



ENOUGH·IS·ENOUGHSM

Making the Internet Safer for Children and Families

February 4, 2019

Rev. John Jenkins
President
University of Notre Dame
400 Main Building
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556

Reverend Jenkins,

I am reaching out to you as president and CEO of Enough Is Enough (EIE), a national non-profit organization who has been on the front lines of protecting children and families from Internet dangers since 1994, and as a participant among 150 world leaders to be selected to take part in the Vatican-led “World Congress on Child Dignity in the Digital World”.

It came to EIE’s attention last October that many students at Notre Dame – men and women-- have been calling for the filtering of your university public WiFi in an effort to prevent access to prosecutable pornography (known as obscenity) and illegal child sex abuse images (also known as child pornography). In October 2017, EIE reached out to student James Martinson to applaud him for spearheading a university petition campaign requesting the university implement a filter to make pornography inaccessible on the Notre Dame Wi-Fi networks, and offered EIE’s platform and voice to put a public and national media spotlight on his request.

Reverend Jenkins, I implore you to listen to the call of these courageous students to make the University of Notre Dame a safe and wholesome environment as the unintended consequences of not filtering public WiFi are immense. The harmful impact of pornography is real. Anyone with unfettered Internet access can view prosecutable pornography and illegal child pornography. Peer-reviewed research has demonstrated that hard-core pornography is highly addictive and a fueling factor in sexually aggressive and destructive behavior, including the objectification of women. One in 5 women and one in 6 men are sexually assaulted while attending college.

Pornography has changed. Extreme content is the new norm. Soft porn has disappeared. In 2010, the journal [Violence Against Women](#) reported physical aggression in 88.2% of leading pornography scenes and verbal aggression in 48.7% with 94.4% of the aggression directed towards women and girls. A February 2018 headline in [Esquire Magazine](#) read, “Incest is the Fastest Growing Trend in Porn.”

Further, when any institution fails to filter graphic, obscene pornography and child sex abuse images from their public WiFi, they are opening the doors for youth to be victimized as predators can view or distribute these images on their premise.

I can assure you that modern day WiFi filters can be specifically tailored to filter only child pornography and pornography, which is what Notre Dame University students, along with more than 10,500 EIE [petition](#) signors, are asking of you. By implementing a safe, friendly WiFi policy and effective filtering, the University of Notre Dame will:

- Prevent others from being exposed to prosecutable pornography and child pornography when using your WiFi services;
- Prevent sexual predators from accessing illegal child pornography and flying under the radar of law enforcement by using your university WiFi services;
- Avoid a potentially hostile work environment for university employees;
- Establish Notre Dame as a leader among colleges and universities to ensure the safety of its students, faculty and others by implementing effective Internet safety policies that include filtered WiFi; and
- Maintain consistency regarding best practices and student and employee-friendly policies.

WiFi policies prohibiting porn or sexually explicit material are not enough – taking concrete action to implement a filtered WiFi network to prevent its access is the only viable solution.

Corporate America has already responded to EIE's call to filter porn and child porn on its public WiFi and protect its patrons and employees. As a result of EIE's [SAFE WiFi](#) efforts, McDonald's is now filtering WiFi in 14,000 stores nationwide and Subway in its company-owned stores. Starbucks publicly pledged this past November to offer safe WiFi beginning in 2019. The media response announcing these efforts went viral with hundreds of media reports worldwide.

Since attending the 2017 World Congress on Child Dignity in Rome, I have been working with World Congress leaders dedicated to ensuring the safety of children from Internet dangers to respond to the call of Pope Francis to protect children from "extreme pornography... sexting...bullying...solicitation of minors for sexual purposes...online trafficking...and live viewing acts of rape and violence against minors." The World Congress Global action we developed includes concrete calls to action among governments, industry leaders, law enforcement, religious leaders and academia worldwide – which includes the University of Notre Dame.

Among these specific recommendations is the call for "All Catholic churches, institutions, and schools worldwide to adopt a Safe WiFi policy to filter porn and child pornography."

Reverend Jenkins, again, I urge you to administer readily-available technology solutions and respond to the collective voices of your students. Please, do not contribute to the very factors leading to the objectification of women, addiction and destructive behavior that result from the absence of a filtering solution to your university WiFi. Just as important, send a message to the parents of these students allowing them to feel secure in the environment in which they are sending their child to study and flourish so that their students can say “Not Me” instead of “Me Too.”

The University of Notre Dame has a tremendous opportunity to lead the effort in creating a safe and secure digital learning environment and encourage countless other universities and higher-learning institutions to follow its lead.

A decision to filter WiFi is a “win-win” for all and will offer tremendous a public relations opportunity for the university as our past media campaigns related to the above- mentioned corporate giants went viral.

EIE will stand behind your decision to filter and give public “shout out” for doing what it right. We’ll also share an announcement with EIE’s extensive database of supporters and activists, our national media contacts, and with our 100-plus members of EIE’s SAFE WiFi Coalition. Of course, we’ll also report back to the World Congress that Notre Dame is taking the lead among Catholic institutions to set a nation-wide precedence to create a safe learning environment for its students.

I truly hope you will consider moving forward expeditiously and would welcome the opportunity to speak with you or university representatives to direct you to resources or filtering solutions to initiate this process. I can be reached via email at. _____

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,



Donna Rice Hughes
President and CEO
Enough Is Enough

cc: University of Notre Dame Board of Trustees
John Gohsman, VP of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer
Jim Martinson, President, Students for Child-Oriented Policy

Enough Is Enough PO. Box 1532 Great Falls, VA 22066

Enough.org, InternetSafety101.org