

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Linda Morris

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

This is a subject I have always felt very passionately about and I felt sure that one day this would happen. I have never understood why it is acceptable for a parent to hit, slap or smack their children as it is a physically violent act which floods shame onto a child. How can it be acceptable for a parent to smack their child? It promotes physical violence, a physical reprimand. Is it acceptable for a teacher to smack their pupil? No. A child to smack their friend? No. A husband to smack their wife? No. A child to smack their friend in the playground? No. A girl to smack her boyfriend? No. A prison officer to smack a prisoner? No. A man to smack his dog? No. Why then after all these years is it still ok to smack your child? I have never ever understood it however I'm one of the few amongst friends and family. Most people see no problem with a smack as "it never did me any harm". There is the huge grey area of what a 'smack' actually is and this is not good enough. The law has to be made perfectly clear surrounding this. I have been a teacher now for 10 years and I have worked with some vulnerable young people. Young people need to be nurtured, loved, told off, told no but not ever, ever hit. I have recently become a mum for the first time but I always knew I would never smack my children or condone anyone else doing so nor would I threaten it. I'm so thankful this consultation is taking place and I hope it leads to a necessary overdue change in the very blurred lines of the law!

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

Unsure

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?

Showing children that physical punishment is never ever acceptable! Freeing them from shame caused by this act 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?

None. Absolutely 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?

Broadly cost-neutral

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

It can only be a positive impact, negating physical harm to children. Parents do not own their children.

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

No.

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?

It has been a long time coming!