

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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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 do not believe that any kind of assault is justifiable, especially using this on children, who are in fact vulnerable members of our society. We must act as role models for our children. There is easy access to other strategies to set behavioural boundaries and to ensure that children understand that they should adhere to these. Parents smack children when they are angry and aggressive...this is wrong. Smacking, Hitting etc children (even 'justifiable') should not be a matter relating to power and control.

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

Unsure

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?

This adheres to children's human rights. We must change our cultures thoughts of this matter. Hopefully we will look back at this time with remorse and regret as we now do when we think of children being hit at school with a belt or cane.

Violence breeds violence and so hopefully changing the cultural norms and setting a clear message that this is against the law will show everyone, including our children that children are valued, respected and makes them feel safer

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?

We still need to educate some parents about promoting positive behaviour and non violent strategies otherwise parents may feel they have less control and cannot set boundaries

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 reduction in cost

Please explain the reasons for your response

Costs may increase at first if this is put into place correctly. However I believe that this will then reduce that costs we see later on in life via mental health issues of these children who have suffered from violence within the home.

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

Young people with disabilities for example, are unfortunately much more likely to suffer from violence inflicted on them. I am sure other minority groups will suffer too. Sending a clear message by making this law will leave no loop holes.

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

Unsure if I can relate to any negative impacts

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:

Yes it can, but only if implemented correctly from the offset with support for families (especially living in deprived areas) to educate them on parenting strategies and human rights as well as helping them recognise that they are their children's role models

Page 15: General

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

I cannot believe that we still accept physical punishment is normal/ok. Children are human beings and should be shown dignity and respect in their own home. We must strive to keep all children safe from harm