

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".)

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Bethea Robertson

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

My reasons are many. However, to be succinct, I strongly believe that it is absolutely not OK to assault children physically through hitting of any sort whatsoever. Children thrive and develop best in an environment of trust. Physical punishment creates an environment of fear and pain.

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

Unsure

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?

Children in Scotland would be more likely to be parented in trust based ways.

Violence would not be ingrained into children as a way of dealing with things, meaning that they are less likely to become perpetrators of violence themselves.

Children's emotional well-being would be improved, meaning that their life outcomes would be better, more likely to grow into secure, stable adults who will in turn parent their own children in a nurturing, non violent way.

It would help change societal norms that say it's ok to assault children but not adults.

Parents would have to look more carefully at how they parent and hopefully find more positive ways of guiding their children.

I hope that gentle parenting, strengths based and positive, nurturing parenting would become more the norm in our 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?

Some adults are likely to be angry about this change and not willing to parent differently.

Physical assault of children could be hidden more, creating unhelpful family secrets and leaving these children isolated and unsafe.

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

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

It may be that there is an initial cost, for example in providing parenting education, and for police and social work who will need to enforce the change in law in some cases. Long term, there is likely to be a huge saving. If we as a society parent in a trust based, nurturing way, we will produce adults who have empathy and care for others. This will lower the crime rate and save significant money on criminal justice services and prisons. Less support and services will be needed for children and young people who have been parented using violence which can result in less than optimum development, anti social behaviour and many other issues.

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

Society in general will be safer and more secure by banning assault on children. This will result in adults who have more of a capacity to care, deal with issues in a non violence based manner and have empathy for others. This would make society significantly better for protected vulnerable groups.

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

I can't see any negative impact on them.

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

Page 15: General

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

I think that it is crucial that this is progressed and that children are protected from assault urgently.

There is much evidence and theory to support positive parenting and the outcomes of parenting in this way.

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

I think it is long past the time where we as a society have permission to assault our children/young people. These are a vulnerable group at a crucial life stage and how we parent them will affect the adults they become.