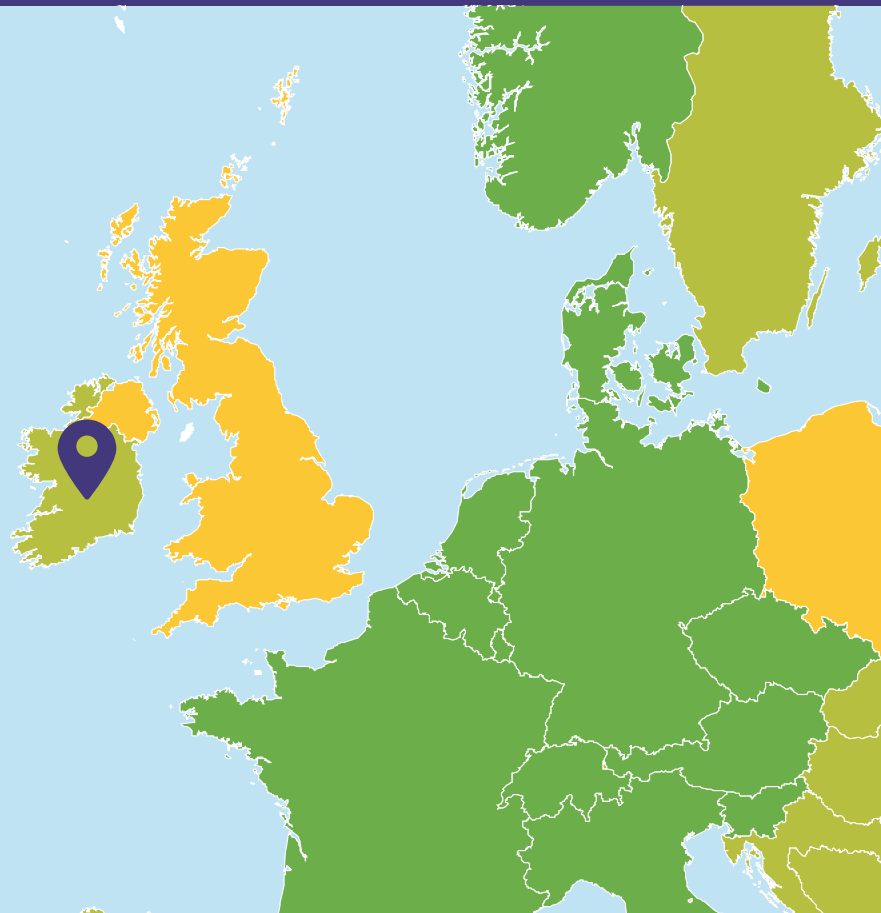




KIDSRIGHTS  
Index

# The KidsRights Index 2024

Ireland scores 71<sup>st</sup>  
on global ranking for Children's Rights.



## IRELAND

OVERALL SCORE	LIFE	HEALTH	EDUCATION	PROTECTION	CHILD RIGHTS ENVIRONMENT
RANK: 71	RANK: 18	RANK: 89	RANK: 8	RANK: 17	RANK: 158
SCORE: 0,735	SCORE: 0,955	SCORE: 0,910	SCORE: 1,000	SCORE: 0,988	SCORE: 0,250

THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX AND INFORMATION ABOUT ITS DOMAINS, INDICATORS AND METHODOLOGY  
ARE ACCESSIBLE ON [WWW.KIDSRIGHTSINDEX.ORG](http://WWW.KIDSRIGHTSINDEX.ORG)

## THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX

The KidsRights Index is the only annual global ranking on how countries worldwide are adhering to children’s rights. Based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Index synthesizes the performance records of states on the most crucial aspects of children’s lives for which comparable data is available. In addition, the Index charts how states are faring in mobilizing the enabling environment for children’s rights that the CRC requires them to have. The five domains that jointly make up the Index are:

1. **Right to Life**
2. **Right to Health**
3. **Right to Education**
4. **Right to Protection**
5. **Enabling Environment for Child Rights**

The KidsRights Index ranks countries on each of these five domains which in turn generate a comprehensive overall ranking. The content of the Index is a sound basis for making concrete recommendations on how the children’s rights record of specific countries could be improved.

### SOURCES OF THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX

The KidsRights Index pools data from three reputable sources: quantitative data published and regularly updated by **UNICEF** (<https://data.unicef.org>) and **UNDP** ([www.hdr.undp.org/data](http://www.hdr.undp.org/data))<sup>1</sup>, and qualitative data published by the **UN Committee on the Rights of the Child** ([www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/crc/pages/crcindex.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/crc/pages/crcindex.aspx)) in the detailed individual country reports (the so-called Concluding Observations) that it adopts for all states that are parties to the CRC. The KidsRights Index aims to make the data more accessible to a broader audience, in an effort to stimulate dialogue about children’s rights. Since the United States of America is the only state in the world that is not yet a party to the CRC, there is no material for scoring the country on domain 5 and thus it cannot be included in the KidsRights Index.

### DOMAIN 5: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILD RIGHTS

Domain 5, the ‘Enabling Environment for Child Rights’, is an important and unique domain of the KidsRights Index. It reveals the extent to which countries have operationalized the general principles of the CRC (*non-discrimination; best interests of the child; respect for the views of the child/participation*) and the extent to which there is a basic ‘infrastructure’ for making and implementing child rights policy (in the form of *enabling national legislation; mobilization of the ‘best available’ budget; collection and analysis of disaggregated data; and state-civil society cooperation for child rights*). The scores on domain 5 are derived from the Concluding Observations adopted by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. These Concluding Observations (COs) finish off the state reporting procedure under the CRC and represent the Committee’s views on the level of realization of children’s rights in a particular country.

<sup>1</sup> The data for the KidsRights Index 2023 was downloaded from the listed UNICEF and UNDP sources in January 2023. In addition, the latest available Concluding Observations for each country were used.

Domain 5 - 'Child Rights Environment' - is based on the Concluding Observations adopted by the CRC Committee. The Committee's assessment of the country performance on the earlier mentioned 7 indicators that make up domain 5 is used to generate scores on a scale between 1 and 3. The actual score assigned to each sub-indicator is exclusively based on the language used by the Committee in the document. The resulting final scores are standardized.

#### KidsRights Index Scoring System:

<b>Score 1 'bad'</b>	= <b>only negative remarks</b>
<b>Score 2 'average'</b>	= <b>negative and positive remarks</b>
<b>Score 3 'good'</b>	= <b>only positive remarks</b>
<b>NA</b>	= <b>not addressed</b>

Color	Meaning
Red	Negative change
Orange	Stayed the same
Green	Positive change

## DOMAIN 5: IRELAND

	Non-discrimination	Best interests of the child	Respect for the views of the child	Enabling legislation	Best available budget / Resources	Collection and analysis of disaggregated data	State-civil society cooperation for child rights
Ireland 2016	1	1	2	2	2	1	NA
Ireland 2023	2	1	1	2	1	1	NA

Ireland's standing in the KidsRights Index (KRI12) has significantly declined, dropping 17 positions to rank 71 with a score of 0.735, compared to its previous rank of 54 with a score of 0.780 in KRI11. This decline is also reflected in the Enabling Environment category, where Ireland's rank fell by 7 positions to 158, with a score of 0.250. Among the seven indicators, only non-discrimination performed well, while most remained unchanged. Notably, there was a decline in the areas of respect for the view of the child and the best available budget.

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## COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS 2023 - IRELAND

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### ON NON-DISCRIMINATION (SCORE 2):

KidsRights appreciates the establishment of the Anti-Racism Committee but remains deeply concerned about ongoing discrimination faced by children from minority groups and those in advantaged situations.

#### Recommendations

- Implement targeted measures to eliminate discrimination against children of minority groups and those in disadvantaged situations, ensuring equitable treatment and opportunities.
- Bolster the effectiveness of the Anti-Racism Committee by providing it with the necessary authority and resources to address and prevent discrimination effectively.

### ON BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD (SCORE 1):

KidsRights reiterates its previous recommendations and emphasizes the need for Ireland.

#### Recommendations

- Ensure that the principle of the Best Interests of the Child (BIs) is consistently applied across all programs, and in all legislative, administrative, and judicial proceedings involving children.
- Offer clear guidance to all relevant authorities on how to accurately determine the BIs and prioritise these interests as a fundamental consideration in their decision-making processes.

### ON RESPECT FOR THE VIEWS OF THE CHILD (SCORE 2):

#### Recommendations

- Ensure all children can express their views in decisions affecting them, including in court and family law, with free expert support.
- Promote meaningful participation of all children, especially those in disadvantaged situations, in family, community, schools, and policymaking at all levels.
- Ensure professionals systematically receive training to respect and consider children's views.
- Act on commitments to hold a referendum on lowering the voting age to 16 years.

### ON ENABLING LEGISLATION (SCORE 2):

KidsRights welcomes new laws and strategies to implement the CRC.

#### Recommendations

- Recommends fully incorporating the CRC into national legislation.
- Conduct a thorough review to align all legislation with CRC and address inconsistencies.
- Develop systematic child-rights impact assessment procedures for national and subnational legislation and policies.

### ON BEST AVAILABLE BUDGET (SCORE 1):

KidsRights recommendations on Best Available Budget/Resources for Ireland.

#### Recommendations:

- Child Rights-Based Budgeting: Incorporate a child rights-based approach in the state budgeting process.
- Tracking System: Implement a system to track allocation, use, and monitoring of resources for

children to eliminate disparities and ensure equity.

- **Specific Budget Lines:** Define budget lines for all children, focusing on those in disadvantaged situations, especially Traveller, Roma children, and children with disabilities (CWDs).
- **Government Participation:** Encourage all government entities to participate in performance and equality budgeting initiatives.

## **ON COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF DISAGGREGATED DATA (SCORE 1):**

KidsRights underscored the importance of comprehensive data collection for effective implementation Of CRC.

### **Recommendations:**

- Ensure the national equality strategy includes systematic collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative indicators covering all areas of children's rights under the CRC, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, location, ethnicity, nationality, and socioeconomic background.
- Apply the strategy to all government entities and non-State actors involved in public procurement, providing adequate resources for implementation.
- Publish equality data on children in accessible, age-appropriate formats for children and relevant bodies, professional groups, and civil society.

## **ON STATE-CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION (NA)**



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