

Sri Lanka's first national consultation meeting on MSM, HIV and sexual health was held in Negombo, Sri Lanka between the 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> November 2009. Organised by Companions on a Journey (CoJ) and Naz Foundation International (NFI), with support from UNAIDS, UNDP and APCOM, this important meeting comes at a time when, despite the low HIV prevalence among the general community, evidence is beginning to show much higher rates of HIV among MSM.

With over 75 participants, the three-day meeting focused on the issues, needs and concerns of MSM and transgenders in Sri Lanka through a working group process and the active engagement of all the participants, supported by facilitators trained by NFI.

A range of recommendations were developed which included:

- Developing a national MSM and transgender network
- Implementing a rapid scaling up of MSM and transgender HIV services
- A reading down of the law against same sex behaviour to allow consensual adult sex
- Addressing stigma, discrimination and social exclusion with law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, and other key stakeholders.

A report of this meeting has been produced and is available.....