

From: [REDACTED]
To: [sentencingcouncil](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Support for Abolishing Character References in Child Sexual Abuse Cases
Date: Tuesday, 11 February 2025 2:02:00 PM

Dear Sentencing Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the campaign to abolish character references in cases involving individuals convicted of child sexual abuse.

Allowing offenders to submit character references for reduced sentences prioritizes their reputations over the suffering and trauma endured by survivors. It sends the wrong message that the character of the offender can outweigh the impact on the victim, undermining the principles of justice and fairness.

Abusers often work hard to cultivate a "good guy" image, using their positive reputation to gain trust and access to vulnerable children. This carefully constructed persona is not only a tool to enable further abuse but is also used to discredit victims when accusations are made, making it more difficult for them to be believed.

Abolishing this provision would ensure that the focus is on the harm caused to victims and that perpetrators of such heinous crimes are held fully accountable for their actions. This is an opportunity for meaningful reform, and I urge the Sentencing Council to take decisive action in support of this change.

Thank you for considering this important issue.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]