# U. S. United Biography - Naiyla Durand-Wilson (Miss Plus)

Motherhood is a journey of love, challenges, and self-discovery. For Naiyla Durand-Wilson, it also became the foundation of her purpose. As a new mom navigating postpartum depression and anxiety, she faced a deeply personal struggle that reshaped her perspective. Instead of letting it dim her light, she used it to fuel her passion for helping others.

Her journey led to pageantry and the creation of her platform: “I’m More Than Mom: Renewing Your Sense of Self, Health, and Ambition.” Through this initiative, Durand-Wilson is dedicated to empowering new mothers to prioritize their well-being, rediscover their identities, and embrace their ambitions. Naiyla loves giving back to her community and improving the quality of life for all, she does most of her service with her organization Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Incorporated.

Naiyla is currently an Interdisciplinary Ecology Master’s student at the University of Florida. Her research focuses on the self-efficacy of K-12 educators and how it affects the self-efficacy and outcomes of their students. Naiyla plans to continue her education to obtain her PhD, officially becoming Dr. Durand-Wilson. She loves to be creative as well. Whether it is graphic design, coloring, or crocheting, Naiyla loves to use art as an outlet to process her emotions and strengthen her mental health as a new mom.

Hailing from the vibrant streets of South Florida, Naiyla brought her warmth, authenticity, and determination to the 2026 U. S. United pageant stage. As Miss Plus U. S. United 2026, she is ready to inspire and uplift. “I’m More Than Mom is not just a pageant platform,” she shares. “It’s a saying that helped me survive and I hope it helps new and seasoned moms.”

With her platform, Naiyla is not just a titleholder—she’s a beacon of hope, resilience, and empowerment for new mothers across the nation.