

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

David Somervell

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

Completely outdated law badly needs changing to respect each individual regardless of age. no assault is appropriate - especially by parents / guardians.

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?

As a Quaker I believe all are equal and should be no "ownership" of a young person just because a family member. Children deserve equal treatment.

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?

It *might* be difficult to enforce but vital that society and our lawmakers make clear that older habits and permissions to hit children are no longer tolerated in 21st century Scotland.

Page 11: Financial implications

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

Broadly cost-neutral

Please explain the reasons for your response

I see no reason why we should be discussing cost when this is to do with rights and wrongs of one person battering another person - even a slap can be traumatic and all Scots need to be trained in nonviolent responses to conflict resolution.

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?

Slightly positive

Please explain the reasons for your response

IF, and this is an important IF, there is sufficient emphasis on people learning how to communicate without resorting to violence, then all sections of our society will be able to resolve conflict peacefully.

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

I strongly urge a complementary strand in the legislation which sets into motion a wide-ranging training and awareness-raising programme in nonviolent communication / compassionate communication as framed by Marshall Rosenberg. This should be through formal education processes as part of the Curriculum for Excellence and through civil society channels.

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:

This is setting out clear boundaries for acceptable behaviour. It should be seen as part of a cultural re-alignment which puts in the past the use of violence between humans or between humans and animals and emphasises reverence for life.

Page 15: General

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

Thank you for bringing forward this proposed legislation. Vital we emphasise the importance of respect for all and no one group being permitted to have power over any other group - whether based on age, blood relation, or any of the protected characteristics.
Keep on!