

**From:** [Jane Kanizay](#)  
**To:** [sentencingcouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Good character in sentencing  
**Date:** Monday, 8 July 2024 9:23:04 PM

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I am writing to support changes to

## Good character in sentencing

By the very nature of sexual abuse against children, the perpetrator can never be of good character. Any perceived good character of the perpetrators is simply part of the grooming process. Grooming by perpetrators is done not only to the individual victim of child sexual assault but also to the community. Perpetrators place themselves intentionally in positions with access to children and in positions of trust, be it a family member or trusted friend. Their manipulation of the friends and family of the child sexual assault victim is an orchestrated part of their assault of the child.

The child sexual assault victim then suffers a secondary trauma when referees are brought before the court to dismiss the damage done to the child by giving a good character reference. It dismisses the pain and suffering of the child in direct contrast to the consequences on the perpetrators.

The very nature of the crime of child sexual assault, which has life long implications for the child victim, necessitates a strong punishment by the justice system. Otherwise our systems are not delivering justice but protecting perpetrators.

It can be seen from the huge numbers of perpetrators in front of courts daily that a stronger response as both deterrent and punishment is required. The child sexual assault victim must always be centred in the justice system, not the perpetrators.

Yours sincerely

Jane

JANE KANIZAY

