

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Shirley Young

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**

Gives absolute clarity and provides support measures for parents to move to better ways of disciplining children. Treats children as human beings rather than parent's possessions.

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?

Reduction in Scottish society seeing violence as normal. Reduce stress and anxiety for children. Provide clarity for parents and enable those who want to find better ways of parenting to resist peer/older generational pressure to use physical punishment.

Would help parents to recognise they need help and support if they feel the need to hit their child and would make that help and support easily available to them. Should help to reduce cycles of intergenerational physical abuse and improve the health and well-being of future generations of Scotland's 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?

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?

Significant reduction in cost

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Over the longer term I believe there would be savings made across the public sector as children and young people's health and well-being improve. In particular reductions in criminal justice costs and demands on Camhs.

## 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**

It is well known through research that vulnerable children are more likely to be the victims of all types of abuse from their parents and care givers. Taking away the ambiguity around justifiable punishment would provide a protective factor for those in these protected groups. It would give professionals and the public more confidence to whistle blow if they witnessed physical punishment.

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?

Yes

## Page 15: General

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

I am delighted that this proposal has been developed. It is time we stopped treating children as sub-human and accord them the same rights as adults. They need more protection from violence, not less, which is what they have at the moment.