

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 GET LOCAL COUNCILLORS TO SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN



To strengthen the campaign still further, it is vital that we get elected representatives at all levels to sign up to the aims of the Children Are Unbeatable! Alliance.

Please write to the local Councillor/s in your ward.

You may have district *and* county Councillors representing you, or you may live in a unitary authority. The website for your Council/s will usually provide names and addresses of councillors, often under the heading "Council and democracy".

If you have time, please also write to local Councillors responsible for children's issues. This will usually be the Cabinet/Executive spokesperson on Children's and Young People's Services and the spokespeople from opposition parties, or perhaps the Councillors sitting on a Children's Services Scrutiny Committee or Partnership Board.

What should you say in your letter?

- + Explain that you are a local resident and 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.
- + Summarise the case for equal protection for children... 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 the promotion of positive, non-violent discipline. Modernising the law on assault to give children equal protection is an obligation under important human rights agreements such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Hitting children is at least as unacceptable as hitting anyone else, and the law should say so.
- + Urge your Councillor 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

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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 Alliance. Please add my name to the list of supporters.

Name _____

Signed _____

Tel _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Address _____

PLEASE RETURN TO

by post

Children Are Unbeatable! Alliance

94 White Lion Street

London

N1 9PF

