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Ayden Ellis, *Siegfried Hall Senator*
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A RESOLUTION TO BAN PORNOGRAPHY ON CAMPUS WIFI SERVICES

Whereas, the University of Notre Dame is a Catholic educational institution committed to “ensure[ing] that our Catholic character informs all our endeavors”¹ and “offer[ing] an unsurpassed undergraduate education that nurtures the formation of mind, body, and spirit”²;

Whereas, the university defines this commitment in its mission statement as “encourag[ing] a way of living consonant with a Christian community and manifest in prayer, liturgy, and service”³;

Whereas, viewing pornography is contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (§ 2354) states pornography “offends against chastity because it perverts the conjugal act, the intimate giving of spouses to each other.”⁴ Furthermore, pornography “does grave injury to the dignity of its participants (actors, vendors, the public), since each one becomes an object of base pleasure and illicit profit for others” (§ 2355)⁵;

Whereas, sites that host pornographic material are accessible on the campus wifi. Section 2.5 of the university’s Responsible Use of Data and Information Technology Resources Policy states a student or employee may “Never use University resources to post, view, print, store, or send obscene, pornographic, sexually explicit, or offensive material, except for officially approved, legitimate academic or University purposes”⁶;

Whereas, research indicates 87% of college-age men and 31% of college-age women view pornography on a regular basis.⁷ Further neuroscientific research suggests 98% of men and 73% of women report viewing internet pornography in the last 6 months⁸;

Whereas, the deleterious effects on brain chemistry caused by frequent pornography use have significant quantifiable effects. Research indicates “frequent porn consumers are more likely to

1 University of Notre Dame. *University Mission and Values*. <https://dulac.nd.edu/university-mission-and-vision/>.

2 Ibid

3 University of Notre Dame. *Mission*. <https://www.nd.edu/about/mission/>.

4 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, §2354-2355. https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_P85.HTM.

5 Ibid

6 University of Notre Dame. *Responsible Use of Data & Information Technology Resources Policy*. https://policy.nd.edu/assets/185268/responsible_use_it_resources_2015.pdf.

7 Jason S. Carroll, Laura M. Padilla-Walker, Larry J. Nelson, Chad D. Olson, Carolyn McNamara Barry, Stephanie D. Madsen, “Generation XXXPornography Acceptance and Use Among Emerging Adults,” Jan. 2008, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/247721479_Generation_XXXPornography_Acceptance_and_Use_Among_Emerging_Adults.

8 Marie-Eve Daspe, Marie-Pier Vaillancourt-Morel, Yvan Lussier, Stéphane Sabourin & Anik Ferron (2018) When Pornography Use Feels Out of Control: The Moderation Effect of Relationship and Sexual Satisfaction, *Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy*, 44:4, 343-353, DOI: [10.1080/0092623X.2017.1405301](https://doi.org/10.1080/0092623X.2017.1405301).

sexually objectify and dehumanize others⁹, more likely to express an intent to rape¹⁰, less likely to intervene during a sexual assault¹¹, more likely to victim-blame survivors of sexual violence¹², more likely to support violence against women¹³, more likely to forward sexts without consent¹⁴, and more likely to commit actual acts of sexual violence”¹⁵;

Whereas, additional research indicates porn “consumption was indeed associated with sexual aggression in the United States and internationally, among males and females, and in cross-sectional and longitudinal studies. Associations were stronger for verbal than physical sexual aggression, although both were significant”¹⁶;

Whereas, implementing a filter to restrict pornographic material on campus wifi could serve as a proactive step in addressing sexual violence on campus and serve as starting point for other similar policies. The most recent data compiled by the U.S. Department of Education from 2019 to 2021 indicates there have been 14 cases of rape and 22 cases of criminal fondling reported at Notre Dame.¹⁷ In addition, the 2020 Sexual Conduct and Campus Climate Questionnaire

9 Mikorski, R., & Szymanski, D. M. (2017). Masculine norms, peer group, pornography, Facebook, and men's sexual objectification of women. *Psychology of Men & Masculinity*, 18(4), 257–267. <https://doi.org/10.1037/men0000058>.

Skorska, M.N., Hodson, G., & Hoffarth, M.R. (2018). Experimental effects of degrading versus erotic pornography exposure in men on reactions toward women (objectification, sexism, discrimination). *The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality*, 27, 261 - 276.

Zhou, Y., Liu, T., Yan, Y., & Paul, B. (2021). Pornography use, two forms of dehumanization, and sexual aggression: Attitudes vs. behaviors. *Null*, 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0092623X.2021.1923598>

10 John D. Foubert, Matthew W. Brosi & R. Sean Bannon (2011) Pornography Viewing among Fraternity Men: Effects on Bystander Intervention, Rape Myth Acceptance and Behavioral Intent to Commit Sexual Assault, *Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity*, 18:4, 212-231, DOI: [10.1080/10720162.2011.625552](https://doi.org/10.1080/10720162.2011.625552).

11 Foubert, J. D., Brosi, M. W., & Bannon, R. S. (2011). Pornography viewing among fraternity men: Effects on bystander intervention, rape myth acceptance and behavioral intent to commit sexual assault. 18(4), 212-231. doi:10.1080/10720162.2011.625552.

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12 Foubert, J. D., Brosi, M. W., & Bannon, R. S. (2011). Pornography viewing among fraternity men: Effects on bystander intervention, rape myth acceptance and behavioral intent to commit sexual assault. 18(4), 212-231. doi:10.1080/10720162.2011.625552.

Loughnan, S., Pina, A., Vasquez, E. A., & Puvia, E. (2013). Sexual Objectification Increases Rape Victim Blame and Decreases Perceived Suffering. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 37(4), 455–461. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0361684313485718>.

13 Wright, P. J., & Tokunaga, R. S. (2016). Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women. *Archives of sexual behavior*, 45(4), 955–964. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-015-0644-8>.

Seabrook, R. C., Ward, L. M., & Giaccardi, S. (2019). Less than human? media use, objectification of women, and men's acceptance of sexual aggression. *Psychology of Violence*, 9(5), 536-545. doi:10.1037/vio0000198.

14 van Oosten, J., & Vandenbosch, L. (2020). Predicting the Willingness to Engage in Non-Consensual Forwarding of Sexts: The Role of Pornography and Instrumental Notions of Sex. *Archives of sexual behavior*, 49(4), 1121–1132. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-019-01580-2>

15 Wright, P. J., Tokunaga, R. S., & Kraus, A. (2016). A meta-analysis of pornography consumption and actual acts of sexual aggression in general population studies. *Journal of Communication*, 66(1), 183-205. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1111/jcom.12201>.

Rostad, W. L., Gittins-Stone, D., Huntington, C., Rizzo, C. J., Pearlman, D., & Orchowski, L. (2019). The association between exposure to violent pornography and teen dating violence in grade 10 high school students. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 48(7), 2137-2147. doi:10.1007/s10508-019-1435-4

Goodson, A., Franklin, C. A., & Bouffard, L. A. (2021). Male peer support and sexual assault: The relation between high-profile, high school sports participation and sexually predatory behaviour. 27(1), 64-80. doi:10.1080/13552600.2020.1733111

Mikorski, R., & Szymanski, D. M. (2017). Masculine norms, peer group, pornography, Facebook, and men's sexual objectification of women. *Psychology of Men & Masculinity*, 18(4), 257-267. doi:10.1037/men0000058

16 Wright, Paul J., Robert S. Tokunaga, and Ashley Kraus. "A Meta-Analysis of Pornography Consumption and Actual Acts of Sexual Aggression in General Population Studies." *Journal of Communication* 66, no. 1 (2015): 183–205. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcom.12201>.

17 U.S. Department of Education. "Campus Safety and Security: Get Data for One School." <https://drive.google.com/file/d/13-HAoeY0H9zZp88ihvYtOr0l6h5zudcN/view?usp=sharing>.

Resolution SS 2223-15**08 March 2023**

conducted by Office of Strategic Planning & Institutional Research found 2% of respondents indicated having personally experienced non-consensual sexual intercourse¹⁸;

Whereas, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (§ 2354) indicates “Civil authorities should prevent the production and distribution of pornographic materials”¹⁹;

Whereas, secular business establishments have taken steps to restrict access to pornography on their wifi²⁰;

Whereas, other Catholic universities have taken steps to ban pornography sites on campus wifi, including Holy Cross College and Catholic University of America who banned the top 200 pornography sites²¹;

Whereas, since Notre Dame is called to be a force for good, it should be at the forefront of confronting this modern attack on sexuality; therefore, be it

***Resolved*, by the Student Senate of the University of Notre Dame du Lac, that the University of Notre Dame in coordination with the Office of Information Technologies should prevent students from accessing pornography on campus wifi by adding pornography sites to a list of banned websites on all campus wifi networks.**

Patrick Lee
Student Body President

18 University of Notre Dame. 2020 Sexual Conduct and Campus Climate Questionnaire. https://titleix.nd.edu/assets/421844/2020_title_ix_report_final.pdf.

19 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, §2354-2355, https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_P85.HTM.

20 Fieldstadt, Elisha. “Starbucks says it will start blocking pornography on its stores’ Wi-Fi in 2019.” *NBCNews*, 29 Nov. 2018, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/starbucks-says-it-will-start-blocking-pornography-its-stores-wi-n941646>.

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21 Rousselle, Christine. “Catholic University students vote to block porn.” *Catholic News Agency*, 5 Apr. 2019, <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/40975/catholic-university-students-vote-to-block-porn>.