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 (HST) is a community-based organization (CBO) in Mumbai working in the area of health and human rights of sexual minorities. HST currently reaches out to 9000 MSM and TG across Mumbai via the 6 TIs funded by NACO–MDACS. It has numerous interventions and holistic services for the sexual minorities. One of the key areas of HST's work is for men having sex with men (MSM) and transgender (TG). Sexual behavior of MSM and (TG) population is of grave concern as HIV investigations have highlighted a higher prevalence in these communities as compared to the general population.

The National Sentinel Surveillance in 2010–2011 estimates HIV prevalence among the MSM community in Maharashtra at 9.9% (MSM) and 18.8% (TG). At the baseline level the figures stood at 13.5% (MSM) and 63% (TG) in 1999–2000. In spite of high levels of knowledge, MSM often have multiple partners and practice unprotected sex with both commercial and non-commercial partners. Further, many MSM are married and have female partners.

HST has a long history of implementing HIV related interventions with the MSM and TG community. HST was awarded the first pilot project to ‘Motivate Safer Sex among MSM at Selected Sites in Mumbai Metro’ supported by Mumbai District AIDS Control Society (MDACS) in April 1999. Since February 2001, USAID/FHI under its IMPACT project began supporting the HST, this scaled up the MDACS project. This project resulted in setting up a ‘HUB’ within HST that adopted a holistic approach towards needs of MSM and TG communities in Mumbai metro. HST is a sentinel surveillance site for India’s apex HIV/AIDS prevention body the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) for the last one decade. HST and its programs also have strong linkages with public health systems in Mumbai. HST through its support group for People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) MSM and TG has established strong linkages with five ART centres of Mumbai. The NACO has up scaled interventions with MSM and TG in its Phase III and the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria – Round 9 (GFATM – 9) project titled “Pehchān” will jointly reach out to 750,000 MSM and TG in India by end 2015.

HST has a Centre for Excellence that facilitates work in crucial areas such as Research, Capacity building and Advocacy. HST is mentoring 51 CBOs in five states under GFATM-9. Furthermore, HST has a strong advocacy programme that promotes and advocates rights of sexual minorities in India. HST is the first CBO to establish its own Institutional Review Board (IRB), an ethics review committee that approves its research initiatives and is registered with the National Institute of Health (NIH). The HST IRB has been awarded the Federal Wide Acceptance certificate.
Key Updates

The year of 2013 – 2014 was a year of major milestones and major challenges that will have to be dealt with in future. The Humsafar Trust will play a key role in fighting these challenges.

The staff retention crisis of 2013 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 that included writing to MAC AIDS FUND, Grand Challenges – Canada, Planet Romeo, FHI360, GFATM Round 4, Pehchan Innovations Fund, Rainbow Solidairaite, European Union and Indiana University.

It was heartening for the organization that we managed to secure funding support form MAC AIDS FUND, FHI360, GFATM Round 4, Pehchan Innovations fund and Indiana University. The most significant fund that came our way was a small one time grant from a gay dating site Planet Romeo that has its own foundation. The foundation started supporting UMANG- a support for Lesbian, Bisexual and Trans persons (LBT) for one year which gave them much needed money to reach out and provide support to LBT persons

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.

At the end of the year it was felt that the GFATM Round 4 project that would support people living with HIV was not in line with the vision of the group SANJEEVANI and it was decided to handover the project back to the Principal recipients.

The strategic plan of Humsafar Trust for 2014 – 2017 was presented to the board and approved thus giving a clear cut Logical framework to the organization and its activities for the next three years.

In July 2013, Pallav Patankar, Director HIV Programmes received a scholarship to attend the Desi Q conference in San Francisco, he presented the World Bank report at the conference. He attended the Blue Sky Week in Hanoi in October 2013. In the same month he participated in the program Out On the Street by Todd Sears in Hong Kong which addressed the LGBT community who were investment bankers in Wall Street and in Hong Kong.

In November 2013, Pallav Patankar and Sonal Giani attended the SALGBT conference in Bangkok. The same month also saw the Humsafar teams’ strong presence at the International Conference on AIDS in Asia Pacific (ICAAP 11) in Bangkok. Pallav Patankar presented a poster on internet outreach. Sonal Giani, Advocacy Officer made a presentation on HST advocacy initiatives through media while Program Manager –Hemangi Mhaprolkar and M& E officer-Selvan Punidha presented their work on capacity building under Pehchan proejct. They were also joined by the Chairman –Mr.Ashok Row kavi.

The month of February 2014 had its CEO Vivek Anand visiting United Kingdom for the 20th Convention of International HIV AIDS Alliance. He spoke at the plenary session on the need of strengthening holistic services to gay communities and get global attention on the Section 377 legal situation in India.

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.
The Finalized books of accounts and Income Tax returns for 2013-2014 to the Charity Commissioner / ITO and Home Ministry will be completed by 30th Sept 2014 and presented to the Board for approval.

**Initiatives: 2013-2014**

**Advocacy Projects**
- Sanchar – Innovations : Developing recommended language manual for media
- Partner with Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival
- Bombay Dost new edition

**Health and Targeted Interventions**
MDACS continued its support to 6 Targeted Interventions to reach out to 9000 MSM and Transgender communities in Mumbai Metro and 1 Integrated Counseling and Testing Centre.

- Aarambh I
- Aarambh II
- Shaan
- Yarana
- Dostana
- Mastana
- ICTC

**Research**
- Knowledge Attitude Behaviour Practices
- SHAKTI : Tg stigma study
- Ishkonnect – Internet Study
- Team Grant – UOT – CIHR
- Bisexuality study
- Male Sex Workers
- Project Sahaay – Mobile Interventions and Helpline

**Capacity Building**
- Pehchan Project
- Vihaan Project
- Sahyog Project
- HST Strategic Plan
- Sahara – UMANG
Advocacy Unit

Pehchan Innovations Fund supported Sanchar which aims at developing a recommended language manual for media. This initiative will analyse and conduct a literature review of media reporting on LGBT issues in four language print and electronic media in English, Hindi, Marathi and Gujarati. The output of the same and with support from Media persons and community persons we will develop a recommended language manual for correct reporting on LGBT issue and will be disseminated to the press.

HST could not participate in the May 2013 edition of Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival as organizers. Managing staff retention and garnering funds for HST was top priority. However HST became community partners with limited support and continued its presence at the festival. The latest edition of Bombay Dost magazine was released.

Health Unit

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 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.

Research Unit

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

Knowledge Attitude Behaviour Practices study – Wave VII was completed and disseminated

SHAKTI: Intervention with health care providers to work better with TG -ICMR was completed in February 2014

ISHKonnect: Internet Based HIV prevention for Indian MSM sought an extension from Indian Council of Medical Research for 6 months.
Male Sex workers: Protected or at risk: what are the factors influencing sexual behavior and sexual health outcomes of men selling sex in Mumbai was completed. However the final paper publishing work will be taken up in 2014-2015

Team Grant: CHVI Team in Social and Behavioral Research on HIV Vaccines went into the year 2 of its cycle.

Bisexuality study supported by Indiana University piloted in Mumbai to look into risk factors of bisexual men in Mumbai metro

The Sahaay Study is a PATH supported FHI 360 operation research that aims to reduce HIV risk by increasing access to prevention services through a mobile based counselling intervention among hard to reach MSMs. The project is being implemented by The Humsafar Trust with partner CBOs in Delhi (Mitr Trust), Raipur – Chattisgarh (Mitwa Sankalp Samiti) and Mumbai (Humsaaya Society).

The counselling-based intervention will happen through a 24 x 7 helpline based at our three partner CBOs. The helpline will be managed by trained counsellors working simultaneously at the three centers. Community mobilizers recruited with each partner CBO will reach the population on ground and publicize the helpline among hard to reach MSM and TG at the grassroots. The project aims to gauge the success of this intervention via a baseline that was conducted prior to initiating the research and an end-line which will be conducted once the project concludes. The project was initiated in May 2013 and will conclude in June 2014

Capacity Building

Through the Project named SAHYOG (Cooperation) supported by MAC AIDS Fund (MAF), we aimed at setting up a 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 Round 4 Vihaan supported SANJEEVANI with a mandate to build capacities of the group and its teams and also provide care and support services to people living with HIV. However at the end of Year I the teams felt that the vision of the group was not in line with the project mandate. At a meeting of their board the SANJEEVANI teams decided to handover the project.
Planet Romeo which is essentially a dating site for gay men approved our proposal to provide support to young LBT persons in Mumbai. The project Sahara will aim at the providing services the LBT communities through counseling and crisis management. It will also strengthen the capacities of the group to manage programs.

GFATM Supported MSM and TG community and a project titled ‘Pehchan’ which in Hindi means ‘identity’, ‘recognition’ or ‘acknowledgement,’ continued through 2013 - 2014. 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 GFATM’s 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. 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 2014 – 2015**

1) Post the Supreme Court judgment HST is bringing LGBT communities in Mumbai to develop a document tentatively titled Ázaadi Document ‘and systematically develop a logical framework of initiatives that the community will undertake that will help removal of Section 377.

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

3) Develop proposal with Einstein University in New York to assess efficacy of outreach messages through internet interventions.

4) Help seek clearances from Health Ministry for the Fostering Resilience study with Fenway community Health in Boston

5) Develop proposal for AMFAR grant.

6) Develop a social media based proposal that will support Section 377 fight and submit the same to UNDP.
7) Strengthen HST Website and add a Contribute button to invite donations

8) Strengthen Yaariyan Initiatives and seek funding for BOL DE video clips

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

10) 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

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

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

14) Research Unit will apply for DSIR certification

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)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronyms</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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<td>LTMG</td>
<td>Lokmanya 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>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>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>Acronym</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<td>MSACS</td>
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<td>CBO</td>
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<td>European Union</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
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<td>LGBT</td>
<td>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgenders</td>
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<td>GFATM</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>Acronym</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<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>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
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<td>Integrated Network for Sexual Minorities</td>
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<td>United Nations AIDS program</td>
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Annual Report for 2013-2014
Prepared by
Vivek Anand
Chief Executive Officer
The Humsafar Trust
Mumbai
30th April, 2014