



The Ethiopian World Federation, Incorporated

105 West 125th st. #1095 New York, NY 10027-4444

RE: Cultural Exploitation in “STRANGE WORLD” MOVIE by DISNEY

To Whom This May Concern:

In the 1930's the Rastafarian culture emerged off of the displacement and mistreatment of African people who were scattered due to the Atlantic Slave Trade and the inhumane posture that colonialism took as it referred to the injustice and inequality of Africans around the world off of the continent not limited to but including, *America, Britain, Brazil, Asia, Mexico etc.* The religious protections in the International Human Rights treaty as well as the Indigenous rights treaty widely distributed by The United Nations and agreed upon by over 190 world leaders, are necessary in a tolerant society that respects human rights and freedoms for the protection and public safety. **This movie is a blatant breach of religious tolerance and a direct form of cultural appropriation or exploitation of Rastafarian culture.** The Rastafarian culture and religious beliefs have been recognized and distinguished but not limited to the appearance of woolly hair or dreadlocks. The reason for the distinguished look is a reminder of their religious beliefs which coincide with the many of the laws in Africa including but not limited to the right to worship freely and within the boundaries of a normal relations between man and woman. **Therefore, making it a cultural and religious preference to refrain from sodomy, bestiality or what is understood to be a “crime against nature”.**

Up until recently in some countries there are still some legal codes that provide penalties as severe as life imprisonment for homosexual intercourse, even if the relations are voluntary and between legally consenting adults. *The fact is that most cases of severe depression and PTSD come from the confusion of facts and disbandment of natural law.* Individuals suffering from a stress-related disorder experience cognitive difficulties ranging from memory loss to an impaired ability to learn new things. This places our children at a high risk of danger and this film is contributing to severe trauma related consequences in our community.

The Rastafarian community at large feels that “Strange World”, the Disney movie is an attack and mockery of the Rastafarian religious beliefs. We see it as a violation of our Human Rights and an invasion of our beliefs and the right to hold our culture at a respected level. For many years now the very same people who have enslaved Africans on the continent and off the continent have been using our culture and our pain to capitalize on and support the actors, producers and directors families with little or no regard to our struggle and our pain as human beings. The release of this movie is a direct insult to our cultural hardships, everything we stand for and believe in. **Our likeness has been stolen and misrepresented.** The fact that most of the countries we have originated from do NOT spiritually agree with homosexuality is a direct threat to our livelihood and the future of our children globally. **Today we are requesting that this film be removed from the box office and a letter of apology be written to the Rastafarian community for misrepresenting our culture, downplaying our struggle and violating our culture, compromising the future of our children and the false implication that our image should be one that agrees with sodomy and the destruction of the mental health and stability of African Families at a time of unprecedented hatred toward Africans in America including the sanity of our children.**

Thank you for your consideration and urgency in this matter.



Jamel Manning, International Executive President - 11/22/2022

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