Vatican

Vatican News



Red shoes, symbolizing violence against women, can be seen in this screen grab from a video from The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network. For the month of April, the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network is asking Catholics to pray for the dignity and worth of women to be recognized in every culture and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world. (CNS/ThePopeVideo.org)

Carol Glatz

View Author Profile

Catholic News Service

View Author Profile

Join the Conversation

Send your thoughts to *Letters to the Editor*. Learn more

Vatican City — April 3, 2024
Share on BlueskyShare on FacebookShare on TwitterEmail to a friendPrint

Governments must eliminate laws discriminating against women and help guarantee women's human rights, Pope Francis said.

"Let us respect women. Let us respect their dignity, their basic rights. And if we don't, our society will not progress," the pope said in a video message released April 2 by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, formerly known as the Apostleship of Prayer.

The pope's prayer intention for the month of April is: "Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world."

In the video, the pope said, "In theory, we all agree that men and women have the same dignity as persons. But this does not play out in practice."

"In many parts of the world, women are treated like the first thing to get rid of," he said.

Advertisement

"There are countries where women are forbidden to access aid, open a business or go to school," he said. "In these places, they are subject to laws that make them dress a certain way. And in many countries, genital mutilation is still practiced."

"Let us not deprive women of their voice. Let us not rob all these abused women of their voice. They are exploited, marginalized," the pope said.

"Governments need to commit to eliminate discriminatory laws everywhere and to work toward guaranteeing women's human rights," he said.