

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".)

Academic with expertise in a relevant subject

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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?

We need to protect children, even if it's from their own carers. It cannot be a guardian's right to use physical punishment on vulnerable children, if we as a society decide that this would be wrong to do in any other other case. We don't allow physical punishment of adults, we don't think physical punishment changes behaviour. How can we stand by and allow adults to harm children when every bit of research on the topic shows how damaging this is to children?

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 are no disadvantages for children. Some adults might feel they are not in control any more, but they would loose the control over their children as soon as they grow too old to be physically punished. We need to support parents and carers by educating them on appropriate techniques to deal with unwanted behaviour in children.

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

The impact on children's mental health and therefore their cost on the NHS would significantly reduce costs.

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

Children need to grow up without fear of physical punishment, Adults exerting control simply by being stronger encourages a view in children that the stronger person is right. It shows them that bullying is ok, if

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you do it well intended ("I only do this because you don't listen to me./Do as you are told./You will thank me for that.").

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

If any members of these protected groups feel their are loosing the right to physical punishment, we need to invest in educating people in how to deal with conflict and listen to their children.

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:

The positive impact on society will outweigh any negative impact.

Page 15: General

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

Other countries we often look to in admiration of their educational success and the rights of families, like Sweden, have take this step years ago (Sweden in 1979). It's time we offer our children the same protection.