

Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Bill

Page 2: About you

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

an individual

Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose "Member of the public".)

Member of the public

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

No Response

Please choose one of the following; if you choose the first option, please provide your name or the name of your organisation as you wish it to be published.

I would like this response to be anonymous (the response may be published, but no name)

Please insert your name or the name of your organisation. If you choose the first option above, this should be the name as you wish it to be published. If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Please provide details of a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number. We will not publish these details.

Page 7: Your views on the proposal

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal of giving children equal protection from assault by prohibiting all physical punishment of children?

Fully Supportive

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal of giving children equal protection from assault by prohibiting all physical punishment of children?

Please explain the reasons for your response

The fact that it is legal to assault a child but illegal to assault an adult is simply unjustifiable. I experienced extremely violent 'chastisement' as a child, at the hands of a father with a very short fuse. It damaged our relationship: I loved him but his violent outbursts left me traumatised and frightened of him until his death when I was over 30. I vowed never to do that to my children. I cannot say that I have been 100% successful but I would never justify such action and I deeply regret ever having hurt them.

Q2. Could the aims of the proposal be better delivered in another way (without a Bill in the Scottish Parliament)?

No

Please explain the reasons for your response

I think we need to make a clear, legislative statement that the law gives all people equal protection from assault. It sends out a strong signal that nobody is entitled to inflict physical harm on another person.

Q3. What do you think would be the main advantages, if any, of giving children equal protection from assault by prohibiting all physical punishment of children?

See my previous answers. It won't stop children from being assaulted, any more than any other statute changes behaviour 100% but it will give a clear signal that hitting people is not a solution to any problem, however much an angered individual might believe it to be the right thing to do, and however much it is believed to be self-evidently effective. It seems that some people will not be convinced that hitting children doesn't actually improve their behaviour, so this is the only answer.

Q4. What do you think would be the main disadvantages, if any, of giving children equal protection from assault by prohibiting all physical punishment of children?

None, other than an outcry from those who believe that we should be allowed to hit those over whom we have a duty of care, accusations laced with terms like 'the nanny state' and 'political correctness gone mad'?

Page 11: Financial implications

Q5. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have?

Some increase in cost

Please explain the reasons for your response

It seems likely that making something criminal that is currently legal will lead to accusations, arrests, charges and court cases. That, however, is no good reason not to do something that is right.

Page 12: Equalities

Q6. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on the following protected groups (under the Equality Act 2010): race, disability, sex, gender re-assignment, age, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity?

Unsure

Q7. Could any negative impact of the proposed Bill on any of these protected groups be minimised or avoided?

No Response

Page 14: Sustainability of the proposal

Q8. Do you consider that the proposed Bill can be delivered sustainably i.e. without having a disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impact?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response:

It should have a positive social impact and ought, in the longer term, to reduce the societal acceptance of casual violence as a response to dispute or disagreement.

Page 15: General

Q9. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal?

No Response