

# 2013 ADAO Summary of Accomplishments

The Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO) was founded by asbestos victims and their families in 2004. ADAO is the largest independent organization dedicated to preventing asbestos-related diseases through education, advocacy, and community support.

**2013 Education Initiatives:** In an effort to educate the public about the dangers of asbestos exposure, ADAO:

- Distributed [monthly eNewsletters](#) with up-to-date asbestos-related events and news to over 3,500 contacts
- Hosted ADAO's 3-day 9th Annual International Asbestos Awareness Conference which brought together more than 125 world-renowned patients, physicians, researchers, educators, and public health advocates to discuss updates on the prevention, detection, treatment of asbestos-related disease and global advocacy for an asbestos ban
- Continually updated [ADAO's website](#) highlighting asbestos-related news and events and housing extensive educational resources, including an [Asbestos Video Library](#) of [conference videos](#) and educational presentations
- Presented at numerous international conferences and events, including:
  - Yale University's [Global Health & Innovation Conference](#) in New Haven, CT (April 2013)
  - ["Asbestos: USA Toxic Trade"](#) Press Conference in Washington, D.C. (April 2013)
  - ["Asbestos: No Longer the Magic Mineral,"](#) Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy in Los Angeles, CA (April 2013)
  - [Community of Williamsburg](#), Brooklyn for Safe Asbestos Abatement at Domino Sugar Refinery (April 2013)
  - [3rd International Symposium on Lung-Sparing Therapies](#) for Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma, Santa Monica, CA (May 2013)

**2013 Advocacy Initiatives:** In order to advocate for an international ban on asbestos use and the mining and exportation of this known carcinogen, ADAO:

- Created and promoted the [International Petition to Ban Asbestos and Save Lives](#) which calls for an end to asbestos use. The petition, with over 2,500 supporter signatures, was delivered to the U.S. Congress in June 2013.
- Supported the U.S. Senate's passage of the [Ninth Annual Resolution](#) which designated April 1-7, 2013 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week"
- Partnered with various national and international organizations to speak out against asbestos use and promote public health
- Served as a resource to various news publications, including the [Huffington Post](#) and published a [Letter to the Editor in The Wall Street Journal](#) (May 2013)
- Frequently published blogs to expose international instances of occupational safety and workers' health violations and spark opposition to the continued mining, exportation, and use of asbestos
- Hosted a [U.S. Senate staff briefing](#) (June 2013)
- Testified at the U.S. Senate EPW Committee hearing, ["Strengthening Public Health Protections by Addressing Toxic Chemical Threats"](#) (July 2013)
- Testified at the U.S. House hearing, ["Regulation of Existing Chemicals and the Role of Pre-Emption under Sections 6 and 18 of the Toxic Substances Control Act"](#) (September 2013)
- Co-sponsored a U.S. House of Representatives staff [FACT Act Briefing](#) (November 2013)

**2013 Community Initiatives:** In an effort to provide a community of support for those affected by asbestos, ADAO:

- Coordinated [Global Asbestos Awareness Week](#) to raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure
- Published frequent ["Share Your Story"](#) blogs through our website and social media platforms. Published collection in the ["Shared Stories: How Asbestos Changed Our Lives"](#) book. Shared by victims and their families, these stories honor individuals whose lives have been devastated by asbestos-related disease.
- Hosted several virtual candlelight vigils throughout the year via ADAO's ["Light a Candle"](#) website. These vigils provide an opportunity for individuals to honor loved ones who have lost or are currently fighting a courageous battle with asbestos-related disease.
- Delivered letters from U.S. Senator Donnelly (IN) and Mayor Mike Pavey to Mesothelioma Warrior, Janelle, in [Rushville, IN](#)
- Utilized ADAO's [Facebook Page](#), [Facebook Group](#) pages, and [Twitter](#) presence to provide an interactive medium for those seeking a space to share, vent, or obtain information