

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Andrea-Maria McGowan

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**

I believe there is no need or place for children to experience of physical punishment. In today's society we have to take a more nurturing and caring approach to children's behaviour. If I have an issue at work, my boss is not allowed to physically punish me so why should children experience this. If I make a mistake no one will force me using physical punishment so why should it be acceptable for children? I was brought up in a house without physical punishment and I am able to regulate my behaviour without my parents threatening or hurting me. I believe this is how all children should be raised. I believe that nurture and attachment are far more effective than fear and anxiety, we want our children to be better, stronger more resilient individual so we need to ban all physical punishment.

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**

I believe that at this time people are so unclear about the rules against physical punishment that making it law is the only way forward. If people don't understand the severity of the issue, they may continue to use physical punishment against children.

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?

There are many advantages for children, the main ones being:  
Improved Health and Wellbeing for children - Without the anxiety and fear of physical punishment children will thrive more.  
Children will be protected - Children will see that physical punishment and hurting others is wrong, that there is consequences to people's actions and adults cannot assault children.  
The next generation of children should experience less physical punishment and parents will have to look at other forms of coping with behaviour. I believe that there should also be more education for parents to understand children's behaviour and how to manage this without the use of physical punishment.

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?

Without education parents may not understand or stop using physical punishment.  
How this will be monitored and regulated - It may not be possible to police of these situations due to lack of resources.  
Local Authority policies may keep children at home, even if there is a pattern of physical punishment as they believe that children are better at home.

## 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

## 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

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

## Page 15: General

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

*No Response*