

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Eva Schonveld

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

Physical punishment of children is not necessary, traumatises children and instills a deep seated personal and social acceptance of violence as a legitimate way for powerful people to get what they want.

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

There is already a Bill which applies to adults but not to children. It is essential that the rights of children are - and are seen to be - equal in law to those of adults.

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?

It would be easier to prosecute people who routinely physically punish their children, but more importantly, it would give a strong social signal that such punishment is no longer tolerated.

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?

Parenting can sometimes be extremely stressful. Parents who were punished physically as children occasionally resort to physical punishment, even though they don't intend to and don't condone their behaviour. It would be important that a) such factors were taken into account in any prosecution and b) the bill should be backed up with education campaigns supporting parents to find other strategies for dealing with the undoubted challenges in the tough job of parenting.

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

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?

Unsure

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

Please explain the reasons for your response:

I think parents who are facing additional stressors, such as living on a very low income are probably more likely to physically punish their kids. Changing the social system so that it is much more equal and no one has to face the incredible challenges of living in poverty is clearly the preferable response. However until this is achieved, children in every context deserve the same protection, so additional support should be channeled to parent groups who are considered to be more at risk because of additional life challenges.

Page 15: General

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

Only congratulations on highlighting and taking action on this important issue - many thanks!