

# 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 would like this response to be anonymous (the response may be published, but no name)

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

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**

As a social worker, the biggest trauma in relationships at the moment is domestic abuse. We have to develop a cultural message that violence is unacceptable between anyone. It is confusing to say 'I love you and so I hit you'. Children learn better by firm boundaries being established and discussion then sanctions and rewards.

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**

If we are to learn by the experience of other countries who have used legislation then we see that it has had a positive effect.

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?

It is a message that is clear.  
It means that no form of domestic abuse is acceptable to anyone.  
It teaches children that violence is not acceptable so when they grow up, they don't use it either.

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?

Significant reduction in cost

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

If we can successfully reduce domestic abuse that would lead to a huge decrease in costs i.e. police time, court time and children being accommodated.

## 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**

As I have said, it would eventually reduce domestic abuse thereby benefiting women.

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

No

## 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:**

I imagine we would not go the route of criminalising the hitting of children. If we follow other countries who have taken this step, it would be more of a cultural change, like with Drink drinking.

## Page 15: General

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

Just well done. Perhaps you could use the Social Services Council and other organisations like Children 1st to add their voices.