

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".)

Academic with expertise in a relevant subject

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Professor Kenneth McK. Norrie,

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

Though I accept the notion that punishment of children can have educative benefits, and though I do NOT believe that physical punishment (at least of a minor level) is the worse treatment a child may be subjected to, nevertheless I have never been able to find a satisfactory answer to the real problem with corporal punishment: that children, the physically most vulnerable group in our society, are the only ones we are allowed physically to hit. This bill seeks to address, in its very name, precisely this issue and for that reason it has my full support.

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 2004 Act was passed in the hope that the public would be educated to understand that hitting children, however "loving", was not acceptable. It has not had that effect. We need legislation. I also believe that legislation is the only way to satisfy our international commitments under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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?

Children will be treated as full human beings, with the same rights as all other human beings.

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 only disadvantage I can think of is that passing this legislation might give the impression we have solved the problem of bad treatment of children. Physical assault is not the worst thing that can happen to a child. Emotional neglect and psychological abuse can have life-long devastating consequences. This is, of course, no reason not to legislate in the way that is proposed.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

People are people, irrespective of age.

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