

From: [Grace Malone](#)
To: [sentencingcouncil](#)
Date: Tuesday, 9 July 2024 6:08:05 PM

Dear Mr McClellan and the NSW Sentencing council,

I am writing to provide my input into review of section 21A(5A) to the crimes (sentencing procedure) Act 1999 (NSW) and other relevant sections concerning the use of "good character" in sentencing, particularly for child sex abuse cases.

As a concerned member of the community, I believe it's crucial to ensure that our sentencing framework reflects the seriousness of child sexual offences and hold perpetrators fully accountable for their actions. The use of good character references in these cases undermines the gravity of the seriousness of the crimes as well as the often life long harm caused to victims.

I believe that good character references should not be considered in these cases as they diminish the severity of the offences and hinder justice for victims. It's essential to prioritise the protection and wellbeing of victims and ensure that offenders are held fully accountable for their actions. Victims of crime have already been failed by society and have the burden of the economic, mental and physical toll sexual crimes take on a person they shouldn't have to the additional burden of listening to the "good character" of the offender and for that supposedly good character to impact sentencing in anyway.

As a victim of aggravated rape who now has become physically disabled and as well as dealing with PTSD. Every day I feel broken, to have your own body been used as a weapon against you is a pain I can't describe. My back was severely injured in the attacks and therefore every step I take I'm constantly reminded of the pain of what's been done to me. I'm writing this to provide context for the seriousness of these crimes and they often permanent damage. An offenders "good character" has no weight in these crimes if someone had "good character" they wouldn't commit sexual offences.

Thank you for considering my submission sincerely,
Grace Malone