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

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?

— Yes

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)

Smacking children is wrong, it is physical assault and it is unlawful to hit an adult so why is it ok to hit a child. The arguments for it’s use are feeble. When an adult smacks a child it meets the adult’s needs not the child. I was hit by a child by my parent and at school, and it did not teach me respect, instead it taught me to fear adults, and that if your parent hits you then there are no limits, a tap, becomes a smack, a smack becomes a punch, a punch becomes a kick etc. Physical assault by a parent gives children mixed messages that hitting is ok, yet when children and young people copy the adult behaviour it gets them into trouble. I consider the physical punishment that was given to me as a child as an Adverse Childhood Experience, which has affected me greatly through adolescence and all my adult life, affecting my confidence, and self worth.

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)

Yes it has to be mandated by law, otherwise it won’t happen.
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)

No

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)

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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)

No

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)

No

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)

No