

**From:** [Mary](#) [REDACTED]  
**To:** [sentencingcouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Submission on the Review of Section 21A(5A)  
**Date:** Tuesday, 11 February 2025 3:42:26 PM

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To the NSW Sentencing Council,

**RE : Submission on the Use of Good Character References in Sentencing**

As a concerned citizen, I am writing to add my support to the #yourreferenceaintrelevant campaign to remove good character references from sentencing in cases of child sexual abuse, domestic violence, and rape.

In cases such as these, it is their perceived “good character” and trustworthiness that perpetrators use on to commit such heinous acts of violence, to avoid detection within the community and to cause tremendous and permanent harm to their victims.

It is time that the justice system recognises this and stops applying any weighing to the reputation of offenders.

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 to reflect the reality of how these crimes are committed in its processes.

Thank you for considering this submission.