

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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 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 have been deeply concerned since I was a child (that is, for more than fifty years) about the appalling long-term effects that Physical punishment has on individual children, on family relationships, and on the wider society. I hope that Scotland will soon give children the fullest 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

I am sure that legislation is essential.

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?

First, the benefits to the individual, both as a child and in later life. The long shadow of physical abuse lasts a lifetime (just as the long shadow of sexual or emotional abuse does). But the benefits to the school or institution, the family, and the wider society, are also important. I note with interest that Scotland leads the world in violent assault (<http://www.criminal-lawyers-glasgow.co.uk/blogs/scotland-worlds-assault-capital-based-2015-un-statistics/>). I feel certain that there is a connection between the sanctioned assault perpetrated against children and the epidemic of assault in the streets.

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?

There are NO disadvantages. I have watched with great happiness the transformation of the schools, since the old culture of tyranny, abuse and institutional sadism gave way to a new culture of education and human development. Scottish schools are wonderfully transformed for the better, compared to how they used to be.

Page 11: Financial implications

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

Significant reduction in cost

Please explain the reasons for your response

Assault leads to sickness, to crime, to transgenerational transmission of violence. The saving to Scotland, if these direct and indirect evils could be ended, might be very great indeed.

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

Anything that makes it safer for people to live their lives is going to have a good effect - especially for vulnerable people. For example, the atmosphere of violence that used to pervade the schools had bad effects on ordinary children; but utterly devastating effects on autistic children, who were bewildered and terrified by a crazy environment that they could neither make sense of nor negotiate.

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

I know of no (likely or even possible) negative impact.

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:

See above.

Page 15: General

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

I long to see Scotland become a civilized nation. The present situation is shameful and embarrassing. How could anybody doubt that children need 'equal protection from assault'?