

# Proposed Sanitary Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill

## Page 2: About you

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

on behalf of an organisation

Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose "Member of the public".)

*No Response*

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)

Please choose one of the following; if you choose the first option, please provide your name or the name of your organisation as you wish it to be published.

I am content for this response to be attributed to me or my organisation

Please insert your name or the name of your organisation. If you choose the first option above, this should be the name as you wish it to be published. If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Manjit K Gill

Please provide details of a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number. We will not publish these details.

## Page 7: Your views on the proposal

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

Fully Supportive

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I setup Binti International with a vision to create a world where all women have Menstrual dignity. We are a registered charity in the U.K. We raise donations and run collection drives so that we can supply vulnerable women with sanitary pads. We also provide Menstrual Education which we have designed and developed over the past 3.5 years. We have to eliminate period poverty from the U.K. we also have to accept there is a lot of Menstrual shame which means we leave young girls to bleed once a month without adequate care to ensure they are healthy.

## Page 8: Universal provision of sanitary products

Q2. Do you think a universal, card-based system (modelled on the c-card system for free condoms) would be an effective means of providing sanitary products for free to those who need them?

Unsure

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I don't know how the card system works. But we believe sanitary pads should be available like toilet paper is. That means in public toilets, in offices and schools at a minimum. We are a Developed nation but we don't treat our women with dignity and respect for a normal body function which is designed to allow us to give life.

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view in relation to a card-based system?

There is no need for a card scheme

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

A fair system is to make organisations provide them for all women. Guess what women use in between purchasing sanitary products? Or how much productivity is lost because girls and women have to run to the shops because they started their period? Most all! We should have sanitary pads available everywhere.

Q4. Do you have a view on which locations would be most suitable for dispensing free sanitary products (e.g. GP surgeries, pharmacies, community centres, health clinics)?

Any place with toilets. Wherever there is toilet paper.

## Page 11: Schools, colleges and universities

Q5. Do you agree that there should be specific obligations on schools, colleges and universities to make sanitary products available for free (via dispensers in toilets)?

Yes

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Q5. Do you agree that there should be specific obligations on schools, colleges and universities to make sanitary products available for free (via dispensers in toilets)?

So girls do not miss school. Or leave school to go buy pads.

## Page 12: Personal experience (questions 6 and 7 are for individual respondents only)

Q6. Have you ever struggled to access or afford sanitary products during menstruation? (e.g. financial barriers, unexpected circumstances, health issues)

**Please explain or give an example of your experience if you feel able to do so.**

All the women that we have spoken to tell us that they use toilet paper in between their cycles if they have run out of products. That's just silly and a waste of toilet paper.

Q7. If sanitary products were available for free, which of the following would apply to you?

I would not expect to claim free products

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

But it would be nice to access them in public places if I suddenly started. I can afford them. But every now and again I get caught out. I have to stop what I'm doing and go buy something instantly. It means walking with my legs closed together as tight as possible so that I don't leak blood everywhere.

## Page 14: Financial implications

Q8. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

	Significant increase in cost	Some increase in cost	Broadly cost-neutral	Some reduction in cost	Significant reduction in cost	Unsure
(a) Government and the public sector (e.g. local authorities, the NHS)				X		
(b) Colleges and universities		X				
(c) Businesses (including suppliers/retailers of sanitary products)	X					
(d) Individuals (including consumers of sanitary products)				X		

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Q8. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

The government can be rest assured that if they provide pads for girls and women. They will also realise how much time girls and women were wasting to stop what they are doing and urgently go and buy products. Schools may have to have increased budgets however the manufacturers should ensure they provide cheap alternate pricing for them. Business's provide toilet paper anyway which is often used as sanitary products so it would be interesting to see what the increase would be. Manufacturers of pads should be help responsible for choosing who menstruates with dignity and who does not. The girls and women who benefit the most will be those that cannot afford them. And they need them the most. We are happy to provide a low cost pad that we produce abroad for the market at 50pence a packet. Let us know if you are interested dear government

Q9. Are there ways in which the Bill could achieve its aim more cost-effectively (e.g. by reducing costs or increasing savings)?

Yes by sourcing lower coated products which we are happy to supply.

## Page 16: Equalities

Q10. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on equality, taking account of the following protected characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010): age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation?

Positive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Women bleed irrespective of their economic status or the colour of their skin. If you are disabled blind or cannot hear you still bleed. If you are a woman running from domestic violence you still menstruate. Any person that menstruates benefits from equal access to a normal biology process.

Q11. In what ways could any negative impact of the proposed Bill on equality be minimised or avoided?

Menstrual education as a stand alone topic. It's about time that we taught everything about it including how to deal with the the emotional aspect of it. Boys should know too. Please let us pitch our education program designed exactly to minimise the shame with periods and to empower girls to know what is happening to their bodies.

## Page 18: Sustainability

Q12. Do you consider that the proposed Bill can be delivered sustainably i.e. without having likely future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impacts?

Yes

**Please explain the reasons for your response:**

There are a number of sustainable options. Pass the tampon tax collected for organisations low ours to run this for you. There are other products on the market including reusable ones again that we can supply. And

Q12. Do you consider that the proposed Bill can be delivered sustainably i.e. without having likely future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impacts?

creating a model where all women have access is one that will always work. Her blood is not bluer than mine.

## Page 19: General

Q13. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal?

Please check out our work at [Binti.co.uk](http://Binti.co.uk) look at the #SmashShame you will find lots of ways that we try to normalise the period discussion. Would be very happy to give you access to all of the stories we have collected at grass root level. Thousands of stories globally.