

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

It has been my opinion for some time that, if it is not ok to hit another adult, it is certainly not ok to hit a child

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

A bill gives more credence

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 will be better protected from violence. In the short term, it will encourage adults to learn more appropriate strategies to understand and manage children's behaviour. In the long term, it should make Scotland a safer, less violent place to live

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?

It could lead to the criminalisation of parents and carers. A supportive, educational method of dealing with people who continue to use physical punishment (within the realms of reason, bearing in mind child protection) should be offered.

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

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?

Please explain the reasons for your response

There are some factions of society where physical punishment is seen as necessary and is embedded in belief and culture.

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

Public information, as in passive smoking campaign?

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:

Yes. I do believe it will bring social benefits in the long term

Page 15: General

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

I think it's been a long time coming. It used to be acceptable for husbands to hit their wives. We need to get the message out that physical punishment is not ok. In fact, "punishment" is a terrible term to apply to anything children do as part of their development. Learning is about not knowing something and making mistakes, which requires teaching, coaching and modelling good practice. To deliberately harm someone is wrong, so hitting reinforces that behaviour.