

---

---

# GEORGIA AND UZBEKISTAN IN RULE OF LAW INDEX: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Toirov Ravshan Rustam o'g'li  
Master's Degree, Law Enforcement Academy of  
Republic of Uzbekistan  
toirovrrr@gmail.com

Abstract:	Keywords
This article examines the performance of Georgia and Uzbekistan in the 2023 World Justice Project Rule of Law Index, with a specific focus on the Absence of Corruption indicator. Georgia's notable achievements are attributed to robust institutional reforms, judicial independence, transparency initiatives, public awareness campaigns, and international cooperation. In contrast, Uzbekistan, while showing gradual improvements, faces significant challenges in combating corruption. Recommendations for Uzbekistan include enhancing judicial independence, strengthening anti-corruption institutions, promoting transparency, engaging the public, and fostering international collaboration. Implementing these strategies can significantly improve Uzbekistan's standing in the Rule of Law Index and contribute to better governance.	Rule of Law, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Absence of Corruption, Judicial Independence, Transparency, Anti-Corruption, Institutional Reforms, Public Awareness, International Cooperation.

## Introduction

The Rule of Law Index by the World Justice Project (WJP) is an annual report measuring the rule of law in various countries. This article provides a comparative analysis of Georgia and Uzbekistan, focusing on their performances in the 2023 Index, with a particular emphasis on the Absence of Corruption indicator. The analysis includes historical comparisons and an exploration of the factors contributing to their scores. Additionally, recommendations are provided for Uzbekistan to improve its ranking by drawing from Georgia's experiences.

## Georgia in the Rule of Law Index 2023

In the 2023 World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index, Georgia demonstrated notable performance, ranking 48th globally out of 142 countries. Within the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region, Georgia secured the top position, and it ranked 6th among upper-middle-income countries. Georgia's overall score in the Index was 0.60, reflecting a strong adherence to the rule of law principles. One of the key areas where Georgia excelled was the Absence of Corruption indicator, where it achieved a score of 0.68. This indicator is crucial as it measures the extent to which government officials use public office for private gain.

---

The Absence of Corruption indicator is a critical component of the Rule of Law Index, comprising assessments of corruption levels in the executive, judiciary, police/military, and legislative branches. In 2023, Georgia's scores in these areas were:

- Executive Branch: 0.59
- Judiciary: 0.73
- Police/Military: 0.88
- Legislature: 0.50.

These scores indicate a relatively high level of integrity within the judiciary and police/military, while the executive and legislative branches, though less impressive, still show considerable efforts in curbing corruption.

Over recent years, Georgia has consistently maintained high scores in the Absence of Corruption indicator. For instance, the scores from previous years are as follows:

- **2022:** 0.67
- **2021:** 0.67
- **2020:** 0.66.

This stability over time suggests a sustained commitment to anti-corruption measures. The slight improvements and stable high scores reflect ongoing efforts to enhance transparency and accountability in public office.

## Factors Contributing to High Scores

Georgia's success in achieving high scores in the Absence of Corruption indicator can be attributed to several key factors:

1. **Institutional Reforms:**
  - Georgia has undertaken significant reforms to strengthen its anti-corruption institutions. The establishment of robust bodies like the Anti-Corruption Council has played a pivotal role. These institutions are tasked with enforcing anti-corruption laws and policies, ensuring that corrupt practices are identified and dealt with swiftly.
2. **Judicial Independence:**
  - Enhancing judicial independence has been a cornerstone of Georgia's strategy. The judiciary's high score of 0.73 reflects effective measures to ensure that judicial proceedings are free from undue influence. Independent auditing and review mechanisms have been put in place to monitor judicial conduct and decision-making processes.
3. **Transparency Initiatives:**
  - Transparency in government operations has been a critical area of focus. Georgia has implemented comprehensive transparency measures, particularly in public procurement and financial disclosures by public officials. These initiatives aim to reduce opportunities for corrupt practices by making government dealings more open to public scrutiny.
4. **Public Awareness Campaigns:**

- 
- Conducting extensive public awareness campaigns has also contributed to Georgia's success. Educating citizens about their rights and the mechanisms available to report corruption has empowered them to act against corrupt practices. These campaigns help create a culture of accountability and transparency.
5. **Legislative Measures:**
- Legislative measures have been strengthened to support anti-corruption efforts. Laws have been refined and enforced to ensure that corrupt officials are held accountable. Sanctions and penalties for corrupt activities have been made more stringent to deter potential offenders.
6. **International Cooperation:**
- Georgia has actively engaged with international anti-corruption frameworks and organizations. Collaboration with international bodies provides Georgia with additional resources, expertise, and validation of its anti-corruption measures. This cooperation helps align Georgia's practices with global standards and best practices.

Georgia's high performance in the Rule of Law Index, particularly in the Absence of Corruption indicator, highlights the country's commitment to fostering a transparent and accountable governance system. The combination of institutional reforms, judicial independence, transparency initiatives, public awareness campaigns, legislative measures, and international cooperation has been instrumental in achieving these results. By maintaining and building on these efforts, Georgia continues to set a strong example for combating corruption and promoting the rule of law within the region and among upper-middle-income countries.

### **Uzbekistan in the Rule of Law Index 2023**

In the 2023 World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index, Uzbekistan ranked 93rd globally out of 142 countries, with an overall score of 0.50. This position places Uzbekistan 9th within the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region and 14th among lower-middle-income countries. While these rankings indicate significant room for improvement, they also reflect ongoing efforts to enhance the rule of law in the country. One of the critical indicators for Uzbekistan is the Absence of Corruption, where the country scored 0.39.

The Absence of Corruption indicator assesses corruption levels within the executive, judiciary, police/military, and legislative branches. In 2023, Uzbekistan's scores for this indicator were:

- Executive Branch: 0.30
- Judiciary: 0.49
- Police/Military: 0.43
- Legislature: 0.07.

These scores indicate that corruption remains a significant challenge across all branches of government, with particularly low scores in the executive and legislative branches.

---

Uzbekistan has shown gradual improvement in the Absence of Corruption indicator over the past few years. Historical scores include:

- **2022:** 0.38
- **2021:** 0.36
- **2020:** 0.35.

Although these improvements are modest, they reflect a slow but steady progress in combating corruption.

### **Factors Influencing Current Scores**

Several factors have influenced Uzbekistan's performance in the Absence of Corruption indicator:

1. **Legislative Reforms:**
  - Uzbekistan has passed laws aimed at reducing corruption and enhancing transparency within government operations. Legislative reforms include stricter penalties for corrupt activities and enhanced procedures for reporting and addressing corruption.
2. **Strengthening Anti-Corruption Agencies:**
  - The establishment and empowerment of agencies dedicated to fighting corruption, such as the Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan, have been critical. These agencies are tasked with investigating corruption cases and ensuring compliance with anti-corruption laws.
3. **Judicial Reforms:**
  - Efforts to increase the independence and efficiency of the judiciary have been ongoing. Although the judiciary's score of 0.49 indicates challenges remain, reforms are aimed at ensuring that the judicial system can function without undue influence and can effectively prosecute corruption cases.
4. **Public Awareness and Engagement:**
  - Public awareness campaigns aimed at educating citizens about their rights and mechanisms to report corruption have been implemented. Encouraging civic participation in monitoring government activities is a key strategy in fostering a culture of accountability.
5. **International Cooperation:**
  - Uzbekistan's engagement with international anti-corruption frameworks and organizations has provided valuable support. Collaborating with entities such as the United Nations and other international bodies helps Uzbekistan align its anti-corruption measures with global best practices.

### **Challenges and Areas for Improvement**

Despite these efforts, several challenges remain that hinder significant progress in reducing corruption:

- **Political Will:** Ensuring that anti-corruption efforts are supported by strong political will at the highest levels of government is essential.

- 
- **Implementation Gaps:** While legislative and institutional frameworks may be in place, effective implementation remains a challenge. Ensuring that anti-corruption laws and policies are enforced consistently is critical.
  - **Cultural Factors:** Addressing deep-rooted cultural norms and practices that tolerate or even encourage corruption is a long-term challenge that requires sustained effort and education.

Uzbekistan's performance in the Rule of Law Index, particularly in the Absence of Corruption indicator, highlights both progress and ongoing challenges. The country's modest improvements over recent years reflect a commitment to combating corruption, albeit with significant room for further enhancement. By continuing to strengthen legislative frameworks, empowering anti-corruption agencies, promoting judicial independence, and engaging with international bodies, Uzbekistan can further improve its rule of law and reduce corruption. Implementing comprehensive public awareness campaigns and fostering a culture of accountability will also be crucial in achieving these goals. Through sustained effort and commitment, Uzbekistan can make meaningful strides in enhancing its ranking in future Rule of Law Indices.

## Recommendations for Uzbekistan

### Enhancing Judicial Independence

To improve its Rule of Law Index ranking, particularly in the Absence of Corruption indicator, Uzbekistan must prioritize enhancing judicial independence. Key measures include:

1. **Strengthening Judicial Autonomy:** Ensuring that the judiciary operates independently from political influence is critical. Reforms should focus on securing tenure for judges and protecting them from undue pressure or retaliation. This autonomy is essential for judges to make impartial decisions, particularly in corruption cases.
2. **Capacity Building:** Implementing comprehensive training programs for judges and prosecutors to handle corruption cases more effectively is essential. These programs should cover best practices in adjudicating corruption cases, ensuring due process, and protecting the rights of the accused.
3. **Improving Transparency:** Establishing transparent procedures for judicial appointments and promotions can help reduce opportunities for corruption within the judiciary. Publicly available criteria and processes for these decisions can build public trust in the judicial system.

### Strengthening Anti-Corruption Institutions

Effective anti-corruption institutions are the backbone of any effort to combat corruption. Uzbekistan can strengthen these institutions by:

- 
1. **Empowering Anti-Corruption Agencies:** Providing anti-corruption bodies with adequate resources, autonomy, and authority to investigate and prosecute corruption cases is vital. These agencies must operate independently of political influence to ensure unbiased investigations and prosecutions.
  2. **Inter-Agency Collaboration:** Promoting collaboration between different government agencies involved in anti-corruption efforts can enhance efficiency and effectiveness. Establishing clear protocols for information sharing and joint operations can streamline efforts to tackle corruption.
  3. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Implementing robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives is essential. Regular audits, performance reviews, and feedback loops can help refine strategies and improve outcomes.

### Promoting Transparency

Transparency in government operations is crucial for reducing corruption. Uzbekistan can enhance transparency through:

1. **Open Government Initiatives:** Implementing open government initiatives that mandate the disclosure of government data, decisions, and financial transactions can deter corrupt practices. Public access to information regarding government contracts, procurement processes, and spending is critical.
2. **Financial Disclosures:** Enforcing mandatory financial disclosure requirements for public officials can help identify and prevent conflicts of interest and illicit enrichment. Making these disclosures publicly accessible can increase accountability.
3. **Public Participation:** Encouraging civic participation in monitoring government activities can enhance transparency. Mechanisms such as public consultations, citizen oversight committees, and platforms for reporting corruption can empower citizens to hold officials accountable.

### Public Engagement and Education

Raising public awareness about corruption and fostering a culture of integrity are essential components of any anti-corruption strategy. Uzbekistan can achieve this by:

1. **Awareness Campaigns:** Launching extensive public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about the detrimental effects of corruption and the mechanisms available to report it. These campaigns should target various demographics and use multiple channels to maximize reach.
2. **Civic Education:** Incorporating anti-corruption education into school curricula can instill values of integrity and accountability from a young age. Educating students about their rights and responsibilities can help build a future generation that is less tolerant of corruption.



- 
3. **Whistleblower Protection:** Establishing and promoting robust whistleblower protection laws can encourage individuals to report corrupt activities without fear of retaliation. Ensuring confidentiality and providing legal and financial support to whistleblowers are critical measures.

### International Collaboration

Engaging with international anti-corruption frameworks and organizations can provide Uzbekistan with valuable resources, expertise, and validation. Recommendations include:

1. **Global Partnerships:** Collaborating with international bodies such as the United Nations, the World Bank, and regional anti-corruption initiatives can help Uzbekistan adopt best practices and gain technical assistance. These partnerships can also enhance the credibility of Uzbekistan's anti-corruption efforts.
2. **Benchmarking and Peer Learning:** Participating in global anti-corruption benchmarks and peer review mechanisms can help Uzbekistan measure its progress and identify areas for improvement. Learning from the experiences of other countries that have successfully reduced corruption can provide valuable insights.
3. **Technical Assistance:** Seeking technical assistance from international organizations in areas such as legislative reform, institutional capacity building, and technology implementation can strengthen Uzbekistan's anti-corruption framework.

By implementing these recommendations, Uzbekistan can significantly enhance its performance in the Rule of Law Index, particularly in the Absence of Corruption indicator. Strengthening judicial independence, empowering anti-corruption institutions, promoting transparency, engaging the public, and collaborating internationally are critical steps toward reducing corruption and improving governance. Through sustained effort and commitment, Uzbekistan can create a more transparent, accountable, and just society, thereby improving its ranking and reputation on the global stage.

### Conclusion

The comparative analysis of Georgia and Uzbekistan in the 2023 World Justice Project Rule of Law Index highlights the significant strides and ongoing challenges faced by both countries in their efforts to uphold the rule of law, particularly in the area of corruption. Georgia's commendable performance, especially in the Absence of Corruption indicator, is a testament to its effective institutional reforms, judicial independence, transparency initiatives, public awareness campaigns, and international cooperation. These efforts have enabled Georgia to maintain a relatively high position in the global rankings and set a benchmark for other countries in the region.

Uzbekistan, while showing gradual improvements, still faces considerable challenges in its fight against corruption. The country's performance in the Absence of Corruption indicator underscores the need for more robust and effective measures. By drawing from Georgia's successful strategies, Uzbekistan can enhance its anti-corruption framework and overall rule of law.

=====

To improve its standing in the Rule of Law Index, Uzbekistan should focus on strengthening judicial independence, empowering anti-corruption institutions, promoting transparency in government operations, engaging the public through education and awareness campaigns, and fostering international collaboration. Implementing these recommendations can help create a more transparent, accountable, and fair governance system in Uzbekistan.

Sustained efforts in these areas will not only improve Uzbekistan's ranking in future Rule of Law Indices but also contribute to the broader goal of establishing a just and equitable society. Through commitment and continuous improvement, Uzbekistan can make meaningful strides towards reducing corruption and enhancing the rule of law, thereby ensuring better governance and increased public trust in its institutions.

## REFERENCES

1. World Justice Project. (2023). WJP Rule of Law Index 2023 Insights. Retrieved from <https://worldjusticeproject.org/sites/default/files/documents/WJP-Insights-2023.pdf>
2. World Justice Project. (2023). Full Report WJP Rule of Law Index 2023. Retrieved from <https://worldjusticeproject.org/sites/default/files/documents/Full%20report%20WJPI%20index2023.pdf>
3. World Justice Project. (2023). Index Methodology 2023. Retrieved from <https://worldjusticeproject.org/sites/default/files/documents/Index-Methodology-2023.pdf>
4. World Justice Project. (2023). WJP Rule of Law Index 2023. Retrieved from <https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/>
5. Botero, J., & Ponce, A. (2022). Measuring the Rule of Law. WJP Working Paper No. 1. Retrieved from <https://worldjusticeproject.org/sites/default/files/documents/Measuring%20the%20Rule%20of%20Law.pdf>
6. Saisana, M., & Saltelli, A. (2023). Rankings and Ratings: Instructions and Warnings. European Commission Joint Research Centre. Retrieved from <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC93754>.