

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Emma Sinclair

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 children should be protected from harm & should not be exposed to either physical or emotional punishment in line with UNCRC. Children are vulnerable members of society who are within a critical period of development, they depend on nurturing caregivers to lead by example showing kindness & understanding while equipping children with strategies on how to best deal with their feelings & emotions as they progress through the challenges of each age/stage. We need to instil in children a sense of resilience & help them develop ways to deal with the everyday challenges of life but how can we do that if children are exposed to accepted/justified physical punishment from an early age? This is why I support giving children equal protection from assault by prohibiting all physical punishment of children.

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?

Not only would it protect children from harm & physical punishment but it will demonstrate that physical assault is unacceptable in today's society.

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 believe that this proposal should be followed up with widespread positive behaviour training for families/caregivers to ensure that everyone is fully equipped on how to deal with challenging behaviours when they arise in 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?

Significant reduction in cost

Please explain the reasons for your response

The early years of childhood is a critical period in a child development. There exists a strong correlation between poor upbringing & increased levels of criminal offending in later life. I believe that by protecting children from physical punishment (alongside other strategies such as positive behaviour training, early intervention & investing in early years childcare & education) will reduce the costs longer term.

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

I do believe that this Bill should be accompanied with further investment in early childcare & education so this will have a financial/economic impact in the short term however, will be negated in the longer term.

Page 15: General

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

My hope is that there will be further support for families/caregivers in line with this proposal & continued investment in the early years so the benefits of the Bill can be fully realised.