

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Louise Day

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

I am shocked to learn from reading this proposal we are in the minority in the EU in terms of allowing our children to be smacked. Neuroscience shows us children who experience physical abuse during childhood are more likely to suffer depression, heart disease, find school difficult and turn to addiction. We need to start taking trauma more seriously as it has devastating effects on society. I believe this bill can be the start of that conversation. I recently viewed a film Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope. This documented the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study and one adverse experience was physical abuse. Smacking is physical abuse. It promotes fear in a child which is toxic to their brain development. Our children deserve better. They are smart and they need support to develop resilience. There is more research coming out almost daily about gentle parenting approaches, courses such as Raising Children with Confidence, showing that we need to explain to our children about consequences and teach them to be mindful, not hit them. We have enough violence in our society. Children are one of the most vulnerable groups and need protected. It is outrageous adults are protected by the law from violence but not children.

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

No

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's mental health needs will be met
- Improved attainment
- Improve parental knowledge of alternative approaches to parenting and a better understanding of the negative impact of trauma and physical punishment
- A better society!! That put children at the centre and care for their needs
- Less crime and violence in general.. children live what they learn
- The UNCRC will be more solidly embedded this way

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 can't think of any.

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

Investing in the protection of children can prevent ill health in the future. A child who is physically abused is more likely to suffer depression, turn to alcohol or drugs, be involved in crime, struggle at school potentially leading to unemployment and homelessness. If we take children's health seriously and the future health of

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

our nation it could have a serious impact on finances to the NHS, education, police, social work. Preventative measures are best and most effective.

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

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?

Resilience the film needs to be out there tagging onto these messages and this bill so, the general public can see for themselves the negative effects for everyone when a child experiences stress and trauma.