

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

I am FULLY OPPOSED to the proposal. It would turn loving, caring, parents into criminals. Physical discipline, in the right measure, is appropriate. It is not a form of abuse. It would turn children against their parents and drive wedges into families. This must not be allowed to happen. Imagine the resources required to enact this? These resources should be better used to tackle genuine child abuse. If you tell a child "You were reprimanded because you did wrong" then they will understand. If you tell a child "Your parents abused you" then you create a whole generation of psychologically weakened children.

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

*No Response*

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 Response*

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 adults! They are not allowed to do many things, for their own protection. Adult parents need to be able to teach children right from wrong. Smacking, is not abuse, it is a reprimand and a lesson in right-from-wrong.

I am a parent of four lovely children (now aged 12 to 24). I could count on one hand the times I have ever smacked any of them, but I do not feel that it was in any way a criminal act. In fact, I would argue that is is a criminal act NOT to discipline your children properly. I am also a Parent Helper at school, and chair of the school parent council, and I can tell you for a fact that discipline levels in schools have fallen dangerously low. We are falling down global league tables because children have lost the respect for the child-adult relationship.

The law already adequately protects children from assault.

The plan is intrusive, and invades right into family life. Why not just install cameras in every home and be done with it.

Social work departments will be over-run with trivial accounts of smacking that will divert real cases.

## 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?

*No Response*

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 Response*

## Page 15: General

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

The public have already posken about this. The 2014 ComRes Poll found that 65% of adults said it is sometimes necessary to smack a child. Only 22% disagreed.

The government should not be telling us how to raise our children. Why not just take away all children at birth, bring them up according to your plans, and return them to the parents when they are 18.