

## **Church of Scotland General Assembly votes to prohibit corporal punishment of children**

**24 May 2016**

Commissioners at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland voted in favour of calling on Scottish ministers and parliamentarians at Holyrood to acknowledge the recommendations of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and remove the defence of "justifiable assault" from the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003.

"We now add the Church's voice to many other organisations to call upon the Scottish Government to remove the defence of justifiable assault, granting children the same rights that every adult enjoys in this area.

"Bringing up children is one of the most challenging privileges any of us can face. But in performing this privilege we must not negate the rights of the child. As parents, as a Church, as a society we want the best for our children. As a Church we will work with parents and others to support them in doing that."

The General Assembly instructed the Church and Society Council to join relevant campaigns including Children are Unbeatable! Scotland which seeks to end the corporal punishment of children.

Commissioners also urged officials to work with the Church's social care arm CrossReach and Safeguarding service to provide access to resources to support the development of non-violent parenting skills.

Further information is available on the Church of Scotland website

[http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/recent/general\\_assembly\\_calls\\_for\\_law\\_change\\_to\\_protect\\_children](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/recent/general_assembly_calls_for_law_change_to_protect_children)