

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 am content for this response to be attributed to me or my organisation

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Ruth Forrest

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

As a survivor of child physical, emotional and sexual abuse (from parents) and then using physical punishment with my first child (before I got professional help) and the subsequent M.Health issues I have experienced in adulthood due directly to my adverse childhood experiences I feel very strongly that all children ought to be protected from potential assault.

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

Not particularly knowledgeable about the process, but going through parliament would suggest to me its importance in protecting our most vulnerable, the next generation.

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?

As I have highlighted, my own adverse childhood experiences have blighted not only my first child's start in life, it has taken me until my early forties to 'heal' and deal with my trauma. This at my own personal expense paying for private therapy and latterly the NHS after being hospitalized 3 times for my failing M.H.

For me this is a no brainer. Prevention is better than a cure. There needs to be a cultural shift and change in the way we raise our young folk. Hurt people keep hurting people, the cycle will only continue unless we create a more loving, caring society. We begin this by laying out the principles we want to share and the message needs to be this, our young folk are the next generation of adults, they are nurtured, loved and protected.

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?

You will need to address the issue of all the mucked up parents (who like myself once) continue cycles of physical abuse with their own children.
Is there enough money in the pot for that?
A punitive solution alone will not work.

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

If you are able to change things on a societal level then surely less beaten children ought mean less

Q5. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have?

mucked up adults in the future needing, requiring more access to health services, prescriptions for medication, ability to access meaningful employment.

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

You are sending clear message of the kind of society you want Scotland to be.

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

Yes.

You'll have a lot of paranoid and afraid parents out there, who due to their own childhood experiences may have no insight into the way they punish their children and a) not see it as a 'problem' - 'never did me any harm' mentality or b) do not know how to stop beating their child and do not have the 'know how' in how to parent without violence.

The bill needs to be actively working with parent's and caregiver's in order to support and assist in showing them healthier ways to parent.

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

This bill ought to inform us all as a society.

Page 15: General

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

No Response

