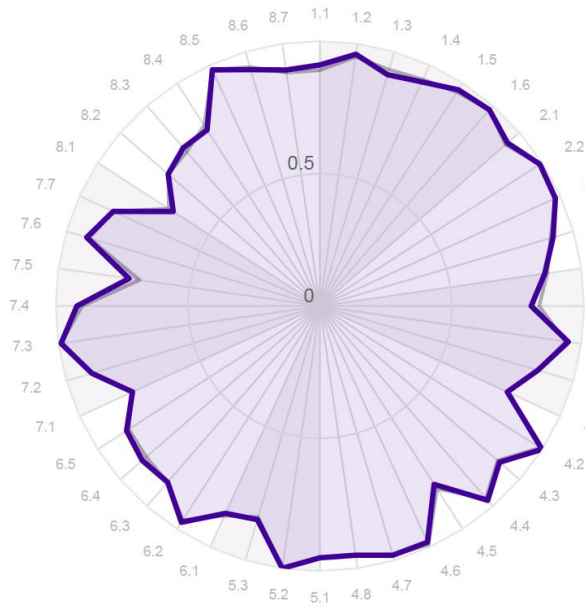
Source: WJP Rule of Law Index 2022

# Rule of Law in the United States

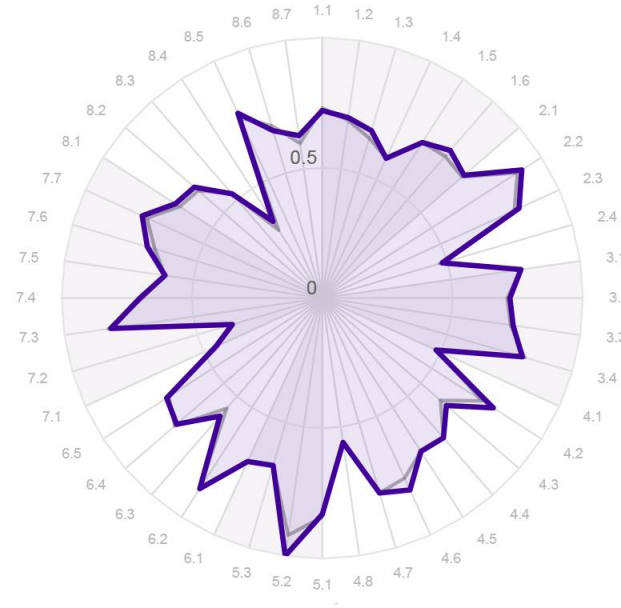


# WJP Rule of Law Index 2022

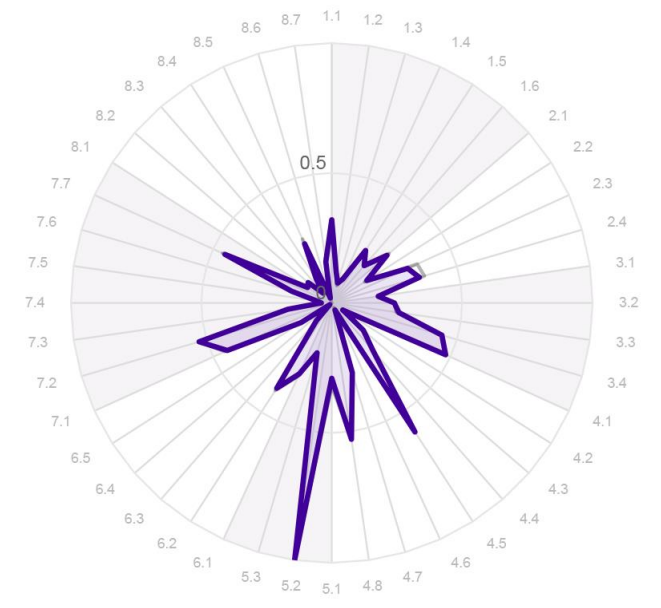
— 2022 Score



**Denmark**  
**#1**

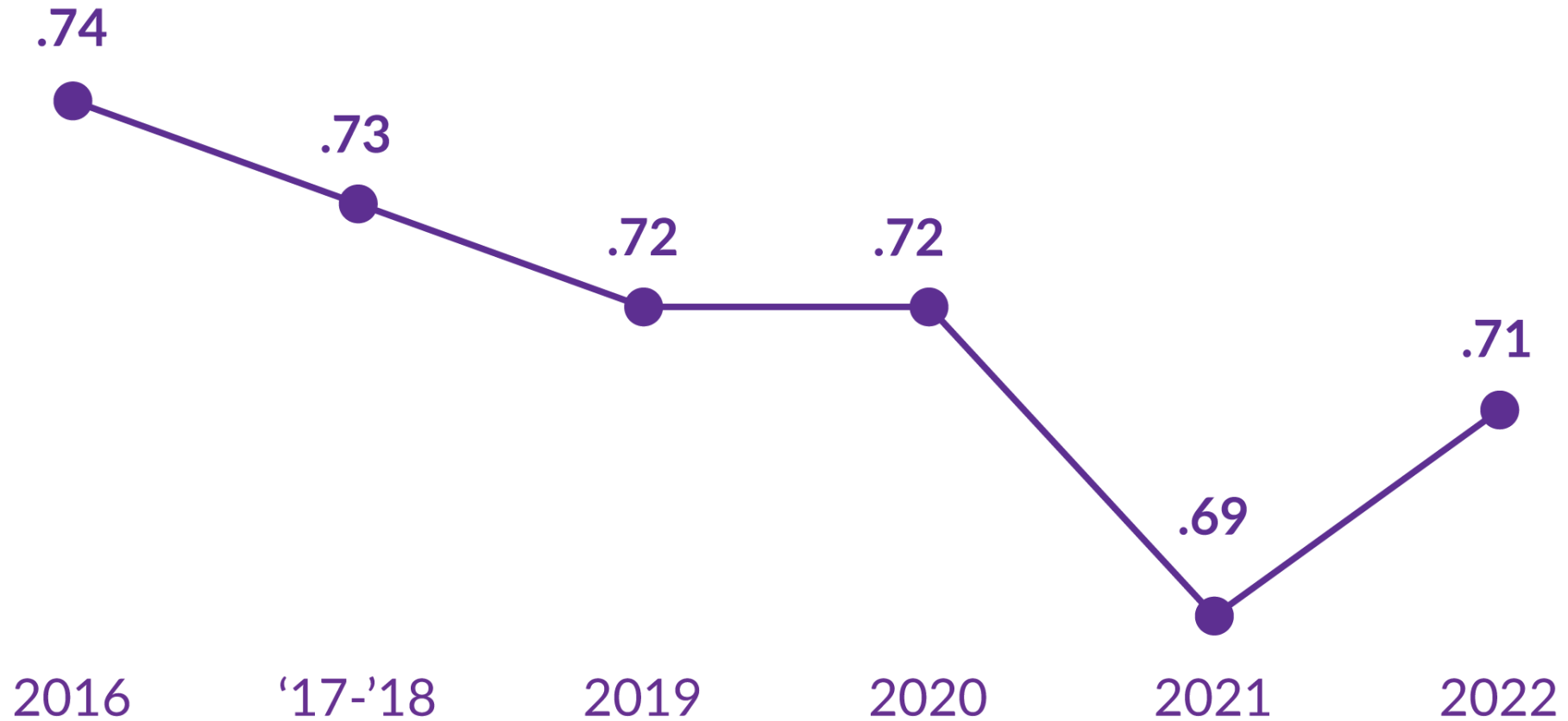


**USA**  
**#26**

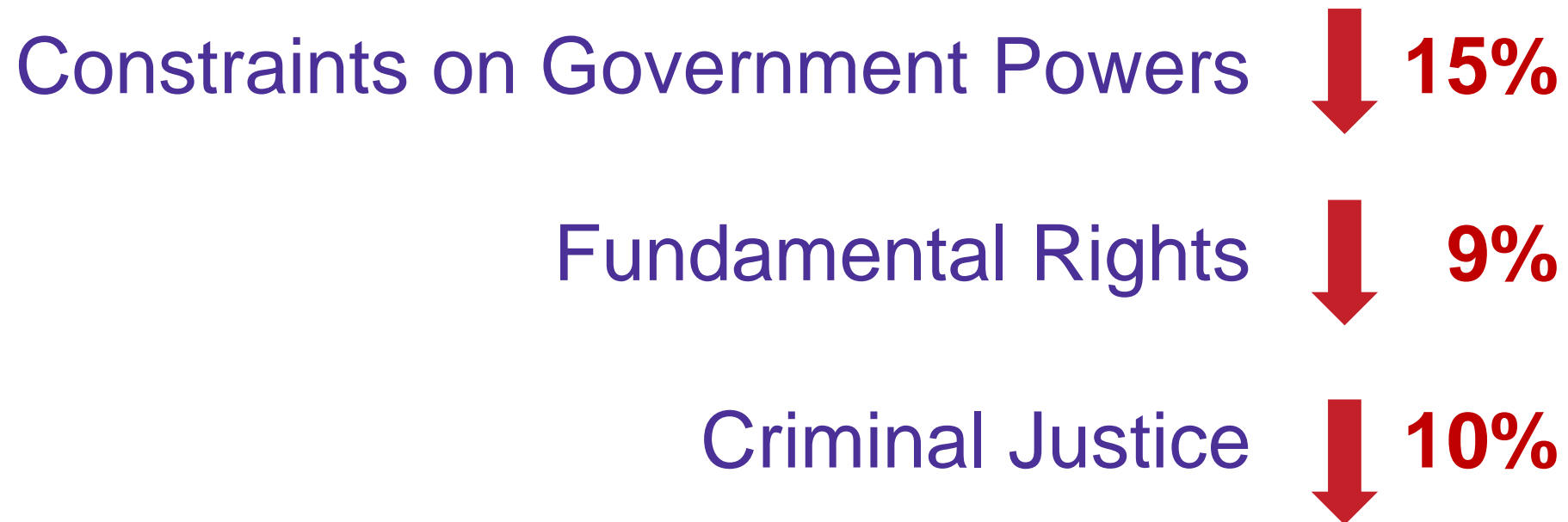


**Venezuela**  
**#140**

# U.S. Rule of Law Changes 2016-2022



# Declines in the U.S. Rule of Law Since 2016



# Long-term Weaknesses: Equality before the Law?

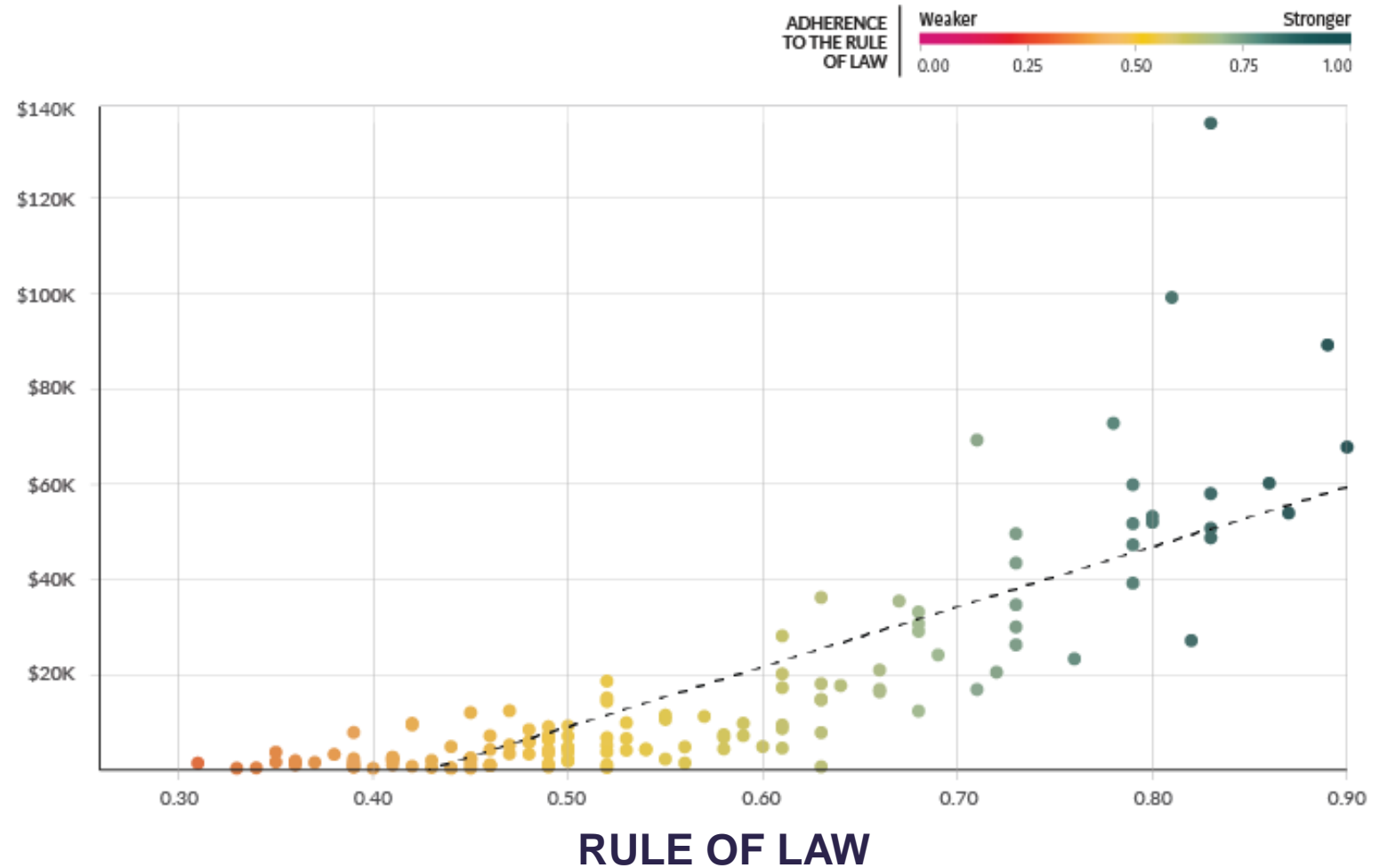
Out of 140 countries, the United States ranks...

- **115<sup>th</sup>** on Accessibility and Affordability of Civil Justice
- **103<sup>rd</sup>** on Discrimination
- **106<sup>th</sup>** on Impartiality of the Criminal Justice System
- **121<sup>st</sup>** on Absence of Discrimination in Civil Justice

# The Rule of Law Matters

Where rule of law is stronger, so is the **economy**

GDP PER CAPITA

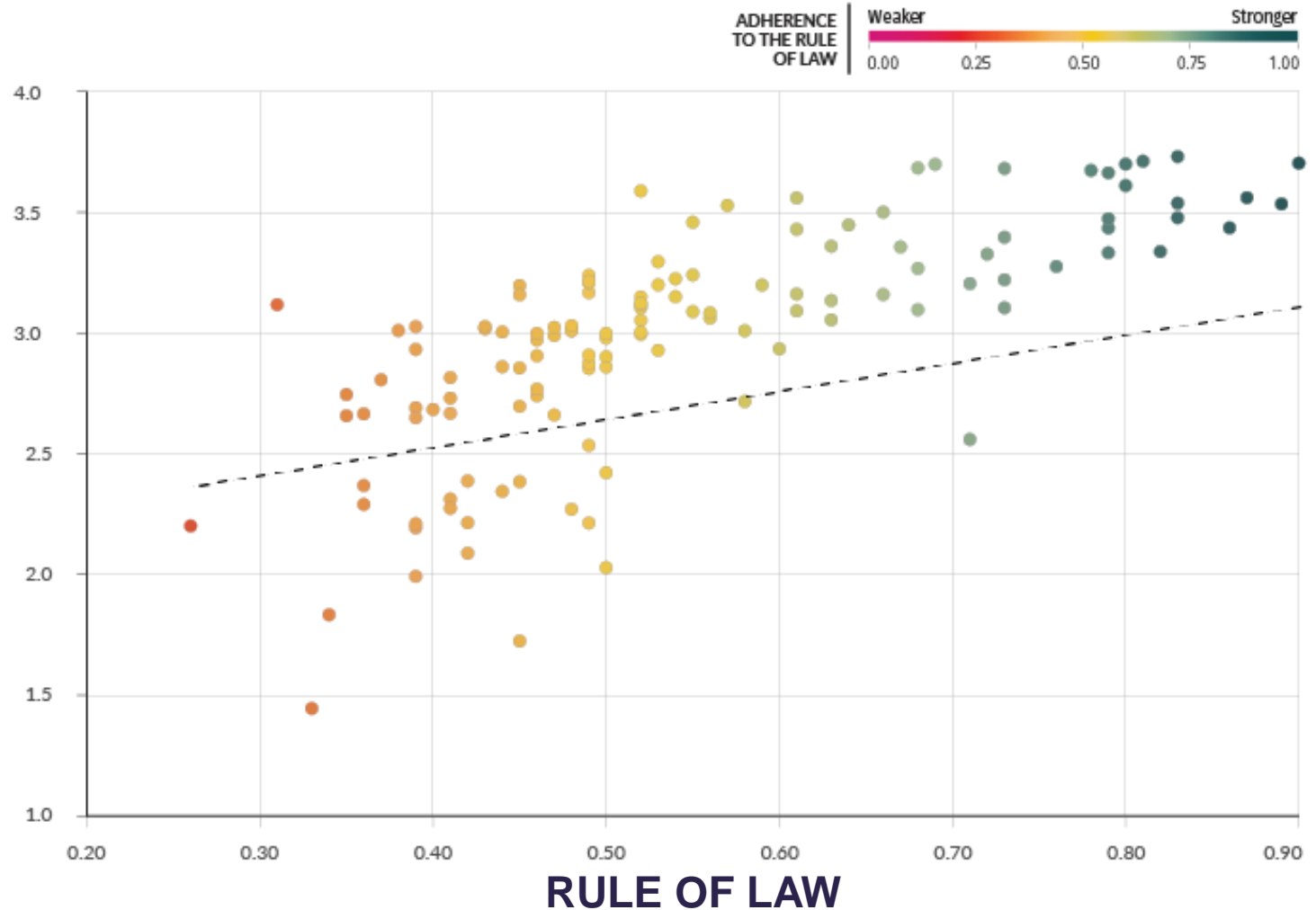


Sources: The World Bank, WJP Rule of Law Index 2022

# The Rule of Law Matters

Where rule of law is stronger, there is more peace

GLOBAL PEACE INDEX



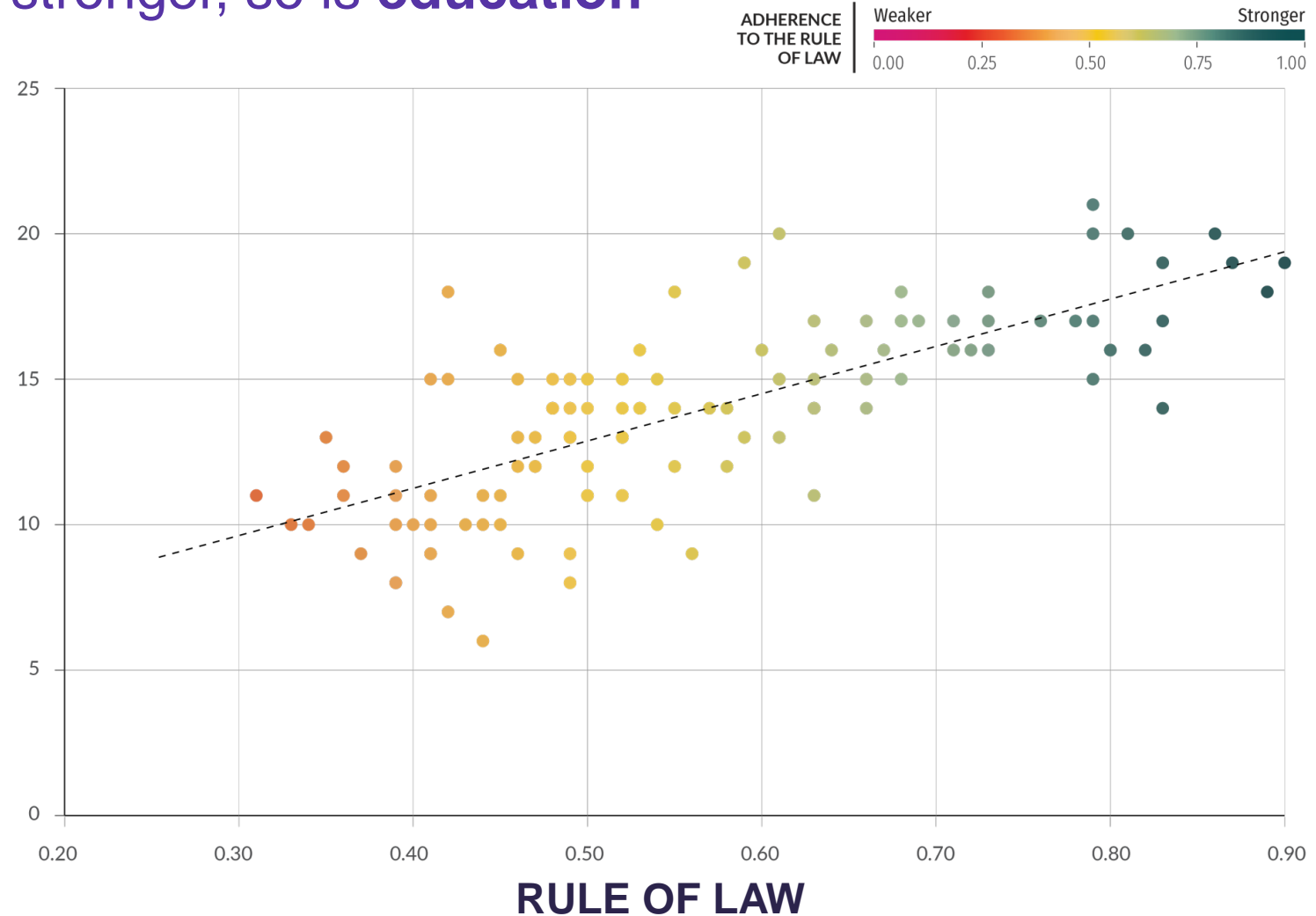
Sources: Vision of Humanity Global Peace Index 2022 (inverted to align higher scores with greater peace), WJP Rule of Law Index 2022



# The Rule of Law Matters

Where rule of law is stronger, so is **education**

**YEARS OF  
EDUCATION**



Sources: The World Bank, WJP Rule of Law Index 2022



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# Thank You



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