

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Edinburgh Women's Aid

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**

Edinburgh Women's Aid is fully supportive of the proposal to give children equal protection from assault by prohibiting all physical punishment of children. As an organisation working to end violence against women, we believe everyone has the right to live without fear of being hurt. Physical punishment of children sits within the wider continuum of violence within society, and undermines the message that violence in all its form will not be tolerated. As an organisation that supports children and young people through a rights based approach, it condones any form of physical punishment on children and young people and see this as an infringement of their right to be protected. UNCRC Article 19, "Children have the right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated" (Children and Young People Commissioner Scotland)

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?

The main advantages would be

- Reducing the risk of physical and emotional harm to children.
- Ensuring that the health and wellbeing of children is paramount.
- Clarity for parents, service and children about what is acceptable and unacceptable treatment of children.
- Scotland's children becoming part of the 10% of world children fully protected from 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?

No Disadvantage.

## Page 11: Financial implications

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

*No Response*

## 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?

Yes

## Page 15: General

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

*No Response*