

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Ashlee Halliday

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

Physical punishment can be harmful and isn't an effective way of managing a child's behaviour. Children should be afforded the same rights as adults and be protected from the parents who wilfully harm their children. A change in the law leaves no ambiguity as is the situation currently. Children need compassion and guidance through positive nurturing and a supportive parental role model who doesn't resort to violence to manage challenges.

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

Legislation leaves no room for ambiguity as is the situation currently and although attitudes towards physical chastisement are changing some parents continue to feel it is their right to use violence towards their child.

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?

Children would be better protected and parents encouraged to manage their child's behaviour in ways proven to be effective and compassionate.

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?

No disadvantage to children but perhaps challenging for some parents.

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 increase in cost

Please explain the reasons for your response

Information cascaded to public would have financial costs and supports need to be available to educate parents.

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

No tolerance for violence is the message given to society which will benefit all vulnerable and minority groups

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

Educating the public would be of benefit and minimise negative actions usually borne of ignorance

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:

Education and support for parents can be delivered through services already available- Health Visitors/Social Workers/Teachers/Police

Page 15: General

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

to continue to support a law that lawfully allows adults to inflict pain upon children contradicts the knowledge and understanding of researchers, professionals and increasingly, parents and children. It is essential for children to experience nurturing, secure attachment relationships to ensure confident, healthy adults. Parents will be encouraged to explore many parenting strategies which are more effective and supportive. Scotland's children deserve this protection.