

Press freedom is significantly higher in Ghana than the United States of America

Data from the 2015 World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) shows that Namibia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, South Africa and Botswana lead Africa in providing freedom for the press. Namibia and Ghana are ranked 17th and 22nd out of the 180 countries covered by the index and they outperform several developed countries including Australia (25), UK (34), USA (49) and Japan (61). Comparing the USA’s WPFI score of 24.4 to Namibia’s 12.5 shows that the press enjoy much higher freedom of expression in Namibia than they do in the USA (lower scores indicate higher freedom of the press).

The index covers 48 African countries and 58% of these countries have risen in rank since 2014, 6% have remained constant and 36% have dropped in their ranking. Among the top 10 countries that rose the most in rank between 2014 and 2015, four are African and include Madagascar (+17), Ivory Coast (+15), Malawi (+14) and Uganda (+13). Despite geographical variations, improving freedom of the press in Africa is supporting Africa’s development efforts as factual information is becoming more readily available to the general public and is guiding decision making processes.

