

**From:** [Jessie Foley](#)  
**To:** [sentencingcouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Reference Ain't Relevant Campaign  
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Hi, i'm writing in support of the #yourreferenceaintrelevant campaign to remove good character references from sentencing in cases of child sexual abuse, domestic violence, and rape.

Good character references are often used to describe men as 'good blokes' and 'family men', it could be argued that these traits only demonstrate the deceptive and manipulative behaviours of perpetrators.

Theses references retraumatise survivors and diminish the severity of these crimes. The crime of sexual assault, particularly when it involves children, is abhorrent and cruel and character references should not even be a consideration in these cases.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Jessie