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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<td>CADRP-460</td>
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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)

Children cannot always be reasoned with and a quick smack is sometimes necessary to teach them the difference between right and wrong or to act as deterrent against doing something again that compromises their own safety and/or welfare.

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)

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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)

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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)

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)

There is a serious danger of false allegations by children against their parents, for example if children resent being told off or being denied something they can fabricate stories that can incriminate their parents in order to punish them. To administer reasonable physical punishment is a parent's right, to administer unreasonable punishment is not. The law as it stands is capable of distinguishing between the two and therefore protecting the rights of the parent and the child. Lack of discipline in today's society is a serious issue and removing parental discretion in this matter will only contribute to the disempowerment of them in helping to teach children right from wrong: ask any school teacher who has to deal with misbehaviour of children who have not been subject to sanctions that can correct their behaviour from an early, pre-school age.