

# Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Bill

## Page 2: About you

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

on behalf of an organisation

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".)

*No Response*

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Public sector body (Scottish/UK Government/Government agency, local authority, NDPB)

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Additional Support Services, Highland Council

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**

Children have a right to be safe and free from harm and as a community in Scotland we, as adults, are entrusted with the duty to ensure that this is the case.

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**

If it was to be the case, it would have happened before now. Unfortunately, some adults still believe that it is OK to use physical punishment to reprimand or try to correct children's behaviour in this way. We know that this is neither effective nor humane and while it has been frowned upon for some years, it still has not been eradicated and so legislation looks like it may be the only way to move the situation on.

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?

We will move one step closer to being a more accepting community, respectful of diversity and accepting of all humans.

Children would be treated with the same respect as we expect for adults.

Parents would learn/realise that physically harming their children causes significant distress and psychological harm to them.

Other, more acceptable and appropriate ways will be sought by adults in supporting a change in their children's behaviours.

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

## Page 11: Financial implications

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

Some reduction in cost

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

We know that currently some children are adversely affected by these actions and distressed by them. If they were not to take place, one could reasonably assume that there could be a benefit to the children and that they could be less distressed later in life, at school etc, and learn more control and tolerance if others themselves.

## 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?

Slightly positive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Children who do not conform to social norms, or are seen as different, 'may' be more difficult to understand/support and could attract more negative comment and action from their parents/ other adults. They therefore 'could' marginally benefit from thus Bill, if in fact they are more at harm at present.

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

There can be no negative impact on treating any human being with dignity and respect.

## 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

## Page 15: General

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

*No Response*