

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Thousands of loving mothers and fathers would be turned into criminal overnight.

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?

I do not see any many advantages

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?

The law already protects children from assault. A loving smack should not be considered to be assault

The plan undermines family life and is intrusive. It is the parents duty to teach their children right from wrong and smacking is a loving way of doing so and could save the children from getting into more serious trouble as they grow up.

## 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**

The cost of 'policing this' by social services and the police will be astronomical and put further pressure and workloads on already stretched services.

## 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

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

Our public services are stretched to full capacity already with so many cutbacks. Other areas of need would suffer. ie children who are really being abused could very well slip through the net. Also services for the elderly are deteriorating and we are told it will get worse as more people live longer. The social services will reach a point of collapse. As a care worker of many years I speak from experience.

## Page 15: General

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

I do not believe that smacking is child abuse. There is a clear difference on child abuse and loving parental discipline.

In Sweden child abuse rates and child on child violence increased after smacking was banned there in 1979.

The public strongly appose a ban on smacking. A 2014 ComRes Poll found that 65% of adults said it was sometimes necessary for an adult to smack a naughty child. Only 22% of them disagreed.

The crime rate will undoubtedly increase if children are not properly disciplined.