



KIDSRIGHTS
Index

The KidsRights Index 2024

Liechtenstein scores 40th
on global ranking for Children's Rights.



LIECHTENSTEIN

OVERALL SCORE
RANK: **40**
SCORE: **0,782**

LIFE
RANK: **NA**
SCORE:

HEALTH
RANK: **3**
SCORE: **1,000**

EDUCATION
RANK: **88**
SCORE: **0,717**

PROTECTION
RANK: **NA**
SCORE:

CHILD RIGHTS ENVIRONMENT
RANK: **9**
SCORE: **0,667**

THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX AND INFORMATION ABOUT ITS DOMAINS, INDICATORS AND METHODOLOGY
ARE ACCESSIBLE ON 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)¹, and qualitative data published by the **UN Committee on the Rights of the Child** (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.

¹ 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:

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

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

DOMAIN 5: LIECHTENSTEIN

	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
Liechtenstein 2006	3	NA	NA	2	NA	1	NA
Liechtenstein 2023	2	2	2	2	2	2	NA

Liechtenstein has achieved a commendable overall ranking of 40th with a score of 0.782 in the latest KidsRights Index (KRI12). It stands out particularly in the Enabling Environment category, securing the 9th position with a score of 0.667. Although comparisons with previous years are challenging due to the non-availability of earlier data, the current evaluation reveals a generally strong performance across most of the seven assessed indicators. Notably, Liechtenstein has excelled in areas including the Best Interest of the Child, Respect for the Views of the Child, Best Available Budget, and Collection and Analysis of Disaggregated Data. However, two indicators have remained stable without noticeable improvement, and there has been a decline in performance in the Non-Discrimination category, indicating an area that requires attention and improvement.

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS 2023 - LIECHTENSTEIN

ON NON-DISCRIMINATION (SCORE 2):

KidsRights appreciates the steps taken under paragraph 283 of the Criminal Code to prohibit discrimination on various grounds, including gender identity.

Recommendations

- Adopt a comprehensive law against discrimination that explicitly includes protections for children. This law should address all forms of discrimination and provide clear, enforceable remedies for those affected.
- Continue to strengthen the implementation of existing anti-discrimination legislation. Ensure that laws are effectively enforced, and mechanisms are in place to monitor compliance and address violations.
- Undertake targeted measures to combat discrimination against children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, including LGBT children, children of same-sex parents, children with disabilities, children in situations of migration, and children from single-parent and/or low-income families.

ON BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD (SCORE 2):

KidsRights acknowledges that Liechtenstein's legislation on parents and children clearly defines the Best Interests of the child. To further strengthen and ensure the effective implementation of the principle, KidsRights makes the following recommendations.

Recommendations

- Strengthen efforts to ensure that the right of the child to have their best interests taken as a primary consideration is appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied across all legislative, administrative, and judicial proceedings and decisions. Additionally, this right should be consistently considered in the development and implementation of all policies, programs, and projects that impact children.
- Provide detailed guidance to all relevant persons in authority, such as judges, administrators, and social workers, on how to determine the best interests of the child in every relevant area. This guidance should emphasize that the best interests of the child must always be a primary consideration, ensuring that it is not only a formal legal requirement but also a practical guideline in all decisions affecting children.

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

KidsRights appreciates Liechtenstein's efforts in establishing the Children and Youth Advisory Council and acknowledges the initiative to involve children in social decision-making processes, including giving them the opportunity to comment on draft legislation that affects them.

Recommendations

- Enhance mechanisms and create additional platforms to ensure that younger children are provided meaningful opportunities to express their views in all matters affecting their lives, not just those above a certain age.
- Reconsider the decision to reject lowering the voting age to 16 years or explore alternative forms of political engagement for younger citizens. The aim is to bolster youth participation in democratic processes, recognizing their potential to contribute valuable perspectives on policies and legislation that impact their lives and future.

ON ENABLING LEGISLATION (SCORE 2):

KidsRights acknowledges the implementation of the Children and Youth Act of 2009 and the reforms made in 2015 to the law on parents and children. To ensure these laws effectively support children's rights, KidsRights makes the following specific recommendations.

Recommendations

- Carry out systematic child rights impact assessments of the Children and Youth Act of 2009, the 2015 reform of the law on parents and children, and other relevant legislation. This assessment should evaluate how these laws impact children's rights and their lives.
- These assessments should be conducted considering the State's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The objective is to identify any gaps, inconsistencies, or areas where these laws may not fully align with the Convention's standards.

ON BEST AVAILABLE BUDGET (SCORE 2):

KidsRights notes with appreciation the increased funding allocated under the Children and Youth Act, particularly for activities related to child protection. However, KidsRights is concerned regarding the transparency and specificity of these allocations, especially in relation to how the resources are distributed among various sectors and target groups.

Recommendations:

- Increase transparency in budgeting processes to ensure clear and accessible reporting on where and how funds are being used. This should include detailed breakdowns that allow stakeholders, including civil society organisations and the public, to understand and assess the adequacy of funding in addressing the needs of all children, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

ON COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF DISAGGREGATED DATA (SCORE 2):

Recommendations:

- Strengthen the data-collection system to ensure comprehensive coverage across all areas of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The data should be thoroughly disaggregated by age, sex, disability status, geographical location, national origin, and socioeconomic background. This level of disaggregation is essential to accurately analyse the situation of all children, particularly those in vulnerable situations, while maintaining a balance with the right to privacy for these children.
- Data collection and analysis processes must respect and uphold the privacy rights of children, ensuring that sensitive information is protected and used responsibly.
- Ensure that the statistical data and indicators collected are not only shared with relevant stakeholders but are also actively used to inform and improve policies, programs, and practices affecting children.

ON STATE-CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION (NA)



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