

Finland is the happiest country in the world, says UN report - 14 March, 2018

Finland has overtaken Norway to become the happiest nation on earth, according to a UN report. The 2018 World Happiness Report also shows the steady decline of the US, as the world's largest economy suffers a crisis of obesity, drug abuse and depression. The study shows the US has fallen to 18th place, five places lower than in 2016. The top four places are taken by Nordic nations, with Finland followed by Norway, Denmark and Iceland.

Burundi in east Africa, which has suffered ethnic cleansing, civil wars and coup attempts, is the unhappiest place in the world. Surprisingly, there are five other nations – Rwanda, Yemen, Tanzania, South Sudan and the Central African Republic – that report happiness levels below that of even Syria.

For the first time, the UN also examined the happiness levels of immigrants in each country and found Finland also scored highest.

“Finland has jumped from fifth place to the top of the rankings,” said the report’s authors.

The report said all the Nordic countries scored highly on income, healthy life expectancy, social support, freedom, trust and generosity. The rankings are based on polls of self-reported wellbeing, as well as perceptions of corruption, generosity and freedom.

1. Which country used to occupy the top spot on the happiness ratings?
2. Which country has steadily declined?
3. Why has the US declined?
4. What position does the US now occupy?
5. Which countries occupy the top 4 places?
6. Which country is the unhappiest in the world?
7. What 3 things have happened in Burundi?
8. What is surprising about 5 other African countries?
9. What did the UN measure for the first time in this survey?
10. What position was Finland in before?
11. What did Nordic countries score highly on in general?
12. What are the rankings based on?