The Humsafar Trust
Annual Report

2012-2013
**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)

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**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.

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 13th year)
Key Updates

The Advocacy Unit was strengthened and we continued to play a pivotal role in Queer Azaadi Mumbai. The Sanjeevani CBO working towards providing services to MSM and TG Living with HIV faced serious crisis with the death of its founding member Mahesh Shinde but the teams continued with it unfailing spirit.

Organizational capacities were strengthened and following documents were reviewed and presented to board

a) HST Strategic business plan
b) HST HR Policy
c) HST Operations Manual
d) HST Organizational MIS

The month of July 2012 saw HST teams participate in XIX International AIDS Conference. Vivek Anand spoke at the plenary session organized by Johns Hopkin University on reaching out to MSM and Transgender in countries where ant homophobia laws make HIV preventions difficult. Along with Actor Mona Ambegaonkar he presented the English version of Chetan Datar’s original Marathi play EK Madhavbaug. He was also part of Panel Discussion on LGBT visibility in media at the XIX International AIDS Conference.

Sridhar Rangayan presented excerpts from BOLO an oral history project of LGBT in India. Shruta Neytra and Dr. Venkateshan Chakrapani presented their papers at the conference. In October 2012, Vivek Anand attended SIDA RFSU supported South Asia LGBT Network formation and consensus building workshop in Bangkok. In January 2013 he participated in SA-LGBT Network formation meeting in Bangkok supported by SIDA RFSU

In September 2012, Pallav Patankar-Director HIV Programs attended the Blue Sky Week with the International HIV AIDs alliance in Bangkok. In November 2012 he was invited to be on the panel for LGBT rights along with representation from Singapore and China to discuss the state of LGBT rights in the country and the corporate policies that are being adopted to include LGBT employees. He was again invited to present the World Bank Report “ Charting a Programmatic Roadmap for Sexual Minority Groups in India “ at the ILGA World Conference: Stockholm in Dec-2012.

The month of January 2013 also bid adieu to two of its board member Sridhar Rangayan and Nitin Karani. Both of them have been Humsafar family and continue to remain the same. However owing to growth as professionals in their careers made it difficult for them to devote
time to the organization and offered to withdraw as board members. Shibu Thomas, a journalist was added to the list of new board members.

The first quarter of 2013 saw some projects timeline ending that led to a staff retention issues. The board met in January and it was agreed that though HST needs to give one months’ notice to its staff if they cannot be retained but as an ethical practices the teams should be informed immediately and given at least two and half months’ time to look for new job opportunities. The Chairman Ashok Row Kavi and CEO Vivek Anand personally spoke to 27 staff members and regretted the organizations inability to retain them. It was a tough period for the organization once again the family spirit rose to occasion. Many staff members agreed to take pay cuts. We worked hard to get new projects and by the end of March 2013 the crisis was averted and except for two individuals all the rest were retained.

The Finalized books of accounts and Income Tax returns for 2012-2013 to the Charity Commissioner / ITO and Home Ministry will be completed by 30th Sept 2013 and presented to the Board for approval

**Initiatives: 2012-2013**

**Advocacy**

1) Performing Ek Madhavbaug in 6 cities with 12 performances with stakeholders like Educational Institutions / Corporate Houses / Lawyers /Media / HCP / Police and talking possibility of discussing a policy of non-discrimination on sexual orientation

2) Aa Muskuraa – A film to build communication skills of counsellors

3) Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival

**Health and Targeted Interventions**

Mumbai District AIDS Control Society: Supported 6 Targeted Interventions to support 9000 gay men, MSM and Transgender communities in 6 zones of Mumbai and 1 Integrated Counseling and Testing Center.

1. Aarambh I
2. Aarambh II
3. Shaan
4. Yarana
5. Dostana
6. Mastana
7. ICTC
**Research**
The following research initiatives were taken up to build evidence affecting lives and health of MSM and Transgender communities

1) Knowledge Attitude Behaviour Practices study
2) Vaccine Preparedness study with Canadian Institute of Human Research
3) Stigma Study with Indian Council of Medical Research
4) SHAKTI : Tg stigma study with Indian Council of Medical Research
5) Ishkonnet – Internet Study exploring dating patterns through internet sites.
6) Health care providers and their policies
7) Male Sex workers Knowledge Attitude Behaviour Practices
8) Team Grant

**Capacity Building**
1) Pehchan Project
2) Training Project

**Advocacy Unit**
Ek Madhavbaug was performed in 6 cities as a theatre performance to promote LGBT rights. The play began its journey as a theatrical performance and premiered at NCPA to packed audiences. Mona Ambegaonkar and her journey as the mother of a gay son travelled to Washington DC and participated in the XIXth International AIDS Conference. The play was translated in English by Ms. Ambegaonkar and was presented at the global village in DC at the conference. We had four more performances in this visit. Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore area and KHUSH DC had English performances while Natya Bharati had two performances in Hindi.

Advocacy Initiatives through Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival 2012, Queer Azaadi Mumbai Pride walk 2013, Bombay Dost magazine continued through the year

Aa Muskuraa: A film in six modules of 20 minutes each building communication skills of ICTC counselors was produced with support from JHU for the National AIDS Control Organization.
Health Unit

HST built capacities of its male sex workers and handed over the Gaurav project to the male sex workers communities. The Thane region projects came to end with the closure of AVERT Society but were later transitioned to Pehchan project under our Global fund initiative.

HST continued to provide Targeted Interventions services to MSM and Tg communities in Mumbai and Thane through 6 projects 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 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.

Research Unit

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

- Knowledge Attitude Behaviour Practices study – Wave VII
- Vaccine Preparedness study with Canadian Institute of Human Research
- SHAKTI: Intervention with health care providers to work better with TG -ICMR
- Stigma Study with ICMR to study stigma levels among MSM and Tg populations
- ISHKonnect: Internet Based HIV prevention for Indian MSM
- Male Sex workers: Protected or at risk: what are the factors influencing sexual behavior and sexual health outcomes of men selling sex in Mumbai
- ICRW study: Understanding stigma at systematic and individual level to overcome barriers to HIV related health seeking behavior among MSM
- 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,’ continued through 2012 - 2013. 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.
Plans for 2013 – 2014

1) Follow up with MAC AIDS FUND to support and strengthen HIV Interventions, strengthening of clinical services and introducing internet outreach work in HST work.

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

3) Publish the next issue of Bombay Dost

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

5) Apply for grant under Global Fund Vihan project for The Sanjeevani CBO working towards providing services to MSM and TG Living with HIV

6) Research Unit will apply for DSIR certification

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

8) Organizational capacities will be strengthened and following documents will be finalized
   a) HST Strategic business plan
   b) HST HR Policy
   c) HST Operations Manual
   d) HST Organizational MIS
   e) IRB documents

9) 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

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 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.

**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**

- UNDP / UNAIDS
- NACO - MDACS
- Alliance India – Global Fund to fight AIDS TB and Malaria – Round 9
- JHU – Bloomberg School of Communication
- SIDA – RFSU
- National Institute of Health (NIH) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

### Acronyms

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</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>Humsafar Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>LTMG</td>
<td>Lokmany Tilak Memorial General Hospital</td>
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<td>OPD</td>
<td>Out Patient Department</td>
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<td>MDACS</td>
<td>Mumbai District AIDS Control Society</td>
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<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICTC</td>
<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>FHI</td>
<td>Family Health International</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>MSACS</td>
<td>Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society</td>
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<td>CBO</td>
<td>Community Based Organization</td>
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<td>TI</td>
<td>Targeted Intervention</td>
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<td>FPAI</td>
<td>Family Planning Association of India</td>
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<td>STI</td>
<td>Sexually Transmitted Infection</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>SIAAP</td>
<td>South India AIDS Action Program</td>
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<td>NACO</td>
<td>National AIDS Control Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>DFID – PMO</td>
<td>Department for International Development-Project Management Office</td>
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<td>IRB</td>
<td>Institutional Review Board</td>
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<td>SIDA</td>
<td>Swedish International Development Agency</td>
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<td>RFSU</td>
<td>Riksforbandet For Sexual Upplysning</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGBT</td>
<td>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgenders</td>
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<td>GFATM</td>
<td>Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria</td>
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<td>NIH</td>
<td>National Institute of Health</td>
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<td>UCSF</td>
<td>University of California San Francisco</td>
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<td>Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation</td>
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<td>KEM</td>
<td>King Edward Memorial</td>
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<td>PLHA</td>
<td>People Living with HIV and AIDS</td>
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<td>Committed Community Health Workers</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
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<td>INFOSEM</td>
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<td>UNAIDS</td>
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