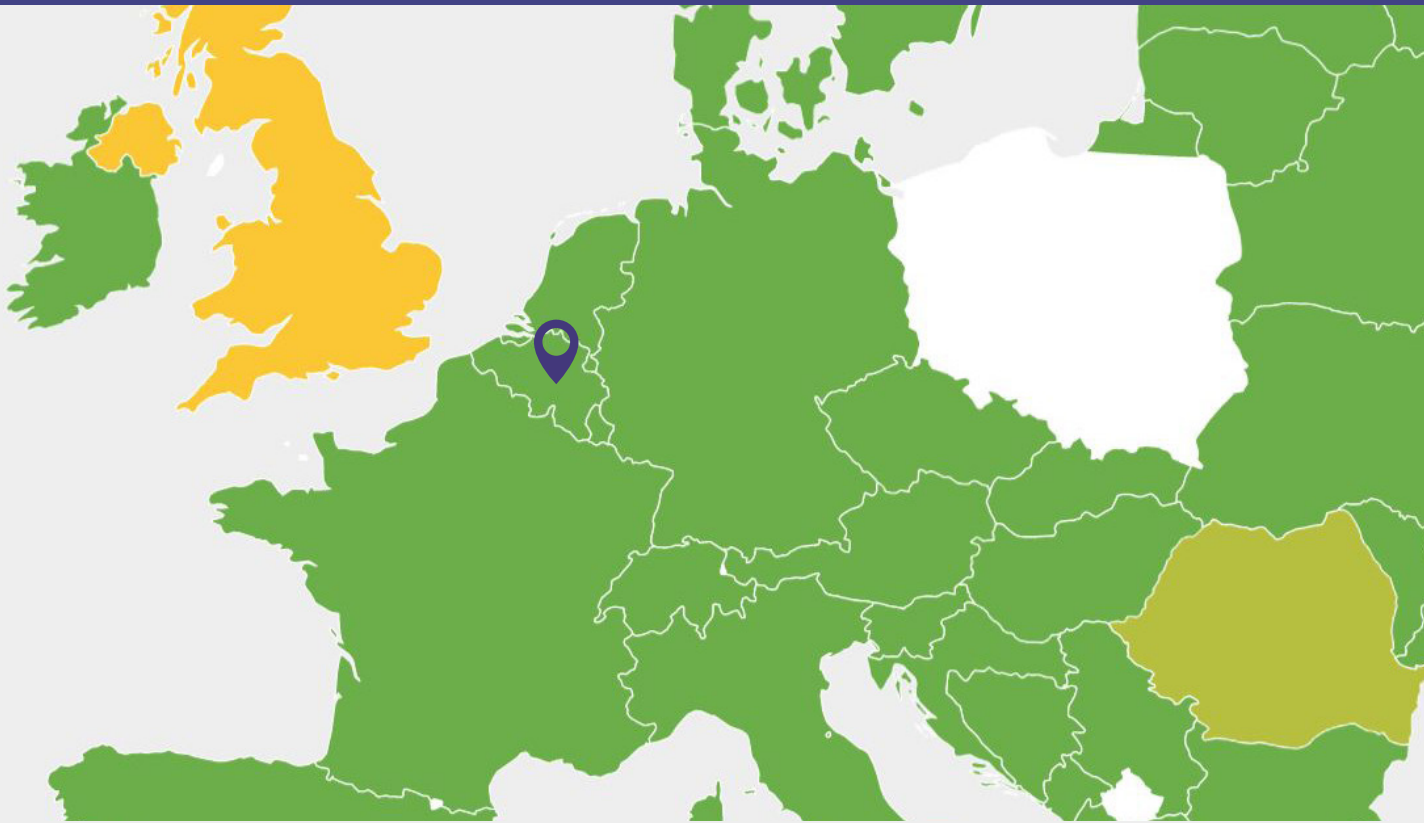


# The KidsRights Index 2020

Belgium scores 11<sup>th</sup>  
on global ranking on Children's Rights



## BELGIUM

OVERALL SCORE	LIFE	HEALTH	EDUCATION	PROTECTION	CHILD RIGHTS ENVIRONMENT
RANK: 11	RANK: 23	RANK: 10-14	RANK: 1-7	RANK: 12	RANK: 78-87
SCORE: 0,886	SCORE: 0,962	SCORE: 0,986	SCORE: 1	SCORE: 0,990	SCORE: 0,583



THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX AND INFORMATION ABOUT ITS DOMAINS, INDICATORS AND  
METHODOLOGY ARE ACCESSIBLE ON [KIDSRIGHTS.ORG/KIDSRIGHTSINDEX](https://www.kidsrights.org/kidsrightsindex)

## 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 ([www.data.unicef.org](http://www.data.unicef.org)) and UNDP ([www.hdr.undp.org/data](http://www.hdr.undp.org/data))<sup>1</sup>, and qualitative data published by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child ([www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/crc/pages/crcindex.aspx](http://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.

<sup>1</sup> The data for the KidsRights Index 2020 was downloaded from the listed UNICEF and UNDP sources in January 2020. 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
N/A	= not addressed

Color	Meaning
Red	Negative change
Orange	Stayed the same
Green	Positive change

## DOMAIN 5: BELGIUM (CO DATA FROM 2019, SEVEN SCORES AVAILABLE)

	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
Belgium 2019	1	2	1	3	2	2	N/A
Belgium 2010	2	2	2	2	1	2	2

Belgium's record in the 2019 Concluding Observations shows 2 low scores (on *non-discrimination* and *respect for the views of the child*), 3 average scores (on *best interests of the child*, *best available budget*, *collection and analysis of disaggregated data*) and 1 high score (on *enabling legislation*). The indicator on *best interests of the child* and *collection and analysis of disaggregated data* remained at the same score as in 2010, being an average score. As well, Belgium showed some improvements for the indicator relating to *enabling legislation*, which rose from an average score to a high score, and the indicator relating to *best available budget*, which rose from a low score to an average score. On the other hand, a number of indicators faced a downfall. The indicators on *non-discrimination* and *respect for the views of the child* fell from an average score to a low score. Overall Belgium experienced a negative change when observing all scores combined.

### ON NON-DISCRIMINATION (SCORE 1):

KidsRights remains concerned that children living in poverty and children with disabilities remain subjected to discrimination, in access to health care, education, housing and leisure. KidsRights is also concerned at the prejudice, stereotypes and hatred of children with a migrant background witness.

#### Recommendations

- To adopt and implement a comprehensive strategy addressing all forms of discrimination at all levels of society.

## ON BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD (SCORE 2)

KidsRights is concerned that, although the best interest of the child is integrated in newly adopted laws, it is still not systematically considered in decisions regarding children in vulnerable situations.

### Recommendations

- To strengthen its efforts to ensure that the best interest of the child is consistently interpreted and applied in decisions concerning migrant and refugee children, children in alternative care, in education and health measures.
- To provide guidance for determining the best interest of the child in all decisions by the State and/or legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings.

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

### Recommendations

- To improve participation of all children by abolishing any age limit on the right of children to express their views in all issues concerning them in legislation, and ensure that due weight is given to their views.
- To ensure that children in schools and in situations of migration are given opportunities to express their views, and that these views are taken seriously.
- To continue to involve children in local public consultations.

## ON ENABLING LEGISLATION (SCORE 3):

KidsRights welcomes the adoption of the 2018 code on prevention, assistance to and protection of young persons in the French community. KidsRights also welcomes the fact that the new legislation and regulations regarding children in the Flemish community are subjected to a child rights impact assessment and poverty tests.

### Recommendations

- That this practice be implemented systematically countrywide, for all laws and regulations that affect children directly or indirectly.

### **ON BEST AVAILABLE BUDGET (SCORE 2):**

KidsRights welcomes the State party's efforts to introduce "child budgeting," however regrets that this is not used systematically. KidsRights is concerned that budgetary allocations to children remain inadequate, specifically with regard to children in vulnerable situations and lack transparency. KidsRights is also concerned at the high level of child poverty, marked by regional disparities.

#### **Recommendations:**

- KidsRights urges the use of a child-rights approach in the preparation of the State budget.

### **ON DATA COLLECTION (SCORE 2):**

KidsRights welcomes the establishment of 40 national indicators on children's rights, however regrets that data collection remains fragmented and that children in the most vulnerable situations, such as children in poverty, children with disabilities and children separated from parents, have not been included in all indicators.

#### **Recommendations:**

- To improve its centralized data-collection system.
- To ensure that data and indicators are shared among the ministries, and used.

### **ON STATE-CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION FOR CHILD RIGHTS (SCORE N/A):**

#### **Recommendations:**

- N/A



**Stichting KidsRights**

Postbus 59555  
1040 LB AMSTERDAM  
The Netherlands  
T +31 (0)20 225 82 25  
E [info@kidsrights.org](mailto:info@kidsrights.org)

**KvK Amsterdam: 34192528**

[www.kidsrights.org](http://www.kidsrights.org)

