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To: sentencingcouncil
Subject: Good character in sentencing

In child sexual abuse, family violence and rape cases, 'good character references' should not be considered as they distract from the core issue: the defendant's actions. These references often focus on an individual's overall reputation, rather than their behavior in the specific context of the abuse. Allowing them can create a misleading narrative, undermining the seriousness of the charges. The character of an individual does not excuse or mitigate criminal conduct, particularly in the context of child sexual abuse, where the impact on the victim is paramount. #YourReferencesAintRelevant