

# SPAIN

Region: Southern Europe (Global North)

Population (2022): 47.6 million (30<sup>th</sup>)

Life Expectancy at Birth (Women): 85.7 years (3<sup>rd</sup>)

Governance System: Parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy

Capital: Madrid

Land Area (km<sup>2</sup>): 499,603 (50<sup>th</sup>)

Major Languages: Spanish, Catalan

## Select Global Rankings

GDP (2022): 15<sup>th</sup> (1,397,509 US\$ Millions)

Human Development Index: 27<sup>th</sup> (Very High)

Fragile States Index - Inverted: 36<sup>th</sup> (Cat. 4)

Good Country Index: 13<sup>th</sup>

Human Freedom Index: 25<sup>th</sup>

World Happiness Ranking: 32<sup>nd</sup>

## Select Global Rankings (Gender-Focus)

Gross National Income Per Capita (Women): 26<sup>th</sup>

Gender Social Norms Index: 11<sup>th</sup>

Women's Power Index: 16<sup>th</sup>

Social Institutions and Gender Index (World Cup rank): 3<sup>rd</sup>

Gender Inequality Index: 14<sup>th</sup>

Global Gender Gap Index: 18<sup>th</sup>

Women Peace & Security Index: 14<sup>th</sup>

## Elite Sport System Rankings

2020 Summer Olympic Women's Medals (% of Total): 7.5 (44%)

2022 Winter Olympic Women's Medals (% of Total): 1 (100%)

Global Cup Ranking (Women): 20<sup>th</sup>

## Football/World Cup Profile

FIFA Region: UEFA

FIFA Ranking: 6

World Cup Appearance: 3<sup>rd</sup>

Best World Cup Performance(s): Round of 16 (2019)

Qualification: Winner UEFA Qualifying Group B

World Cup Group: C

Last World Cup Appearance: 2019

## **SPAIN in International (Gender) Affairs (by Shaza Ahmed)**

The Kingdom of [Spain](#) is located on the cusp of Europe and Africa, next to the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. This strategic location makes it a key political and cultural bridge across five continents. The country has a history of rule by the Romans and the Moors. The culture of Spain comes from the Castilians, Catalonians, Lusitanians, Galicians, Basques, Romans, Arabs, Jews, and Roma (Gypsies) among others. From the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Spain had amassed a large empire overseas. In 1936-39, there was a civil war followed by decades long dictatorship of Francisco Franco. Since his death in 1975, Spain has decolonized and transitioned to democracy.

The country is a constitutional monarchy with a king that resumed power after the Franco dictatorship, however he supported primacy of the parliament. His heir and current king, King Felipe VI, has followed suit. As a parliamentary democracy, Spain also has a President who is chosen through parliamentary vote. The parliament has 350 elected representatives from Spanish constituencies. The current President is [Pedro Sánchez](#) of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE).

Spain is a unitary state and has 17 regions with their own elected authorities, however there are concerns of [separatism](#) in Catalonia. There was a referendum deemed illegal in 2017 that backed Catalonia's independence from Spain. Madrid imposed rule on the region until regional elections in 2021 as a result. Spain has contested sovereignty with the United Kingdom (UK) over Gibraltar. It also has conflict with Morocco over the coastal enclaves Ceuta, Melilla, and Isla Perejil. Since 2008, Spain has emerged from the economic [recession](#) caused by the 2008 financial crisis. Youth unemployment remains high.

According to international standards for political rights and civil liberties, Spain is considered [free](#). Spain has competitive elections and peaceful transfers of power between rival parties.

Political corruption is a concern, but politicians responsible for it have been successfully prosecuted. The rule of law prevails.

Spain is part of the [European Union](#) and an active member contributing to policies on citizenship, cohesion, linguistic diversity, and counterterrorism. Spain also signed the Schengen Agreement that eliminated border controls between member states as part of a Border-Free Europe. Internationally, Spain is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the United Nations (UN), and a founding member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Spain maintains relations with Ibero-American and Caribbean countries given shared human, historical, cultural, social, political, economic and linguistic ties. Spain is one of the main investors in Ibero-America and has significant presence in their development and modernisation. Spain is the first country to be an [observer](#) state in the Pacific Alliance and is also an observer in the Organisation of American States (OAS), the Ibero-American Integration Association (LAIA), and the Central American Integration System (SICA).

### **Gender Equity (by Alanna Harman)**

In the 2019 European Institute for Gender Equality Spain ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the [EU](#). “Between 2005 and 2017, Spain’s score increased by 7.9 points, progressing towards gender equality at a faster pace than other EU Member [States](#)”. Spain’s scores are the highest in the domain of health, and the greatest inequality is in [power](#). This trend of gender equality in health was reinforced again in February 2023 when Spain was hailed by UN experts for its new feminist legislation. The new “legislation in Spain, which guarantees and facilitates access to sexual and reproductive rights in the [country](#)”. The news measures ensure “safe and accessible abortion provided by national health agencies; eliminate so-called “reflection processes” arbitrarily imposed on women; ensure access of all women (including lesbian, bisexual, and unmarried women) to assisted reproduction techniques; and introduce menstrual leaves as the first European country to do [so](#)”. The same legislation also mandates sexual education in school. While Spain continues to excel in the domain health areas for improvement persist in other domains. For example, in 2017 106 females were victims of homicide, “of whom 47% were victims of intimate partner [femicide](#)”.

In June of 2022, it was announced that Spain joined the ranks of England, Ireland, Norway, and the United States when they announced that both their men’s and women’s teams will receive equal pay for representing their country in international play. The agreement reached in Spain is for five years and also brings equality to travel, food, and [accommodation](#). “The bonuses received in percentages will be [equalized](#)”. Players will also receive a percentage of sponsorship contracts.