

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

I have never understood why it was a crime to hit someone who was the same size, i.e. another adult, but it was perfectly acceptable to hit someone half your size.

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

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

I should like to say through education. Setting an example that violence of any kind is wrong but, unfortunately, far too many people still think the banning of corporal punishment in schools was a bad idea.

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?

Hopefully, it would make people try harder to see everything from a different perspective. To think about why they think smacking is the best option. It is certainly the quickest making it the easiest. It might stop children thinking that "might is right" because they will no longer see the "might" of the adult as an example of how to get your own way

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?

The transitional period will be difficult because many people, including children, will see it as children being allowed to do what they like without repercussion. Parents, teachers and the general public will have to start showing respect to children if they want children to respect them.

Page 11: Financial implications

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

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

Not sure what you mean. Are you talking about the cost of trying to get this bill through Parliament or do you mean costs involved in getting people to change their ways? Either way I still have no idea

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?

Positive

Please explain the reasons for your response

I should hope that if children see less evidence of acceptable violence they will become more tolerant because we should become a more tolerant society treating everybody as equal.

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

I don't know. In theory I don't see why there should be any negative impact.

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

I think it could take a long time to get people used to the idea both adults who object to being told they can't chastise their child and children who think they can do what they like. You will also have people in general complaining about unruly children but gradually it will become accepted. After all, it is over forty years since seat belts became compulsory but some people still think they shouldn't have to use them and smoking on public transport was banned decades ago but people still try to get away with it.

Page 15: General

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

I am in my seventies and I have opposed corporal punishment for as long as I can remember. As a child it never made any sense to me that people who said violence was wrong used violence themselves. To me it was bullying by people who had all the power.
Let me add that I am not a victim. I come from a stable happy family background but I could never understand how people from a similar background to myself could say that it never did them any harm but could never see my point of view that adults had an unfair advantage, they were never wrong, they were a lot bigger and they would never hit another adult because it was against the law.