

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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**

My wife and I would be criminalised for parenting as we believe is best.

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?

The way I discipline my children IS NOT ASSAULT.  
No additional advantages in this proposal.

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?

Children are not equal in law as they are the responsibility of parents.  
This is yet further intrusion of the state into family life, where loving parents will again be prevented from training their children in the manner they deem most appropriate to that particular child.

## 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 increase in cost

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Additional policing. Additional prosecutions. Additional record keeping/processing.

## 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?

Unsure

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?

No

## Page 15: General

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

Having discussed this as a parent with many other parents it is obvious that there is no consensus for a ban on smacking.

I think the figures presented are selective and biased. There are other surveys and child experts presenting an equally strong and contrasting view.

This bill makes reference to "abuse" and "assault" when speaking of a parents correction of a wayward child by smacking. This is inflammatory and extremely biased language for an action of a parent, like me, who disciplines their children in an appropriate manner with love and concern for their current and future wellbeing.

Using Sweden as a model for legislation is not advantageous as I believe that following their implementation of a similar law child abuse rates increased. This clarifies the fact that many loving parents will be criminalised as they currently fear.

As someone that has been involved in teaching children and visiting many primary and secondary schools in Scotland for over 25 years, the drive for equality of rights for children has not proven advantageous to date. We have a schooling system groaning under the challenges of dealing with indiscipline children. I firmly believe that to remove the option of parents to appropriately discipline their children, and to criminalise the use smacking as a method of punishment within a loving family will further exacerbate the problem of indiscipline within our society.