

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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 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 is time for Scots Law to get with the 21st Century. How can it be acceptable in a so called developed and civilised society to have in both statute and common law a practice that permits the physical abuse of children masked as a so called parental right to discipline ? Having read much of the material referenced, it is clear to me that physical parental discipline becomes systemic and is repeated by new parents on the grounds that "it did me nno harm" - we live in more informed times, let us have laws that reflect that.

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

We need clear and unambiguous legislation

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?

As I believe Children 1st advocate, we would be treating children as equal, showing respect for their lives and allowing those who champion their cause to use the law to protect them. Continuing with late Victorian mores reflects badly on us as a progressive society.

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 cannot see any other than we will continue to have a judicial system populated by septegenarians who remember other times and use their position to continue to drag us back to those times - we need a wholesale modernisation of our whole legal system.

Page 11: Financial implications

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

Broadly cost-neutral

Please explain the reasons for your response

Clarity in the law will permit better education on the subject thus reducing the need to bring civil cases to bear in circumstances where the current ambiguity furthers abuse which can only be stopped by protracted arguments about what is reasonable.

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
Clearly articulated legislation makes is safer for all.

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

I don't think so. Although some will argue that their culture permits the practices we are seeking to stop by this legislation. I accept that in the culturally diverse country that we have become that those different cultures have a place , but our laws must still be paramount and those of other cultures living within these legal boundaries must be willing to adapt to our laws and cultures as much as we have to embrace their cultures - surely protecting children is something that all cultures can agree on !

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?

Please proceed to invoke as quickly as possible because for as long as we take to get this on the statute book children will continue to suffer