

**Name:** Jane Smith  
**Title:** Miss Local Title

### Celebrating Cultural Diversity and Inclusiveness

It is imperative that this nation face and embrace its cultural diversity. While many people have talked about this issue, I believe that most of them have only paid lip service to the true necessity of what needs to be addressed related to this issue. There is a false truth in **merely** accepting and tolerating cultural diversity. I intend to prove that in order to accept and understand people of other cultures, one must be willing to step out of a personal cultural **comfort zone** and identify the origin of their prejudice. I will specifically focus on three areas: **Children, Communities, and Businesses.**

The title of Miss America, combined with the national **media** already looking **at the** surface of this issue, will allow me to create the national awareness **that** must exist. Currently, the term "Cultural Diversity" is well known in the halls of **institutions of higher learning** and, perhaps, even in the public school classroom because of **the need for some to be politically correct.** But, in order for us to make a true change in **attitudes and behaviors of Americans,** we must move beyond talk and into action and policy changes.

My plan is to motivate the media and to **partner with the** National Conference for Community and Justice. This organization has chapters in **every major city** in the nation and, in many cases, those chapters have community leaders involved **who** can, with encouragement and challenging, bring this issue out of hiding **and into** the public light in **each** of those communities.

Obviously, the media and the NCCJ **already exist.** However, what is lacking is a lightning rod to draw attention to this issue. This is **where** the Miss America Organization steps into the lead. What better role is **there for** Miss America than to be an agent of change in organizing our nation to accept our differences and **to create** an environment that values each person on individual characteristics rather than on **stereotypes** or assumptions?

For years, Miss America **was** seen as a young woman who cut ribbons and appeared in parades. It is **time** for "Miss America" to step out of the convertible and **lead the parade.** Our country's ethnic **make-up** is **changing** rapidly and our citizen's fear of terrorism can explode already existing, but deeply hidden prejudices. I want to be the leader that this nation needs.

This nation needs **this issue** addressed now and through the already existing NCCJ and its local and state organizations combined with the power of Miss America, we can make a concrete difference now, which will change the direction and the future of our nation.

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Signature/Date