

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

D.Gordon Martin

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**

I am a parent of 3 well adjusted children. I have found it necessary to use an occasional smack when children were young to establish basic ground rules. I do not think it right to criminalise loving parents who know better than governments how to raise children. I cannot help but think that the downfall in the educational attainments in Scotland and the lack of joy in teachers who have to face intense indiscipline in the classroom all have to do with the failure to discipline, sometimes strongly, in the home. I am against all violence but discipline is not violence or ought not to be.

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

Unsure

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Well adjusted people is the aim. Teaching children about the rights of others and not their own rights might be a step ahead. Teaching the children to do acts of kindness as now happens in schools will lead to positive proven psychological benefits.

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?

I cannot see any  
Sweden have done it. Consider this from <http://oecdeducationtoday.blogspot.co.uk/2015/05/how-swedens-school-system-can-regain.html>

But not long after the turn of the 21st century, the Swedish school system seems to have lost its soul. Schools began to compete no longer just with superior learning outcomes, but by offering their students shiny buildings in shopping centres, or a driving license instead of better teaching. And while teachers were giving their students better marks each year, international comparisons portrayed a steady decline in student performance. Indeed, no other country taking part in PISA has seen a steeper fall. School discipline has worsened too, with students more likely to arrive late for school than elsewhere.

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?

I love youth but I see local youth groups having to close because residents cannot handle the disturbance around community halls or churches. It was ever thus but when I was young, at least parents knew their rights and were not afraid of their children. Discipline was expected. Now as a parent of a young 11 year old parents can only speak nicely or send a child to their room or withdraw some of the many privileges the youngsters enjoy. This problem has to be sorted long before 11 years old.

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

Some increase in cost

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Family breakdown, confused children, need of assistance in the classrooms for psychologically disturbed kids on an increasing scale.

## 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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Far too broad a question?

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?

Unsure

**Please explain the reasons for your response:**

disproportionate? What is a right proportion? I cannot see how breakdown in discipline is good for a nation.

## Page 15: General

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

I think that this bill is completely unnecessary.  
By all means empower the police to audit reported violent acts of parents. But let it be for violence, not

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

hurting poor johnny's feelings.

Would politicians please get on with its day job and not spend so much time trying to change basic moral structures in our society.

Let it be said though -unloving violent discipline against children is a social evil which I am against. I do think the government could spend a lot more money educating parents on how to parent-how to handle stress-how to handle conflict in relationships and that would lead to less relationship breakdown, more loving discipline and less false guilt resting on our children's hearts.

I do not disagree with John Finnie's quest for a perfect world. I just do not think this will help.