

My name is Ekemini Uwan. I'm a public theologian, NAACP Image Award Nominated Author, co-founder & co-host of Truth's Table podcast, and a charter member of the International Civil Society Working Group for UNPFPAD.

For far too long, Africans and people of African descent have been told a lie that we are disconnected from one another, culturally and historically. That is a lie from the pit of hell that many of our people on the continent and within the African Diaspora have believed. Africans and African descendants have common interests, and struggles, and we must unite against this global white supremacist order that seeks to divide and conquer us.

What do we get when we believe and repeat the white supremacist lies colonizers tell us about each other? We get the diaspora wars. This incessant in-fighting among continental Africans, Caribbeans, and African-Americans, whereby wicked pejoratives are hurled at each other within the Diaspora and on the continent, this is a diabolical play pulled right out of the white supremacist playbook. This disconnection was engineered, and I fear that that the U.S. Africa policy which divides the African Diaspora in the U.S. into "old and new" diaspora, plays into this order. The "old" is comprised of those who are descended from enslaved Africans trafficked to the US and the "new" are African immigrants born in Africa who migrated to the U.S. voluntarily. This problematic definition is certain to turn the fissures within the African Diaspora into chasms that will do irreparable harm.

I strongly recommend that the binary definitions of "old and new" diaspora be discarded immediately and the PFPAD of working experts together with ICSWG help to consult the U.S. Africa policy makers on new language that reflects the beautiful tapestry of ethnic diversity within the changing demographics of the Black community in the U.S. There is unity within diversity, and we must never forget that before Africans were abducted, trafficked, commodified, and enslaved. Long before Africans disembarked on the shores of the United States and became Negro, Black, and African-American, they are Wolof, Fon, Efik, Ijaw, Igbo, and Ibibio. In the words of Gwendolyn Brooks, "We are each other's magnitude and bond."

All Africans must unite.