

# 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".)

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Angelika Monteux

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**

All children should at all times feel safe and confident that they are protected from harm and physical assault of any form so that they can develop trust and develop the attitudes of non-violence and peaceful conflict resolution.

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**

A bill would be helpful, but only part of the answer; education, information and campaigns to make society more aware would also be important.

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 would be able to grow up feeling safe, respected and protected from harm and would learn non-violent ways of dealing with potential conflict. In the long time it would hopefully help society to avoid aggression, violence and war.

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?

none

## 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 increase in cost

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Funds need to be invested in making sure the Bill is put into practice by training professionals such as police, health care professionals, social workers, teachers and carers to spot physical abuse of children, possibly changing their own practice; most likely family counselling and support would need to be introduced. On the other hand money would be saved in the long run as cases of mistreatment, mental health issues arising from trauma needing treatment would decrease.

## 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**

Any reduction in aggression and physical violence can only have positive effects on everybody as understanding, respect and empathy increase.

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

I do not know

## 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:**

As long as ways are found to get the support of the public.

## Page 15: General

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

It is sad and concerning that such a bill is needed at all.