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Statement of Andrea Quiroga

My name is Andrea Quiroga. I endured many hardships in my childhood, including growing up in an environment of widespread unemployment, poverty, and crime. Far from breaking my spirit, it sparked a calling inside of me to want to become a woman that helps others. Having been raised by a single mother, I dreamt of helping women and children who shared the same struggles as my mother and me when I was growing up.

When I was fourteen years old, I first learned about the Miss World pageant when we received a flyer in the mail. I saw how the Miss World pageant and Miss Universe pageant gave their contestants a unique platform to promote charitable causes, and it became my greatest dream and aspiration to compete in them.

This dream was derailed when I became a single mother at nineteen years old. Having my darling son was the most beautiful moment in my life, and I strive to be the best I can be for him. However, anyone who has been pregnant cannot enter to compete in the Miss Universe or Miss World pageants.

I saw Veronika Didusenko, Miss Ukraine 2018, fearlessly stand up against the injustice of the discriminatory Miss World entry rules, and I was moved by her

story because I too have been excluded from entry because I am a mother. I am now initiating this complaint process against the Miss Universe and Miss World pageants because I do not want other young women to be limited by their discriminatory entry rules.

Mothers can also be beauty queens. We can be leaders, we can be humanitarians, and we can and do make a positive impact in the lives of others.

Andrea Quiroga

Represented by Attorney Gloria Allred

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