



Spotlight on Human Rights - May 2017

Freedom House (<https://freedomhouse.org>)

Freedom House describes itself as an “independent watchdog organization dedicated to the expansion of freedom and democracy around the world”. The organization analyzes challenges to freedom and advocates for greater political rights as well as civil liberties. Freedom House also supports frontline activists who defend human rights and promote democratic change. Founded in 1941, Freedom House has its roots in support of US involvement in World War II to counter isolationist sentiment. It is one of the first American organizations to champion freedom on a global scale. Each year it publishes Freedom in the World, <https://freedomhouse.org/report-types/freedom-world>, a highly respected analysis of political rights and civil liberties in which every country is ranked on a scale from 1 (most free) to 7 (least free). Over the years it has expanded its analysis to include press/Internet freedom, gender inequality, as well as government transparency and corruption. In 2017 it is offering a focus on what it terms, “The False Promise of Populism” <https://freedomhouse.org/report/nations-transit/nations-transit-2017>. Freedom House provides ongoing analysis of issues on its website and access to regular updates.

