

THE HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER
Ministry of Women and Social Welfare
State Secretariat
Awka, Anambra State.

Dear Honourable Commissioner,

**PETITION FOR URGENT INTERVENTION IN THE CASE OF THE ALLEGED
ABDUCTION, SEXUAL ABUSE AND ATTEMPTED TRAFFICKING OF MY
FOURTEEN (14) YEAR-OLD WARD**

I respectfully write to your Honourable Office as the lawful guardian of a fourteen (14) year-old girl whose life was recently endangered by circumstances that, if thoroughly investigated, disclose serious allegations of child abuse and possible child trafficking.

I am constrained to bring this matter before your Ministry because of its statutory responsibility for the protection, welfare and rehabilitation of vulnerable children in Anambra State.

On the **15th day of July, 2026**, at about the evening hours, I sent my ward to purchase an item from a nearby shop within our neighbourhood. She left home but did not return.

When it became obvious that she could not be found, members of the family, neighbours and other concerned persons immediately commenced a search within and around the community. Unfortunately, every effort proved unsuccessful.

The matter was promptly reported to our Community-Based Vigilance Group, which also joined in the search.

During the search, information was received from several members of the community, including the victim's younger sister, that the child had allegedly been seen in the company of one **Mr. Okeke**, an adult man believed to be in his thirties.

When he was contacted, he reportedly denied having seen the child or knowing anything about her disappearance.

Following further enquiries by the vigilance group, the said Mr. Okeke was apprehended for questioning. We were later informed that preliminary investigations allegedly revealed that he lodged in a hotel with the child on the very night she disappeared.

It was further gathered that after that night, the suspect allegedly conveyed the child from Anambra State through Onitsha and Asaba before placing her in a commercial vehicle travelling towards Sokoto State.

Following the child's recovery, she stated that she was confused throughout the journey and could not properly explain where she was being taken or what was happening to her.

We further learnt that while the vehicle was passing through Abuja, officers of the Nigeria Police Force on highway patrol intercepted it during a routine stop-and-search operation. During their interaction with passengers, the officers reportedly noticed that the child was unable to give coherent answers regarding her identity, destination or the purpose of her journey.

Suspecting that she might be a victim of trafficking or another serious crime, the officers removed her from the vehicle for further questioning.

A mobile phone found in her possession was examined, and several telephone numbers were contacted. One of those calls was reportedly answered by a woman believed to be the mother of the suspect. She informed the officers that she had heard about a missing child and subsequently sent the sum of **₦20,000.00** to assist with the child's transportation back to Anambra State.

Upon her return, we were further informed that during interrogation, the suspect allegedly made statements linking himself to the disappearance of the victim's elder sister under similar circumstances and claimed that she had been sending him money on a monthly basis.

If this assertion is true, it raises grave concern that there may be other victims whose circumstances deserve urgent investigation.

Your Honourable Commissioner will agree that every child has the right to live free from abuse, violence, exploitation and trafficking. These rights are recognised and protected under the **Child Rights Law of Anambra State**, the **Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act**, and other applicable laws enacted for the protection of children.

The emotional and psychological impact of this unfortunate incident on the child and our family has been profound. We remain deeply concerned not only for her physical wellbeing but also for her emotional recovery and future.

In the light of the foregoing, I most respectfully appeal to your Honourable Ministry to:

1. Take immediate steps to ensure the continued protection and welfare of the victim.
2. Facilitate appropriate medical examination, counselling, psychological support and rehabilitation for the child.
3. Liaise with the Nigeria Police Force and all other relevant agencies to ensure that this matter is comprehensively investigated.
4. Consider involving the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) should your Ministry find evidence suggesting child trafficking or organised exploitation.
5. Ensure that every person found culpable at the conclusion of investigations is brought to justice in accordance with the law.
6. Cause appropriate enquiries to be made regarding the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of the victim's elder sister and any other person who may have suffered a similar fate.

Your Honourable Commissioner, this petition is made in good faith and in the sincere hope that your Ministry will exercise its statutory mandate to protect this child and ensure that justice is done.

I have every confidence that your prompt intervention will not only restore hope to this young victim and her family but will also reaffirm the commitment of the Government of Anambra State to the protection of every child under its care.

Kindly accept the assurances of my highest esteem.

Yours faithfully,

Guardian of the Victim

Date: _____