

Project 19: A Festival On Understanding Rights, Sexuality, Health and HIV/AIDS

Festival Overview

The Project 19 Festival is a platform which brings together different stakeholders from across the country to engage and dialogue on issues of sexuality, rights, health and HIV/AIDS. Organised by The YP Foundation and Centre for Human Progress, the festival is based upon the foundation of human rights including the principles of respect, diversity, choice and the right to a life of dignity of all individuals.

The festival is aimed at bringing people together and giving them a platform to communicate their issues and work to a diverse audience. It provides a meeting ground for communities from various walks of life (young people, truck drivers and helpers, sex workers, transgender, men who have sex with men and injecting drug users, government agencies, donor organizations, community based organizations, the media and other individuals) to come together.

The aim of this coming together, is to raise questions and demand our right to information and safe services regarding sexuality and related issues.

Project 19 seeks to provide a platform for different stakeholders to interact and engage with one another to redefine and question common perceptions relating to sexuality, rights, health and HIV as well as our understanding of what defines communities, at-risk groups, and the role of young people in such issues.

We are most grateful to NACO, the UN and many donors, organizations and individuals across the country for their support of and engagement with the festival and initiative. We look forward to working together with you to ensure the project's ongoing success.

A lot of hard work, commitment and passion has gone into the making of this festival and the involvement of people of all ages, backgrounds and motivations has made this process in itself a truly inspiring experience.

Project 19: Festival Press Release

A 2-DAY FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE AND DIALOGUE ABOUT SEXUALITY, RIGHTS, HEALTH AND HIV VULNERABILITIES

New Delhi, 15 & 16 February, 2009

A first-of-its kind national festival will be held at the India Habitat Centre, and Lok Kala Manch, New Delhi on 15 and 16 February, 2009, bringing together a diverse range of people from different backgrounds and communities from across the country on a common platform to share knowledge, dialogue and begin networking around issues relating to sexuality, health and rights, including HIV/AIDS.

The festival brings together the work of two presenting organizations working with different mandates but towards a common goal – The YP Foundation (TYPF) and the Center for Human Progress (CHP). The YP Foundation is a 7 year old 1500 member strong youth led and run Delhi-based organization where youth empower their own peers, by providing leadership opportunities that encourage young people to set up their own projects so they can start and run their own initiatives on issues the youth are passionate about. The Center for Human Progress (CHP) is a Delhi-based organization that works with several hundred young (and other) marginalized and vulnerable people across 90-plus districts in several states to hone leadership skills in young, marginalized, and vulnerable community members and empower them to become catalysts for change.

The festival has been conceptualized and organized by young people, and engages communities including truck drivers and helpers, sex workers, transgender, men who have sex with men and injecting drug users from across the country. It seeks to provide a platform for different stakeholders to interact and engage with one another to redefine and question common perceptions relating to sexuality, health and HIV as well as our understanding of what defines communities, at-risk groups, and the role of young people in such issues.

It also aims to highlight the right of all individuals, specifically young people across India, towards their sexuality, sexual health and human rights. The Festival will feature over 200 entries from across the country, through art, photography, film, theatre, music, dance, literature and campaigns, bringing together voices from across the country, in a first of its kind initiative that engages people to dialogue on these issues.

Young people at The YP Foundation, "We feel that it is critical that silent spaces regarding sexuality and rights be challenged in society and that dialogue and advocacy on these issues as well as our understanding of health, those at risk and HIV/AIDS be made more inclusive. This festival is an important step towards making this dialogue happen, by bringing together people from diverse parts of the country and encouraging individuals to express themselves. The festival has been youth led and produced and has brought together the synergy and passion of young people, who have tremendous potential across the country to be change makers and we believe it is important to invest in that. Project 19 is a festival that believes people's ability to create synergies for change when they come together."

Young community leaders at The Center for Human Progress, "We believe engaging and empowering young, marginalized and vulnerable people to become catalysts of change and bearers of success are the key to progress. The Project 19 festival is a path-breaking initiative to bring young (and other) marginalized communities from remote locations around the country face-to-face with each other and with stakeholders from many spheres, including government, donors, organizations and individuals to begin dialogue and networking based on knowledge. This networking based on knowledge creates empowerment, which is a solution for sustainable development."

For further details please contact Saudamini Zutshi, Festival PR Coordinator, at +91 9871124263.

Project Background: About Project 19

Project 19 is unique national-level festival which celebrates sexuality and rights and understands HIV/AIDS in the context of the lives of young people and communities most at-risk and vulnerable to infection. The festival aims to consolidate the project's ongoing efforts to create knowledge, promote dialogue and develop sustainable networking among and between young people and communities at-risk of HIV through a national-level festival scheduled to be held at the India Habitat Center and Lok Kala Manch, New Delhi on the 15th and 16th of February, 2009.

The festival is critical to consolidating Project 19's work conducted so far and to lay the foundation for continuing its efforts through a series of proposed activities, including:

Awareness and Capacity - Building of young people and at-risk communities (with opportunities for cross-community exchange and networking throughout) to promote knowledge generation and experience sharing;

Networking between and among young people and at-risk communities with enhanced engagement of a wide range of national-level stakeholders to promote a better understanding and new approaches to addressing sexual and reproductive rights, health, HIV/AIDS and human rights issues.

Ultimately, Project 19's efforts aim to enhance action by young people and at-risk communities to promote understanding and work in areas relating to sexuality, rights and health as a sustainable solution for development.

Aims & Objectives of the Festival

Project 19 aims to facilitate interaction between young people and at-risk communities around issues of sexuality, health, HIV/AIDS and human rights. By using various forms of expression, including theatre, music, art, photography and film, the festival creates a space to promote empowerment, generate dialogue and build sustainable networking opportunities for young people and at-risk communities. This is the first festival of its kind in the country, which offers a powerful platform for:

- Advocacy about sexuality, sexuality education, HIV/AIDS and human rights issues;
- Dialogue with young people and at-risk communities about their issues and work based on knowledge;
- Usage of a variety of mediums to create dialogue and interaction around relevant issues;
- National-level networking of young people and communities with the engagement of a number of stakeholders, thereby creating a unique opportunity for mainstreaming issues.

Participation & Partnerships

The festival has been made possible by the invaluable endorsement, financial and resource support of several major donors, organizations and networks across the country. The festival is expected to attract participation from an estimated 600-plus people from across the country to make it an interactive and knowledge rich experience. This will include young people (e.g., urban school - and college-going youth and young professionals) and their families as well as about 150 at-risk community members from around India (including, female, male and transgender sex workers, children of sex workers, people living with HIV, men who have sex with men, the transgender community, injecting drug users and truck drivers and allied communities, e.g., helpers and dhaba walas).

Project 19: Festival Schedule

Day 1	15 th February 2009	Day 2	16 th February 2009
Time	Venue	Time	Venue
	India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road		Lok Kala Manch, Lodhi Road
1.00pm onwards	VOICES: Exhibits of Art, Photography, Campaigns and Organizations.	10.30am	Magnet Theatre (Play)
1.30pm	Digital Storytelling Media Workshop: By FAT (Feminist Approach to Technology)	11.30am to 5.00pm	Expressions: A knowledge exchange between young people and communities at-risk of HIV. Organized interaction through film, folk dance and drag performances by different communities.
2.30pm	Speak Up! DU Expresses: Lakshaya, Kamala Nehru College (Street Theatre)	India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road	
3.00pm	Kaivalya – Open House: An interaction with the transgender community	6.00pm	Project 19 Showcase: Young People Speak Out (Interactive Performance)
4.30pm	Musoc, Kirori Mal College (Music Performance)	7.00pm	My Mother, The Gharwali, Her Maalak, His Wife: A play by Sangram/VAMP
5.00pm	Festival Launch: The YP Foundation & Center for Human Progress		
5.45pm	Music Performance: Saurabh from the Naz Foundation		
6.15pm	The Dance Society, Lady Shri Ram College	Key Note Addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director, India Habitat Centre • Director, National Aids Control Organization • Chairman, National Human Rights Commission • Country Director, UNAIDS, India 	
6.30pm	IPPF: Introducing Beijing +15		
6.45pm	Nritya, Sri Venkateswara College		
7.15pm	In Solidarity: A National Film Festival: exploring Gender, Sexuality and Health		
9.00pm	Live In Concert: The Raghu Dixit Project		

Project 19: Partners and Participants

This festival would not have been possible without the support of the following partners, whose encouragement has taken Project 19 as an initiative from strength to strength. We are extremely grateful to each and every one of them, for believing in this initiative and coming together in solidarity with us.

- National AIDS Control Organization (NACO)
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- Hindustan Latex Family Planning Promotion Trust (HLFPPT)
- Family Planning Association of India (FPAI)
- International Planned Parenthood Federation – South Asia Regional Office (SARO)
- Ford Foundation
- Population Foundation of India (PFI)
- India HIV/AIDS Alliance
- Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- Tehelka
- India Habitat Centre
- Indian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (INP+)
- Moser Baer India Limited

Project 19 also brings together the following organizations and individuals from across India, who share this space collectively:

Organizations

- TARSHI
- The NAZ Foundation (Trust) India
- CREA
- FAT
- Voices Against 377
- Lawyers Collective
- Nirantar
- Make Art Stop AIDS
- The Pleasure Project
- Public Service Broadcasting Trust (PSBT)
- Samaan Group, Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar
- The Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC)
- Suraksha Society
- Aastha Project
- Ashodaya Samithi
- Hamsafar Trust
- Swagati Project
- Mukta Project
- Project Orchid, Manipur & Nagaland
- Tamil Nadu AIDS Initiative (TAI)
- VAMP/ Sangram

Artists

- Payal Tomar
- Ritu Sachdeva
- Priyanka Batra
- Vinita Dasgupta
- Promona
- Ila Reddy
- Sumati Arora
- Pratik Sagar
- Shailendra
- Advaita Mathur
- Suman Beniwal
- Violet Burman
- Pratik Sagar
- Ananya Kushwaha
- Priyanka Sheshadri
- Mahesh Singh
- Vanya Vaishnavi Singh
- Samridhi Kukreja
- Bhumi Bhatia
- Sunil Gupta
- Bhamati Sivapalan
- Anoop Ray
- Kabir Ghosh
- Kishore Vij
- Violet Burman
- Purple Malik
- Pratika Sagar
- Gaurav Arora
- Alok Karalkar
- Kalpi Gajjar
- Ranjan Atreya
- Avani Parikh
- Naina Manjrekar
- Jamaluddin Ansari
- Palak
- Ishita Sharma
- Musoc, Kirori Mal College
- Nritya, Sri Venkateswara College
- The Dance Society, Lady Shri Ram College
- Lakshya, Kamala Nehru College
- Saurabh from The NAZ Foundation
- Project 19 Showcase, The YP Foundation

We deeply apologize if we have erroneously left anyone from this list. We truly acknowledge and appreciate your support!

Festival Curators

The YP Foundation – About Us

The YP Foundation (TYPF) is a not for profit, youth-led and run support and learning organization. Established in 2002 with support from the India Habitat Centre, TYPF is an idea that believes in providing young people with the resources to execute their own initiatives that target social, cultural, economic, legal, political and environmental issues they are committed to.

Our primary objective is to develop and support innovative ventures by young minds, so as to bridge the existing gap between young people and their environment by creating a platform for their ideas, opinions and talent. TYPF is committed to developing leadership skills, encouraging pro active citizenship and informed decision making amongst young people, with the aim of empowering young people's potential to be positive change makers.

Since 2002, TYPF has worked with over 1500 young people and set up over 150 projects, engaging donors, governments, individuals, young people and institutions through community based projects, research and awareness initiatives, the performing and visual arts and governance and advocacy based programming.

The YP Foundation has 9 divisions, run by 40 youth led staff that support and engage over 250 young people each year, to develop projects working with:

- Life Skills Based Education
- Understanding Substance Abuse and Addiction
- Empowering Street and Slum Children (Healthcare and Education)
- Understanding Gender and Sexuality
- Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation
- Health and HIV/AIDS: Awareness, Prevention, Rights, Care & Support
- Encouraging the Performing and Visual Arts
- Human Rights and Peace Building Processes
- Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Awareness for Young People
- The Young Citizen's Right to Information, Governance & Legal System of India
- Climate Change and The Environment

Project 19 at The YP Foundation

The YP Foundation has worked with a range of stakeholders on issues relating to Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights for the last 7 years. This includes engaging and training with government representatives, schools and colleges, corporate companies, community based organizations, various members of the community including the transgender community, young people and their families.

Project 19 is an initiative that has been running for the past two years at TYPF. A Peer Education Model that is run by young people, through a peer to peer training programme, young people between the ages of 18-25 years of age are trained on issues relating to Rights, Sexuality, Health and HIV/AIDS. Project 19 has reached out to more than 500 young people across Delhi, with peer led workshops and focus group discussions between young people, generating a passionate, intense and meaningful space where young people can challenge the silences around which issues of and related to sexuality and rights can be understood.

We work with a rights based perspective and recognize the needs and context of each individual, and importance of respecting each individual's choices and beliefs. The project aims to broaden its outreach,

involve diverse levels of interaction and bring young people's right to sexuality, access to information and healthcare services to the forefront.

With Project 19, the festival, this project enters a new phase of partnership with the Center for Human Progress, recognizing that working with young people gives us the unique opportunity to explore partnerships with communities from across the country, to ensure that meaningful and participative dialogue on these issues creates a more enabling and inclusive environment for people.

Project 19 has worked with the support of NACO, TARSHI, Lawyer's Collective, DNP+ among others professionals and individuals. The YP Foundation has also worked with advocacy at national, regional and international forums, working with the International Women's Health Coalition in New York on the Commission on the Status of Women and the Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive Sexual Health and Rights, Hyderabad, India.

Project 19: An Overview

- The development of 12 research case study projects by 12 young people currently in training who are presenting case study projects on the various aspects of Understanding HIV/AIDS and its impact beyond the rhetoric, on people's lives.
- Two budding young filmmakers who have produced a 15 minute short film on 'Sharing the Virus', enacted, directed, produced and edited by 15 young people. The film touches upon the issues of contraction of HIV, ignorance of the urban educated, rejection faced by some HIV positive persons, their ways of "dealing with it" and the continued spread of HIV.
- A yearlong facilitation module for Peer Facilitators where they engaged with sensitizing young people in the community and in colleges across New Delhi on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights.
- A National Festival in February 2009 that brings together voices from across the country, on articulating stronger strategies that address their Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights and address Understanding HIV/AIDS for At Risk or Vulnerable Communities.
- The project has already trained over 40 young people as Peer Educators and conducted 6 open forum workshops with over 500 young people across Delhi University. These have been supported by Punj Lloyd, NACO, Lawyers Collective and TARSHI among others.
- Peer Educators have also put together research projects on issues concerning young people at The American Centre and worked with the Red Ribbon Express on World AIDS Day, attending film screenings and accessing external discussion groups.
- We have written a Peer to peer Training Manual for young people on Understanding Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights and HIV/AIDS with young people.

You can read more about our work at www.theyouthparliament.blogspot.com or contact us at theypfoundation@gmail.com / +91 9871075258.

Festival Curators

Center for Human Progress – About Us

The Center for Human Progress (CHP) is a New Delhi-based social entrepreneurship. Since its inception, young, marginalized and vulnerable community members associated with CHP have been spearheading initiatives and engaging their own communities to promote social mobilization and empowerment as a solution for sustainable development.

CHP's philosophy promotes community leadership for change through knowledge exchange using traditional and new media, technology, art, music and theatre (among other platforms). It currently engages several hundred young, vulnerable and marginalized community members across the country in knowledge exchange about human rights, sexual and reproductive health and HIV issues. CHP supports change through the heightened role of communities in on-ground activities and engages a wide range of stakeholders in the process.

CURRENT INITIATIVES

Driving Change

This CHP initiative is led by truck drivers and helpers. They work with their community to bridge the gap between knowledge about HIV risks and vulnerabilities and find practical solutions to their barriers by using photography as a critical tool in the process.

Expressions of Empowerment (e²)

This CHP initiative promotes media and arts to generate and create knowledge and mobilize young and marginalized communities around socially relevant issues (e.g., health including sexual and reproductive health, HIV as well as sexual violence, gender-based violence, social inequalities, abuse, human rights and others) to create empowerment as a solution for sustainable development.

Theatre for Dialogue

This CHP initiative led by truck drivers and other at-risk communities uses Magnet Theatre (an established form of participatory theatre) to create dialogue. Magnet Theatre is a mid-media communication method, which unlike conventional stage theatre and some other forms of participatory street theatre, invites the audience to create and re-create scenarios to solve the dilemmas presented in the performance. Messages are not given to the audience through the performance, rather discussion encourages the audience to generate practical solutions to their barriers (e.g., to HIV prevention, care and treatment) and dilemmas.

India Tomorrow

This CHP initiative supports advocacy for children's, young people's and women's issues and rights through capacity building and enhanced community engagement to create change.

Call for Change

This CHP initiative builds capacities of young and marginalized people to use mobile and other communication technology to support networking and strengthen advocacy for change.

To learn more about our work, contact us at contact.chp@gmail.com or +91 9810024778.

Acknowledgements

Curating this festival has been over 6 months of hard work, shared dreams and arguments and a vision larger than all of us. These are our hands and feet, people whose hard work has truly ensured that Project 19 could visualize before our own eyes. We are grateful to them and their families and are inspired by their ability to be catalysts for change!

Festival Conceptualization

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Displays Curation

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NGO Exhibits Curation

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Ruchi

In Solidarity – A National Film Festival - Curation

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The Butterfly Project at The YP Foundation

Performance Curation

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Silhouette Volunteers at The YP Foundation

Communities Coordination

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Kaivalya Volunteers at The YP Foundation

Call for Entries - Curation

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Pankhuri Chaudhary
Janhavi Mittal
Pradyumna Bhattacharjee

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Rohanjit Chaudhry

All Staff & Families at The YP Foundation

All Staff & Families at the Center for Human Progress

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The Board of Directors at The YP Foundation
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