

CAMPAIGN ACTION

Children are unbeatable!
An alliance of organisations and individuals seeking legal reform to give children the same protection under the law on assault as adults and promoting positive, non-violent discipline

PLEASE HELP US INCREASE POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR EQUAL PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN



More than 200 Westminster parliamentarians are already signed up to the aims of the Children Are Unbeatable! Alliance. We need to significantly increase this number to achieve equal protection for children in this Parliament. Please write to

WRITE TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AT

[first and surname] MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

OR at the MP's constituency address.

What should you say in your letter?

- + Explain that you are a constituent.
- + Explain that you are a supporter of the Children Are Unbeatable! Alliance.
- + Explain that the Alliance is the broadest campaign coalition ever assembled on a children's issue, bringing together more than 400 organisations and many more individuals.
- + Explain that the campaign for equal protection is a cross-party one and that there is already considerable support for this long-overdue social reform in both Houses of Parliament.
- + Summarise the case for equal protection... Children are the smallest and most fragile of citizens, yet the current law on assault gives them less protection than adults take for granted. This sends out a dangerous message and undermines efforts to promote positive, non-violent discipline. The only credible way to clarify the law is to give children equal protection from assault. This would satisfy obligations under important human rights agreements such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the European Social Charter. Hitting children is at least as unacceptable as hitting anyone else, and the law should say so.
- + Urge your MP to join you in supporting the Alliance.
- + **ENCLOSE THE FORM BELOW WITH YOUR LETTER.**

FOR INFORMATION/SUPPORT
Children Are Unbeatable! Alliance
020 7713 0569
info@endcorporalpunishment.org

SIGN UP NOW!

Children are unbeatable!

An alliance of organisations and individuals seeking legal reform to give children the same protection under the law on assault as adults and promoting positive, non-violent discipline

Children Are Unbeatable! Alliance aims

We believe that the traditional defence of "reasonable punishment" works against the aims which we and the Government of a modern UK share: the encouragement of positive parental discipline in all families, and assurance of effective child protection in the few cases where it is needed.

We believe it is both wrong and impracticable to seek to define acceptable forms of corporal punishment of children. Such an exercise is unjust. Hitting children is a lesson in bad behaviour.

Removing the defence of "reasonable punishment" and thus giving children in their homes and in all other settings equal protection under the law on assault is the only just, moral and safe way to clarify the law. While technically this would criminalize any assault of a child, trivial assaults, like trivial assaults between adults, would not be prosecuted. There already exist adequate means to prevent unwarranted or unhelpful prosecutions. It would on the other hand ease prosecution in serious cases. It would eliminate the current dangerous confusion over what is acceptable and provide a clear basis for child protection.

There is ample evidence from other countries to show that full legal reform, coupled with the promotion of effective means of positive discipline, works rapidly to reduce reliance on corporal punishment and reduces the need for prosecutions and other formal interventions in families. Using positive forms of discipline reduces stress and improves relationships between children, their parents and other carers.

I have read the aims of the Children Are Unbeatable! Alliance. Please add my name to the list of supporters.

Name _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Tel _____

Fax _____

Email _____

PLEASE RETURN TO

by post

Children Are Unbeatable! Alliance
94 White Lion Street
London
N1 9PF

by fax

020 7713 0466

