

## 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

### IS YOUR LOCAL GROUP SIGNED UP TO THE AIMS OF THE CHILDREN ARE UNBEATABLE! ALLIANCE?

More and more local groups are joining the Alliance to campaign for equal protection for children. These include:



Faith groups

Trade union branches

Youth groups

Local political party organisations

Women's groups

Student unions

Parent groups

Community associations

Professional networks

Business groups

Local councils

Other campaign groups

If you are involved in any of these type of organisations, please try to get them to support the Alliance.

Below is a **model resolution** that you could table for discussion at a forthcoming meeting. And on following pages, there is an **order form** so you can have materials to distribute to people at the meeting and a **sign up form** for the group or organisation to complete and return at the end of the process.

#### MODEL RESOLUTION

##### EQUAL PROTECTION FROM ASSAULT IS EVERY CHILD'S HUMAN RIGHT

Notes that the bodies responsible for monitoring implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the (Council of Europe) European Social Charter have confirmed unequivocally that conformity with these treaties requires that children have the same protection as adults under the law on assault.

Notes that in England and Wales children have less protection because the law (section 58 of the Children Act 2004) allows parents and others to justify common assault of children as "reasonable punishment".

Notes that the Children Are Unbeatable! Alliance - the broadest campaign coalition ever formed on a children's issue in the UK - is campaigning for the law on assault to be modernised to give children equal protection.

Believes that the law allowing "reasonable punishment" is unjust and unsafe, and does not satisfy human rights obligations under important UN and Council of Europe agreements.

Believes that children should have equal protection from assault and that the law should send the clear message that hitting children is as unacceptable as hitting anyone else.

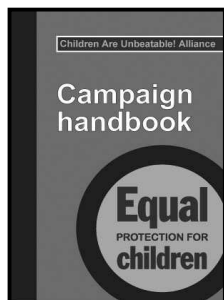
Resolves to campaign for equal protection for children by:

- a) lobbying MPs, Peers and Ministers; and
- b) signing up to the aims of the Children Are Unbeatable! Alliance.

# 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

## ORDER FORM



### 1. CAMPAIGN HANDBOOK

Facts & arguments for activists.

Quantity

max 50

### 2. CAMPAIGN LEAFLET

Introduce friends, family or work colleagues to the aims of the Alliance.

max 200

### 3. CAMPAIGN BRIEFING

Human rights pressure for equal protection for children.

max 20

### 4. CAMPAIGN POSTER

A2 size poster one side, campaign information on the other, folded to A4 broadsheet.

max 10

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANISATION (IF ANY) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN TO

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

# 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/We have read the aims of the Alliance. Please add my/our name to the list of supporters.**

Name/name of organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Contact at organisation (if applic) \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN TO**

**by post**

**Children Are Unbeatable! Alliance**

**94 White Lion Street**

**London**

**N1 9PF**

**by fax**

**020 7713 0466**

