Humsafar Trust Mission 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 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
Introduction
The Humsafar Trust was set up in April 1994 by leading gay activist Ashok Row Kavi population in Mumbai Metro and surrounding areas. After much networking and advocacy with the Mumbai Municipal Corporation for over a year and a half it became the first openly Gay Community Based Organization to be allotted space in a Municipal building at Vakola, Santacruz along with two more self-identified homosexual men who desired to reach out to the gay (East) Mumbai in October 1995.

The Drop In Centre and Counseling services
The Trust began its activities by inviting gay men and lesbian women to attend its workshops on Fridays at its drop in centre in Santacruz. The Friday workshops addressed various issues like coming out to self and family, dealing with relationships, dealing with legal issues of gay men, tackling problems with cheaters and hustlers, health and human rights related issues. A team of 6 self identified homosexual men were trained to be street counselors responding to the needs of gay men calling the voice mail helpline service set up by the trust. The drop in centre saw various workshops on issues of HIV/AIDS and soon it became evident that the trust will have to work aggressively on the health of the community.

The Start Up of Programmes
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 programme with various public hospitals in Mumbai. The first positive results came when Dr. Hema Jerajani of LTMG Sion Hospital 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 LTMG began their friendly visits to the HST centre and very soon it was agreed that HST would set up its own in-house ICTC.

A lot of support was garnered from various quarters and with unflinching support of LTMG hospital, MDACS and Mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) helped start the ICTC on 26th June 1999. The Humsafar clinics have been described as model clinics following all international norms of quality services by FHI.

Mumbai District Aids Control Society (MDACS) awarded the first pilot project to ‘Motivate Safer Sex among Gay men and MSM at Selected Sites in Mumbai Metro’ in April 1999 over a three-year period. (Project Aarambh now in its 12th year)

The Mumbai District Aids Control Society (MDACS) increased the scope of the project in April 2000. 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 programme up scaled the project for a period of 18 months.
IMPACT close worldwide in September 2006 and Humsafar project was taken over by AVERT Society.

In April 2002 MDACS initiated a project with Tg / Kothi sex workers around five truck stops in Mumbai. (Project Shaan is currently in its 9\textsuperscript{th} year of intervention.)

In April 2002 the Humsafar Trust also initiated a project to work with Hijra community in Malavani, Mumbai which houses close to 2,000 hijra’s. This initiative of Humsafar trust was managed by a Tg group Sakhi Char Chowghi which is now being independently funded since April 2007

In April 2002 Goa State AIDS Control Society helped initiate a MSM project on five select sites in Goa. In April 2005 the scope of the project has been increased to 10 sites in Goa State. In October 2007 Humsafar set up a new CBO Humsaath Trust in Goa and handed over the project to the newly formed CBO

**Initiatives (Implemented and Ongoing Projects) 2005 – 2011**

- 2005: The Avert Society –MSACS with funding from USAID started a MSM - TI project with The Humsafar Trust in Kalyan - Thane region of Maharashtra state

- 2005: FHI and FPAI collaboration with funding from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation set up a project with male sex workers TI project on 18 hotspots in Mumbai.

- 2005: A model clinic to provide STI treatment, HIV testing facility and referrals for HIV treatment is set up in Kalyan (Thane District) in July 2005. This project is being funded by HIVOS/EU/SIAAP

- 2006: A project to provide capacity building to 25 MSM and Tg organizations from all over India and develop a national advocacy strategy document for MSM and Tgs and help develop a strategy for NACO (National AIDS Control Organization) to start up and upscale projects with MSM and Tg community. This year long project is funded by DFID-PMO.

- 2006: A research project to study and describe the social and sexual networks of MSM and Tgs in India. This study was carried out in 5 states and 8 cities and presented to government of India.

- 2006: A research project to study the dynamics of MSM in Maharashtra State. The study was carried out in two cities and supported by USAID-Avert Society

- 2006: A research project in collaboration with Fenway Community Health (Boston) to study the mental health issues of MSM in Mumbai Metro
2006: Setting up of Humsafar Institutional Review Board (IRB) for approving all research projects. The IRB is registered with NIH and has Federal Wide Assurance Certificate

2006: The USAID-FHI supported project IMPACT-YAARANA came to an end on 30th September 2006 as the term of IMPACT ended. The project was taken over by USAID-Avert from 1st October 2006 (combined 9th year)

2007: Produced feature film “68 Pages” documenting experiences of a counselor working with marginalized communities

2008: Produced “Bridges of Hope” a documentary documenting voices and concerns of MSM and TG community

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 (Period 2009 – 2012)

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: Produced “Yehi Hai...Right way” a condom demonstration film for MSM and Tg

2009: “Badlav ki kalpana” 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 strategize next steps after the Delhi High Court judgment

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: Produced 7 Gay, MSM and Tg friendly posters for John Hopkins University – Bloom berg school of communication

2009: A research project with Married MSM supported by NIH in collaboration with Fenway community health, Boston

2009: A research project to look into HPV prevalence among MSM supported by NIH in collaboration with UCSF.

2009: A research project to look into STI treatment compliance among MSM supported by BMGF and FHI

2009: Tracking study of Humsafar, 6th follow up study on its baseline study of 2000
2009: Developing health messages in collaboration with University of Illinois, Chicago.

2009: A national consultation with 108 LGBT leaders to take the Delhi High court judgment forward supported by SIDA RFSU

2010: Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival 2010

2010: Ek Madhavbaug: Chetan Datar’s poignant Marathi play about a son coming out to his mother has its first Hindi performance at PVR-Juhu by Actor Mona Ambegaonkar. The Play will have 24 performances for corporate houses and educational institutions and 12 performances at Prithvi and NCPA in 2011

2010: Aa Muskuraa: A film on building communication skills of ICTC counselors

2010: Global Fund Round 9: A capacity building and training project in 5 states and 53 partners

2010: CIHR: A study to understand vaccine preparedness in India

2010: HIVOS / SIAAP supported advocacy project as follow up to SARVOJANA EU project.

2010: SIDA /RFSU supported project to conduct sensitization workshops with five leading stakeholders.

2010: Co-produced feature film “I AM OMAR” in collaboration with Anti Clock films and ONIR, a film that brings to light harassment faced by gay community

2010: Documenting six successful HIV interventions in India with MSM and Tg community commissioned by UNDP

2010: ‘EnGayging lives’ a film produced by Humsafar Trust for students of Sophia college to discuss issues related with gay relationships (won jury award at Kashish film festival)

The Year of 2011 – 2012

Advocacy Unit

1) A collaborative effort between Amaltas India and World Bank to develop a Road Map for LGBT Friendly laws in India. A report was compiled and presented to World Bank who will release the same at the XIX International AIDS Conference in Washington DC in July 2012

2) An advocacy survey was conducted in Mumbai to assess the Impact of Delhi High Court Judgment decriminalizing same sex behavior under section 377 of Indian Penal Code. This survey along with a series of Humsafar studies was disseminated to
various stakeholders on 11th August 2011. This survey was supported by India HIV AIDS Alliance.

3) Ek Madhavbaug as a theatre performance was performed in 12 educational institutions and corporate houses to promote LGBT rights

4) Advocacy Initiatives through Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival 2011, Queer Azaadi Mumbai Pride walk 2012, Bombay Dost magazine continued through the year

5) Aa Muskuraa: A film in six modules of 20 minutes each building communication skills of ICTC counselors was produced with support from JHU

**Health Unit**

HST Continued to provide Targeted Interventions services to MSM and Tg communities in Mumbai and Thane through 9 projects and reaching out to 13,500 MSM and TG on over 148 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. As part of the National Sentinel Surveillance it is estimated that HIV prevalence among the MSM community in India is 7.4% (MSM) and 40% (TG). HST continued to provide STI and HIV services through its 7 STI clinics and 2 Integrated and counselling clinics in Mumbai and Thane. Providing free condoms, referrals to ICTC and BCC material distribution and education continued through the year.

At year end as USAID AVERT Society project came to an end HST had to discontinue services in two thane projects. The three AVERT projects in Mumbai were taken over by MDACS and continue through 2012-213.

HST has nurtured ‘Gaurav’ a CBO of Male Sex Workers who now independently manage Targeted Interventions with support from Mumbai District AIDS Control Society. HST also set up ‘Kinnar Kasturi’ and ‘Kinnar Asmita’ that represent TG and Hijra community along with ‘Sanjeevani’ which is a community based organisation of MSM and TG living with HIV. HST is convener member of Integrated Network for Sexual Minorities (INFOSEM) the only national level network of sexual minorities that has 110 community based organisations representing Lesbian, Gay, Kothi, MSM, bisexual and Transgender communities as members.

**Research Unit**

The following studies supported by NIH and ICMR continued to be implemented

1) 2011 : SHAKTI : Intervention with health care providers to work better with TG -ICMR

2) 2011 : Impact of 377 : Delhi High Court Judgment – India HIV AIDS Alliance

3) 2011 : Stigma Study with ICMR to study stigma levels among MSM and Tg populations

4) 2012 : ISHKonnect : Internet Based HIV prevention for Indian MSM
5) 2012 : Humsafar Tracking Study : VII Wave

6) 2012 : Male Sex workers : Protected or at risk: what are the factors influencing sexual behavior and sexual health outcomes of men selling sex in Mumbai

7) 2012 : ICRW study : Understanding stigma at systematic and individual level to overcome barriers to HIV related health seeking behavior among MSM

8) 2012 : Team Grant : CHVI Team in Social and Behavioral Research on HIV Vaccines

**Capacity Building**

GFATM Supported MSM and TG community and a project titled ‘Pehchan’ which in Hindi means ‘identity’, ‘recognition’ or ‘acknowledgement,’ commenced in October 2010. This programme 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.

Pehchan is working closely with MSM, transgender and hijra communities to establish and develop 90 new CBOs and strengthen 110 existing ones. To ensure sustainability and impact, the programme will develop these CBOs as implementing partners for Targeted Interventions (TIs), a central element of India’s National AIDS Control Programme to reach high-risk groups with HIV prevention services. By supporting the development of strong CBOs, Pehchan will address some of the capacity gaps that have often prevented CBOs from receiving government funding for much-needed HIV programming. The programme will also augment the services provided by Tis to address a broader range of beneficiary needs and improve the enabling environment for these groups.

Along with Alliance India, the Pehchan consortium includes the Humsafar Trust, SAATHII, Sangama, and SIAAP. The partners work in selected states and provide organizational development, technical and capacity building support to programme CBOs. The programme was formally initiated in October 2010 and actively collaborates with the National AIDS Control Organisation and State AIDS Control Societies. Activities during Phase 1 (2010-12) have focused on community mobilization, development of programme governance and oversight systems, building a strong partnership with government and other stakeholders, and providing capacity building support and technical assistance to programme CBOs.

The HST works on Pehchan in 5 states that include Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. After initiating the GFATM Round 9 supported project ‘Pehchan’ to upgrade organizational capacity and provide training to 53 CBOs in five states, a training unit under the project was set up that will go on till March 2013. The training project will use 5 modules covering various themes such as sexuality, gender, trauma, violence, HIV and STIs, PLHA and access to ART and other themes will be used to build skills of the staff and community leaders from these CBOs.
Snapshots of HST

- Outreach programme has reached out to more than 100,000 new Gay, MSM and Tgs with nearly 300,000 regular contacts in Mumbai in the last 12 years
- Outreach program distributes over 700,000 condoms every year at more than 148 sites in Mumbai, 33 sites in Thane District by a relentless and hardworking team of 150 outreach workers and peer educators
- Number of clients tested for HIV has crossed 35,000 in the last 12 years
- Number of clients examined and drugs provided for STI’s crossed 60,000 in the last ten years
- Collaborations with LTMG Hospital, KEM Hospital, JJ Hospital apart from its own ICTC.
- ICTC at the HST centre remains open on all six days a week (2pm to 8pm) with four qualified Doctors and Two Lab Technicians attending to MSM clients in the clinic
- A clinical psychologist working full time along with a team of 9 community counselors and 4 health facilitators trained over a period of three years by the head of the counseling unit.
- A nutritionist working on the program providing nutritional counseling assistance
- A psychiatrist to look in the stress levels and other emotional disorders amongst community.
- Organize advocacy workshops for Doctors, Police department, Lawyers, Government bodies, political parties, media, student community to sensitize them on Gay, MSM and TG issues
- Organize one training programme every quarterly to upgrade skills of its staff and provides facilities to the staff to enhance their skills by taking job-related courses
- Provides technical assistance and capacity building to 53 CBOs in five states of Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- Continues to be part of the struggle against petitions filed in the Supreme Court challenging the Delhi High court Judgment that decriminalized consensual sex between two same sex consenting adults.
- Believes in working from within the public health systems and does continuous networking with various public hospitals in Mumbai Metro.
- Sentinel surveillance site for the National Aids Control Organization (NACO) for the last eight years
- Has done 6 baseline studies with MSM tracking their sexual behavior on four key indicators.
- Documented as Best Practices Model by UNICEF in 2003 and had an outcome assessment for its IMPACT project with USAID
- Convened INFOSEM (Integrated Network for Sexual Minorities) to bring together likeminded LGBT groups to work issues on sexuality, health and human rights
- Nurtured a MSM-PLHA group Sanjeevani
- Nurtured YAARIYAN a youth LGBT support group in Mumbai
- Nurtured UMANG – a support group for LBT persons
Plans for 2012 – 2013

1) The Advocacy Unit will be strengthened by continued participation in Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival 2012.

2) HST will continue to play a pivotal role in Queer Azaadi Mumbai

3) Strengthen sales and distribution of Bombay Dost

4) The health unit will focus on its existing 6 Targeted Interventions in Mumbai Metro now supported exclusively by MDACS

5) The Sanjeevani CBO working towards providing services to MSM and TG Living with HIV will be strengthened

6) Efforts will be made to strengthen the clinical unit of Vakola Center

7) Efforts will be made to strengthen the mental health counseling unit of Humsafar

8) Research Unit will apply for DSIR certification

9) Research Unit will look for more research opportunities

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

11) Organizational capacities will be strengthened and following documents will be reviewed and presented to board by March 2013

a) HST Strategic business plan
b) HST HR Policy
c) HST Operations Manual
d) HST Organizational MIS
e) HST International health Advisory Board (IHAB)
f) Credit Society Need will be assessed again
g) IRB documents will be reviewed and strengthened

12) An exercise will be undertaken to assess opportunities and strategies that will strengthen HSTs sustainability plan

13) HST will work towards drawing up an Advocacy Plan / TI and Health Plan/Research Plan and Capacity building plan and integrate them into HST Strategic Business Plan

14) The Finalized books of accounts and Income Tax returns for 2011- 2012 to the Charity Commissioner / ITO and Home Ministry will be completed by 30th Sept 2012 and presented to the Board for approval
The Humsafar Trust Annual Report 2011 -2012

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 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 have 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, coordinating 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.

Humsafar Support
- UNDP / UNAIDS
- NACO - MDACS
- Alliance India
- JHU – Bloomberg School of Communication
- SIDA – RFSU
- National Institute of Health (NIH) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
### Acronyms

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immune Virus</td>
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<tr>
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<td>HST</td>
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<td>OPD</td>
<td>Out Patient Department</td>
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<td>MDACS</td>
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<td>Integrated Counselling and Testing Center</td>
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<td>Bombay Municipal Corporation</td>
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<td>SIDA</td>
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Annual Report for 2011 – 2012
Prepared by
Vivek Anand
Chief Executive Officer
The Humsafar Trust
Mumbai
4th May 2012