

# Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Bill

## Page 2: About you

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

on behalf of an organisation

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".)

*No Response*

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Other (e.g. clubs, local groups, groups of individuals, etc.)

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

It is far easier to implement a full ban legally. With a partial ban, it is far more difficult to interpret whether a physical punishment is 'legal' or has crossed a boundary. Equally, as adults are not allowed to assault each other, they should not be allowed to assault children. Children are more likely to learn this behaviour, and carry it forward themselves as adults, potentially leaving them in legal difficulty as adults.

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**

A Bill in Parliament formalises the proposal and gives it the necessary weight.

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?

Fewer child injuries and hospitalisation  
Improved child mental health  
Decreased child aggression

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?

It will be hard to monitor and punish, and could potentially be expensive.

## 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**

I believe there will be more prosecutions, with heavier impact upon children's services referrals.

## 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**

Certain groups of children which may face physical punishment due to a protected characteristic will have greater protection from this in the law.

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

Consult with charity representatives from each of these groups in the proposal of the Bill, to minimise any potential 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:**

N/A

## Page 15: General

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

N/A