

From: [Anne Soares](#)
To: [sentencingcouncil](#)
Subject: Removal of Good Character References
Date: Thursday, 4 July 2024 12:31:01 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am emailing you to remove the provision of good character references for convicted child sex offenders.

There is no room for good character references in cases of child sexual abuse. Pedophilia is a crime and should be treated as one, meaning that these perpetrators must be held accountable for their actions. Regardless of whether these perpetrators are friends or family of the victim, no child deserves to suffer through sexual abuse and it is appalling that these children are also being re-traumatised in the courtroom with irrelevant good character references.

Children and survivors deserve justice for the traumatic sexual abuse that they are forced to carry with them for the rest of their lives. We need to do better. Listen to the #YourReferenceAintRelevant campaign and utilise this opportunity to enact meaningful change for children and survivors.

Kind regards,
Anne Soares