

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 16 December 2024 10:40 PM
To: sentencingcouncil
Subject: Your reference aint relevant campaign

Dear Sentencing Council,

It takes great courage for anyone especially as a young person who has endured sexual assault by an older person, to tell someone what happened to them let alone go through the court system.

I speak as a someone who has lived with the impacts of childhood sexual abuse by the hands of an elderly male neighbour. Someone who abused me and attempted to rape me in his marital bed until thank god for me at the age of 6 his wife walked in.

I told my parents and police but was redirected away from the judicial system by police and DCJ because they told my parents it would cause me more harm than good because the system was not set up to protect me but set up to protect peodaphiles and he would have good character references that would go against everyting I said and even at the age of 8 when i finally disclosed to my mother when I had the language to tell her, my family protected me and decided not to go through the court process.

I wanted to make sure that man never hurt another child but instead he moved away and he was free to commit further crimes against children and I didn't get to have my day in court or protect other children.

I would like to request that character references are not accepted by those convicted of sexual abuse or any abuse of children.

Children should be safe from harm, and we should do everything in our power to protect children, including protecting them from further retraumatisation.

If a person is convicted of sexually abusing a child, they are not of good character, no matter how good they might appear in society. It's part of their fascade, and the damage they cause their victims is lifelong. I know this damage first hand. It permeates every aspect of my life. And that man is free.

It needs to stop now and we need to protect our children.

I'm begging you to please to end good characters reference to convicted peodaphiles becuae I would like to see a court process that supports victims.

Warm regards,