

Dr. Odife IKenna's paper entitled "Building New Bridges Across The Atlantic: Need for Renewed and Intensified Relations Between Africans and African Americans in Diaspora," calls for a new initiative that could strengthen the bonds of relationship amongst Africans and those of African descent in the New World. The author provides discussions of ideologies like pan-Africanism, the African Personality, the racial and economic victimization of Africans, the impact of slavery and the slave trade on the relationship between continental Africans and African Americans as well as life threatening challenges like AIDS that plague many African countries, in addition to, the need for Africans and diasporic Africans to establish a more positive and stronger relationship. The author contends that the previous intellectual and cultural contacts as symbolized in the Pan-Africanist conference and cultural contacts, and Jamborees appear to be inadequate to address the present needs of the people of African descent. He also points out that it is only through collaborative strategic vision and hard work that Africans and Africa's offspring in the western hemisphere can enjoy a symbolic relationship.