

**From:** Jessi Salonen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 10 December 2024 1:45 PM  
**To:** sentencingcouncil  
**Subject:** Reform : #YourReferenceAintRelevant Campaign

Dear NSW Sentencing Council,

As a survivor, I am writing to support the #YourReferenceAintRelevant campaign and call for the removal of good character references in sentencing for crimes with child sex abuse, domestic violence, and rape.

The perpetrators of child sex abuse, domestic violence, and rape can be excellent manipulators with regards to their external representation to others and society. It can be a part of their psychopathic nature, to present as charismatic, funny, likable people. It is only their victims, who have to experience their horrendous, evil side behind closed doors, and in secret. The "good" character of a psychopath is part of their psychopathic characteristic. It cannot be seen as good, it can only confirm their evil.

I urge the Sentencing council to recommend the removal of good character references from sentencing in all of these cases. It's time for the legal system to prioritise survivors and reflect the reality of these crimes in its processes.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Kind Regards,  
Jessi Salonen  
[REDACTED]