The Humsafar Trust

Annual Report

2009-2010

Serving the spectrum of MSM and TG community since 1994
Humsafar Trust Vision Statement

We strive for the human rights of sexual minorities and for the provision of quality health services to MSM and tritiya panthi (TG)

Humsafar Trust Mission Statement

A holistic approach to the rights and health of sexual minorities and promoting rational attitudes to sexuality

Humsafar Trust Theory of Change

If we work towards the human rights of sexual minorities and the health of MSM and tritiya panthi (TG), then this work will lead to acceptance and equality of sexual minorities and a healthier community
A. Name of the Organization: The Humsafar Trust
B. Theme: Health and Rights of Sexual Minorities
C. District: Mumbai
D. Registration No: E-15061 (Mumbai Metro)
E. Address: The Humsafar,
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                   Chief Executive Officer & Trustee
                   Email Address: avivekr@gmail.com
### Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>HST</td>
<td>Humsafar Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPD</td>
<td>Out Patient Department</td>
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<td>MSM</td>
<td>Men Having Sex with Men</td>
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<td>VCCTC</td>
<td>Voluntary Counseling and Confidential Testing Center</td>
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<td>MDACS</td>
<td>Mumbai District AIDS Control Society</td>
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<td>BMC</td>
<td>Bombay Municipal Corporation</td>
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<td>TI</td>
<td>Targeted Intervention</td>
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<td>TG</td>
<td>Transgender</td>
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<td>CEFE</td>
<td>Center for Excellence</td>
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<td>INFOSEM</td>
<td>Integrated Network for Sexual Minorities</td>
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<td>FHI</td>
<td>Family Health International</td>
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<td>USAID</td>
<td>United Stated Agency for International Development</td>
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<td>FPAI</td>
<td>Family Planning Association of India</td>
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<td>DFID</td>
<td>Department for International Development</td>
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<td>PMO</td>
<td>Project Management Office</td>
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<td>CASP</td>
<td>Communication and Advocacy Support Program</td>
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<td>RALF</td>
<td>Research and Learning Fund</td>
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<td>NACO</td>
<td>National AIDS Control Organization</td>
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<td>CBO</td>
<td>Community Based Organization</td>
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<td>NACP</td>
<td>National AIDS Control Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non Governmental Organization</td>
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<td>IRB</td>
<td>Institutional Review Board</td>
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<td>ICMR</td>
<td>Indian Council of Medical Research</td>
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I Introduction to The Humsafar Trust and its programs:

The Humsafar Trust (HST) is a male sexual health agency registered in the April 1994 as a community-based organization by self-identified homosexual men with the mission to implement a holistic approach to the rights and health of sexual minorities and promoting rational attitudes to sexuality.

The organization commenced its community work in 1990 with free distribution of condoms at two of the key MSM sex sites in Mumbai and launch of Bombay Dost, India’s first and only gay magazine to collectivize self identified gay men and MSM. Through a grant from the directorate of health services the organization conducted a premier mapping study that identified 77 sites in Mumbai where Men who have sex with men (MSM) met regularly either to seek partners or socialize and exchange information. This formed the basis of the organizational premier intervention pilot titled ‘Motivate Safer Sex among MSM at Selected Sites in Mumbai Metro’; this initiative was supported by the Mumbai District AIDS Control Society (MDACS) in April 1999 and was country’s first MSM project in the country supported by the National AIDS Control Society (NACO). The reach of this project was scaled up by USAID/ FHI under its IMPACT project and at the end of December 2008 HST implements seven holistic intervention projects providing prevention, care, support and treatment services and reaching out to 13,000 new and 64,000 regular MSM, MSWs and Hijras every year. The program funding is supported by NACO-MDACS, USAID-AVERT Society, EU-HIVOS, BMGF supported Aastha project.

HST is the convener of the Integrated Network for Sexual Minorities, India (INFOSEM) which is an umbrella of all Community Based Organizations working with Sexual Minorities on the issue of Health and Human Rights.

HST has created a model of intervention, care and support and treatment that can be easily replicated HST HR Policy of the organization provides a minimum of 20% job opportunities or HIV positive MSM and Hijras. HST also has a strategic plan and business plan in place. HST also has well established financial management and auditing systems in place.

HST was documented as Best Practices Model by UNICEF in 2003 and has become the first community based organization to set up its own IRB (Institutional Review Board), an ethic review committee that has been registered with NIH and awarded the Federal Wide Acceptance (FWA) certificate in year 2004. HST also has a Community Advisory Board (CAB) to provide inputs, monitor and validate the findings of various studies and interventions. All research projects of The Humsafar Trust are conducted only after they have sought the approval of the IRB.

II The Start Up of Program

In 1998 the Humsafar Trust (HST) had its first grant from the Directorate of Health Services in Mumbai to do a sex mapping study in Mumbai. The small grant of Rs.57,000/- was utilized to mobilize community members from all over the city and sex mapping of over 100 sites was completed in less than six months.

In January 1999, the HST started its sensitization program with various public hospitals in Mumbai. The first positive results came when Dr. Hema Jerajani of Lokmanya Tilak Memorial General Hospital (LTMGH) agreed to examine MSM clients in their hospital OPD. She also sent her resident doctors to HST to get them sensitized on MSM issues. The doctors from LTMGH began their friendly visits to the HST centre and very soon it was agreed that HST would set up its own in-house VCCTC.
A lot of support garnered from various quarters and with unflinching support of LTMG hospital, MDACS and Mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) helped start the VCCTC on 26th June 1999. The Humsafar Trust is now managing over 2,500 MSM and TGs accessing quality services every year from its clinic. The clinic has been described as a model clinic following all international norms of quality services by FHI.

Mumbai District Aids Control Society (MDACS) awarded the first pilot project title ‘Motivate Safer Sex among MSM at Selected Sites in Mumbai Metro’ in April 1999 over a three-year period. (Project Aarambh 1 is now in its 11th year).

The Mumbai District Aids Control Society (MDACS) increased the scope of the project in April 2000 to reach out to MSM at selected sites (Project Aarambh 2 is now in its 10th year).

However, as the numbers of sites kept increasing over a period of time, it was considered essential that HST upscale the project and seek financial aid from other sources too. In February 2001, USAID / FHI under its Impact program up scaled the project for a period of 18 months. (Project Yaarana now its 9th year)

In April 2002 MDACS initiated a project with TG / Kothi sex workers around five truck stops in Mumbai. (Project Shaan is currently in its 8th year of intervention.)

In April 2005, The Avert Society with funding from USAID started a MSM project with The Humsafar Trust in the Thane region of Maharashtra state (Project Josh now in its 5th year).

In June 2005, FHI and FPAI collaboration with funding from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation set up a project with male sex workers on 18 hotspots in Mumbai. (Project Gaurav now in its 5th year).

In January 2006, The Humsafar Trust along with Department for International Development (DFID) – Project Management Office (PMO) had a Community and Advocacy Support Program (CASP) with a goal to reduce the HIV prevalence and to improve the sexual health of men who have sex with men (MSM) and Hijras (male-to-female transgender persons) in India by enhancing the contribution of community organizations towards the national responses to HIV epidemic.

In January 2006, The Humsafar Trust along with Department for International Development (DFID) – Project Management Office (PMO) received a Research and Learning Fund (RALF) had a goal to build an evidence base to inform designing and implementation of effective HIV prevention interventions for MSM & Hijras in India.

In May 2007, Produced feature film “68 Pages” documenting experiences of a counsellor working with marginalised communities which was supported by Department for International Development (DFID)

In July 2008, Produced “Bridges of Hope” a documentary documenting voices and concerns of MSM and TG community and supported by UNAIDS

In November 2008 : A regional level advocacy project in collaboration with SIDA – RFSU and 14 partners from India, Bangla Desh, Nepal and Sri Lanka to increase rights and health based issues of LGBT community
Ill New Developments 2009 - 2010:

- 2009: “Sashakt” A project commissioned by UNDP to Pilot GFATM Round 9 proposal with Alliance India and three more partners from Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

- 2009 : Documenting six successful HIV interventions in India with MSM and Tg community commissioned by UNDP.

- 2009 : Avert Society –MSACS with funding from USAID started a MSM - TI project with The Humsafar Trust in Bhiwandi - Thane region of Maharashtra state

- 2009 : A consultation that brought together the LGBT community in India at a national level comprising of over 100 LGBT activists met in Mumbai in October 2009 to discuss strategies on how to take forward the Delhi High Court Judgment on Section 377 and influence various sections of society and engage them in a dialogue on LGBT rights was supported by SIDA - RFSU

- 2009: Produced “Yehi Hai...Right way” a condom demonstration film for MSM and Tg and supported by UNAIDS

- 2009: Co-producing feature film “I AM OMAR” in collaboration with Anti Clock films and ONIR, a film that brings to light harassment faced by gay community and supported by UNDP

- 2009: Produced 7 Gay, MSM and Tg friendly posters for John Hopkins University – Bloomberg school of communication

- 2009: Producing an hour long film “Aa Muskuraa....” on counselling skills for counsellors for John Hopkins University – Bloomberg school of communication

- 2009: “Badlav ki kalpana” ( Thoughts of Change ) a project commissioned by UNDP to produce two documentaries “Breaking Free” and “Bolo” documenting the LGBT movement in India in the last 20 years, support Bombay Dost magazine for 3 years and conduct national level consultation to strategise next steps after the Delhi High Court judgment.

- 2009: A research project (R21) with Married MSM supported by NIH in collaboration and Indian Council Medical Research (ICMR) with Fenway community health, Boston titled, “Sexual Network of High Risk Married MSM in Mumbai”.

- 2009: A research project to look into HPV prevalence among MSM supported by NIH in collaboration with University of California, San Fransico, “HPV Infection in Indian HIV Sero-Positive Men who have sex with Men”.

- 2009: A research project to look into STI treatment compliance among MSM supported by BMGF and FHI, “Evaluating essential sexually transmitted infection service package for sex workers in India”.

- 2009: Tracking study of Humsafar, 5th follow up study on its baseline study of 2000 titled, “A study on Knowledge, Attitude, Behavior and Practices of Men Having sex with Men in Mumbai and Thane District”.

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- 2009: Developing health messages in collaboration with University of Illinois, Chicago, titled: "Reducing Risk, Promoting Health: Perspectives from MSM".

- All ongoing targeted interventions under NACP – III of NACO continued in their next phase reaching out to 13,500 MSM / TG and Male Sex Workers (MSWs) in Mumbai and Thane District providing them free condoms, free STI and HIV services and enrollment and registration under Government of India's free ART program. All the TI projects have completed successful evaluation and audit by their respective funding agencies.

IV Planned Activities for 2010-2011:

- **NACP III Continued:**
  The Humsafar Trust will pave way for the Humsafar Parivar, a proposed society of 10 CBOs in Mumbai and Thane District with the basic aim of strengthening its reach in the community and to protect the basic human rights of the MSM and Tg community. The proposed society will be formed by democratically elected 10 members from 10 CBOs. 9 new CBOs will be set up and the existing Humsafar Trust will form the 10th and convener member of the society.

- **Humsafar proposes to start Global fund project round 9 with a goal to promote and provide technical assistance to smaller CBOs in implementing Targeted Interventional in five different states in India.**

- **SIDA - Advocacy and Human Rights :** Following up on the national consultation with the LGBT community a project to sensitize media, religious leaders, academicians and scholars as next steps in the struggle for LGBT rights and reading down of Section 377 in the country’s apex body Supreme court was approved by SIDA

- **Humsafar Trust takes the initiative of hosting country’s first International Queer Film Festival titled “Kashish (Attractions ) Mumbai International Queer Film Festival 2010” in collaboration with its in-house gay magazine Bombay Dost and Solaris Pictures and independant film house producing niche films on LGBT issues in India. The film festival will showcase 110 queer films representing 25 countries worldwide in two mainstream venues in Mumbai, India. The film festival also gains prominence as it has secured a clearance from the Information and Broadcasting Ministry of India to host this festival and screen queer themed films.**

- **Humsafar will initiate a study on HIV vaccine preparedness in collaboration with Canada Institute of Health Research in the next year.**

- **Humsafar Trust will be audited for an Accreditation process by International HIV AIDS Alliance.**

V 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.

**Sridhar Rangayan**

Sridhar Rangayan, one of the Founder Trustee and Head of Media Advocacy Cell is an internationally acclaimed filmmaker. Sridhar Rangayan is a Bombay-based writer/director whose films present hard-hitting social issues and critique with warmth, compassion, and humour. His award-winning films The Pink Mirror, Yours Emotionally, and 68 Pages are at the forefront of India’s emergent queer cinema movement – ground-breaking in a country where homosexuality is still legally challenged and socially unacceptable. In 2006, he was awarded the South Asian & Foreign Achievers Award - which honours 50 achievers from around the world who have made an outstanding contribution in the global mainstream media. He is also one of the front rank leaders in the LGBT movement in India and has contributed immensely towards the growth of awareness of sexual minorities in India.

**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, finance 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.
**Nitin Karani**

Nitin Karani is associated with “The Humsafar Trust” since its inception, first as a volunteer at HST events (for example, at India's first South Asian MSM conference in December 1994 in Mumbai and India's first ILGA South Asia conference, again in Mumbai) and HST's media liaison, and then as trustee. Nitin was a journalist for eight years at various newspapers and magazines (for example, The Indian Express, Mid-Day, Marwar) and his writing has appeared in various mainstream publications and in Bombay Dost magazine, of which he is currently editor-at-large. He infrequently blogs at www.queerindia.blogspot.com Nitin has been editing equity research reports at various MNC brokerage houses, full time, since 2003.

**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 worked with Lupin Laboratories in the Biotechnology division as a Product Manager, co-ordinating the development of India’s first HIV Elisa Kit. He co-ordinated the kit trials across various State Health Centers to generate sensitivity specificity data for the product. 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.

**VI Humsafar Funding Support**

- UNDP
- UNAIDS
- NACO - MDACS
- Alliance India
- JHU – Bloomberg School of Communications
- AVERT Society – USAID
- Aastha Project – BMGF – FHI
- SIDA – RFSU
- National Institute of Health (NIH) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- University of Illinois (Chicago)