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### **Statement of Andrea Quiroga**

Good afternoon. My name is Andrea Quiroga, and I am absolutely thrilled to be here alongside Gloria Allred to share such exciting news and a truly pivotal moment in her story. 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 dreamed of helping women and children who shared the same struggles as my mother and me when I was growing up.

When I first learned about the Miss Universe pageant as a young girl, I saw how Miss Universe gave their contestants a unique platform to promote charitable causes, and it became my greatest dream and aspiration to compete in the Miss Universe pageant. Having my darling son was the most beautiful moment in my life, but Miss Universe's eligibility rules prevented mothers and women who have been pregnant from competing in their pageants.

In March of 2022, with the help of my attorneys Gloria Allred and Olivia Flechsig, I contacted the California Civil Rights Department and alleged that the Miss Universe Organization's previous written pageant entry requirements discriminated against me and other mothers.

I am thrilled to say this rule has been eliminated. I'd like to thank the Miss Universe Organization for this change, and I would also like to thank my attorneys

Gloria Allred and Olivia Flechsig, and the California Civil Rights Department, for all of their support.

I am very grateful to my legal team for accepting my case, believing in me, supporting me, and fighting for me to help win the elimination of the rule and a legally binding agreement that it will not be reinstated.

I am very happy that other young mothers from all over the world who have also dreamed of participating in the Miss Universe pageant will now be able to compete if they meet other eligibility requirements.

Women's achievements should never be limited because they are or ever were pregnant. 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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