Humsafar Trust Vision Statement

The Humsafar Trust is committed to a holistic approach to the rights and health of sexual minorities and promoting rational attitudes towards sexuality.

Humsafar Trust Mission Statement

Our mission is to strive for the human rights, social well being of sexual minorities and provide them comprehensive health services.

Humsafar Trust Theory of Change

If we work for the human rights and health of sexual minorities who are LGBT and provide them services, then this work will lead to acceptance and equality of sexual minorities and a healthier community.
Introduction
The Humsafar Trust is India’s first community based organization (CBO) of self identified gay men, MSM, Hijras and Lesbian, Bisexual and Trans (LBT) persons that started in April 1994. The organization was registered with the Bombay Commissioner of Charity as a non-profit organization.

The HST was awarded the first pilot project to ‘Motivate Safer Sex among MSM at Selected Sites in Mumbai Metro’ supported by MDACS in April 1999. Since February 2001, USAID/FHI under its IMPACT project supported HST, which scaled up the MDACS project. This project upgraded ICTC infrastructure, doctors working honorary on the project were hired to work part-time. The HST implemented four phases of the intervention project, extending its services to 127 MSM and transgender sites in Mumbai and its surrounding areas. This project resulted in setting up a ‘HUB’ within HST that took a holistic approach towards the needs of the MSM and Tg communities in Mumbai Metro.

HST has a Centre for Excellence (CEFE) that has Research, Capacity building and Advocacy as its main area of work. HST has research collaborations with ICMR (India), CIHR (Canada), NIH (USA), Fenway Community Health, Massachusetts General Hospital (Boston), University of Minnesota (USA), Texas University (USA), Baldwin Wallace College, Ohio (USA), UCSF, San Francisco, California (USA) and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (UK)

The National AIDS control organization scaled up interventions with MSM and TG in its Phase III and the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria – Round 9 (GFATM – 9) project titled “Pehchan” will jointly reach out to 750,000 MSM, Transgender and Hijra (MTH) populations in India by end March 2016. Project Pehchan provides capacity building, funding support and mentoring to 51 Community based organisations (CBO) in five states to manage HIV and STI interventions with the MTH communities. The CBOs once strengthened are linked with the national programme of the country.

HST also receives funding support from GFATM Round 9 supported MSA grant informally known as Project DIVA. Project DIVA is a multi-country grant being implemented in seven countries of South Asia and HST is the India Sub Recipient for MSM component in 11 non Pehchan states. Project DIVA provides technical support to MSM and Tg component funded by SACS in these 11 states. Both the projects have an objective of advocating for the rights of MTH communities and communities living with HIV.
HST has institutionalized its various capacities by developing a Human Resources Policy, Finance, Procurement, Risk and Fraud policy, Child Protection Policy, Credit Society Policy, Organizational M & E framework, Strategic Plan, Mission Azaadi Document (MAD) - A reference Manual for LGBTQH rights in India, Sanchar – A language recommendation manual for Media on reporting LGBTQH issues, SHAKTI - A Hijra health care manual for health care providers, AROGYA- Community health workers training manual, Onward granting manual, National Advocacy Plan for MTH groups, Institutional Review Board (IRB) Policy and procedures for research projects. It has developed four guidebooks to provide ongoing support to community based organizations.

In November 2003, the HST set-up INFOSEM to bring together like-minded lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) groups to work issues on sexuality, health and human rights. HST has been nurturing a support group ‘UMANG’ (Joy) for LBT persons that create a safe space for them to come together and discuss issues affecting lives of LBT persons. HST has also brought together the youth LGBT group ‘YAARIYAN’ (Friendships) that aims at creating a platform for the youth to express their concerns and be heard.

**Highlight of the year of 2015 – 2016**

The Delhi High court judgment in 2009 decriminalized same sex behavior among consenting adults (above 18 years of age) but the same was challenged in the Supreme Court of the country and much to the dismay of the entire community, on 11th December 2013, the verdict went against the community thus once again criminalizing the act of homosexuality in India. This judgment met with protests from all over the world. A review petition was filed in the Supreme Court by the Government of India and the LGBT community. However the same was rejected. This judgment will affect the HIV interventions on the ground and there is enhanced need to garner support from the National Program and various stakeholders and empower communities to come forward with renewed commitment to work towards the larger cause.

This has created a panic wave in the community and risk of services being affected to the MSM and TG communities. Instances of violence and discrimination are being seen by the police department as well as the homophobic people in the country. The outreach work reports harassment and threats from the hooligans and anti-social elements on the sites. However the Department of AIDS Control (previously NACO) has reaffirmed its commitment to continue providing services to the MSM and TG communities. Thus we need to strengthen the capacities of the teams working on the ground and develop an advocacy policy to undertake advocacy initiatives with the legislation, judiciary and mainstream populations and work towards building rational attitudes in the society towards sexual minorities.
With this current scenario in mind, HST is working towards developing an advocacy policy document with support from its board and an independent consultant. Advocacy strategy is being worked and stakeholders have been identified as Direct and Indirect Influencers. The community has been put at the center as the most significant stakeholder. The Direct influencers have been identified as groups whose actions directly impact the lives of individuals like police, health care providers, families and indirect influencers are defined as the groups whose decisions can lead to actions that will have an impact on the lives of the communities like political parties, media, educational institutions, religious leaders, lawyers and policy makers.

**Updates for the year 2015 – 2016**

1) **Advocacy Unit**

Advocacy initiatives through funded and non-funded initiatives continued to be an integral part of HST work during the year.

**Sanchar (Communication)** a recommended language manual for media was developed with support from Pehchan – GFATM Round 9 Innovations fund. This recommendation manual in four languages namely English, Hindi, Marathi and Gujarati lays down basic principles in reporting on LGBT issues and the appropriate language that needs to be used while reporting on sexual minority issues.
Mission Azaadi Document was developed as overarching advocacy manual for the LGBT community that clearly defines objectives, strategies and activities as developed by community persons. The Mission Azaadi Document is an open document that can be used as a reference for various individuals and organizations working towards reading down of Section 377.

SANDESH - Canada Consul General supported various advocacy activities that including Pride Month activities such as Flash Mob, Gulaabi Mela, Queer Games, performances of Ek Madhavbaug, celebration of Transgender communities and their talents, crisis management and sensitization workshops with various law enforcement agencies and health care providers.

a) Queer Games – January 2016 Pride Event
b) Gulaabi Mela – January 2016 Pride Event

c) Flash mob – January 2016 Pride Event

d) Ek Madhavbaug (Play performance) – January 2016 Pride Event
e) Queer Cricket – January 2016 Pride Event

f) The Acceptance Meet – August 2015

g) Pride Walk – January 2016
h) KASHISH Mumbai International Queer Film festival – May 2015

i) HST Annual Day

Utsav 2016, The Humsafar Trust celebrated its 21st Annual Day at Santacruz Railway Hall, Santacruz East Mumbai on 28th February 2016. We had a body building and fashion show competition along with solo and group dance performances. Transgender Community has been spearheading these performances for the past 21 years. Many members who come from less privileged backgrounds like sex workers or bar dancers take centre stage during this event. Their identity and talent is a matter of pride during this event. This year 1488 people attended the event.
j) **HST Offsite – February 2016**
An annual offsite was organized in Matheran between 5th February and 8th February 2016. The three day offsite developed an action plan for TIs for 2016-2017, best team person elections were held and Aarambh II Coordinator Dinesh Walunj was elected as the best employee of the year and Sonal Giani was elected as the runner up best team person of the year.

2) **Health Unit**
HST Continued to provide Targeted Interventions services to MSM and Tg communities in Mumbai through 6 Targeted Interventions and reaching out to 9,000 MSM and TG on over 123 sites. HST has strong linkages with public health systems in Mumbai and has strongly embedded ART services in the five ART centres of Mumbai and Thane. HST also provides legal support, crisis management, mental health counselling and nutrition counselling to its communities. HST continued to provide STI and HIV services through its 6 STI clinics and 1 Integrated and counselling clinics in Mumbai and Thane. Providing free condoms, referrals to ICTC and BCC material distribution and education continued through the year. The TIs also continued advocacy initiatives that included performance of street theatre and sensitization of stakeholders

**MDACS continued to support the 6 Targeted Interventions and 1 ICTC**
1. Aarambh I
2. Aarambh II
3. Shaan
4. Yaarana
5. Dostana
6. Mastana
7. ICTC
3) **Research Unit**

The Knowledge Attitude Behaviour Practices study – Wave VII was completed and disseminated. Planning for the next wave and qualitative analysis began during the year.

ISHKonnect: Internet Based HIV prevention for Indian MSM sought an extension from Indian Council of Medical Research for 6 months and was completed. Team Grant: CHVI Team in Social and Behavioral Research on HIV Vaccines went into the year 3 of its cycle. The Sahaay Study, PATH supported FHI 360 operation research with an aim to reduce HIV risk by increasing access to prevention services through a mobile based counselling intervention among hard to reach MSMs. The project was implemented by The Humsafar Trust with partner CBOs in Delhi (Mitr Trust), Raipur – Chattisgarh (Mitwa Sankalp Samiti) and Mumbai (Humsaaya Society) and wrapped up and disseminated during the year. A study titled Chalo in collaboration with Einstein University in New York City (USA) has been initiated to look into the efficacy of safer sex practices messaging through online forums.

Fostering Resilience to Psychosocial and HIV Risk in Indian Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) study entered its second year in October 2015. This study is the next step of ongoing community-based research collaboration between investigators from the United States (funded through the National Institute of Mental Health), investigators from the India Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis (NIRT) and The Humsafar Trust (Mumbai). This is a randomized controlled trial, comparing two different approaches to HIV prevention among MSM.
4) **Capacity Building**

Through the Project named SAHYOG (Cooperation) supported by MAC AIDS Fund (MAF), we entered into year 3 of HUB of holistic services for MSM and TG populations in the form of mental health counseling, nutritional support and counseling, legal support for addressing issues of stigma, discrimination, continuum of care for MSM and Transgender living with HIV, clinical facility for providing general health and sexual health services to MSM and TG communities. We also aimed at reviving a safe space (Drop-In-Centre) for community events and a space where communities could come together and find a platform to address their issues. Capacity building of Intervention staff on a holistic approach towards HIV intervention through trainings (both formal and in-house) and Outreach supervision is key to the project.

GFATM Supported MSM and TG community and a project titled ‘Pehchan’ which in Hindi means ‘identity’, ‘recognition’ or ‘acknowledgement,’ was wrapped during 2015 – 2016 and was officially closed in March 2016 with another two months’ time for closure. This project strengthens and builds the capacity of community-based organizations (CBOs) to provide HIV prevention programming for 453,000 men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender and hijras in 17 Indian states. Pehchan remains GFATMs largest single-country grant to date focused on the HIV response for vulnerable sexual minorities. The HST works on Pehchan in 5 states that include Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

HST continued to receive funding support from GFATM Round 9 supported MSA grant informally known as Project DIVA. Project DIVA is a multi-country grant being implemented in seven countries of South Asia and HST is the India Sub Recipient for MSM component in 11 non Pehchan states. Project DIVA provides technical support to MSM and Tg component funded by SACS in these 11 states. Both the projects have an objective of advocating for the rights of MTH communities and communities living with HIV
5) **Grant Updates**

The staff retention crisis of 2014-2015 was effectively dealt with new projects initiating. However it was strongly felt that HST should make an effort to identify more grant opportunities and pitch for more funds as a sustainability effort. We set up a team from within our research unit that came together to identify opportunities. A grant matrix (Annexure 1) was prepared and various new grants were put together. The organization wrote grant applications to Amplify Change, UG Gov – Strengthening LGBTQ Network, FHI360 LINKAGES, F.K. Norway, UNDP Regional hub, Commonwealth funds, Lush Funds and Astrea and Canada Consul General for Umang LBT project.

6) **Policy Updates**: 
During the year the Human Resources Policy was reviewed and updated as on 1st October 2015. The Humsafar Finance Manual was reviewed; procurement policy, Fraud, risk and corruption policy, Credit Society Policy, HST resource mobilization strategy, M and E framework indicators were developed during the year.

7) **Website**:
The new Humsafar Trust website www.humsafar.org was completed and is now accessible with all its services and facilities clearly given. HST will make efforts to reach out to larger audiences within and outside of India through its website to enhance of Indian LGBT communities.

8) **International Visits**
During the year 2015 – 2016, HST teams had International visits for UNAIDS fast tracking response to HIV, Prep consultations establishing new projects with F.K Norway for exchange of best learning practices between three countries, research collaborations, Blue Sky week organized by International HIV AIDS Alliance. The participating teams included Murugesan, Sivasubramanian, Shruta Rawat, Suhail Abbasi, Sonal Giani and Deepak Tripathi.
9) **Sustainability**
A Donate button has been placed on the HST website, which is being aggressively promoted through various social media forums. Satyamev Jayate through Reliance chose HST for INR 50 lakh donation which is project linked. Satyamev Jayate will also ask people to donate to HST on its show. HST was allocated 12 BIBs by Standard Chartered Marathon to raise funds and posts were made on facebook seeking donations. The Resource Mobilization Strategy was finalized and a five point action plan has been clearly laid.

10) **Filing of returns to Charity Commissioner and FCRA**
The Finalized books of accounts and Income Tax returns for 2015-2016 to the Charity Commissioner / ITO and Home Ministry was completed by 30th Sept 2016 and presented to the Board for approval Copies of Audited accounts and returns is attached as Annexure 3 with this report.

**Plans for 2016 – 2017**
1) It is planned that during the year the Human Resources Policy will be reviewed and updated and made effective from 1st April 2016. The Humsafar Finance Manual will be reviewed; procurement policy, Fraud, risk and corruption policy, Credit Society Policy, HST resource mobilization strategy, M and E framework indicators will be developed under the GFATM Round 9 – MSA grant.

2) Initiate three months Humsafar Advocacy Action Plan to influence policy makers and create an enabling environment that will work towards legal recognition of LGBTQ individuals of India

3) Initiate a research study that will highlight the effect of Supreme Court Judgement that recriminalized same sex desiring individuals

4) A National Research Dissemination be held in Delhi showcasing Research Studies of Humsafar in the last four years

5) A National LGBTQ consultation to be planned around October 2016 to bring together around 100 LGBTQ organizations and individuals to strengthen a network of sexual minorities

6) Plan a national level experience sharing and review meeting with state AIDS control societies of 11 hard to reach DIVA states and work towards seeking an extension for the project through 2017

7) Approach MAC AIDS FUND (MAF) to extend support to project Sahyog for a minimum of two more years

8) Strengthen HST Website and initiate implementation of developing an online resource center
9) Strengthen Yaariyan and Umang Initiatives

10) Capacity building and training programs under GFTAM Round 9 Project DIVA will be strengthened.

11) HST will continue to collaborate with Pride Walk of Queer Azaadi Mumbai and Kashish Mumbai International Film Festival.

12) Publish the next issue of Bombay Dost to be launched by January 2017

13) Humsafar to initiate work on National Queer Art Festival

14) The health unit will focus on its existing Targeted Interventions in Mumbai Metro now supported exclusively by MDACS.

**The Board**

**Ashok Row Kavi**
The Chairman of the Humsafar Trust is part of the national core committee to provide recommendations to the NACO on its National AIDS control programs, Prime Ministers Council on HIV AIDS to represent the needs and views of the Indian Gay community, Consultant – UNAIDS and holds the sexual minorities Desk at UNAIDS Delhi office.

**Suhail Abbasi**
Suhail Abbasi is a creative professional with over 15 years of experience across films, television and print. He has been formally trained in Applied Arts from Sir J.J. School of Arts and holds a post-graduate degree (Master of Design) in Visual Communication from IIT Bombay. After accomplishing his academics, he chose the area of Direction and for about eight years he worked with some of the leading directors of the Hindi film industry. He has learnt the intricacies of film making and has worked in the areas of script writing, dialogue writing and film direction. For over 13 years, Suhail Abbasi has worked with Sony Entertainment Television Network he has headed the Creative Development and Programming Departments and has successfully developed several trend setting shows and have helped launch various business initiatives in the international market. Suhail has been a Founder Trustee of The Humsafar Trust, he is also on the Advisory Board of BOMBAY DOST and a member of IRB (Institutional Review Board) of The Humsafar Trust.
**Vivek Anand**

Vivek Anand studied at the prestigious NMIMS business school – class of 1991 in Bombay. He set up a film production house along with Sridhar Rangayan and worked as executive producer on over 40 Ad films/ corporate films and Documentaries and also is a writer of 11 Tele films that his company produced.

He started working as volunteer with Humsafar Trust in 1995 and soon became a community counselor and spoke to around 1,500 gay men, MSM and Tgs in the next five years. In 2001, he started working part time with Humsafar Trust managing its existing project and developing new proposals. In August 2002 he was appointed as Chief Executive Officer and currently manages all its projects that include Interventions, research, advocacy and capacity building of MSM and Tg groups in the country. He is also responsible for setting of Centre for Excellence (CEFE), Institutional Review Board (Ethics Review committee of HST), Community Advisory Board, Project Management Unit, Governing Board and Executive council for Humsafar Trust. He worked on developing software for tracking the existing projects of Humsafar on over 150 indicators.

**Pallav Patankar**

Pallav Patankar is associated with “The Humsafar Trust” since its inception He has served as an administrator for an interim period in the The Humsafar Trust Drop In Centre. He has an undergraduate degree in Life Sciences and Biochemistry (St. Xaviers College, Mumbai), followed by a National Level Masters degree in Biotechnology from Madurai Kamraj University. He proceeded to receive a business degree from S.P.Jain Institute of Management and Research specialising in International Business. He has worked on developing sustainability models for HIV positive children, documentation of community action amongst MSM/TG communities and is currently working on the documentation of the best practices model of Target intervention amongst MSM and TG populations. He has an 8 year corporate experience, as a marketing professional in international business and has worked in areas of sales, marketing and strategic product sourcing. He also heads the marketing and sales of Bombay Dost the only gay magazine published in India.

**Shibu Thomas**

Shibu Thomas is a media professional. For over a decade he has been working as journalist with leading newspapers in India. From the heat and dust of political campaigns to terror trials, a ‘Save Eye’ campaign in Thailand to the Inaugural F1 Grand Prix in Shanghai, he has written on local and national issues, Bollywood and travel. His focus in recent years has been on legal issues, especially when it intersects with his areas of interest - development, environment and human rights.
**Humsafar Support**

- NACO – MDACS
- UNDP / UNA
- Alliance India – Global Fund to fight AIDS TB and Malaria – Round 9
- UNDP – BKK - Global Fund to fight AIDS TB and Malaria – Round 9
- Reliance Foundation – Satyamev Jayate
- Einstein University
- Canada Consul General
- MAC AIDS FUND
- Massachusetts General Hospital
- National Institute of Health (NIH) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Acronyms</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immune Virus</td>
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<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</td>
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<td>HST</td>
<td>The Humsafar Trust</td>
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<td>LTMG</td>
<td>Lokmanya Tilak Memorial General Hospital</td>
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<td>Out Patient Department</td>
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<td>Mumbai District AIDS Control Society</td>
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<td>Integrated Counselling and Testing Center</td>
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<td>TG</td>
<td>Transgender</td>
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<td>BMC</td>
<td>Bombay Municipal Corporation</td>
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<td>Family Health International 360</td>
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<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
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<td>MSM</td>
<td>Men having Sex with Men</td>
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<td>Sexually Transmitted Infection</td>
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<td>National AIDS Control Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>LGBT</td>
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<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
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<td>Integrated Network for Sexual Minorities</td>
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<td>UNAIDS</td>
<td>United Nations AIDS program</td>
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Annual Report for 2015-2016
Prepared by
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Chief Executive Officer
The Humsafar Trust
Mumbai
30\textsuperscript{th} June, 2016