

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Please explain the reasons for your response

I believe violence breeds violence so use of violent physical punishment - usually accompanied with psychological punishment - is damaging to the child with potential future consequences. By physical punishment I mean beatings or intensive/prolonged use of force. Physical contact between a parent/teacher and child which is corrective of action and shared lovingly I do not perceive as punishment.

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

Feel there is an enormous role here in education for parenthood but am aware that often the physical punishment reaction is the result of an affective response with [sometimes] remorse afterwards. Learning to deal with emotionally evocative situations by creating safe spaces should be encouraged by examples in schools.

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?

I see the main advantage as being the physical, emotional and psychological health of the child being protected. A bill such as this may also encourage reconsideration of action and search for alternative action by those using physical punishment. However, as previously intimated, use of physical punishment is often an emotional response subservient to reason.

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?

Discerning the grey line between loving, corrective, physical actions and physical punishment. Policing the application of the bill.

Page 11: Financial implications

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

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

I suspect there may be hidden costs in putting the bill into force and policing it.

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

I suspect there will be both positive and negative impacts on protected groups. For example there may be positive impact on parenting and dealing with crises in these groups. However, there is a great challenge to ensure that institutionalised prejudice does not permeate those applying the rigours of the bill.

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

Yes indeed if the bill structurally and financially provides for education and training for those who will apply it.

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 think there are clear economic and logistical challenges but the benefits of implementation [and regular reassessment and adaptation] will contribute to a healthier community with more well-being.

Page 15: General

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

No I think the question covers my views at the moment.