

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Fully opposed

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 am of the opinion that a short smack, or tap, (not hard ruthless abuse) is beneficial. Should this not be allowed then I think that thousands of loving parents would be criminalized overnight. This would not be just. I believe money spent persecuting these loving parents could better be spent elsewhere.

Q2. Could the aims of the proposal be better delivered in another way (without a Bill in the Scottish Parliament)?

No Response

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?

No Response

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?

I think that it is totally unreasonable and misleading to describe a loving smack as assault. It is the duty of any parent to bring up a child in a loving and caring way, and this includes teaching the child what is acceptable behaviour and what is not acceptable behaviour. A child is a child. It is not an adult and, as such, I do not believe it is appropriate to give children equal protection. We are only talking about a smack here. To me, a smack is a smack, not abuse. Withholding the right to smack a child from loving parents, would, I believe, lead to children taking control and be detrimental to society. Many people hate seeing badly behaved children.

Page 11: Financial implications

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

No Response

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?

No Response

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?

No Response

Page 15: General

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

I believe smacking is not child abuse and should not be regulated by criminal law.
To me, a short smack is not the same as physical abuse. I believe there are clear differences between the two.
It is bad for society when children are allowed to run wild and unruly. This can lead to abuse of adults, especially when the adults are unable to respond. The child may hit the parent or caregiver.
If smacking is made a criminal offense, this will also lead to child on child violence. A young child has to learn how to share his or her toys etc. and not to hit their parent or care giver, or any other child when they do not get their own way.
I believe children should be properly disciplined and that includes the use of smacking.