

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 16 December 2024 1:40 PM  
**To:** sentencingcouncil  
**Subject:** Submission : Good character in sentencing

As a survivor, I am writing to support the #YourReferenceAintRelevant campaign and strongly implore the Council to remove the good character references in sentencing for crimes like child sexual abuse, domestic violence and rape.

As a woman having fled a domestic violence situation from my former fiancé, I knew when speaking to police initially that my abuser's 'good character' would have been focused on if we proceeded to a formal complaint and pressing charges, and eventually, court.

His public facing, pillar-of-the-community facade would have been paramount to painting the picture he was a loving and caring partner. Whilst who he truly is behind closed doors would not be considered or believed.

Knowing this, I did not proceed to a formal complaint and instead chose to hide myself and my daughter to protect ourselves, changing our entire lives in order to keep us safe.

Months after fleeing, I discovered I was his *sixth fiancé*. His predictable pattern of abuse was also revealed. This reinforced yet again how the fear of not being believed due to the disguise of his public veneer has helped him get away with horrendous abuse, time and time again.

Thank you for considering my submission.

