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

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<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

Name: Kirsty Sanderson
Role: Counsellor

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)

Ø the current law is not clear. As a counsellor working with children and parents, we cannot give clear advice to parents. I welcome the change so that as a professional I can say to parents physical punishment of children is against the law.

Ø Equality- It’s because children should have the same protection from assault as adults do. The smallest most vulnerable members of our society should not have less protection

Ø Children’s Rights- The is change will help realise children’s rights to Article 19- protection from violence and abuse. The Committee on the Rights of the Child has asked the UK to prohibit corporal punishment by removing the reasonable punishment defence 3 times. I am pleased that Welsh Government is leading the way in the UK and doing this.
Ø Physical punishment is harmful for children and leads to poorer outcomes. Have a look at the Equally Protected report (https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2015/equally-protected/) and pick out some evidence. In the foreword Sir Michael Marmot said ‘The international evidence could not be any clearer- physical punishment has the potential to damage children and carries the risk of escalation into physical abuse’

Ø Physical punishment does not work (use any evidence from report above or your own experiences) and because it does not work there is a danger of it escalating into physical abuse and in some cases lead to the death of a child eg. Victoria Climbie, Baby P, Daniel Pelka in England, and Yaseen Ali in Cardiff (https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-20596854)

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

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