

YAARIYAN_FLASHMOB

A Youth Initiative of The Humsafar Trust

About Yaariyan

Yaariyan is a Humsafar Trust Youth Initiative that was initiated to understand current trends and behavior of LGBT youth. The Yaariyan Core Team currently comprises a group of ten LGB-identified youth between the ages of 18 and 28 years. The group was set up following meetings with the youth members and sharing of ideologies; the first meeting of all members took place in December 2010. The group chose the name Yaariyan as the name symbolized community bonding and friendship. Furthermore, the name commemorated the first gay pride walk—also named Yaariyan—that took place in Kolkotta in 1999.

Yaariyan has been initiated by The Humsafar Trust to HEAR VOICES of the LGBT youth and to facilitate the LGBT youths' access to services such as a safe space for discussions, healthcare, mental health, and legal rights. Yaariyan also aims to serve as a platform to understand current trends and behavior of LGBT youth.

The Yaariyan Core Team communicates and plans activities mainly over a Facebook Group created exclusively for the core team. Furthermore, the group meets from time to time. Youth members of Yaariyan are technology savvy and believe in using technology to the best of its ability to run the group efficiently. All ten members are full-time employees in their respective vocations, and their contribution to Yaariyan is entirely voluntary. The Yaariyan Core team members actively recruits members into the team based on need or resignation of a core team member.

Yaariyans Flash Mob

Yaariyan has organized two successful flash mobs in the years 2012 and 2013 in support of Queer Azaadi Mumbai for the annual LGBT pride week of Mumbai.

Asias first queer was organized by 'Yaariyan' for Queer Azaadi March, Mumbai - this unique queer flash mob, first ever in Asia, was held on Marine Drive promenade on January 24, 2011. More than 50 out & proud gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and straight allies danced to Bollywood songs demanding right to freedom and equality for LGBTHQ persons in India. The video is available online at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkta4xpvrJQ>

The second flash mob took place in front of Dadar station on 25th January 2013. More than 50 out and proud people participated. The video is available online at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSpO5g-L-u4>

Rehearsals for pride 2013 have already begun.

These Flashmobs have empowered community to be more open and out there, demanding for their rights in mainstream spaces.

Funding Support: We have received support from UNDP for the 2nd Flashmob.