

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Jen Broadhurst

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

I was assaulted by my parents as a child, slapped and hit with slippers or belts for misdemeanors and it didn't improve my behaviour it made me sneakier. I do not hit my children and they are both better behaved than I was because I talk to them and treat them as equal human beings. We have respect for each other because I respect them as people as well as children and don't think I have the right to assault them.

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

No legislation is required to shift those who still think it's ok to hit children. Without a change in the law it will take too long to change attitudes and too many children will suffer in the interim.

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?

Fewer children will experience violence and fear as a result of assault.

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?

The belief that no physical chastisement is equal to no discipline in the early stages of implementation will be frustrating.
This might be alleviated through support in schools and via childminers to use alternative methods of discipline.

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

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

Tolerance and respect begins at an early age through reciprocity. In countries where it is already illegal to assault your child, there are better outcomes for all stages of child development.

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

Yes sharing stories and examples of alternative methods from other parents to support those families who find it difficult to change.

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

Page 15: General

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

It's high time Scotland put it's money where it's mouth is. If we want to be a grown up country with equality, and human rights at our core if our understanding of ourselves we must begin to enact legislation that we can be proud of.