

**From:** [Alice Delavale-Wickens](#)  
**To:** [sentencingcouncil](#)  
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As a concerned human being, I strongly support the #YourReferenceAintRelevant campaign. Good character references simply are not relevant in defending someone who has committed heinous crimes like rape, sexual assault, child abuse and other forms of violence against women, men, non-binary folk and children. These serious offenses require accountability and justice, regardless of anyone's reputation or connections. We must prioritize protecting survivors and preventing future harm over protecting perpetrators' reputations. Character references cannot excuse or justify such horrific acts - those responsible must face full consequences for their actions.

Sure, your mates might be nice to you - but that doesn't mean they didn't rape someone at a party.

Sure, your colleague of high power might've helped you climb the corporate ladder - that does not mean they're not coercively controlling their significant other.

Sure, your mentor might have helped you out - that does not mean they didn't abuse their niece or nephew.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Alice Delavale Wickens

