



SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE **BOLLETTINO**

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Video Message of the Holy Father with the prayer intention for the month of April, disseminated via the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

The following is the text of the Pope's video with the prayer intention for the month of April, disseminated via the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, on the theme: *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:*

Video Message of the Holy Father

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

There are countries where women are forbidden to access aid, open a business, or go to school. 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.

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

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

Let us respect women. Let us respect their dignity, their basic rights. And if we don't, our society will not progress.

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.
