

From: [Cade Burgess](#)
To: [sentencingcouncil](#)
Subject: Your reference ain't relevant
Date: Wednesday, 12 February 2025 10:19:04 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for the #yourreferenceaintrelevant campaign, and its stance against the use of character references in sexual assault criminal investigations.

Abusers are master manipulators and purposefully mask their behaviours from their community through charm and deception. These illusory tactics should not be allowed to affect the outcome of a criminal trial.

Victim survivors are inherently retraumatized through the legal proceeding involved with pressing charges, and subjecting them to inaccurate character references of their perpetrator(s) pushes them further away from a clear and accurate version of events. It is the courts responsibility to deliver an honest narrative, this is the absolute bare minimum that survivors deserve.

Cade Burgess