

# 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 am content for this response to be attributed to me or my organisation

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Emma Hagen

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**

No-one should ever be subjected to physical punishment regardless of their age. Children grow and develop through love and nurture. Abuse, which physical punishment is, and fear of abuse, is detrimental to the healthy development of our children and therefore our society. Article 19 of UNCRC states that all children have the right to be protected from all forms of physical violence.

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

No

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?

Safety and healthy development of our children.  
The positive impact this has on our society as these children grow into adults.  
The knowledge that Scotland values and protects the rights of our children gives a loud and clear message to the world that we can be proud of.

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?

No disadvantages.

## Page 11: Financial implications

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

Significant reduction in cost

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Initially there may be a cost in responding to the criminal behaviour of parents/adults who have learned as children that violence is an acceptable form of punishment. This may necessitate some further cost in terms of education and information sharing. In the long-term however, Scotland's children would be less likely to experience, and therefore less likely to view violence as an adequate or appropriate response. I am hopeful that future generations will therefore be less violent in general. Less violence = less crime = significant reduction in cost.

## 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**

This Bill applies to all regardless of status or protected characteristics. All people are children first.

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?

Unsure

## Page 15: General

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

This Bill is long overdue, and Scotland can finally be proud that this change is in process.