



## **The United Nations and the Department for Anti-drug Policy in Rome launch the First Conference**

Gender differences, women and addiction to drugs and alcohol will be the theme of the Conference to be held in Rome at the FAO from 2 to 4 March 2011.

This conference will mark the start of a major program of action supported by the Italian Department for Anti-drug Policies in collaboration with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).

The major program establishes a unique perspective in the prevention and treatment of drug abuse and alcohol while taking in consideration the gender differences. Studies have indeed identified the key elements that will promote actions specifically dedicated to women. The project called DAWN (Drugs, Alcohol Women Network) will develop activities aimed at prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, through the creation of a network which envisaged the participation of key actors. The network, which will be composed of ministries, local government, health and social services, private entities and civil society organizations, will focus on the development of intervention protocols and training activities aimed at establishing a common approach and at strengthening joint actions specifically addressed to women. The categories that the program targets, includes adolescents at risk, girls and women exposed to occasional consumption of drugs and alcohol and drug addicted women.

On March 2 at 14.00 the conference will open with key speakers and the local and international experts. It will be attended by Senator Carlo Giovanardi, Secretary of State for the Family, Drugs and Civil Service Office of the Prime Minister, Kristiina Kangaspunta, UNICRI Officer in Charge; Gianni Alemanno, Mayor of Rome; Renata Polverini, President of the Lazio Region; Fabrizio Oleari, Head of the Department of Prevention and Communication of the Ministry of Health. Giovanni Serpelloni, the Head of the Department of Anti-Drug Policy within the Prime Minister's Office, shall present the aims and objectives of the project.

Communication and Press:

Fiorella Calò

Department for Anti-drug Policy

+39 06 / 6779 6281

comunicazione.antidroga @ governo.it

Marina Mazzini

UNICRI, Tel: +39 011/6537141

mazzini@unicri.it