Consultation on the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill

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<th>Tystiolaeth i'r Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg ar gyfer craffu Cyfnod 1 Bil Plant (Diddymu Amddiffyniad Cosb Resymol) (Cymru)</th>
<th>Evidence submitted to the Children, Young People and Education Committee for Stage 1 scrutiny of the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill</th>
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**About you**

Individual

1. **The Bill’s general principles**

1.1 Do you support the principles of the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill?

— No

1.2 Please outline your reasons for your answer to question 1.1

*(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)*

It will criminalise loving parents who think that a mild smack will help to develop obedience, respect and good behaviour in their children.

1.3 Do you think there is a need for legislation to deliver what this Bill is trying to achieve?

*(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)*

Excessive punishment or abuse is already against the law.

2. **The Bill’s implementation**

2.1 Do you have any comments about any potential barriers to implementing the Bill?

If no, go to question 3.1

*(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)*
2.2 Do you think the Bill takes account of these potential barriers?  
(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

3 Unintended consequences

3.1 Do you think there are any unintended consequences arising from the Bill? If no, go to question 4.1  
(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

If a gentle smack is treated the same way as abuse then it will only lead to confusion. Child abusers need to be punished and the focus of our police forces should be on that.

4 Financial implications

4.1 Do you have any comments on the financial implications of the Bill (as set out in Part 2 of the Explanatory Memorandum)? If no, go to question 5.1  
(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

5 Other considerations

5.1 Do you have any other points you wish to raise about this Bill?  
(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

I think that the majority of the general public are against criminalising parents for reasonable chastisement.