

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Please explain the reasons for your response

I believe parents have the right to discipline their children as they see fit and that the current laws already cover 'assault'. I do not believe smacking is assault. Parents who smack do so in love for the safety and correction of their child.

Q2. Could the aims of the proposal be better delivered in another way (without a Bill in the Scottish Parliament)?

Unsure

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?

No advantage

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 are children and need to learn how to function in this world in a safe and responsible way. Sometimes physical correction to bring home the dangers of a situation or the wrongness of a behaviour are an essential means of teaching.

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

An increase in referrals to social work or police involvement is inevitable when you criminalise something that is widely used in a correct and loving way.

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?

Negative

Please explain the reasons for your response

The bible allows Smacking as reasonable punishment. This law would discriminate against those Christian parents who follow the bible as their rule for life and who have chosen to use smacking as a means of correction.

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

No Response

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

Page 15: General

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

We must look at our country and see the massive decline in behaviour in some parts of society and some age groups of children and 'young adults'. As a teacher I am continually saddened by the damage a lack of proper discipline is having on the children as individuals and on society as a whole.

We must protect children from assault as we must protect adults. But we cannot and should not interfere with reasonable physical punishment used by parents in a loving and correct way. Raising a child to be a responsible, respectful citizen is difficult. As a Christian parent I try to use the bible as my guide and this law would stop me (and thousands of other parents) from doing this. I have successfully used a smack to teach my child the dangers of certain situations (e.g. Running away from me towards a busy road or running from me in a busy park or other area). Children need loving discipline and clear boundaries with consequences if they are to develop into well rounded responsible adults. How parents choose to discipline, (within the parameters of current laws on assault) should be up to them. A smack every now and then to highlight the dangers of a situation does not and should not constitute assault.