

# 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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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 believe that children have a right to live a life free from physical punishment.

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 to make this a law to ensure children are protected. Without this, there is no scope for prosecution.

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 are human beings and should be able to live their lives without fear of physical punishment. Particularly when the perpetrator is an adult. They shouldn't be treated differently than an adult assaulting an adult.  
Giving children equal protection would ensure they are protected from violence, distress and harm by the law. Regardless of whether it's a parent or family member - assault is assault.

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?

There are no disadvantages. Children should be protected from any form of violence.

## 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 really don't care how much it costs if the result is children being protected.

## 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)

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

There should be no impact on outcome. Why would this be relevant?

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

There shouldn't be any negative impact. Regardless of whether a person is disabled or transgender or of a certain race is not of concern. It's simply an adult assaulting a child.

## 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?

I believe the time is right to end the barbaric notion that is acceptable for adults/parents to implement physical punishment to their children. I would also like to see verbal abuse included in this in the future as that can be equally detrimental to a child's development, self esteem and quality of life. I speak as a mother of two.