



KIDSRIGHTS
Index

The KidsRights Index 2024

Sweden scores 78th
on global ranking for Children's Rights.



SWEDEN

OVERALL SCORE	LIFE	HEALTH	EDUCATION	PROTECTION	CHILD RIGHTS ENVIRONMENT
RANK: 78	RANK: 7	RANK: 42	RANK: 11	RANK: 9	RANK: 167
SCORE: 0,725	SCORE: 0,967	SCORE: 0,972	SCORE: 1,000	SCORE: 0,993	SCORE: 0,214

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: SWEDEN

	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
Sweden 2015	2	2	2	3	1	1	NA
Sweden 2023	2	1	1	2	1	1	1

Sweden experienced a significant decline in its rank for enabling environment, plummeting by 122 ranks to 167 with a score of 0.214. This dramatic shift in ranking highlights critical areas of concern and areas of stability in indicators such as non-discrimination, budget allocation, and data collection, which have remained unchanged. In contrast, state-civil society cooperation has shown positive change, indicating a nuanced landscape of child rights implementation in Sweden. The array of indicators and their varied performance underscore the complex challenges and opportunities within Sweden's framework for protecting and promoting children's rights.

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS 2023 - SWEDEN

ON NON-DISCRIMINATION (SCORE 2):

Recommendations

- Fix the lack of age-disaggregated data on discrimination against children by prioritising collection and analyses of such data to better understand the issues faced by different age groups.
- Implement stronger measures to combat ongoing discrimination, including racism, racist attacks, and bullying, particularly against children from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Implement targeted interventions to ensure that children in all regions have equal opportunities and access to essential services such as access to quality healthcare, social services, education, and justice.

ON BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD (SCORE 1):

Recommendations

- Ensure that the BI principle is uniformly applied in all programs and in all legislative, administrative, and judicial proceedings. This includes areas such as parental custody and contact, alternative care, child justice, asylum, and support for children who are victims or witnesses of crime.
- Clarify the procedures and criteria used to assess and determine the BI in specific acts such as the Aliens Act (2005) and the Act concerning Support and Service for Persons with Certain Functional Impairments (1993).
- Provide guidance and training to all relevant authorities to ensure they are well-equipped to determine the BI in every relevant area and give proper weight to these considerations as a primary concern.

ON RESPECT FOR THE VIEWS OF THE CHILD (SCORE 1):

KidsRights is concerned about the insufficient integration of children's perspectives in decision-making processes that directly affect them. Following recommendations aim to strengthen the mechanisms through which children can influence decisions that impact their lives, thereby respecting and promoting their rights to participation as stipulated in international conventions on children's rights.

Recommendations

- Guarantee that all children can express their opinions and be heard in all decisions affecting them.
- Adopt legislative amendments to ensure that children's views are systematically heard and considered in all relevant decision-making processes.

ON ENABLING LEGISLATION (SCORE 2):

Recommendations

- Address incompatibilities identified between national legislation and the UNCRC. Ensure that the UNCRC takes precedence in cases of conflict with domestic laws or common practices.
- Child-rights impact assessments should be made a fundamental part of the legislative process, including their incorporation into all inquiries conducted in preparation for new legislation.
- Provide child-friendly avenues that enable meaningful participation of children in the development of both national and subnational legislation and regulations that impact their rights.

ON BEST AVAILABLE BUDGET (SCORE 1):

KidsRights emphasizes the importance of incorporating a child rights-based approach into the State budgeting process, outlining the following recommendations:

Recommendations:

- Establish a system to track the allocation, use, and monitoring of resources dedicated to children, assessing how these investments across all sectors support the best interests of children.
- Clearly define and safeguard budgetary allocations for children in disadvantaged or vulnerable conditions, such as children with disabilities (CWDs), children from minority groups, children living in poverty, and those who are asylum-seekers, refugees, or migrants.
- Strengthen budgeting processes to be more transparent and participatory at both national and municipal levels, involving multiple stakeholders in decision-making to ensure that children's rights are prioritized and upheld.

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

KidsRights recommends the following to equip the State party with the necessary information to effectively address and monitor the conditions affecting children, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

Recommendations:

- Enhance the data collection systems to better gather both qualitative and quantitative indicators that cover all areas of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- Intensify efforts to collect and analyze data specifically related to discrimination against children, children with disabilities (CWDs), statelessness, children with "unknown nationality," the socioeconomic conditions of children, and all forms of violence against children such as abuse, neglect, and sexual exploitation.

ON STATE-CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION (SCORE 1):

KidsRights recommends Sweden to enhance its efforts in state and civil society cooperation concerning children's rights by:

Recommendations:

- Effectively monitoring and evaluating the progress in the implementation of children's rights as outlined in the national strategy and associated action plan.
- Ensure the appropriate involvement of children and civil society in these processes, thereby fostering a more inclusive approach to safeguarding children's rights.



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