

## **TOWARDS DEVELOPING A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR INTERNET DEFAMATION**

**ALADOKIYE E. GABRIEL-WHYTE**

Lecturer, Department of Jurisprudence & International Law, Rivers State University of Science & Technology, Nigeria

### **ABSTRACT**

The primary purpose of this paper is an attempt to proffer solution to defamation which occurs on the internet. The rationale for this is that, the common law doctrine of defamation though amended here and there by statutes in Nigeria has still not captured internet defamation. Again, the law ought to, as much as possible be at par with technological advancement such as the internet. The paper was researched by examining existing texts on the subject area, some local statutes and internet sources. Upon a critical perusal of existing texts; both local and foreign and some local statutes, it was found that defamation continues to exist as an independent tort, short of encapsulating internet defamation. It is this lacuna that this work seeks to cover by recommending a code of conduct for internet users, abolishing anonymous posts on the internet and a statutory declaration making website administrators and owners responsible for defamatory content on their sites.

**KEYWORDS:** Towards Developing a Legal Framework for Internet Defamation