

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Maggie Moodycliffe

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

I cannot accept that a child should ever have to experience physical punishment. Consistent age appropriate boundaries , diversional techniques for challenging behavior and role modelling non violence towards other human beings is the only way to break the cycle of children who grow to become abusers or accept physical abuse as a cultural norm in Scotland . Stop the ambiguity in relation to physical punishment towards children...introduce the law...but ensure resources are then provided for education for communities and parenting strategies .

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

Leaves any guideline or policy too open to debate and potential headache for professionals and public who aim to protect children.

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?

To reflect that our society in Scotland should not and will not accept physical punishment of our children .

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?

I see no disadvantages....

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

The early intervention with the current generation of children having the right to expect to be legally protected from physical punishment and hopefully reduction in the the long term outcomes of the emotional and psychological harms would surely be cost effective.

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

I would hope Scotland could lead the way to the rest of UK that we will not accept physical abuse in our society.

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

I cannot envisage any negative impacts.

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:

Prevention of escalations of physical punishments and abuse.

Page 15: General

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

In my role as a health visitor in a multicultural caseload I have experienced families from UK and other countries who react in a very surprised and disbelieving manner when I advise them that there are alternatives to physical punishments, and that children model adults behaviour and may well go on to express their frustrations and anxieties by physically abusing others in the future.

We need clear and definitive laws that Scotland has provision in statute that we should not and do not physically assault our children.

This would result in an equitable approach for all children.

I will always dispute that any parent, adult or child has the right to assault a child.