

Women Speak FOR THEMSELVES

How Speaking for Yourself Can Help Save a Generation of Boys

One of our WSFT members has been concerned, like many mothers are, about the rates of pornography addiction among teen boys.

Especially troubling to her was the fact that a local boys school—where many of her daughters' friends attend—is rumored to have a widespread problem with porn addiction.

So she sent a letter to the school with resources and suggestions for effective programs to combat this epidemic. Spoiler alert: the principal listened!

Attached, please find their letter exchange. This is the power of acting locally and speaking for yourself!

Dear [REDACTED],

My writing to you today has no vested interest in your school aside from having high school daughters who have friends from [REDACTED]. We have two young sons who are 2-4 years out from attending high school.

The word on the street is that a large number of [REDACTED] boys have a pornography addiction to some varying level.

My awareness of this problem is only because of witnessing a friend's family unravel due to their son's porn addiction which began at the age of 14 when he was at [REDACTED]. Their college age son is deeply unhappy and disturbed, and on the verge of pulling out of school to seek help. He credits much of his problem to the bravado and encouragement he found at [REDACTED] to engage in such destructive behavior.

Of course I worry a lot about my daughters, and really their whole generation of girls. Studies show that women who are in relationships with porn consumers are more likely to be sexually assaulted by her partner, have inferior images of themselves and engage in high risk sexual encounters. (Shope, J. H. (2004). When words are not enough: The search for the effect of pornography on abused women. *Violence Against Women*, 10, 56–72.)

I am certain you are well aware of this issue and are taking steps. But I wanted to add my voice because I think the problem is genuinely urgent.

In case you don't know about all the excellent resources available, I can recommend a few things. One of the leading experts on the social effects of pornography is right here at a local university. www.socialcostsofpornography.com

Other local support on this issue: Dr. Peter Kleponis (IntegrityRestored.com) Dr. Peter is a great one-on-one to small group counselor; not necessarily a large group speaker.

Not local but an incredibly engaging speaker on this topic: Matt Fradd(mattfradd.com) He is Catholic and is supported by Stewardship Mission(theporneffect.com)

Fight the New Drug(fightthenewdrug.org) is a fantastic secular organization which educates from the neurological sciences standpoint on the damage porn does to ones brain.

It would be refreshing to know your school could stand up for women, seek to protect them, and take a bold lead in encouraging other schools to be strong in the face of an issue that has so many negative social costs. In the end, women are really at risk, but men have to make the choice to understand what porn can do, and turn away from it.

My gratitude to you for reading this is immense, Thank you.

[REDACTED]

Good evening, Ms. [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email. I am sorry for my delayed response.

On behalf of [REDACTED] and myself, I would like to thank you for taking the time to share your concerns and suggestions for [REDACTED].

Your information is very much appreciated and I am definitely looking further into what you have provided to see how this can assist our students. I care very much about our [REDACTED] students and want to lead them in the best way possible. We do our best to help our students make good decisions during these formative years and provide a supportive environment for learning and personal growth. There is definitely always room for improvement which is why I welcome your email.

I am working with our Counseling Department as well as our administration to create programming opportunities for our students as they relate to the issues that you have shared. What you have included regarding pornography addiction is extremely troubling and embarrassing and something we want to combat.

We teach respect and appropriate treatment for women which is essential during these development years of our young men. We also provide programming to benefit proper and acceptable behavior in their future. We can and will do better. We definitely want [REDACTED] to be a leading voice in support of women.

Again, thank you for the reaching out and caring enough about our community to assist us with our students. We also appreciate the helpful resources/links.

God bless you and your family.

All the best,