

# **Legislative Proposal to Remove the Defence of Reasonable Punishment**

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1. Do you think our legislative proposal to remove the defence of reasonable punishment and prevent the use of corporal punishment will help achieve our stated aim of protecting children's rights?

No

**If no, why not?**

The last decade has produced a wide variety of research studying countries where this experimentation has been enacted. The evidence is overwhelming, that where traditional parenting (loving & firmly guiding" or as scientists call "Authoritative" parenting is criminalized, ten harms clearly manifest.

Within the last decade, several countries were studied, particularly in the EU (where MODERATE spanking is allowed, NOT "beating", and others where it has been banned for a significant period), and the culmination shows these effects. Astonishingly, some of the results come from staunch "anti-spanking" advocates.

Wherever non-abusive spanking is banned (criminalization of traditional or Authoritative parenting), and the longer it has been banned, these TEN harms are persistently observed:

(1) Increased rates of serious assaults on children by parents and caregivers (Cite Sweden where serious physical assaults doubled in the 1st year, was 3X the US rate in 8 years, and by 2010 was up 2,200% from the ban) Larzalere et al, 2010

(2) Increased child & youth violence rates (cite Sweden where child-on-child violence is up 2,555% to 2010 from 1979 ban; Austria's youth growing up under their ban were 500% as violent than the previous cohort raised with traditional parenting)

(3) Increased bullying / violence at school (cite 2002 WHO study showing Austria's 1989 ban lead to highest school bullying rates of 27 country study, in contrast, countries in the UK where spanking was most prevalent had the lowest school bullying rates)

(4) Increased CAS/CPS seizures of children from safe & loving homes, which facilitates increased trafficking into the state/foster-care & adoption industry (Cite Sweden and Norway who's child protection industry are the greatest apprehenders & traffickers of children in the West. In 1981 alone, Sweden stole children from their families - using spanking as an excuse - at a rate 3,400% greater than the 4 surrounding countries, to meet caseload quotas & revenue targets, Norway now does the same)

(5) Increased criminal prosecution of good parents, which facilitates parental alienation; negatively impacting child-development (Not technically true as protection workers and police show up to steal the children, cite New Zealand - by 2013, from the 2007 ban, a country with 4M people had increased CPS caseloads from 90,000 to 150,000 meaning 25% of all children are the subject of investigation)

(6) Increased mental health, behavioral & emotional disorders requiring medication or hospitalization (cite a 2013 study of New Zealands ban where hospitalization of children with severe behavioural issues was up 138% from the 2007 ban)

(7) Increased substance abuse & drug-induced death rates in later years (Cite IGR 2015, showing the first three spanking countries have the highest rates of substance abuse and drug-induced death rates)

(8) Increased child rape rates (Cite Sweden, from the 1979 ban to 2010, rapes of adults up 700%, rapes of children under 15, up 7,200%)

(9) Criminalization of normative parenting is one material factor deterring childbirths and collapsing societal fertility rates to extinction levels (Cite IGR 2015, the deterrent effect of criminalizing traditional parenting collapses birth rates by up to 0.5 children per female, fertility rate analysis of spanking ban vs non-ban countries)

(10) EU country comparisons show children growing up under these bans have significantly higher rates of domestic violence vs. children raised with traditional parenting (Cite Bussman 2011, and anti-spanking researcher, showed Sweden, first ban country had highest domestic violence rate of 34%, 32% in other spanking ban countries, 18% in spanking allowed countries)

Children's Rights & Family Rights & Parental Rights are inextricably intertwined. Using the blunt instrument of criminal law to harm one of them will harm all of them, as the overwhelming research from countries like Sweden, Austria and New Zealand already clearly demonstrates

2. In addition to our existing parenting support and information campaign are there any other support mechanisms you think we should put in place to support parents, carers and guardians?

Yes

**If yes, what are they?**

Parents should be educated that "Authoritative Parenting" has, over 60 years of research, proven to have the best developmental outcomes. Authoritative parenting has four key features: The four key features of Authoritative parenting are as follows: 1) Highly nurturing (love your children and let them know it continuously) 2) Highly demanding (set age-appropriate limits) 3) Highly responsive (enforce those limits with consistency), and; 4) A high proportion use moderate and occasional spanking ("smacking") as a back-up to a spectrum of other methods. Parents should be educated on how to use this astonishingly effective tool in a non-abusive way, with the intent to modify behaviour and improve the child. Wales should consider Canadian Law as a template - it is the most detailed, evidence-based spanking law on the planet, IMHO

3. What types of actions/behaviours would you consider to be "corporal punishment"?

Constructive physical discipline is defined as an open handed smack to an extremity or seat, and moderate open-handed spanking of the seat which effect is "no more than a temporary reddening of the skin". These are the three main ways spanking is used constructively. Anything else should be considered abuse, including smacking the child's face or head, using an implement (belt or ruler), any force that leaves marks and bruises or worse, force applied in anger with intent to cause harm and damage, ...

4. Do you agree with our understanding of potential impacts on public bodies in Wales arising from the legislative proposal?

Don't know

5. Is there additional guidance or training required to support frontline professionals?

Yes

**If yes please provide further details**

People have been deceived by a lot of "advocacy research" coming primarily from four names who design deceptive and methodologically flawed confirmation-biased research to support their foregone conclusions. That's not science, that's propaganda. Professionals need to put their personal ideologies aside, exit the echo chamber of political correctness, and look at objective research, which has consistently shown Authoritative parenting still produces the least-violent, best-adjusted, stable and well-functioning outcomes.

You are about to submit your response. Please ensure you are satisfied with the answers you have provided before sending.

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