

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Criminalising parents who discipline their children in an appropriate manner is not a sensible way forward. Resources, which would be better spent in dealing with child abuse, will be diverted to criminalise citizens who bring up their children according to biblical principles.

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**

The aims of the proposal, though possibly sincere, go way beyond what could be regarded as reasonable and interfere in the right of parents to bring up their own children. The state has sufficient work to do in dealing with criminal child abuse and should leave parents to adequately discipline their own children.

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?

No advantages that are apparent.

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?

Good parents criminalised.  
Attention of the Police diverted from dealing with genuine criminal activity.  
State interference in private matters.  
Diverting attention of Parliament from urgent matters which have been neglected by the current Scottish Government and their Green Party colleagues.

## 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**

As above, finance and focus diverted from already inadequate attention to genuine criminal activity. Need for an increase in numbers of Police Officers, Social Workers, Named Persons, Court Officials, Sheriffs etc.

## 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?

Negative

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Particularly negative effect on parents whether married or not. Interference in religious and race matters.

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

Stopping the proposal at this stage would be the most sensible move.

## 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

**Please explain the reasons for your response:**

Economic impact will be negative. Social impact will be negative. No environmental impact either positive or negative.

## Page 15: General

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

Spend Parliamentary time on improving Education and the NHS in Scotland. These vital aspects have been neglected by the Scottish Parliament for the past 10 years.