

**EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE**

**(EHRiC)**

**Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Bill**

The Scottish Parliament’s [Equalities and Human Rights Committee [EHRiC]](http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/Equalities-Human-Rights-Committee.aspx) is seeking views on the Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Bill.

**Remit**

The Bill was introduced in the Scottish Parliament on 6 September 2018. The purpose of the Bill is to end the physical punishment of children by parents or those with caring responsibility for a child. The Bill would remove the defence of “reasonable chastisement” which can be used to justify using physical force on a child.

A copy of the Bill and accompanying documents can be found at:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/109156.aspx>

**Key issues**

The Committee would particularly welcome responses on the following questions. If you would like to make a response, you do not need to answer all of these questions and can feel free to focus just on those that are relevant to or interest you. Please limit your response to no more than four sides of A4.

* Do you support the Bill’s aim to end the physical punishment of children by parents or carers? It will do this by abolishing the defence of reasonable chastisement. Please provide an explanation for your response. What groups would be impacted by the change (for example, parents, children, public services, the legal profession, etc)?
* Do you see any additional impact on groups with protected characteristics?
* Are there any equalities and human rights issues raised by the approach taken in the Bill that should be considered?
* Will the Bill result in any resource implications for your organisation or you as an individual? If so, please explain and provide any supporting information.
* Please tell us about any other comments you feel are relevant to the Bill.

Please follow the Committee on Twitter (@SP\_EHRiC) or email the Committee at [equalities.humanrights@parliament.scot](mailto:equalities.humanrights@parliament.scot) for more information.

The Committee intends to take evidence in early 2019 and report to Parliament thereafter.

**How to submit your views**

The call for written views will close on **FRIDAY 25 JANUARY 2019**.

Before making a submission, please read our privacy notice about submitting your views to a Committee <http://www.parliament.scot/S5_Equal_Opps/Committee_Office_-_evidence_submission.pdf> This tells you about how we process your personal data.

Please use the template provided on our website to format your submission. This includes the Data Protection Form. Fill this out and return it with your submission. If you are under twelve years of age we will need the consent of your parent or guardian. Please use this form provided on our website.

We welcome written views in English, Gaelic, Scots or any other language. Due to the time required to process and analyse evidence, late submissions will only be accepted with the agreement of the Committee.

Written responses should be sent **electronically, in the template format** to the following address. Ideally, they should be no more than four sides of A4.

If you cannot submit electronically you may send in a hard copy written submission. If you are sending in a hard copy submission please print off and include a copy of the Data Protection Form. Please send them to:

[equalities.humanrights@parliament.scot](mailto:equalities.humanrights@parliament.scot?subject=Children%20(Equal%20Protection%20from%20Assault)%20(Scotland)%20Bill%20-%20written%20submission)

-OR-

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