

From: Rhiannon King [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 12 December 2024 7:26 PM
To: sentencingcouncil
Subject: #YourReferenceAintRelevant campaign submission

As a community member deeply invested in justice and fairness, I am writing to support the #YourReferenceAintRelevant campaign and the removal of good character 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 re-traumatises 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 offender's 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,
Rhiannon King