

The KidsRights Index 2026

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS

NORWAY



NORWAY

OVERALL

RANK: 5

SCORE: 0,854

LIFE

RANK: 11

SCORE: 0,965

HEALTH

RANK: 6

SCORE: 0,949

EDUCATION

RANK: 11

SCORE: 0,992

PROTECTION

RANK: 3

SCORE: 0,997

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

RANK: 70

SCORE: 0,500

INTRODUCTION TO 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 and ranks the children's rights performance records of state parties to the CRC in relation to the most crucial aspects of children's lives for which global and comparable data is available. Overall, the KidsRights Index presents an accessible, general, and comparative overview of state performance on selected children's rights. It also creates a basis for making concrete and evidence-based recommendations on how governments might improve on various children's rights matters. 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 Children's Rights**

DATA SOURCES OF THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX

The KidsRights Index rankings are the outcome of an integrated analysis of existing, high-quality data published by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Index also incorporates the 'Concluding Observations' published by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child at the end of the periodic state reporting procedure for all states that have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.¹

DOMAIN 5: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Domain 5, the 'Enabling Environment for Children's Rights', is an important and unique domain of the KidsRights Index. This Domain charts how states are faring in creating the conditions that need to be in place for realizing children's rights and/or for making children's rights policies and putting them into effect. 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 Domain 5 scores for the respective countries are derived from the latest Concluding Observations adopted by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

¹ These data are drawn from <https://data.unicef.org/>, www.hdr.undp.org/data, and the 'Concluding Observations' published by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child at the end of the periodic state reporting procedure for all states that are legally bound by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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 the Domain 5 is used to generate scores on a scale between 1 and 3. The actual score assigned to each indicator is exclusively based on the language used by the Committee in the Concluding Observation. The resulting final scores are standardized.

KidsRights Index scoring system for the Domain 5 indicators:

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

DOMAIN 5: NORWAY

Country (Year in which CO was issued)	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
NORWAY 2018	2	1	2	3	1	2	NA
NORWAY 2025	2	2	2	2	1	1	NA

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS - NORWAY

1. Strengthen policies aimed at eliminating discrimination faced by children from different racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds.² Implement effective measures to prevent hate crimes.³ (Non-Discrimination)
2. Ensure that children without residence permits and asylum-seeking children can be registered with general practitioners and are provided access to healthcare beyond emergency services.⁴ It is also concerning that despite the high prevalence of mental health concerns among these children and despite exhibiting clear symptoms, many of them are not referred to specialist services.⁵ (Non-Discrimination)
3. Prevent discrimination against children with disabilities and prioritize universal design of school and recreational areas to facilitate equal access to services and accessible educational material.⁶ Undertake adequate measures to ensure equal access to children with disabilities from remote areas and from "migrant, refugee or Sami background or belonging to national minorities, including the Roma and Romani/Tater communities".⁷ (Non-Discrimination)
4. Take effective measures to ensure that the right of the child to have their best interests treated as a primary consideration is consistently applied in all legislative, administrative, and judicial proceedings.⁸ As noted by the Norwegian Parliamentary Ombud, insufficient consideration of child impact assessments during law-making processes, also results in inadequate consideration of the best interests of the child.⁹ (Best Interest of the child)
5. Implement comprehensive policies to ensure the right of children to be heard and to have their views duly considered, particularly during judicial proceedings and in decisions concerning child welfare, asylum, expulsion, family reunification, and times of crisis.¹⁰ The absence of formal qualification requirements for case managers interviewing asylum-seeking children is concerning. Ensure that interview settings are child-friendly, and that children

² Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Norway', *UN Doc, CRC/C/NOR/CO/7*, 22 July 2025, para 13(d).

³ Norwegian Human Rights Institution (NIM), 'Attitudes toward the Sami and national minorities in Norway', <https://www.nhri.no/rapport/holdninger-til-samer-og-nasjonale-minoriteter-i-norge/>, p.11.

⁴ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Norway', *UN Doc, CRC/C/NOR/CO/7*, 22 July 2025, para 28.

⁵ The Norwegian Ombudsperson for Children-NHRI-100PSWG, 'supplementary report to Norway's seventh periodic report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child', 2024, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FIFN%2FNOR%2F60575&Lang=en, p. 18.

⁶ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Norway', *UN Doc, CRC/C/NOR/CO/7*, 22 July 2025, para 26(a).

⁷ Ibid., para 26(h).

⁸ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Norway', *UN Doc, CRC/C/NOR/CO/7*, 22 July 2025, para 14(b).

⁹ The Norwegian Ombudsperson for Children-NHRI-100PSWG, 'supplementary report to Norway's seventh periodic report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child', Dec 2024, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FIFN%2FNOR%2F60575&Lang=en p.4.

¹⁰ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Norway', *UN Doc, CRC/C/NOR/CO/7*, 22 July 2025, para 15(a).

receive appropriate legal support and guidance during the proceedings.¹¹ (Respect for the Views of the Child)

6. Ensure the effective implementation of existing laws prohibiting online sexual extortion, grooming, and physical violence against children on social media platforms.¹² Although approximately 4,500 children in Norway are estimated to have received money for sharing nude images online, legislation prohibiting the purchase of sexual services from minors is reportedly not being applied in many such cases.¹³ (Enabling Legislation)
7. Strengthen the budgeting process to include clear child-related budget allocations, specific indicators, and a tracking system to monitor and evaluate the adequacy, efficacy, and equity of resource distribution dedicated to the implementation of the Convention.¹⁴ This remains particularly important considering that only 51 per cent of the local politicians in Norway are aware that the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is fully integrated into the domestic law and that it takes precedence over other conflicting national legislations.¹⁵ (Best Available Budget & Enabling Legislation)
8. Strengthen the national data collection system by ensuring that disaggregated data on children's rights covers all aspects of the Convention, including the required data to analyse the intersecting forms of discrimination faced by children.¹⁶ (Collection and Analysis of Disaggregated Data & Non-Discrimination)

¹¹ The Norwegian Ombudsperson for Children-NHRI-100PSWG, 'supplementary report to Norway's seventh periodic report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child', Dec 2024, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FIFN%2FNOR%2F60575&Lang=en p.9.

¹² Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Norway', *UN Doc, CRC/C/NOR/CO/7*, 22 July 2025, para 18(a).

¹³ ECPAT Norway, 'Input to the UN CRC Alternative Report on Norway regarding 'Sexual Exploitation of Children in Norway'', 2024, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FNOR%2F60578&Lang=en, p. 2.

¹⁴ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Norway', *UN Doc, CRC/C/NOR/CO/7*, 22 July 2025, para 8(a).

¹⁵ Kipperberg, E., Kipperberg, G. 'What About Us? Children Rights and Local Governance in Norway. A Survey Summary Report', University of Stavanger, 2025, tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRC%2FNGO%2FNOR%2F62944&Lang=en, p. 5.

¹⁶ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Norway', *UN Doc, CRC/C/NOR/CO/7*, 22 July 2025, para 9(a).