

From: [REDACTED]
To: [sentencingcouncil](https://www.sentencingcouncil.nsw.gov.au/)
Subject: Good Character References Submission
Date: Tuesday, 11 February 2025 5:25:45 PM

Dear NSW Sentencing Council,

As a survivor of sexual abuse, I am writing in support of the YOUR REFERENCE AINT RELEVANT campaign to remove good character references from sentencing when dealing with child sexual abuse, domestic violence and rape.

During my own court case 25 good character references were submitted in relation to my abuser who was my teacher.

When people (people the victim also likely knows personally) provide these references they cause further significant harm to the victim and broader community.

In most cases of child sexual abuse and in other cases of DV and abuse, it is someone close to the victim and therefore the individual is likely to be in good standing within their community and/or a person with authority over that person and/or child.

So few victims come forward to authorities to report their abuse, and go to court over the matter because of so many reasons. One of them is good character references.

The insanely paradoxical nature of the common law should not be considered as mitigating in sentencing.

I would like to remain anonymous.