

From: [Lily Sp](#)
To: [sentencingcouncil](#)
Subject: YRAR Submission
Date: Friday, 6 December 2024 8:50:57 AM

As a survivor I am writing to support the #YourReferneceAintRelevant campaign and call for the removal of good character references in sentencing for crimes like child sexual abuse, domestic violence and rape.

Hearing that my offender's "good character" was referenced during the legal process was deeply retraumatising. It sent the message that his reputation mattered more than the harm he caused me. These references diminish the severity of the crime and fail to acknowledge how offenders often use their perceived trustworthiness to commit these acts.

Good character references have no place in cases like mine. By allowing them, the justice system risks retraumatising survivors and undermining the accountability offenders should face.

I urge the Sentencing Council to recommend the removal of character references from sentencing in all of these cases. It's time for the legal system to prioritise survivors and reflect the reality of these crimes in the processes.

Thankyou for considering my submission.

Sent from my iPhone