

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

Submission No: 174
Submitted by: Elizabeth Brown
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

As a survivor of numerous sexual assaults, it is my belief that it's the most heinous act that can be done to another person. It completely strips you of your bodily autonomy, and absolutely erodes your sense of self. It destroys trust, and your mental health. Which is why it's completely and utterly repulsive to me that those who are, in the very rare occasion, held to account and prosecuted for their crimes - have the right to have good character references read out in court in hopes for leniency in their sentence. If you are capable of committing such an act on another person - then you are not a good person, plain and simple. You are not a "good person who made a mistake" - you did not "make a mistake" or have a "temporary lapse of judgement" - you are a monster. The justice system should not be protecting, and allowing leniency towards people who commit these disgusting acts of violence - especially towards children. The victim/survivors of these acts and their loved ones are dragged through hell and back trying to get justice - and they deserve so much better. They shouldn't have to hear how their assailant is a "great person". Please, do the right thing by survivors and abolish the permission of good character references in instances of these heinous and vile attacks. The justice system should be for the survivor, not protecting the abuser.