

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Kate Duncan

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

Physical punishment of anyone is abhorrent, even more so of defenceless children. Punishment creates fear, resentment, dishonesty. The child punished like this is thereby given permission to treat others in the same way, either through revenge or because that seems the accepted pattern of behaviour. It's highly unlikely to promote better behaviour. Physical violence, even, maybe especially if given as punishment, may well spiral.

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

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

I say this because I don't know, obviously. But I do believe that if physical punishment of children is enshrined in law it will have a force it otherwise wouldn't. However, given that it is so widespread, I hope that it will be accompanied by good information made available to all parents; with classes in parenting preferable compulsory.

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 human being should suffer the pain and humiliation of physical punishment. The advantages of being free of this, will I think allow a freedom for children to grow and explore; a great more thoughtful response from parents to their children. I think too that the levels of violence prevalent and so very horribly acceptable in our society will gradually become less so.

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?

In the short term, many parents will no doubt find their children a bit more difficult to cope with. They will need support and guidance, maybe training to discover better ways of bringing up their children

Page 11: Financial implications

Q5. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have?

Some reduction in cost

Please explain the reasons for your response

Have no idea really. I suppose parental training, classes, good information will cost a bit but not that much. We save by having less traumatised children; fewer children physically and emotionally damaged needing professional help; fewer children in care; less violence in society generally.

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

Why should it not be positive? All people should be given the same protection from assault.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response:

Attitudes can be changed and the change of laws plays a big part in such changes. I think such a change will have a big impact, but a positive one.

Page 15: General

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

I hope it happens. I have several times intervened when a parent was hitting a child in the street. It is a hugely uncomfortable thing to do, shall I or not; will I make things worse for the child; am I just an interfering busybody. If the law was in place, it would become a responsibility. The problem of 'will I make things worse' will still arise, but with education etc, this should lessen.