

**From:** [tiffany.mak](#)  
**To:** [sentencingcouncil](#)  
**Subject:** YourReferenceAintRelevant // Plea for change  
**Date:** Friday, 14 February 2025 1:39:38 PM

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Dear Madame,

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, DV and rape.

These references allow offenders to weaponise trust and reputation - often the very tools they used to commit the crimes. Allowing good character references to mitigate sentences retraumatises survivors and undermines the severity of these offences.

Our justice system must do better. Survivors deserve better.

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 wellbeing of survivors.

Regards,

Tiffany