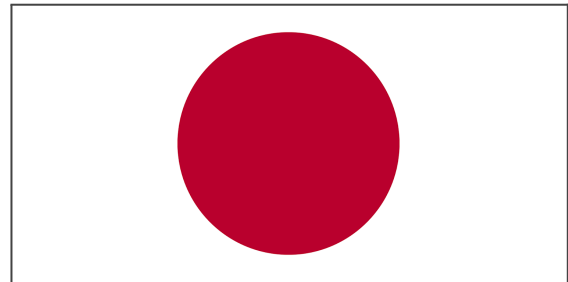


Religious Laws

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Internet Freedom

Japan has earned one of the highest scores in Freedom House's 'Freedom of the Net 2024' report. The country's legal framework provides strong protections for various forms of expression, though women and individuals from certain minority groups still face disproportionate harassment online. Hate speech has been subject to successful lawsuits, and the ruling LDP has passed a law requiring platforms to create transparent procedures for removing content that constitutes online defamation and respond quickly to claims of online defamation. In 2018 the government requested that internet providers block manga piracy sites, and in 2020 it passed a law which criminalizes online piracy of manga, magazines, and academic texts, however it did not expand the government's ability to block websites. This year the parliament passed the Active Cyberdefence Law, which comes into full force in 2027, and it has some provisions to protect the citizens' right to privacy and against government surveillance. Still, concerns remain over user privacy and the independence of service providers and digital technology, as they are regulated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and not by an independent body. There have also been reports of improper relations between the government and the business sector, and of information campaigns to manipulate public opinion.

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