

From: Jemma Russell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 6 December 2024 2:59 PM
To: sentencingcouncil
Subject: #yourReferenceAintRelevant campaign support

To whom it may concern,

As a community member deeply invested in justice and fairness, I am writing to support the #YourReferenceAintRelevant campaign and the removal of good character references in sentencing for crimes such as child sexual abuse, domestic violence, and rape. These references allow offenders to weaponise trust and reputation - often the very tools they used to commit their crimes.

Allowing good character to mitigate sentencing retraumatizes survivors and undermines the severity of these offences.

Our justice system must do better. Survivors should not have to endure a process that prioritises an offenders reputation over their voices and the harm they have endured.

I urge the Sentencing Council to deliver meaningful reform by recommending abolishing good character references in these cases. It's time to create a legal system that truly prioritises justice and the well-being of survivors.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Kind regards,
Jemma Russell