

Section 58 Review - Responses to the Consultation - Statistics

Q1 To what extent has section 58 improved legal protection for children in cases of alleged assault by their parents?

There were 1310 responses to this question.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	Total	
Physical punishment should be banned	588	29	6	49	11	3	2	29	155	4	12	888	68%
Not at all	167	17	10	56	15	4	9	33	28	10	17	366	28%
Is ambiguous	108	13	2	17	10	0	4	14	28	1	4	201	15%
The term 'reasonable punishment' unsatisfactory	68	7	5	44	14	4	4	21	16	2	15	200	15%
Is confusing	81	10	4	28	11	3	4	12	11	7	8	179	14%
Were/are already protected under other laws	74	3	1	5	1	1	1	5	11	8	1	111	8%
Right to smack should be maintained	83	6	0	5	1	0	0	3	11	2	0	111	8%
Abusers will continue regardless of law	18	0	0	5	1	0	1	1	6	0	3	35	3%
Not improved enough	4	2	1	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	13	1%
Has improved legal protection	1	2	1	3	0	2	1	2	1	0	0	13	1%
Most parents aren't aware of Section 58	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	10	1%

Key

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Q2 To what extent have the changes brought about by section 58 altered the practice of those working with children and families in considering incidents involving an alleged assault by a parent upon a child?

There were 274 responses to this question.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	Total	
No change at all	28	9	9	29	12	4	7	23	1	2	5	129	47%
Has confused parents and professionals	23	4	0	16	3	1	3	4	2	3	4	63	23%
Zero tolerance to smacking	14	6	1	17	3	2	3	7	0	0	1	54	20%
Parents feel unsupported	28	1	0	3	0	1	0	3	4	5	0	45	16%
Children are now controlling parents	20	5	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	31	11%
Parents will continue to get away with smacking	7	1	0	3	5	0	0	2	0	1	1	20	7%
More training has been provided	1	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	2%

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Q3 To what extent have the changes to the law deterred parents from using unacceptable levels of physical punishment in the upbringing of children?

There were 570 responses to this question.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	Total	
Has not made much difference	149	17	8	35	13	2	6	20	25	6	8	289	51%
There is no acceptable level of punishment	145	13	3	36	10	1	5	14	27	2	9	265	46%
Loving parents scared of giving a firm smack	86	7	1	8	0	0	0	4	13	9	0	128	22%
Parents will still smack behind closed doors	29	3	0	11	3	1	1	2	4	2	3	59	10%
Changes have confused everyone	19	4	2	13	2	3	0	6	1	4	3	57	10%
Parent's believe they have the right to smack their child	22	6	2	6	3	2	0	7	1	0	4	53	9%
Parent's have not heard of law	8	0	1	4	1	1	3	4	1	0	0	23	4%
Education campaigns for parents needed	6	0	1	6	1	0	2	2	0	1	1	20	4%
Makes parents think before they act	5	0	0	4	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	13	2%

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Q4 To what extent have the changes to the law stimulated local agencies to help parents in knowing how to establish effective boundaries for their children?

There were 247 responses to this question.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	Total	
Less able to establish effective boundaries	54	5	2	20	5	0	1	14	5	7	6	119	48%
Been no help from agencies	36	5	2	9	3	0	1	7	0	2	2	67	27%
Extensive parent programmes	14	2	4	14	1	2	4	8	0	1	4	54	22%
Not clear around 'reasonable chastisement'	14	1	0	9	0	0	2	8	0	1	2	37	15%
Clear messages of acceptable behaviour given to parents	1	0	1	3	0	1	0	4	0	0	2	12	5%

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Q5 In your experience have the changes to the law assisted those working with children and families to protect children and support parents?

There were 297 responses to this question.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	Total	
Not at all	82	8	6	34	11	1	6	21	8	9	10	196	66%
Now more difficult/confusing	33	4	2	26	4	2	5	7	5	2	6	96	32%
Physical punishment should be banned	16	4	1	12	3	0	2	9	3	0	4	54	18%
Yes	1	1	1	3	0	2	1	4	0	0	1	14	5%

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Q6 To what extent is the legal position on the physical punishment of children widely understood by those working with children and families?

There were 332 responses to this question.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	Total	
Confusing/Not understood at all	98	12	9	44	12	6	9	34	10	11	7	252	76%
Well understood	12	4	5	10	3	0	3	8	0	0	5	50	15%
No physical punishment is acceptable	12	5	0	15	1	0	1	8	1	0	5	48	14%
Provided more training	0	1	4	2	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	13	4%
Professionals feel unsupported	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	9	3%

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Q7 If your answer to question 6 above was that the legal position was not widely understood, please tell us what would be your preferred way of improving this situation?

There were 299 responses to this question.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	Total	
No physical punishment is acceptable	38	9	1	32	6	3	3	22	2	3	11	130	43%
Repeal section 58	51	3	1	14	3	0	1	4	11	4	1	93	31%
Need to set boundaries/guidelines	25	2	3	3	1	1	1	4	2	3	2	47	16%
Make parents aware smacking is NOT illegal	21	3	0	3	0	0	0	1	6	1	0	35	12%
Public awareness raising campaign/media	7	1	3	9	0	2	6	7	0	0	0	35	12%
UN convention	6	6	0	7	0	0	0	4	2	0	3	28	9%
Provide training	4	0	0	2	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	12	4%

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Q8 Have the changes to the law had a differential effect on different groups of children and parents, including on the grounds of gender, race and disability, and if so, to what extent?

There were 195 responses to this question.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	Total	
Could lead to discrimination/skin colour	31	4	1	22	2	0	3	7	9	1	2	82	42%
Smacking is family culture for some religions	10	2	1	13	4	4	1	5	2	5	4	51	26%
Do not know	20	3	3	4	2	0	3	4	0	0	1	40	21%
No difference	6	2	1	5	0	1	2	7	0	0	3	27	14%
Yes	3	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	4%

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Q9 What are the key pieces of evidence that should be considered as part of this Review?

There were 800 responses to this question.

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Children should have same protective rights as adults	342	18	4	45	14	1	6	24	94	1	15	564	71%
UN Convention-rights of a child	25	9	5	44	6	1	5	14	14	2	8	133	17%
Talk to parents/polls	45	5	1	9	1	0	1	4	3	3	0	72	9%
Need family parenting package	42	1	1	7	1	2	1	5	7	1	1	69	9%
Swedish ban had negative effective	33	1	0	3	0	0	0	2	6	4	0	49	6%
Talk to children	9	0	2	10	0	0	4	1	1	0	4	31	4%
Need evidence of ineffectiveness of smacking	7	1	1	7	4	1	1	5	0	0	3	30	4%
Swedish ban had positive effective	5	1	0	4	1	0	1	4	1	0	1	18	2%
By the number of referrals	1	1	1	1	3	2	4	2	0	0	1	16	2%

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