

Together, change is possible

I became an activist in 2003 when my late husband Alan was diagnosed with mesothelioma, a fatal asbestos caused cancer. Recognizing that asbestos awareness would lead to prevention, funding for new treatments and research, and ultimately, a cure, Doug Larkin and I founded ADAO. Powered solely by volunteers, ADAO serves as an international and independent advocacy group dedicated to ending the deadly legacy of asbestos.

As the public remains woefully uneducated about the hazards of asbestos and exposures continue. Few outside our world know that more than 30 years ago, the International Agency for Research on Cancer declared asbestos a human carcinogen.

Since speaking in the House of Commons in May 2007, ADAO is proud to share some key points to our educational efforts to increase awareness and ban asbestos.

Our advocacy efforts remain strong and in 2007, we sponsored an historic product testing effort revealing asbestos is currently present in numerous U.S. consumer goods including a toy. ADAO's product testing efforts were the catalyst to remove this toy from the retail shelves and raise awareness around the globe.

We strived to change public policy with a voice, a voice that resonates with the media and political leaders. Annually, we work with the U.S. Senate to pass an educational Resolution declaring the first week in April as Asbestos Awareness Week as we know presently prevention is the only cure.

ADAO continues to work with the U.S. Congress to follow the UK's lead and fully ban asbestos; recent bills in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives are encouraging that a ban is in our sights. We invite you to visit our educational site at

www.banasbestos.us to see the history facts and current state of asbestos in the US.

As the 'Voice of the Victims', ADAO continues to deliver the keynote address and speak before critical audiences, including testimony before the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

Dr. Richard Lemen, Former U.S. Assistant Surgeon General Richard and ADACO Science Advisory Board Co-chair delivered the National Asbestos Conference keynote address in South Africa. I had the honour to present at the International Mesothelioma Interest Group Conference in the Netherlands and work to increase unity and awareness within the medical community.

ADAO continues to serve as a critical educational resource, not only victims of disease associated with asbestos exposure but also for their families, caregivers, treating physicians, and the community and individuals in need for support and awareness regarding the latest medical and informational updates and news Our Asbestos Video Library (www.adao.us) was launched in March 2007, and currently provides access to 22 educational videos, with more being loaded regularly. The Victims Memorial Tributes page on the website continues to grow as well, sadly, but also serves as an amazing reminder that together – we are indeed more powerful than we are alone. We look forward to continuing to work together to make asbestos a deadly story of the past.

Together, we can sound a deafening chorus, which will, at last, alert the world to the deadly dangers of asbestos and move us farther down the road toward, prevention, better treatment and, ultimately, a cure.



Linda Reinstein,
Asbestos Disease
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Executive Director
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Mesothelioma Widow

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Linda Reinstein is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO). Reinstein became an activist when her late husband Alan was diagnosed with mesothelioma in 2003. Since the co-founding of ADAO in 2004, Reinstein has globally united countless individuals and families who have been affected by asbestos related diseases, giving a voice to the victims. Reinstein has written and produced the slideshow "Asbestos Kills" and numerous educational materials including "Asbestos: The Dust, Disease, and Death" and "Reflections", an internationally distributed online asbestos disease book with articles from renowned global experts. Reinstein also established a growing web-based medical resource centre for victims which provide critical information on asbestos and related diseases. In 2006, Reinstein presented the Asian Asbestos Conference "Alan Reinstein Memorial Award" to the Thai Director-General of the Department of Disease Control in Bangkok. As a global speaker and author, Reinstein has presented in Japan, Thailand, before the British House of Commons, to U.S. Congress, the White House, and victims groups, businesses, and health and safety organizations across the globe. Reinstein, a frequent Congressional witness, continues to work domestically and internationally to help promote awareness about this deadly mineral, fuel research for treatment and a cure, and implement a worldwide asbestos ban. Reinstein is presently organizing the 5th Annual Asbestos Awareness Day Conference, to be held on March 27 – 29, 2009, in Manhattan Beach, California.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

