

The KidsRights Index 2026

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS



SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

OVERALL

RANK: **144**

SCORE: **0,538**

LIFE

RANK: **110**

SCORE: **0,783**

HEALTH

RANK: **82**

SCORE: **0,820**

EDUCATION

RANK: **19**

SCORE: **0,912**

PROTECTION

RANK: **N/A**

SCORE: **N/A**

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

RANK: **170**

SCORE: **0,143**

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: SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

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
SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS 1999	1	1	2	2	1	1	1
SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS 2025	1	1	1	2	2	1	1

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS – SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

1. Take comprehensive measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against children and ensure their equal access to education, physical and mental health care, and protection services, particularly for children with disabilities, girls, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex children.² (Non-Discrimination)
2. Introduce comprehensive legal protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, building on the 2022 decriminalization judgment.³ (Non-Discrimination)
3. Ensure that the principle of the best interests of the child is treated as a primary consideration in all judicial and administrative proceedings affecting children and provide adequate training for professionals working with and for children to facilitate its consistent application.⁴ (Best Interest of the Child)
4. Take effective measures to ensure that the best interests of children who cannot remain with their families are fully considered in adoption and alternative care processes, including through increased investment in the National Foster Programme.⁵ (Best Interest of the Child)
5. Ensure that the views of children are duly considered in all judicial and administrative proceedings affecting them,⁶ including decisions relating to sexual and reproductive health. Given that abortion remains criminalized in Saint Kitts and Nevis, particular attention should be paid to ensuring adolescents have access to appropriate abortion care services and that their views are taken into account in the decision-making processes.⁷ (Best Interest of the Child, Respect for the Views of the Child)
6. Harmonize the domestic legal framework with international children's rights standards, including the Education Act.⁸ This remains particularly important as the Education Act 2005 explicitly allows corporal punishment in schools.⁹ (Enabling legislation)
7. Establish a transparent budgeting and expenditure-tracking system for resources allocated to social protection, child development, and the implementation of children's rights.¹⁰ (Best available Budget)
8. Improve the collection and analysis of disaggregated data on children's rights by age, sex, disability, geographical location, socioeconomic status, and migration status.¹¹ Strengthen

² Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Saint Kitts and Nevis', *UN Doc. CRC/C/KNA/CO/2*, 26 February 2025, para 22.

³ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, *UN Doc. A/HRC/62/15*, 16 April 2026, p. 15.

⁴ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Saint Kitts and Nevis', *UN Doc. CRC/C/KNA/CO/2*, 26 February 2025, para 22.

⁵ *Ibid.*, para 42(b).

⁶ *Ibid.*, para 27.

⁷ *Ibid.*, para 50(c).

⁸ *Ibid.*, para 7.

⁹ Section 9, Education Act 2005, <https://education.gov.kn/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/The-Education-Act-2005.pdf>.

¹⁰ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Saint Kitts and Nevis', *UN Doc. CRC/C/KNA/CO/2*, 26 February 2025, para 12, 13.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, para 14.

data collection on child labour and on the risks faced by children in the context of natural disasters.¹² (Collection and Analysis of Disaggregated Data)

9. Ensure the meaningful involvement of communities and civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, in the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies affecting children's rights.¹³ (State-civil society cooperation for child rights)

¹² Ibid., para 54(b).

¹³ Ibid., para 21.