

# The KidsRights Index 2025

## COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS

### BULGARIA



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OVERALL

RANK: **105**  
SCORE: **0,652**

LIFE

RANK: **62**  
SCORE: **0,873**

HEALTH

RANK: **85**  
SCORE: **0,918**

EDUCATION

RANK: **74**  
SCORE: **0,742**

PROTECTION

RANK: **67**  
SCORE: **0,921**

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

RANK: **153**  
SCORE: **0,214**

THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX AND INFORMATION ABOUT ITS DOMAINS, INDICATORS AND METHODOLOGY ARE  
ACCESSIBLE ON [WWW.KIDSRIGHTSINDEX.ORG/KIDSRIGHTS-INDEX/](http://WWW.KIDSRIGHTSINDEX.ORG/KIDSRIGHTS-INDEX/)

## 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 focuses on more generic issues which in principle are equally relevant for all states parties to the CRC and for which, on the whole, reliable data are available. The KidsRights Index is the outcome of an integrated analysis of existing, high-quality data published by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.<sup>1</sup>

## 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.

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<sup>1</sup> These data are drawn from <https://data.unicef.org/>, [www.hdr.undp.org/data](http://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: BULGARIA

	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
<b>Bulgaria 2016</b>	2	2	2	2	1	2	NA
<b>Bulgaria 2024</b>	2	1	1	1	2	1	1

## COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS - BULGARIA

1. Reconsider Decree No. 199 of 14 August 2024 banning “the carrying out of propaganda, promotion and incitement in any way, directly or indirectly, of ideas and views related to non-traditional homosexual orientation and/or the determination of gender identity other than biological”.<sup>2</sup> Crucially, the law is contrary to Article 8 (on the right to identity), Article 13 (on the freedom of expression), Article 17 (on the access to information), and Article 29 (on the right to education) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). **(Non-Discrimination)**
2. Ensure due consideration for the best interests (BI) of the child in all processes and decisions affecting them, including by undertaking capacity building training of professionals involved in such processes and decision-making. **(BI of the Child)**
3. Expand the roles of the Council of Children to the State Agency for Child protection and other children’s councils at the municipal and school level. Such bodies should go beyond a tokenistic expression of children’s participation and allow children to partake in decision-making processes that directly affect them within schools and municipalities.<sup>3</sup> **(Respect for the Views of the Child)**
4. Introduce guidelines and trainings for professionals working with children to ensure that the views of children are taken into account in all decisions affecting them. This is especially crucial as there currently is no such training in place.<sup>4</sup> **(Respect for the Views of the Child)**
5. Reconsider the 2019 decision to withdraw the Draft National Strategy for Children (2019-2030) to replace the 2008-2019 Strategy, contrary to Article 1(3) of the State Party’s Child Protection Act.<sup>5</sup> A reform of the legislative and administrative framework concerning children’s rights is needed to align national laws with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). **(Enabling Legislation)**
6. Introduce a budgeting process explicitly concerned with child rights to be included in state budgeting together with a tracking system to allow for the monitoring of the allocation and use of financial resources on children. **(Best Available Budget)**

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<sup>2</sup> Eurochild, ‘Eurochild stands against the recent legislative changes in Bulgaria which are a threat to children’s rights’, 5 September 2024, <https://eurochild.org/news/eurochild-stands-against-the-recent-legislative-changes-in-bulgaria-which-are-a-threat-to-childrens-rights/>.

<sup>3</sup> National Network for Children, ‘Progress of Republic of Bulgaria in implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child 2016 - February 2021’, February 2021, p. 9.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. p. 4.

7. Establish a comprehensive data-collection system gathering disaggregated data which covers all areas under the CRC and its Optional Protocols (OPs). (Collection and Analysis of Disaggregated Data)
8. Mandate ministries to utilize the above-mentioned data to serve as the foundation of the implementation and evaluation of policies and programs connected to the CRC and its OPs. (Collection and Analysis of Disaggregated Data)