

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

As a child I was very rebellious and was smacked. It was done because my parents loved me and wanted to correct my strong inclination to do wrong. I always knew why I was being smacked. My parents would have been charged with child abuse were this Bill to become law. I also feel that too much time and attention would be spent on tracking down and punishing parents who smack, while genuine cases of child abuse may be overlooked. In my opinion, more effort should be made to encourage parents to stay together at least during the years when the children are still at school. I reckon these are the ones who do real damage to children and not those who smack.

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?

I don't think there would be any.

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?

Family life will be undermined and the freedom of young families in Scotland threatened. For generations smacking has been a form of discipline in bringing up children to teach them what is right and wrong. Some children respond to no other discipline. But it is NOT assault. Children should know why they are being smacked and parents should not be criminalised for doing so. If this Bill is introduced, thousands of parents will be criminalised overnight and lots of precious resources will be used in the implementation of the Bill possibly resulting in real cases of child abuse being overlooked.

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

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?

Negative

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?

No

Page 15: General

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

There is a clear difference between assault and discipline, and it's not good for society for children to be brought up undisciplined, not knowing right from wrong.
Apparently in Sweden since child smacking was banned, cases of child abuse have risen significantly. 65% of the public are opposed to this ban. Most people agree that sometimes it is necessary to smack a naughty child.
The state should not use criminal law to interfere with normal family life.
There many more serious and life-threatening issues about family life which need to be addressed.