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SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN CRISIS: FROM ADVOCACY TO ACTION



Kathleen Cravero, center, with Patricia Ellis, President of the WFPG, and Fred Tipson, Director of UNDP-Washington, DC

July 17 UNDP's Washington Liaison Office and the **Women's Foreign Policy Group** hosted:

Dr. Kathleen Cravero

UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Director of the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery and Chair of UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict

Dr. Kathleen Cravero delivered an impassioned speech about the alarming increases in sexual violence against women and girls as a tool of war. Victims are often stigmatized causing many to refuse to talk about their rape. The ripple effects on families, communities and nations reduces the chances for peace. Cravero discussed how [UN Resolution 1820](#) defines rape as a "security matter" and sanctions peacekeepers to respond as they would to any other atrocity. [Read Dr. Cravero's full speech here.](#)

Kathleen Cravero, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Director of the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery and Chair of UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, has over two decades of experience in international development, as well as first-hand knowledge on a range of development issues, from newly emerging democracies to conflict and emergency situations. Before joining the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Dr. Cravero built her career with UNICEF, WHO and UNDP, and served as Deputy Executive Director of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Cravero has been Director of UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery since 2005, where she leads the efforts of the Bureau to mainstream crisis prevention and recovery at all levels of UNDP's work. The Bureau supports UNDP in reducing the risk and impact of natural disasters, preventing armed conflicts, and assisting recovery from crisis when it occurs. Advancing gender equality is a long-standing concern for Dr. Cravero. She chairs the Steering Committee of "Stop Rape Now – UN Action Against

Sexual Violence in Conflict” and previously chaired the Leadership Council of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS and launched the Global Coalition to work to mitigate the impact of AIDS on women and girls worldwide.

Previous positions include: UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Burundi (1998-2000); UNICEF Representative in Uganda (1994-1998); External Relations Officer of the World Health Organization Global Programme on AIDS (1992-1994); UNICEF Senior Health Advisor (1988-1992); and UNICEF Programme Coordinator in Chad (1985-1988). Dr. Cravero is also a Board Member of the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum. She holds a Ph.D. in Political Science and a M.P.H. in Public Health.