

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Partially 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 children should be protected and no one has the right to strike another person, especially someone who is supposed to be in your care. However I have concerns about the ability to enforce this, both by the cost and the impact to our police and social services. I am also concerned that parents may be undermined by the law. I worry that the impact to families may be negative when parents are potentially separated from their children. My mind goes to some of the cases when parents remove their children from school in term time.

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**

I believe better parenting support for all parents would be beneficial. When I lived in Canada they had parenting course for all parents on how to deal with behavioural issues, it was seen as a cultural norm to attend. Putting more courses that are better accessible and not seen as only for high tariff families would help.

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?

The main advantage is that children would be safe both physically and mentally. No one should live in fear or assault. It will grow a generation of children who feel respected by adults.

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?

That if we don't support parents to create strong boundaries and guidance on parenting we will create a generation of children who are feel they can get away with anything and that there are no consequences to their actions.

## 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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

the impact on police and social work as well as any potential impact of parenting courses.

## 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**

creating a society that is respectful of others and not aggressive we will hopefully see a reduction in violent crime across society.

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

Not that I can think of

## 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:**

In the long term we should save on things such as youth offending and prison services.

## Page 15: General

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

No