

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Children should have the freedom to explore, imagine, create, express and make mistakes without fear of physical punishment. Physical punishment essentially humiliates a child and erodes a child's confidence, self esteem and desires and thwarts hopes and aspirations. It can have serious deleterious effects on long term mental health. Might is not right. Hitting children teaches them that violence is permissible and mistreatment a solution to challenges they may encounter from others especially those perceived as weaker or different or those who don't fit in or concur with their view of the world. Children learn through observation and imitation not through the inculcation of fear. Hitting a child can be an expedient way for a parent to redirect or mask their own temper tantrum or parental deficiencies. It devalues the parent's own self esteem but also breaks the bond of trust and love in the longer term. Only tolerance, understanding and cooperation can foster mutual respect. Hitting leaves an indelible scar on any relationship. It doesn't improve behaviour but breeds resentment and promotes anger and violence. If we are to aspire to a community of tolerance, respect in diversity, and mutuality then a child's "misbehaviour" requires calm, tolerant, creative, humane and loving solutions

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 needs to be embodied in human rights legislation

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 increases the moral worth of our community collectively and as individuals domestically and internationally. Crucially however it would help reduce both some of the anomalies encountered by those in the front line of child protection and the hesitations of members of the community when suspicious of physical abuse being perpetrated against a child.

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?

None

## 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**

I would hope to see a reduction in violence related crime and the attendant costs. However parenting is the most difficult role any person will ever do and there is no training on how to do it properly. People are left to base their parenting skills on their own experiences good bad or indifferent. Bad parenting can

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

become a self fulfilling prophecy. To ameliorate would require significant investment but offset by savings in criminal justice system. Nurture over nature!

## 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**

Violence against children should not be morally legitimated or validated by any belief system

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

I do not foresee a negative impact on any of groups cited

## 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:**

It will create a more socially tolerant and progressive culture

## Page 15: General

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

*No Response*