

From: Olivia Campos [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 6 December 2024 1:59 PM
To: sentencingcouncil
Subject: Submission in support of the consultation paper for Good Character in Sentencing

As a survivor, I am writing to support the #YourReferenceAintRelevant campaign and call for the removal of good character references in sentencing for crimes like child sexual abuse, domestic violence, and rape.

My offender used many good character references from their family, partner and friends. Hearing my offender's "good character" referenced during the legal process was deeply retraumatising. It sent the message that their reputation mattered more than the harm they caused me. Further, hearing people I used to consider friends and family reject what happened to me, even though they were convicted, led to years of retraumatisation.

These references diminish the severity of the crime and fail to acknowledge how offenders often use their perceived trustworthiness to commit these acts. Good character references should have no place in cases like mine. By allowing them, the justice system risks retraumatising survivors and undermining the accountability offenders should face.

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 reflect the reality of these crimes in its processes. Thank you for considering my submission.

I am a survivor of rape and i denounce the use of "good character references" for all convicted offenders of child sexual abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault and rape.

Regards
Olivia Campos