

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Partially opposed

Please explain the reasons for your response

Children already have protection from assault. It is wrong to define reasonable chastisement, such as smacking or physical restraint to be the same as assault and abuse.

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

The aims of the proposal are flawed and ideologically driven. They should be dropped.

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?

none. flawed arguement

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?

it is an undue interference from the state into family life. It will damage the parent child relationship.
It will criminalise ordinary parents
It will put additional pressure on social services and the police and the courts

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

it will increase the workload of social services, police and the justice system also parents facing prosecution will require to pay for lawyers or receive legal aid. The cost is far more than financial.

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

Where is the room for freedom of conscience with this proposal. Parents who in good conscience, because of their religion or belief, think that reasonable chastisement such as smacking, as part of a parents responsibility to discipline or correct their children will be discriminated against.

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

yes. adbandon the proposal

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?

This bill is borne out of an assumption that all forms of physical correction, punishment or reasonable chastisement are equal to assault and physical abuse. They are not and should not be defined as equivalents. Mechanisms in law already exist to protect children from assault and physical abuse.

This will criminalise ordinary parents. Rather than use the law as a stick to beat parents into submission let those in favour of this bill seek to persuade parents that this is the best route to go.