

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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

The current legislation in relation to this issue is proportionate and appropriate. Children are not little adults, they are children who learn, grow and develop through loving, nurturing, encouragement, education and discipline as part of a loving parent/child relationship. I have rarely smacked my children but firmly believe that it is one of many parenting tools that a reasonable and loving parent should use from time to time. An important principle that no law can enforce is for any discipline (from a smack on the bottom to denying access to computer games) always to be done in love with a full explanation of why the discipline is given (what action or behavior it is in response to) - never in frustration, anger or lashing out. This proposed legislation will do nothing to stop tragic violent and abusive relationships - a law can't. We already have laws against drugs yet drugs are rife in every town and city. We already have laws against gun crime, yet it is a reality, we have laws against murder, stealing etc etc. The current legislation is already designed to deal with abusive relationships and the use of excessive force or violence when it is discovered. This proposed legislation would simply deny good parenting through the use of appropriate and proportionate discipline as part of a loving relationship. I note that this proposal is supported by a number of "expert" individuals and organisations/charities who are pushing one perspective of what good parenting is and isn't. It must be remembered that these "experts" invariably have lost any sense of reasonableness or proportionality by virtue of the extreme and tragic situations and circumstances that their professional role skews them towards. Inevitably they end up with fanatical distorted views biased towards any legislation that removes the opportunity for sound and reasonable individual decision making that is inconsistent with their own outlook and perception of reality.

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

Yes (if so, please explain below)

Please explain the reasons for your response

Yes - keep the existing bill unchanged.

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?

None.

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?

The current legislation in relation to this issue is proportionate and appropriate.

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This proposed legislation will do nothing to stop violent and abusive relationships - a law can't. We already have laws against drugs yet drugs are rife in every town and city. We already have laws against gun crime, yet it is a reality, we have laws against murder, stealing etc etc.

The current legislation is already designed to deal with abusive relationships and the use of excessive force or violence when it is discovered. This proposed legislation would simply deny good parenting through the use of appropriate and proportionate discipline as part of a loving relationship.

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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?

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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 increase in cost

Please explain the reasons for your response

Progressing with this bill will waste time and money that would be better focussed on other issues. The current legislation in relation to this issue is proportionate and appropriate.

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?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

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?

No

Please explain the reasons for your response:

It will breed a generation of unruly children who Scotland will have let down and failed by virtue of not teaching the important principle of consequences of actions from an early age.

Page 15: General

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

No Response