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SOCIAL MEDIA ROLE IN JUSTICE AVOCACY

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In recent years, social media has become a powerful tool for social and political change across the globe. In Nigeria, platforms such as Twitter (now X), Facebook, Instagram, and Tik-Tok have evolved beyond entertainment to serve as channels for civic engagement, activism, and justice advocacy. They provide spaces where ordinary citizens can amplify their voices, demand accountability, and mobilize for justice in a country where traditional media and institutions often fall short.

Social media plays a crucial role in justice advocacy campaigns like #JusticeForOchanya#, by rapidly mobilizing public support, demanding accountability from authorities, and preventing cases from being forgotten.

Seven years after the death of 13-year-old Ochanya Ogbanje who died from sexual abuse complications, the case resurfaced on social media in October 2025, leading to an uproar. People protested in markets and signed petitions, celebrities spoke out, women's rights organisations, such as Niger Feminist Idea (NFM), released a press statement, and lawmakers requested that the relatives contact them.

Following the uproar, the Ministry of Justice confirmed that Benue State has reopened the case against the perpetrator, citing "new evidence from government prosecutors."

Social media has become a powerful catalyst for judicial advocacy in Nigeria driving transparency, mobilization, and reform. While it is not without flaws, its ability to amplify voices, mobilize movements, and foster accountability makes it an indispensable tool in the pursuit of social justice today.
