

From: [Lillian Starrett](#)
To: [sentencingcouncil](#)
Subject: Abolish the 'Good Character Reference' for child sex abusers
Date: Wednesday, 15 May 2024 8:57:11 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support of the #yourreferenceaintrelevant campaign. I am of the belief that most child sexual predators are masters of compartmentalism. The reputation and behaviours that they present to adults is carefully crafted as to not raise suspicion of their wrongdoings. Child sexual abusers can be skilled in manipulation and coercion, and in many cases these people put a concerted effort into gaining access to their victim unbeknownst to the protectors of that child. These efforts take place in many forms such as online, through trusted adults of the child, in environments that are typically child friendly and even in public spaces under the guise of innocent interactions. I argue that child sexual predators are incapable of possessing a "good character" as they operate on the basis of taking advantage of a societal and physiological power imbalance. Furthermore, the impact of using a "good character" reference to lessen a sentence for an alleged child sex predator can be detrimental to the victim/survivors. It perpetuates victim-blaming by questioning the integrity of the accuser and allowing support for the accused to change the judiciary outcome, an impactful opportunity that the victims/survivors don't have.

I don't believe that these predators deserve the opportunity to have character references taken into account when sentencing as social networking with adults is usually an operative to masquerade while they abuse the most vulnerable of our society.

Regards,
A concerned citizen.