

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Mr. Sandy MacDonald

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

- Evidence that clearly demonstrates 'justifiable assault' has a negative impact on family relationships and is an adverse childhood experience which damages mental health in later life. - Clarity in law, our full adherence to UN Declaration on the rights of the child - Consistency with my values, and how we should raise our children (and future adults) and end cycles of negative behaviours in families

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

It requires the symbolism and clarity of having something approved and passed by our national parliament

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?

Stronger family relationships, reduced mental health issues in future adults - leading to more prosperous communities. Progress for society!

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?

I think any potential disadvantages can be addressed through how implementation of the bill is supported - I would love to see an investment in family support and parental education running in parallel with implementation of the bill.

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 reduction in cost

Please explain the reasons for your response

Long-term benefits for families and communities (e.g. evidence relating to greater likelihood of criminal behaviours by those who have suffered assault as children), greater clarity of legal position in instances where prosecution is required.

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

Evidence suggests that minority groups like many of those listed above are at greater risk of poverty and domestic violence. This would provide greater protection for those groups.

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

As mentioned, education and community engagement to support implementation of a bill would be helpful.

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:

Just need to have a plan. I strongly believe the long term benefits will include a reduction in costs to society.

Page 15: General

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

Just that I welcome it and it shames me that Scotland has still not enforced the rights of children in our supposedly prosperous and enlightened society.