

## Statement from Sara Lawrence

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In August 2006, I was honoured to be selected to represent my country as Miss Jamaica World for the year 2006-2007. As I accepted this unique opportunity to serve Jamaica, I promised that I would faithfully seek to embody the spirit of Jamaica and our wonderful people. It was with tremendous pride that I carried the Jamaican flag as high as I could everywhere that I went and promoted our country emphatically to everyone I met.

The Miss World competition was an unforgettable experience. As the world watched and voted me Queen of the Caribbean, I felt a wonderfully strong and positive response to us as a people. The months which have followed, have been filled with activities each affording a further opportunity to present our country in the best possible light. Jamaicans everywhere, at home and abroad, have warmed to me and made me feel privileged to be their representative.

It is with sincere gratitude and some sadness, therefore, that I issue this statement, knowing that I owe it to Jamaica to let you know why I will be giving up my duties as your Miss Jamaica World before my assigned time in August this year.

I relinquish my position as Miss Jamaica World 2006, having taken a deeply personal decision to face up to my responsibilities as one who expects to become a mother later this year. I believe with all that is within me that it is my moral obligation to do what I believe to

be ethically correct and follow what I believe in my heart to be right. This has been a tremendously difficult period for me. I crave the understanding of my many supporters at home and abroad and hope that people everywhere who have shown me such kindness and love will respect my position.

I sincerely thank my dear family for their unwavering love and support in every decision that I have taken in my young life. I thank the organizers of Miss Jamaica World, especially Mr. Haughton James, for providing the opportunity that allowed me to represent my country in a meaningful and positive way. I thank Jamaicans everywhere for embracing me in a manner that made me determined to do everything in my power to show the world all that we are and all that we can be as a people. It has been my honour to represent you. God bless Jamaica.