

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

Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Scottish Out of School Care Network

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

The Scottish Out of School Care Network has been a member of Children are Unbeatable for a number of years. We believe all children should have the same human rights as adults in terms of equal protection from assault.

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

We agree legislation is needed to ensure we as a country meet our obligations to children under the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. Legislation should be accompanied by education and information on children's rights not to be assaulted by anyone.

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?

Upholding and respecting children's rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and removing the potential for degrading and harmful physical punishment of children.

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 increase in cost

Please explain the reasons for your response

There may be an initial increase in costs in terms of producing educational and information materials to inform the general public, families and children of the benefits of respecting children's rights to equal protection from assault and to support alternative, more positive, methods of parenting which does not involve physical punishment.

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

Supporting all children's rights in the present directly impacts on the age discrimination they experience by not having equal protection to assault as adults do and this applies to all other protected characteristics which apply to children.

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

We do not see that there is any negative impact; again, where there are potential areas of conflict with, say, a strongly held faith view of the role of the family, then information and educational materials could be discussed with such faith group representatives to assist in minimising such conflict.

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:

This is a potential positive change in how children's rights are respected in Scotland. For a new generation of children to have equal protection from assault is more likely to have a positive social and economic impact in the sense that reducing violence towards children, may, in turn reduce violence in society overall.

Page 15: General

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

We strongly welcome this proposal and hope it receives support across all parties in the Scottish Parliament.