

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Scott Maciver

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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Whilst abuse of children is abhorrent, it should not equate with a parent lovingly correcting a child, in order to teach them. To correct a child, if and when the circumstances merit it, with the correct measure of force, is to love them. On the other hand, to avoid correcting a child, is detrimental to them and will do them harm. I was lovingly corrected, via smacking as a child, and although I didn't enjoy it at the time, it was never done do as some form of abuse, but as a correction from parents who loved me, wanted to guide me & ultimately had my best interests at heart.

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 proposal should be dropped altogether. The state is proposing an interference into family life that, much like the named person scheme, is unwarranted & unhelpful.

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?

There would be no advantage in this bill, as it would hinder parents from exercising loving correction to a child who is in need of it.

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 would not adequately learn when they had acted incorrectly. It would be detrimental to them as individuals & also detrimental to society, as society will become unruly, as many children will grow into adults acting as they see fit, irrespective of how improper their behaviour may be.

## 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**

Policing this, should the bill be passed, would cost a lot of money. At the same time, it would punish those who are acting in love towards their children. The police force are already overstretched as it is & their time would be far better spent elsewhere.

## 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?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I don't see any correlation between the two.

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

As above, I don't see any correlation.

## 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:**

The proposal, if passed into legislation, would certainly impact negatively, both socially & economically. As already stated, it would cost a lot to police, when police time is better spent elsewhere, and it would lead to an unruly society.

## Page 15: General

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

Please scrap this unhelpful proposal immediately. However well intended it may be, the presence of abuse of children through physical smacking or otherwise, should not lead us to jump to the extreme position, where we count physical smacking in loving correction, in the same bracket.

They are both physical in nature, but one is abuse and intended as harm, whereas the other is done in love with the child's best interests at heart.