

# 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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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**

Physically assaulting anyone is wrong in my view. Children are more vulnerable to misuse of power by adults and less likely to be able to exert their rights, so they should be protected more under legislation, not less than everyone else. Children are also at risk of faulty learning about what is and what isn't appropriate behaviour. If they witness brutality as a means of communication and accountability, they will use the same approach towards others in the future. Use of physical punishments to discipline children is a sign of lazy parenting. It is largely ineffective in raising healthy well behaved children, and demonstrates a lack of resourcefulness in parents, which is then passed onto the poor children in their relationships with others.

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 can't see a better way to address this issue.

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?

In the short term use of physical punishments would largely stop, and there would be legal accountability for those who break the law.  
In the longer term, we would develop a less physically violent population with a potentially more communicative, diplomatic and assertive culture.

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?

There may be some scope for fake accusations, as there are against teachers in schools.

## Page 11: Financial implications

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

Broadly cost-neutral

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Culturally our country has been moving away from the use of physical punishments for children in the last 30-40 years. It is largely less accepted amongst modern parents. This would mainly be a hoovering up exercise in terms of those resistant parents.

## 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?

Slightly positive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Difficult for me to see much change, except that Children would become a legally protected group in their own right when it comes to their human rights and equality.

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

I can't see any impact which would require mitigation.

## 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:**

I can't see a major impact. Society has moved hugely already in the last 40 years on this issue. This is a matter of firming up the legislation.

## Page 15: General

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

Nope. Let's just get on with it.