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STATEMENT OF ANDREA QUIROGA

Good morning, my name is Andrea Quiroga, and I am thrilled to be here today alongside Gloria Allred and Veronika Didusenko. Just months ago, we met and discussed how together, we could make a historic change for women around the world by sharing our stories and exercising our legal rights.

For 70 years, Miss Universe's discriminatory standards denied equal opportunities to women who are mothers, are married or have been divorced. These limitations deprived women, including me, of a unique platform and the chance to not only transform their own lives, but to give back to the world in a very meaningful way. It also sent the ridiculous message that young mothers cannot also be advocates and beauty queens.

Today, we are thrilled to celebrate that these women who were once excluded will be able to compete at the Miss Universe pageants, if they meet other eligibility requirements. Women's achievements should never be limited because they are mothers.

I am eternally grateful to my entire legal team for supporting me every step of the way, for taking my case, and for letting me amplify this women's rights issue. I feel honored to be a part of our team's victory and to have made an impact for women throughout the world.

Andrea Quiroga
Represented by attorney Gloria Allred and her associate, Olivia Flechsig
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