



**GLOBAL**  
DOWN SYNDROME FOUNDATION®

## **GLOBAL Research & Medical Care Roundtable**

### **Welcome Address**

DeOndra Dixon, World-Renowned Self-Advocate,  
Global Down Syndrome Foundation Ambassador,  
Quincy Jones Exceptional Advocacy Awardee

*NDSC Annual Convention From Your Couch - Thursday June 25, 2020*

# Thank You to the Organizers

- ❖ Thank you David Tolleson and NDSC
- ❖ Thank you Michelle and Martha at the Global Down Syndrome Foundation
- ❖ Thank you to our super smart scientists like Joaquin and Melissa
- ❖ I am proud to be the welcome speaker for this year's GLOBAL Round table





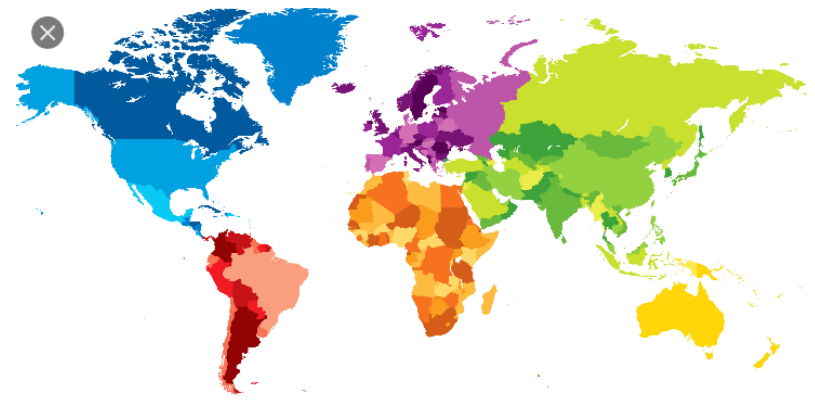
# WELCOME To My World

- ❖ Growing up I was treated like everyone else
  - I went to my local school
  - I had lots of friends
  - I participated in Special Olympics - and won lots of medals!
- ❖ As the GLOBAL Down Syndrome Foundation Ambassador  
AND the Quincy Jones Award Winner
- ❖ I want to welcome you to my world
- ❖ I was born in Texas (I'm a DALLAS fan!) and now I live in Los Angeles with my big brother Jamie Foxx, my parents and my cousins
- ❖ I am lucky to have a wonderful family!



# The World Today

- ❖ But I know times are hard
- ❖ Not everyone with Down syndrome is given opportunities
- ❖ Not everyone who is black is given opportunities
  - Even in my family we have suffered discrimination and BLACK LIVES MATTER
- ❖ And now we also have the deadly coronavirus
- ❖ It is not an easy time for most of the world



# It is Important To Count Your Blessings

- ❖ Even though times are difficult we can focus on good things
  - I think of all my fashion shows with GLOBAL
  - Dancing at the Grammy Awards in front of millions of viewers





# The Importance of GIVING BACK

- ❖ During this time we also need to give back
- ❖ We need to make sure people with Down syndrome have good health care
- ❖ We have to improve lifespan for African Americans with Down syndrome
- ❖ That's what this GLOBAL Roundtable is all about - the most amazing presentations that could change our lives
- ❖ Welcome and THANK YOU for joining us!