

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

I'm hoping that we live in a society which continually becomes more enlightened. I see this measure as another little bit of progress. It's aim is not to criminalise anyone but to change the culture so that future generations will gradually come to feel that hitting children is a relic from an unenlightened past. Like drinking and driving, using a mobile phone while driving, smoking in restaurants etc there will always be initial resistance but eventually it will become the accepted norm. Why should Scotland need this uncivilised practice while many other similar countries can do without it? Anyway it seems that violence towards children has no positive results apart perhaps from releasing the anger and frustration of the perpetrator.

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

If we're serious about this then I can't think of a better way than a bill in Parliament.

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?

It would make our society more civilised.
It would protect children from unnecessary suffering, both physical and mental.
It would foster a consistent culture of non-violence.
It would protect the perpetrators from degrading themselves.
It would protect society from the consequences of violence towards children

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 think the measure would inevitable cause controversy and disruption in the short term.
Hopefully lawyers won't take advantage of it unduly.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

I can't imagine that the financial impact would be significant one way or another. In the long run I suppose and hope that it will result in less criminal and antisocial behaviour - this would have an obvious financial benefit.

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

I'm unfamiliar with the terms of the Equality Act 2010 so feel unsure about this. I can see there might be certain objections to this measure on the grounds of faith or belief but this simple, human rights measure should take priority.

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

As long as the consultation is comprehensive, transparent and is seen to be fair then negative impacts should be minimised but they will never be completely removed.

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:

I think we might be surprised how quickly and easily this bill is accepted. Perhaps older generations will find it more difficult but the future is mostly for generations yet unborn.

Page 15: General

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

In removing a barbaric relic from our past it would give me one more reason to be proud of our society. Who knows what the uncertain future holds but, while we can, we should try to be nice to one another, including children.