

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Hannah Meason

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**

It has long been proven that physical chastisement of children is not an effective or beneficial way of teaching children discipline. The UNCRC Article 19 states children should be protected from all forms of harm, for this to be truly upheld and respected the law has to change, it is disgraceful that the UK is not leading by example in this area already. To think we as a nation do not offer the same protection from violence to children as adults, and require a debate on the matter in 2017 is unbelievable and I hope Scotland will make the right move now and start treating children as they should be.

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**

This needs to be set in law in order to fully protect children rights.

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?

Decrease the level of harm being experienced by children.  
Improve developmental outcomes for children including educational, social and emotional.  
Reduce mental health difficulties accross all ages.  
Reduce levels of violence perpetrated at all ages.  
Tighten the legal powers to hold perpetrators of violence towards children accountable and reduce reoffending.

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?

None. We should not be scared of challenging adults who believe physical punishment of children is ok.

## 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**

I would hope that over a 30 year period a significant reduction of public spending would be observed, due to children being safer, healthier and happier - this causing safer, happier and healthier adults - where in turn less social support is required.

## 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**

This is an overarching bill for all children, whom could fall in to all protected categories at some stage in either their childhood or adult life. This Bill is about the protection from harm for all humans - whether you be under 16 or over 16 years of age.

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?

Yes

**Please explain the reasons for your response:**

I feel that schools, childcare providers, police and social services are already promoting Article 19 of the UNCRC, having law to back this up will give a clearer message to adults and reduce instances of physical punishment; and in cases do physical punishment of children the law will enable this to be addressed quickly and clearly and limit repeat offences. I feel parents will be thankful to have the law clear on physical punishment.

## Page 15: General

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

*No Response*