

Community Safety Unit
Department of Justice
4th Floor East, Millennium House
17-25 Great Victoria Street
Belfast
BT2 7AQ

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Extension of offence in Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004) to include:
“causing or allowing serious physical harm to a child or vulnerable adult.”**

NSPCC in Northern Ireland is grateful for the opportunity to respond to the named consultation and we strongly support the extension of the cited legislation which we believe will provide increased protection for children and vulnerable adults across Northern Ireland who are at risk of serious physical harm from members of their own household.

We know that the proposed provisions and suggested sentence outlined in the consultation document have been informed by the 2012 England and Wales amendment, of which the NSPCC campaigned extensively. We therefore agree that these measures should progress in Northern Ireland, without delay to ensure that any one *causing or allowing serious physical harm to a child or vulnerable adult* will be brought to justice and feel the full force of the law.

I hope these comments are useful and we would be very happy to discuss further with you.

Yours faithfully,



NÝad f Wjkgf
NÚ agf ÚdHÝÚWgÛSYj naJY - NI

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR