

**ADVOCATING LEGISLATIVE CHANGE:
TAKING THE DELHI HIGH COURT DECISION FORWARD**

Nearly a hundred groups from LGBT communities, from all over India, met in Mumbai on October 31 2009 to discuss strategies to counter the rising backlash and homophobia after the Delhi High Court judgment affirming the Constitutional rights of sexual minorities in the country.

All the attendees were concerned about the High Court judgment being over-turned or watered down in some way by the Supreme Court, which has admitted 14 SLPs challenging the High Court decision.

The diverse communities discussed various methods by which they would network with different segments of society to explain the issues that they faced in society and the implications of the striking down of Section 377.

The participants systematically developed an Action Plan to conduct advocacy both within their own communities and with mainstream society in different parts of the country over a period of the next one year to dispel myths and misconceptions about gays, lesbians and transgender persons, and to create enabling environment for sexual minorities. The Action Plan proposes to work aggressively with corporate, educational institutions, opinion leaders, and political parties along with law and police department. There was recommendation to work with friendly religious leaders and reach out to mainstream populations by dissemination of appropriate and correct information to the media (electronic as well as press) and also work within the community and build alliances with other social groups and networks in the country to help create a better understanding of issues of sexual minorities. INFOSEM and The Humsafar Trust hosted the day-long Consultation on 31st October 2009, the first since the landmark 2nd July 2009 judgment of the Delhi High Court which decriminalized consensual sex between adults of the same sex. The consultation was supported by UNDP.