

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Vivek Majumder

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

Physical punishment of children can cause lasting physical and mental trauma, and perpetuate abuse into future generations. Studies have not shown any correlation between physical punishments and positive developmental or behavioural outcomes, but correlation with negative outcomes have been found. If an adult were treated the same for the same action, it would be called assault. It seems the only use for physical punishment would be as a vent for an adult's anger and frustration, or simply because the adult does not know any better or alternative methods to discipline their child.

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

No

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?

As discussed above. It should reduce the trend of child abuse.

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?

A significant backlash from older generations who feel it's the only way to properly discipline a child, or that it's not fair because they had it done to them. 'We were beaten and it never did us any harm'. This is a polarising topic and would work to disenfranchise people and perpetuate the myth of 'The Snowflake Millennial'.

In addition, immigrants from countries where physical punishment is more prevalent may not realise the change in the law and would end up treated harshly for something they didn't know was wrong. Efforts would need to be made to educate new parents of the new law early, and have law enforcement and medical staff have a modicum of understanding based on the context of physical punishment (as detailed above), so long as physical punishment doesn't happen again.

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 reduction in cost

Please explain the reasons for your response

More resources would be used initially to get the word out and from medical and legal staff. However, in the long run I feel the number of children being abused generation by generation will diminish, and obviously time and money from dealing with injury medically will reduce.

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

As above for immigrants, however there will allow easier assimilation for children of immigrants as they will be treated at home more like their peers. It should work wonders for the confidence of LGBT+ children, as they'll feel more comfortable about speaking to their parents about their orientation and gender. Disenfranchisement by age and tradition has been explained above.

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

As above.

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