

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [sentencingcouncil](#)  
**Subject:** In support of #YourReferenceAintRelevant  
**Date:** Wednesday, 12 February 2025 4:54:18 PM

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Dear Sir/Madame,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the practice of providing character references for individuals convicted of serious crimes such as child sex offences, rape, and domestic violence. The idea that such offenders can still be publicly supported and regarded as "upstanding members of the community" is not only disturbing but also undermines the experiences of victims and the severity of these crimes.

For anyone to offer a character reference for a perpetrator of such offences raises serious questions about their own judgement, moral compass, and even their mental stability. If a person can vouch for the "good character" of someone who has committed such acts, it calls into question their ability to assess character at all.

Supporting offenders in this way contributes to a culture where these crimes are minimised, and it fails to prioritise the safety and well-being of victims and the broader community. The focus should instead be on ensuring accountability, supporting survivors, and reinforcing that such actions are utterly unacceptable.

I urge you to consider the broader implications of allowing character references to be used in these cases and to take steps to ensure that justice is truly served.

Sincerely,

**Leanne Lenassi MBA**

[REDACTED]  
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