



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Bill  
Notice of Amendments tabled on  
21 January 2022 for Consideration Stage

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**New Clause**

After clause 3 insert -

**‘Abolition of defence of reasonable chastisement**

**3A.—**(1) The common law defence, that the physical punishment of a child in the exercise of a parental right or a right derived from having charge or care of the child is justifiable if it constitutes reasonable punishment and is therefore not an assault, ceases to have effect.’

(2) Section 2 of The Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 is repealed.’

*Ms Sinéad Bradley*

*Miss Rachel Woods*

*Ms Sinéad Ennis*

**New Clause**

After clause 3 insert -

**‘Abolition of common law defence of reasonable punishment**

**3A.—**(1) The common law defence of reasonable punishment is abolished in relation to corporal punishment of a child.

(2) Accordingly, corporal punishment of a child cannot be justified in any civil or criminal proceedings on the ground that it constituted reasonable punishment.

(3) Nor can corporal punishment of a child be justified in any civil or criminal proceedings on the ground that it constituted acceptable conduct for the purposes of any other rule of the common law.

(4) For the purposes of this section, “corporal punishment” means any battery carried out as a punishment or chastisement.’

*Ms Paula Bradshaw*