

From: [Liam Vosu](#)
To: [sentencingcouncil](#)
Subject: Submission Review: Character References in Sentencing Under Section 21A(5A)
Date: Monday, 8 July 2024 3:16:14 PM

Dear Sentencing Council, I am writing to submit my preliminary input regarding the review of section 21A(5A) of the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999 (NSW), along with other relevant sections and the common law pertaining to the use of “character” in sentencing.

I strongly believe that references to “good character” in sentencing, especially in cases involving sexual abuse, should be removed. Allowing such references can create a societal perception that individuals who commit these crimes can be excused or given leniency based on their perceived positive traits.

This not only undermines the severity of the crime but also perpetuates a harmful culture that does not fully support or protect victim-survivors. Thank you for considering my input. I look forward to the outcomes of this review.

Best regards,
Liam Vosu