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STATEMENT OF DANIELLE HAZEL

Good afternoon. My name is Danielle Hazel, and I am pleased to be here today with my attorney, Gloria Allred.

Ever since I was a little girl, I have loved performing arts and pageantry, and dreamed of entering.

At nineteen years old, I had my son, Zion, which was one of the greatest gifts of my entire life. I did not want nor plan to give up on my dreams and aspirations just because I became a mother. I actually felt even more motivated to make my son proud and to use pageants, and the charitable platforms they provide, to serve other children in my community in New York and beyond.

I was devastated when I later learned that having my son disqualified me from competing in some of the most respected pageants, including Miss World and Miss America. My dream of competing in those pageants is still on hold today because of their discriminatory entry requirements which ban mothers from competing.

When I told Zion, who is now six years old, about these rules, he had an immediate gut reaction: he said that these rules are "stupid." His sense of fairness at only six years old tells him that it is unjust and make no sense.

I am now initiating this complaint process against Miss World and Miss America because I do not want myself and other women to be held back by these discriminatory entry rules. I also want to show everyone that mothers can also be philanthropists, advocates, and beauty queens.

Statement of Danielle Hazel

Represented by Attorney Gloria Allred

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