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

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

CADRP-121

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)

Parents smack their children to teach them right from wrong. Banning snacking would criminalise Innocent parents whilst real child abusers could be overlooked. Parents should be able to decide whether to smack their child or not. The Bible says ”spare the rod and spoil the Child”. Smacking is not child abuse and there is a law against child violence and abuse already. It seems absurd to me that loving parents who are disciplining their children because they care about them should be placed in the same category as child abusers. Most of us were smacked as children but we don’t think of our parents as child abusers as a consequence.

Smacking is used to warn children of danger and criminalising it would jeopardise children’s safety.

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)

There is no need for this proposed legislation as parents smacking their children is not abuse. There is already legislation in place to protect children from abuse.
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)

Innocent loving parents would be criminalised unjustly

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)

If parents are jailed what would happen to the children. It would cost the state to keep the parents in prison. And it would cost to keep the children in care.

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)

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