

Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

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Submitter Comments:

While I believe everyone deserves a fair trial, falsely supporting perpetrators and suggesting their 'good character' somehow lessens the severity of their acts is grossly unfair and insulting to victims and their families. People with good character don't harm other people. They don't inflict pain on other people. Abusers and narcissists are some of the most wrongly represented people in society, as they appear to be good decent people, holding responsible jobs, yet they repeatedly inflict pain while breaking the law. Their victims are often the only ones to witness their real character, so we should at least allow those who truly know them, to have the opportunity to share their 'character reference' with a jury. Allowing family and friends, who often don't have any idea of the pain their loved one has inflicted, a platform to provide a false reference is not conducive to a fair and just judicial system.