

From: [Jonathan Mak](#)
To: [sentencingcouncil](#)
Subject: Community Ally Supporting Survivors and Advocating for Justice
Date: Friday, 14 February 2025 4:03:17 PM

As a community member and a member of the medical profession, I am writing to support the #YourReferenceaintRelevant campaign to remove good character reference from sentencing in cases of child sexual abuse, domestic, violence and rape.

These references do not reduce the suffering and long term psychological damage to the victim. Furthermore, these references remain meaningless in the real world situation and those references can often be obtained in dubious circumstances and dependent upon the social standing of the offender. Hence the system often favours those offender with higher social standing.

The justice system needs to be created for the victim and not for the offender.

I therefore urge the Sentencing Council to abolish good character references in these cases.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Dr Jonathan Mak