

## **EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE**

### **CHILDREN (EQUAL PROTECTION FROM ASSAULT) (SCOTLAND) BILL**

#### **SUBMISSION FROM CLAN CHILDLAW**

##### **About Clan Childlaw**

Clan Childlaw improves life chances of children and young people by using our legal skills and expert knowledge to help young people take part in decisions that affect them and by making sure that children's rights are realised in Scots Law. We provide free, outreach, child-centred legal representation to children and young people, most of whom have experience of living in care. We have extensive experience gained over 10 years of representing vulnerable children and young people where child protection issues arise. We also provide information to professionals in relation to child law, deliver practice-based training on child law and contribute to policy development.

**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)?**

Clan Childlaw fully supports the Bill's aim to help bring to an end the physical punishment of children by parents and others caring for or in charge of children by abolishing the common law defence of reasonable chastisement, and repealing section 51 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003, thereby ensuring children are given equal protection from assault in law.

Clan Childlaw is a member of Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights) and supports the views on the Bill submitted by Together to the Equalities and Human Rights Committee dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019.