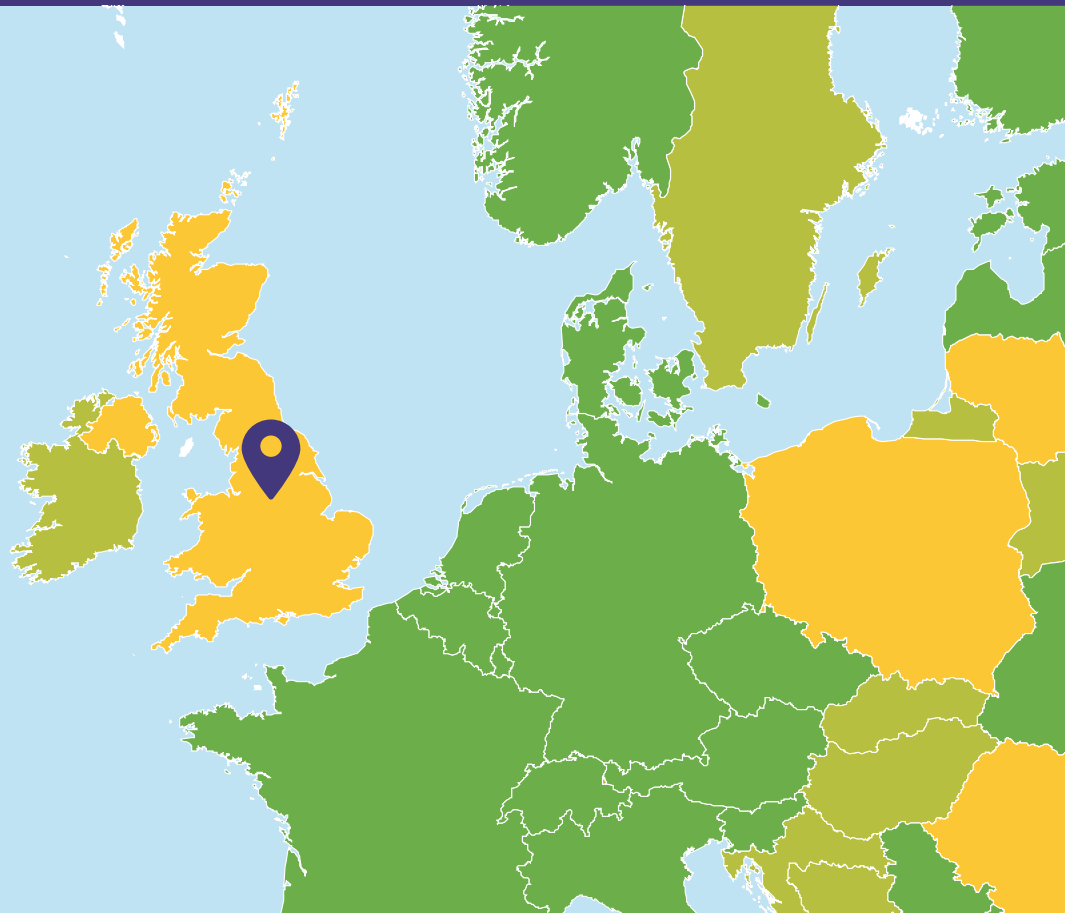




KIDSRIGHTS
Index

The KidsRights Index 2024

United Kingdom scores 137th
on global ranking for Children's Rights.



UNITED KINGDOM

OVERALL SCORE

RANK: 137

SCORE: 0,581

LIFE

RANK: 27

SCORE: 0,938

HEALTH

RANK: 45

SCORE: 0,970

EDUCATION

RANK: 22

SCORE: 0,892

PROTECTION

RANK: 36

SCORE: 0,975

CHILD RIGHTS ENVIRONMENT

RANK: 183

SCORE: 0,083

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: UNITED KINGDOM

	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
United Kingdom 2012	1	1	1	1	1	1	N/A
United Kingdom 2023	1	1	1	1	1	2	N/A

In the latest KidsRights Index (KRI), the United Kingdom has shown notable improvement, ascending to a ranking of 137 from a previous position of 179, which marks a significant advancement of 42 places. The current overall score stands at 0.581, compared to the previous score of 0.380. Despite this overall progress, the enabling environment rank remains a concern, positioned at 183 with a minimal score of 0.083, improving only slightly by 8 ranks. Among the seven assessed indicators, most have remained stagnant, with the notable exception of improvements in the collection and analysis of disaggregated data, which suggests a targeted effort towards enhancing data-driven approaches to child rights.

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS 2023 - UNITED KINGDOM

ON NON-DISCRIMINATION (SCORE 1):

KidsRights is concerned about ongoing issues of discrimination affecting children, particularly those from minority and disadvantaged groups.

Recommendations

- Undertake urgent measures to improve non-discrimination protections and ensure equitable treatment for all children, fostering a more inclusive society that upholds the rights and dignity of every child.

ON BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD (SCORE 1):

KidsRights is concerned that the principle of the Best Interests of the Child is not consistently applied in all areas affecting children.

Recommendations

- Systematically integrate the BI principle into all policies, programs, and procedures that impact children. The principle should be applied across various areas specifically affecting children such as alternative care, domestic violence, custody issues, trafficking, child justice systems, and migration and asylum procedures.
- Strengthen the capacity of professionals involved in child-related matters, including by training them to better assess, determine, and prioritize the Best Interests of the Child in their professional judgments and decisions.
- Develop and implement a tool for Child Rights Impact Assessments. This tool can be used to evaluate the potential impact of various state actions on children, ensuring that their rights and best interests are considered at every step.

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

KidsRights is concerned that children's opinions are not systematically considered in decision-making processes at both national and local levels.

Recommendations

- Undertake systemic changes to ensure that children's voices are heard and valued.
- Provide age-appropriate information to children, since it is crucial for enabling meaningful child participation. This helps ensure that children are well-informed and can engage in discussions relevant to their needs and rights.
- All children, including younger ones, children with disabilities (CWDs), and those in care, should have the right to express their views. Their views should be taken into account in all decisions affecting them - ranging from personal matters in court to broader issues like health care, education, and migration.
- Specific areas where children's participation should be enhanced include judicial proceedings, domestic violence cases, custody decisions, alternative care placements, health care (including mental health treatment), education, justice systems, migration, and asylum processes. This broad scope indicates a comprehensive approach to ensuring children's participation across various critical and everyday aspects of their lives.
- Undertake stronger measures to promote meaningful participation of children.

ON ENABLING LEGISLATION (SCORE 1):

Recommendations

- Integrate Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) into national legislation across the UK regions and dependencies. A comprehensive review of all legislation is recommended to ensure alignment with the CRC and to rectify any discrepancies.
- Reconsider the decision to replace the Human Rights Act with a new bill of rights. Any new legislation should not only protect the rights enumerated in the UNCRC but also include effective judicial remedies, adhere to a child rights-based approach, and be developed through transparent and participatory processes.

ON BEST AVAILABLE BUDGET (SCORE 1):

Recommendations:

- Incorporate a child rights-based approach into the state budgeting process -budget decisions should consistently consider the impact on children's rights and welfare, ensuring that children's needs are a priority in fiscal planning across all jurisdictions.
- A tracking system for the allocation, use, and monitoring of resources dedicated to children is advised. Such a system would help in pinpointing and eliminating disparities, ensuring that funds allocated for children's services are used efficiently and equitably.
- Special budgetary provisions should be made for children in disadvantaged situations to ensure that these children are given the necessary support and that they are shielded from the effects of austerity measures.

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

Recommendations:

- Strengthen the data collection systems to include both qualitative and quantitative indicators that cover all areas of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- Ensure that data is disaggregated by multiple demographic factors such as age, sex, disability status, geographical location, ethnic origin, nationality, and socioeconomic background. This level of detail will allow for more precise identification of vulnerabilities and inequalities affecting different groups of children.
- Ensure improved data collection and analysis in areas such as violence against children, mental health, food insecurity, malnutrition, and education. These areas are critical for understanding and addressing the various challenges that children may face.
- Ensure better data handling regarding children in disadvantaged situations, including children in alternative care, children with disabilities (CWDs), asylum-seeking and migrant children, and children of incarcerated parents. The unique challenges faced by these groups often require specialized policies and interventions, which should be informed by reliable data.
- Improve data collection and analysis in overseas territories to ensure that the data collection framework is comprehensive and inclusive, covering all children under the state's jurisdiction.

ON STATE-CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION (NA)



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