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World Public Opinion and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights December 2008

-RESULTS FOR EACH PUBLIC-

AMERICAS:

ARGENTINA

[Graciela Romer y Asociados](#)

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Argentina has the second-largest majority among all nations polled saying the UN should actively promote human rights principles in member states. Argentines also have one of the largest majorities that express support for the UN doing more to promote such principles. However, Argentines are among the nations showing the lowest levels of support for giving the UN the authority to go into countries to investigate human rights violations.

- More than nine in 10 (91%) believe the UN should actively promote the human rights principles in the Universal Declaration in member states.
- 85% say the UN should do more than it has been doing to promote human rights principles, while just 13% say it should do the same amount (8%) or less (5%).
- 46% believe the UN should be able to go into countries to investigate human rights violations (29% oppose).

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Argentines have the second-largest majority among all publics polled that believes people of various religions should be treated equally.

- Nearly all Argentines (97%) think equal treatment for people of different religions is “very important” (90%) or “somewhat important” (7%).

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Argentines demonstrate widespread support for freedom of expression. Argentina has the third-largest majority saying it is very important to have the right to express any opinion and are well above average in saying the government should not have the right to limit expression.

- An overwhelming majority of Argentines (94%) say that it is “very important” (84%) or “somewhat important” (10%) for people to have the right to express any opinion.
- Nearly seven in 10 (69%) think the government should not have the right to prohibit the discussion of certain political or religious views, while just 29% think the government should have such a right.

MEDIA FREEDOM

Argentina has the largest majority that believes people should be free to read whatever is on the Internet out of all publics polled, and an overwhelming majority believes it is important for the media to be free to publish without government control, even if given the argument that this might create instability. Like other publics in the region, Argentina believes that the media should have more freedom, even though a substantial majority says the media already has a great deal of freedom.

- An overwhelming majority (94%) say it is important for the media to be free to publish news and idea without government control, and 84% believe that people should have the right to read whatever is on the Internet.
- Presented two statements, 80% agree that the media should have the right to publish news and ideas without government control, while just 16% take the view that this could be too destabilizing and the government should have the right to prevent some things from being published.
- 92% believe that Argentines should have the right to read publications from all other countries, even those considered enemies.
- More than three in four (77%) say that the media have “a lot” or “some” freedom in Argentina, and a majority (57%) says that it should have more than it does while just 10% believe it should have less and 31% believe it should have the same amount it currently does.

THE PROHIBITION AGAINST TORTURE

Argentina has one of the largest majorities that believes clear rules should be maintained to prohibit torture, even in cases of terrorism.

- A significant majority (76%) of Argentines reject the use of torture in all cases, while 18% favor an exception for terrorists when innocent lives are at risk. Only 5% feel that torture should generally be allowed.

WOMEN’S RIGHTS

Argentines widely endorse the importance of full equality of rights for women and believe the government should make efforts to prevent discrimination, although a relatively modest majority believes the government should do more than it currently does. Like other countries in the region, most Argentines say women have gained more equality compared to men have during their lifetime.

- 95% in Argentina say the full equality of rights for women is very (71%) or somewhat important (24%).
- Nearly nine in 10 (87%) say that women have achieved either much more (45%) or a little more (42%) equality during the course of their lifetime.
- Three in four (74%) say the government should make efforts to prevent discrimination against women, and a slight majority (51%) says it should do more, while 19% believe it already does enough.
- 78% agree the UN should take action to further the rights of women, with just 18% saying this would be improper interference in the country's internal affairs.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

Argentines show near-unanimous support for the important of equal treatment of people of different races and ethnicities, but unlike other publics polled in the region more Argentines perceive that equal treatment has deteriorated rather than improved. Argentines show comparable enthusiasm with other Latin American publics polled for the government acting to prevent discrimination based on race or ethnicity and having the responsibility to prevent employers from engaging in racial and ethnic discrimination.

- 96% in Argentina feel it is important for people of different races and ethnicities to be treated equally (72% very important).
- 82% say the government should act to prevent discrimination based on race or ethnicity, including 62% who say it should do more (16% feel it does enough).
- Three in four (73%) say employers should not be allowed to refuse to hire a qualified person based on race or ethnicity, though 23% believe employers should be allowed to do this. 60% agree that the government has the responsibility to prevent employers from doing this, while 16% say it should not be involved.
- A significant number (43%) say that equal treatment of people of different races and ethnicities has gotten worse, although 36% say it has improved and 13% perceive no real change.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

While Argentines are nearly unanimous in saying the government has the responsibility to ensure citizens can meet their basic needs, they are very critical of their government's success in doing so in the areas of education, healthcare, and food. Argentines are the most negative about their government's ability to meet educational needs among countries with a similar level of economic development.

- Near-unanimous majorities of Argentines say the government has the responsibility to ensure citizens' needs in education (98%), healthcare (97%), and food (94%).
- Argentines give their government very poor marks on ensuring citizens can meet their needs for education (86% not well), healthcare (82%), and food (80%).

GOVERNANCE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

Argentines are among the largest majorities endorsing the principle that the will of the people should be basis of the authority of government. At the same time, they have the second-lowest trust in their government to do the right thing and one of the largest majorities that says their country is run for the benefit of a few big interests as opposed to the benefit of the people.

- Nine in 10 (90%) agree the will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government and 82% feel that government leaders should be selected through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked to rate how much the country should be governed by the will of the people, Argentines give a response of 7.7 on a 10-point scale (with 10 meaning “completely”). Yet when asked to rate how much this is currently true, on average Argentines give a 4.4. Three-quarters (75%) say the country should be governed by the will of the people more than it already is.
- Asked how much of the time they can trust their national government to do what is right, a large majority (73%) says “only some of the time” rather than always (13%) or most of the time (10%).
- More than seven in 10 (71%) say their government is run by a few big interests rather than for the benefit of all the people (21%)
- 78% favor leaders paying attention to polls when making an important decision, and 82% say leaders should pay attention to the views of the people between elections as they make decisions, rather than having elections be the only time the views of the people should have influence (14%).
- Rating the degree to which their government should take into account world public opinion, Argentines give a response of 6.7 on 10-point scale (with 10 meaning “a great deal”), while they give a score of 5.0 for how much it already takes world public opinion into account. Sixty-three percent say it should take world public opinion into account more than it already does.

MEXICO

[Reforma](#)

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Mexico has the third largest majority among all nations polled that agrees they would like to see the UN do more to promote human rights principles. It also has one of the largest majorities saying the UN should actively promote such principles in the member states.

- 85% say the UN should actively promote human rights in member states, while 12% oppose the UN taking this action.
- Nearly nine in 10 (88%) would like to see the UN do more than it has been doing to promote human rights principles.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Mexicans endorse the importance of equal treatment of people of different religions and are among the largest majorities saying this is “very important.” They also have the third largest majority supporting the right to practice any religion. However, their support for freedom to convert others is more modest.

- A very large majority (94%) of Mexicans believe that it is “very important” (83%) or “somewhat important” (11%) that people of different religions are treated equally.
- Roughly three-quarters (76%) agree with the statement that followers of any religion should be allowed to assemble and practice in Mexico, compared to 19% who think some religions should not be allowed.
- 56% support the right of people of any religion to seek to convert members of other religions, while 40% oppose such a right.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Mexicans have the largest majority saying it is very important for people to have the right to express their opinions freely, as well as one of the largest majorities agreeing that the government should not have the right to prohibit certain views from being discussed.

- 87% of Mexicans say it is “very important” and 8% say it is “somewhat important” for people to have the right to express their opinions freely.
- About three-quarters (76%) of those polled believe the government should not have the right to prohibit certain views from being discussed, whereas 20% believe the government should have the right to do so.
- A very large majority of Mexicans (84%) support the people’s right to demonstrate peacefully to protest against the government. Only one in 10 (11%) take the opposite view that the government should have the right to ban such peaceful demonstrations if it perceives them to be politically destabilizing.

MEDIA FREEDOM

Mexicans have the largest majorities saying freedom of the media is “very important” and that the media in their country should have greater freedom. Mexico has one of the largest majorities in support of media being free to publish news and ideas as opposed to allowing the government to impose restrictions to maintain stability.

- 94% of Mexicans say it is important for the media to be free to publish news and ideas without government control, including the largest majority (79%) that says it is very important.
- Two-thirds (67%) agree that people should have the right to read whatever they want on the Internet, rather than believing the government should have the right to prevent access to some things (28%).
- Presented two arguments, very few (17%) agree that the government should have the right to prevent media from publishing things it thinks will be destabilizing, while a majority (77%) feels that the media should have the right to publish news and ideas without government control, the third-largest majority out of all nations asked.
- An overwhelming 95% feel that they should have the right to read publications from other countries, even those considered enemies, the largest majority out of any nation asked.
- Only 29% in Mexico say that the media have a lot of freedom, while 38 percent says it has some freedom. Three in four (75%) in Mexico think that the media should have more freedom, the most out of any nation asked.

THE PROHIBITION AGAINST TORTURE

Mexicans widely endorse existing norms against using torture, even in cases of terrorism. Support for rules against torture has increased the most dramatically in Mexico among publics polled in both 2006 and 2008.

- Nearly three-quarters (73%) reject the use of torture in all cases, while 24 percent favor an exception for terrorists when innocent lives are at risk. Only 7 percent felt that torture should generally be allowed.
- Mexican support for unequivocal rules against torture has grown from 50% in 2006 to 73%, while the number supporting an exception in case of terrorism remains steady at 24%.

WOMEN’S RIGHTS

Mexico stands out as the country most enthusiastic about promoting women’s rights. It has the largest majorities saying that women should have full equality of rights. Mexico also has the second-largest majority saying the government should make efforts to further women’s rights, and the largest majority saying the government should do more in this regard and that the United Nations should play a role.

- An overwhelming majority (98%) believes that full equality for women is important, including 89% who say it is very important. Only Britain equals Mexico on this question.
- 87% of Mexicans say that their generation has seen women achieve greater equality: 29% say they have achieved “much more” and 58 percent say “a little more.”
- Mexicans have the largest majority (96%) saying that the government should try to prevent discrimination against women. Eighty-three percent believe it “should do more” while only 12% say it is “doing enough.”
- 88% feel that the UN should further the rights of women, while merely 9% say this would be “improper interference in a country’s internal affairs.” This is the highest number of all countries polled.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

Mexico has the largest majority of any country polled saying that it is very important for people of different races and ethnicities to be treated equally, and the second-largest majority believing that their government should do more to prevent racial discrimination. However, while a majority perceives that equality is growing, Mexico is among the countries where relatively few feel that that people of different races and ethnicities gained *much more* equal treatment over their lifetime.

- A nearly unanimous 99% believe that it is important for people of different races and ethnicities receive equal treatment, including 94% who say it is “very important.”
- 94% of Mexicans say the government should make an effort to prevent discrimination, including 86% who believe it “should do more.” Only 7% say the government is “doing enough.”
- A large majority (72%) says that employers should not be allowed to discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity, while 24% believe they should. A majority (64%) believes the government has the responsibility to try to stop employers from doing so.
- Two-thirds (66%) of Mexicans say that treatment of racial and ethnic minorities has improved over their lifetimes but only 11% say it has improved much more. Nineteen percent say there has been “no real change” and 12% say such minorities are treated less equally.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Mexicans give their government a poor evaluation on ensuring that its citizens can meet their needs for food and education, but their views are less negative compared to those in countries with similar levels of economic development. Like most publics, Mexicans overwhelmingly agree that the government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet their needs for healthcare and education, as well as food.

- Near unanimous majorities of Mexicans say their government is responsible for ensuring its citizens meet their needs for education (96%) and healthcare (96%), while nearly nine in 10 (89%) say the government also has this responsibility on the need for food.
- Modest majorities of Mexicans say the government is doing a poor job of ensuring citizens can meet their need for food (53%) and education (51%); however, a majority (52%) believes it is doing a good job ensuring citizens can meet their need for healthcare.

GOVERNANCE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

The Mexican public strongly supports democratic principles and gives one of the highest scores for how much their country should be governed by the will of the people. However, they have the second-largest majority that feels their country is run for a few big interests rather than the benefit of the people and are the third-largest majority saying they can only trust their government some of the time. They are also the third-largest majority saying their government should consider world public opinion more than it already does.

- A very large majority (86%) agrees that the will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government, including 59% saying they “strongly agree.” A similar majority (86%) says that government leaders should be selected through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked to rate the degree to which their country should be governed by the will of the people, Mexicans give a response of 8.6 on a scale of 0-10 (with 10 meaning “completely”), although when asked how much their country is governed by this principle, Mexicans only give a score of 4.5. A very large majority (85%) says the government should respond to the will of the people more than it already is.
- Seven in 10 (70%) say they can only trust their national government to do the right thing some of the time, while just 22% say it can be trusted “most of the time” (12%) or “just about always” (10%).
- 83% say their country is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves over the benefit of all the people (16%).
- An overwhelming 92% say that leaders should pay attention to polls when making decisions to get a sense of the public’s views and nearly nine in 10 (89%) say that leaders should pay attention to the views of the people between elections, rather than having elections as the only time when the views of the people should have influence (8%).
- Asked to rate the degree to which their government should consider world public opinion, Mexicans give a response of 8.2 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 meaning “a great deal”), while giving the degree to which the government already takes world opinion into account a mean score of 4.6. More than three-quarters (77%) say that the government should take world public opinion into account more than it already does.

PERU

[Grupo de Opinión Publica, Universidad de Lima](#)

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Peru has a higher than average level of support for giving the UN the power to investigate human rights violations.

- 75% believe the UN should have the right to go into countries in order to investigate human rights violations.

MEDIA FREEDOM

Peruvians are among the largest majorities that say freedom of the press is important and are the largest majority that rejects the argument for government restrictions on the press in order to preserve political stability. A slight majority favors more freedom for the media.

- An overwhelming majority (96%) says that it important for the media to have the right to publish news and articles without government control, including 65% that say it is “very important.”
- Presented two arguments, only 12% say that the government should have the right to prevent the media from publishing things that could be politically destabilizing, while a very large majority (83%) favors the position that the media should have the right to publish news and ideas without government control.
- A slight majority (51%) says that media in Peru should have more freedom, while 40% feel it should have the same amount and 7% say it should have less.

WOMEN’S RIGHTS

- 86% in Peru say that women have gained greater equality during their lifetime: Thirty-two percent say they have gained much more equality and 54% believe they have gained a little more. This is comparable to perceived changes seen in Mexico and Argentina.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

Peruvians show similar near-unanimous support for the importance of racial and ethnic equality as other nations polled in the region, and perceive the most improvement in treatment out of the Latin American publics polled.

- An overwhelming majority (98%) in Peru say that is important for people of different races and ethnicities to be treated equally (70% very important).
- More than seven in 10 (72%) say that people of different races and ethnicities are now treated more equally than in the past, while just 17% say they are treated worse and 10% perceive no change.

UNITED STATES

[Program on International Policy Attitudes](#) / [Knowledge Networks](#)

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Americans show an average level of support for the UN actively promoting human rights principles in member states and higher-than-average support for the UN going into countries to investigate violations of such principles. At the same time, however, support for the UN doing more on this topic is relatively modest compared to other publics has and over one-third say the UN should do no more than it has been doing to promote human rights.

- Significant majorities (70%) in the US believe the UN should actively promote human rights principles in the Universal Declaration in member states (25% oppose).
- 59% say they would like to see the UN do more to promote human rights principles, while 28% say the UN should do about the same as it has been doing.
- A robust majority favors giving the UN the authority to investigate human rights violations within countries (75%).

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Americans demonstrate some of the most widespread support for the importance of religious freedom. They largely agree with the right of followers of any religion to assemble and practice, but are more modest in their agreement that people of any religion should be free to try to convert others.

- 95% say equal treatment for people of different religious beliefs is “very important” (77%) or “somewhat important” (18%).
- Two-thirds (67%) of Americans support the right of any religion to assemble and practice, while 28% say some religions should not have this right.
- A majority (58%) agree with people of any religion being allowed to seek to convert others, though 38% do not approve of this.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

The United States has the largest majority opposing government prohibition of discussion of certain views. Americans also have the largest majority supporting the right to demonstrate peacefully.

- Nearly all Americans (98%) say it is “very important” (76%) or “somewhat important” (22%) for people to have the right to express any opinion.
- 85% believe the government should not have the right to prohibit the expression of certain political or religious views, while 13% believe the government should have such a right.

- An overwhelming majority (94%) of Americans agree that people should have the right to demonstrate peacefully to protest against the government. Only 5% think the government should have the right to ban such demonstrations.

MEDIA FREEDOM

Americans have one of the largest majorities to support having the right to read whatever they want on the Internet and to favor the right to read publications from all other countries. Americans are one of only three publics where the most common view is that the media already have a lot of freedom as opposed to just some. Americans also show some of the most widespread support for the media having the freedom to publish news and ideas without government control.

- Nearly nine in 10 (88%) Americans say it is very important for the media to be free to publish news and ideas without government control, including 56% that say it is very important. Three-quarters (75%) believe they should have the right to read whatever they want on the Internet without government restrictions.
- Very few (27%) favor the argument that the government should have the right to restrict this freedom in order to preserve stability, as opposed to 72% who say that the media should have the right to publish news and ideas without government control.
- A very large majority (92%) feels that they should be free to read publications from other countries, even those considered enemies.
- Two-thirds (66%) in the US feel that the media have “a lot” of freedom, while a majority (52%) says it should have the same amount of freedom it does and significantly fewer say it should have either more (25%) or less (22%).

THE PROHIBITION AGAINST TORTURE

While Americans oppose the use of torture on the whole, the majority endorsing an unequivocal rule against torture is more modest than in other countries and has declined since 2006.

- A modest majority (53%) feels that torture should unequivocally not be allowed, while 44% favor an exception for terrorists. Thirteen percent say torture should be allowed in general.
- Support for making exceptions for torture in the case of terrorists has grown among Americans since 2006 (44%, up from 36%), while the majority opposing the use of torture in all cases has fallen slightly (53%, down from 58%).

WOMEN’S RIGHTS

While Americans are one of the publics that most strongly endorse the importance of gender equality and strongly favor government action to prevent discrimination, they are one of a few countries who do not favor greater government efforts. Though a majority

also believes the United Nations should promote women's rights, there is a significant minority saying that that this would constitute improper interference.

- Nearly all of those polled (97%) say that equal rights for women is important and three-fourths (77%) call it very important.
- 79% say that over their lifetimes women have gained greater equality, with 37% saying much more and 42% saying a little more.
- Four out of five (82%) believe that their government should make an effort to prevent discrimination against women. About half (48%) think the government should do more in this regard. A slight majority (52%) says that it is already doing enough (35%) or that it should not be involved in this kind of thing (17%).
- 59% of Americans say that the United Nations should "make efforts to further the rights of women," though 38% think this would be "improper interference in a country's internal affairs."

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

Americans are the largest majority reporting that people of different races and ethnicities have gained much more equal treatment during their lifetime. Americans widely believe that the government should make an effort to prevent racial and ethnic discrimination, but a majority says that the government is already doing enough in that regard or should not be involved in such efforts.

- 96% believe it is important that people of different races and ethnicities be treated equally, including 79% who say it is "very important."
- Most Americans (83%) say the government should take measures to prevent discrimination based on race or ethnicity. But according to a majority (55%) the government is already "doing enough" (38%) or it "should not be involved" (17%).
- 86% believe that employers should not be allowed to turn away qualified applicants on the basis of race or ethnicity and 69% think the government has the responsibility to prevent this form of discrimination.
- More than four in five (82%) say they have seen treatment of minorities improve over their lifetime. Among the publics polled, the United States has the largest percentage saying minorities are now treated much more equally (42%).

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Americans broadly agree their government has the responsibility to meet the basic needs of their citizens for food, healthcare, and education, but these majorities, while large, are lower than in other countries. Americans evaluate their government the most negatively on healthcare out of any developed country polled, although they are more positive in their evaluations of government efforts on education and food.

- Large majorities of Americans say that the government has the responsibility to ensure citizens have access to education (83%), healthcare (77%), and food

(74%), although significant numbers disagree (education, 16%; healthcare, 21%; food, 25%).

- Majorities of Americans say their government is doing a good job on ensuring that its citizens can meet their needs for education (61%) and food (52%), however nearly seven in 10 evaluate the government negatively on healthcare (69% not well).

GOVERNANCE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

Americans are among the public's most supportive of democratic principles. They are also the largest majority in support of government leaders considering the views of the people between elections. However, they have the third-largest majority saying their country is run by a few big interests over the benefit of the people and a majority express low levels of trust for their government. Americans also give their government the lowest scores of all publics asked for considering world public opinion when making foreign policy, though a large majority favors their government being more responsive to world public opinion.

- 87% agree that “the will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government” and an overwhelming 96% say that government leaders should be selected through elections in which all citizens can vote, the second-largest majority out of all countries asked.
- Asked to rate how much the country should be governed by the will of the people, Americans give a response of 7.9 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 meaning “completely”), although when asked to what extent the country is currently governed by the will of the people, Americans only give a score of 4.0. Eighty-three percent say the government should be more responsive to the will of the people than it already is.
- A majority (60%) says they can only trust their government to do the right thing “some of the time,” while 40% say they can trust the government “most of the time” (37%) or “always” (3%).
- Four in five (80%) Americans say that their country is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, rather than for the benefit of all the people (19%).
- 81% say that leaders should consider public opinion polls when making an important decision to get a sense of the public’s views, and an overwhelming 94% say that leaders should consider the views of the people as they make decisions in between elections.
- Asked how much their government should take into account world public opinion in developing its foreign policy, Americans give a response of 6.6 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 meaning “a great deal”), however when asked how much their government does take world public opinion into account, they give the lowest score (3.9) among all countries polled. Sixty-five percent say the government should consider world public opinion more than it already does.

EUROPE:

FRANCE

Efficiency 3

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

France has the largest majority in favor of giving the UN the power to go into countries to investigate violations of human rights. They are a bit above average in supporting the UN actively promoting human rights principles in member states.

- 76% think that the UN should actively promote human rights in member states, while 20% think that the UN should not.
- Nearly two-thirds (64%) of the French would like to see the UN do more to promote human rights principles, while 26% think the UN should do about the same as it has been doing.
- Most believe the United Nations should have the authority to go into countries to investigate human rights violations (92%).

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

While the French believe treating people of all religions fairly is important and support the right of any religion to practice and assemble, they are the Western public most opposed to allowing members of any religion to seek to convert others.

- An overwhelmingly majority (94%) believes equal treatment of different religions is “very important” (66%) or “somewhat important” (28%).
- 72% say members of any religious group should be allowed to assemble and practice, while 26% say some groups should not be allowed.
- A majority (64%) of French people disagree with permitting all religions to attempt to convert people of other religions, compared to 33% who agree this should be permitted.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

France has the second-largest majority (after the US) endorsing the right to protest against the government through peaceful demonstrations. A majority of the French also believe it is “very important” for people to have the right to express any opinion, although it is the lowest among the Western European publics polled. But they have the highest majority among Europeans saying that they government should not have the right to limit expression.

- More than two-thirds (68%) think it is “very important” and 28% say it is “somewhat important” that people have the right to express any opinion, including criticisms of the government.

- 71% say the government should not have the right to prohibit the discussion of certain political or religious views, while 27% say the government should have this right.
- Nine in 10 (91%) endorse the people's right to demonstrate peacefully to protest against the government, over those that take the view that this would be politically destabilizing (7%).

MEDIA FREEDOM

The French are among the three nations where the most common view is that the media have a lot of freedom in their country, although a significant number says it should also have more freedom. However, they are among the smallest majorities that favor people having the right to read whatever is on the Internet, rather than allowing the government to restrict access to some things.

- 80% in France feel it is very important for the media to have the right to publish news and ideas without government control and a smaller majority (52%) feels that people should have the unrestricted right to read whatever is on the Internet.
- Seven in 10 (70%) favor the argument that the media should have the right to publish news and ideas without government control, over the position that the government should have the right to prevent the publication of things it feels could be politically destabilizing (26%).
- A very large majority (82%) feels that they should have the right to read publications from all other countries.
- Half (50%) of the French says that the media already have “a lot” of freedom. The French are largely divided between 43% who believe the media should have more and 44% feel that it should have the amount it does now.

THE PROHIBITION AGAINST TORTURE

France has one of three publics (along with Britain and Spain) with the largest majorities in favor of unequivocal rules against torture and one of the smallest minorities that favor allowing the use of torture in general.

- 82% oppose the use of torture under any circumstances, while just 16% favor an exception to protect innocent lives. A mere 4% say governments should be allowed to use torture in general.
- Support for firm rules against torture has risen in France since 2006 (82%, up from 75%), while those in favor of allowing torture in cases of terrorism has remained largely stable (16%, down from 19%).

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

France is among the countries with the largest majorities saying equality for women is very important and that the government should do more to prevent discrimination.

However, the French are unusually low in their perception that women's rights have improved a great deal during their lifetimes.

- An overwhelming 97% of the French public believes that it is very (77%) or somewhat important (20%) for women to have the same rights as men.
- More than two-thirds (68%) say that women have become more equal during their lifetimes, including 50% saying women's rights have improved a little and 18% saying they have improved a lot. A significant minority (21%) believes women now have less equality.
- 88% say the government should act to prevent discrimination against women; only 11% say it should not. About two-thirds (68%) say the government should do more, while 19% feel it is doing enough.
- Three-quarters of French respondents (74%) say the United Nations should promote women's rights. Only 19% consider this "improper interference."

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

The French public has the largest majority saying employers should not have the right to discriminate based on race or ethnicity, and a large majority believes the government should do more to prevent discrimination. Large majorities also see equal treatment of people of different races and ethnicities as important and believe they are now treated more equally, although only a few see large gains in this area.

- A very large majority (94%) of the French say equal treatment of different races and ethnicities is important, including 69% who consider it very important.
- 85% say the government should try to prevent discrimination based on race or ethnicity, while more than two-thirds (68%) say that the government should be doing more. Only 18% say it is already doing enough.
- More than nine in 10 (94%) agree that employers should not be able to discriminate, the largest majority among the countries polled. Sixty-nine percent say the government has the responsibility to try to stop such practices, while 23% say it does not.
- 62% of French respondents say treatment of racial and ethnic minorities has improved over their lifetimes, but only 12% say such groups are treated much more equally. Twenty percent say there has been no real change and 16% say treatment is less equal than before.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Among developed countries, the French are the most critical of their government's performance in ensuring its citizens' can meet their basic need for food, but give positive evaluations of their government's performance on healthcare and education. The French broadly support the government having the responsibility to ensure citizens can meet these basic needs.

- The French widely agree the government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet their basic needs for healthcare (92%), education (89%), and food (86%).
- Majorities say their government is doing a good job ensuring that its citizens can meet their needs for education (55%) and healthcare (54%), but 56% say their government is not performing well on ensuring access to food.

GOVERNANCE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

The French endorse the principle of the will of the people serving as the basis for the authority of government. However, while the minority that disagrees is fairly small (one in five) it is the second largest of all countries polled. The French are one of the highest in rejecting the view that the public's influence should be limited to elections.

- More than three in four (77%) in France support the principle of the will of the people as the basis for the authority of government (although 21% disagree), and 87% say that government leaders should be selected through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked to rate how much the country should be governed by the will of the people French respondents give a 7.3 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 meaning “completely”), although when asked to rate how much the country is currently governed this way, the average score is 4.6. Nearly three-quarters (73%) say that the will of the people should have greater influence than it currently does.
- 58% in France say they can only trust their government to do what is right some of the time, in comparison to 37% who say they can trust the government “most of the time” (29%) or “just about always” (8%).
- A majority (59%) feels that France is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, while 35% say it is run for the benefit of all the people.
- More than two-thirds (68%) say leaders should pay attention to public opinion polls when making an important decision, and 90% say leaders should consider the views of the people between elections as they make decisions, rather than just when elections occur.
- Asked how much the French government should consider world public opinion as it makes foreign policy on a scale of 0-10, with 10 being “a great deal,” respondents give a 6.8, although when asked to rate how much the government currently considers world public opinion, the response is 4.9. Sixty-three percent say the government should give more consideration to world public opinion than it already does.

GERMANY

[Ri*Questa GmbH](#)

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Germany has the third-largest majority saying the UN should actively promote principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in member countries. However, while a relatively modest majority support for the UN doing more than it has been doing to promote such principles.

- More than nine in 10 (91%) believe that the UN should actively promote human rights in member states.
- 58% would like to see the UN do more to promote human rights principles, although more than one-third (34%) say it should do the same amount and 7% believe it should do less.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Germans strongly support the right of people of all religions to be treated equally. However they have the largest minority among Western Europeans saying that some religions should not be allowed to practice and their views are divided on allowing any religion to proselytize to others.

- 93% of Germans think that treating people of different religions equally is “very important” (67%) or “somewhat important” (26%).
- More than six in 10 (61%) believe that followers of any religion should have the right to assemble and practice in Germany, compared to 36% who believe some religions should not have this right.
- Germans are divided on the question of allowing people of any religion to seek to convert members of other religions, with 49% in favor and 46% opposed.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Compared to other European publics polled, Germany has a relatively small majority agreeing that the government should not have the right to prohibit the discussion of certain views. However, a large majority agrees that it is important for people to have the right to express any opinion.

- An overwhelming majority of Germans (95%) say it is either “very important” (75%) or “somewhat important” (20%) for people to have the right to express their opinion.
- 56% believe the government should not have the right to prohibit certain views from being discussed, while 41% believe the government should have the right to prohibit the expression of certain views.

- Presented two statements, a large majority (84%) agrees that people should have the right to demonstrate peacefully, while 15% take the opposite view that the government should have the right to ban such demonstrations.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Like all other publics, Germans show widespread support for the government having the responsibility to ensure citizens' basic needs for food, healthcare, and education. Among developed countries, Germans rate their government most positively on meeting citizens' need for food, but give more negative ratings on education.

- More than nine in 10 Germans say their government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet their basic needs for healthcare (95%), education (93%), and food (93%).
- Half of Germans negatively evaluate their government's performance on ensuring that people can meet their basic need for education (50% not well). Yet a large majority evaluates it positively on the issue of food (87% well) and more than three in five (63%) do so on healthcare.

GREAT BRITAIN

[Chatham House \(Royal Institute of International Affairs\)](#)

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Britons demonstrate the second highest support among all nations polled for giving the UN the authority to go into countries to investigate human rights violations. Average-sized majorities endorse the UN actively promoting human rights in member countries and think it should do more than it has been doing to promote such rights.

- More than two-thirds (68%) in Great Britain believe that the UN should actively promote human rights principles in the member states, while 24% believe the UN should not.
- 64% say the UN should do more to promote human rights principles, while considerably fewer say the UN should do less (6%), or about the same (22%).
- 86% of Britons favor giving the UN authority to go into countries in order to investigate violations of human rights, while 11% oppose the UN having this power.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Britons overwhelmingly agree that people of different religions should receive equal treatment. However, a significant minority says that some religions should not be allowed to practice and a majority rejects people having the right to try to convert members of other religions, as do majorities in most of the publics polled in Europe.

- A very large majority (92%) of Britons say that it is “very important” (70%) or “somewhat important” (22%) that people of different religious beliefs are treated equally.
- 59% agree with the statement that followers of any religion should be allowed to assemble and practice in Britain, while 33% believe some religions should not have this right.
- A majority (57%) of Britons disagrees that members of any religion should be free to try to convert others, compared to 37% who agree.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Britons have the most modest support among the Western European publics polled that the government should not have the right to prohibit the expression of certain views—barely more than half—and less than the world average. However, Britons show widespread support for the other aspects of freedom of expression and have the third largest majority (along with Italy) endorsing people’s right to peaceful demonstrations.

- An overwhelming majority of Britons (97%) say it is “very important” (79%) or “somewhat important” (18%) that people have the right to express any opinion freely.
- 53% say the government should not have the right to prohibit the expression of certain political religious views, and 39% say the government should have such a right.
- Britons show widespread support (87%) for people’s right to protest against the government through peaceful demonstrations, while just 11% prefer the opposite statement that this could be politically destabilizing.

MEDIA FREEDOM

Britain has the largest majority saying the media have a lot of freedom in their country. Correspondingly, it has the largest majority expressing satisfaction with the amount of freedom it currently has. Britons are also among the largest majorities that say they should be free to read publications from all countries.

- Nearly nine in 10 (88%) in Britain say it is important for the media to have freedom, including 65% that say it is “very important.” A majority (61%) feels that they should have the right to read whatever is on the Internet.
- 69% of Britons say that the media should have the right to publish news and ideas without government control, as opposed to just 28% that feel the government should have the right to prevent the media from publishing things it thinks could be politically destabilizing.
- A very large majority says that Britons should have the right to read publications from all countries, even those considered enemies (89%).
- A large majority (71%) says that the media have a lot of freedom in Britain, the largest majority out of all nations asked. Fifty-nine percent feel the media should have the same amount of freedom it has now, as opposed to smaller numbers that say it should have more (25%) or less freedom (15%).

THE PROHIBITION AGAINST TORTURE

Like their European neighbors in France and Spain, Britons are among those with the largest majority opposing the use of any torture, even when presented an argument introducing the threat of terrorism. Support for rules against torture has also increased significantly in Britain.

- More than four in five (82%) in Britain support unequivocal rules against torture, and very few favor an exception for terrorists (16%). Just 4%—among the lowest polled—favor allowing torture in general.
- The majority opposing torture under any circumstances has risen 10 points in Britain since 2006 (82%, up from 72%), while those saying “terrorists pose such an extreme threat” that exception should be made have fallen from 24% to 16%.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The British public, together with Mexico, has the largest majority endorsing the importance of equality and, along with Thailand, is the second-highest in the perception that women have gained much more equality in their lifetime.

- A virtually-unanimous 98% of Britons say that it is important for women to have equality of rights compared to men (89% say very important).
- A very large majority (86%) also feel women have become more equal in their lifetimes, with 52% saying women have gained much more equality.
- Nearly nine in 10 (88%) say the government should try to prevent discrimination against women, with 52% saying it should do more and one-third (33%) feeling it already does enough, the most out of any European public polled.
- 70% of Britons agree that the UN should make efforts to further the rights of women, while only 26% reject this as “improper interference.”

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

Britain has one of the largest majorities supporting the importance of equal treatment for people of different races and ethnicities, and has a very large majority favoring government efforts to prevent discrimination, although significantly fewer call for the government to do more in this regard. A large majority also believes that people of different races and ethnicities are now treated more equally than in the past.

- 97% say treating people of different races and ethnicities equally is important and 87% say it is very important.
- Most British respondents (85%) believe that the government should take action to prevent discrimination. Only a modest majority (54%) says the government needs to do more, however. About a third (31%) feel the government is doing enough now and 16% say it should not get involved in such matters.
- A very large majority (83%) says employers should not be allowed to deny jobs to qualified people because of their race or ethnicity. More than two-thirds (69%) say that the government has the responsibility to stop such discrimination, while only 13% say it does not.
- Four in five (79%) say people of different races and ethnicities are treated more equally than in the past, including 39% who say they are treated “much more equally.”

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Britons are the only public among those developed countries polled that evaluates their government positively on ensuring that its citizens can meet their basic needs for food, healthcare, and education. They also show widespread agreement that the government has the responsibility to meet these needs.

- Britons overwhelmingly agree their government has the responsibility to meet citizens' basic needs for education (96%), healthcare (93%), and food (86%).
- Majorities positively rate the British government's performance on meeting basic needs for education (66% well), healthcare (66%), and food (59%).

GOVERNANCE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

Britons widely support democratic principles, including that the will of the people should serve as the basis for government authority, and a majority feels that the will of the people should have greater influence in government. A majority says their country is run for a few big interests, though slightly more than the world average believe it is run for the benefit of all the people. Britons are also one of the largest majorities saying their government should consider world public opinion more as it makes foreign policy decisions.

- 87% in Britain agree with the principle that the will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government, including 55% that say "strongly agree," and 89% favor selecting government leaders through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked to say how much the country should be governed by the will of the people, Britons give a mean response of 8.0 on a 10-point scale (with 10 meaning "completely"), though when asked to say how much the country is currently governed by the will of the people, they give a rating of 4.9. More than three-quarters (77%) say the government should be more responsive to the will of the people.
- A majority (63%) feels they can only trust their national government to do the right thing some of the time, while much smaller numbers say it can be trusted most of the time (29%) or always (3%).
- Six in 10 (60%) Britons say their government is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, instead of the benefit of all the people (36%).
- 84% favor leaders paying attention to public opinion polls when making an important decision to get a sense of the public's views, and 88% support leaders paying attention to the views of the people in between elections, rather than having elections be the only time when their views have influence (11%).
- Asked to rate how much their government should consider world public opinion when making foreign policy, Britons give a response of 7.1 on a 10-point scale (with 10 meaning "a great deal"), although when asked to say how much the government considers world public opinion now, they only give a response of 4.6. Two-thirds (66%) say their government should consider world public opinion more than it does.

ITALY

[Demoskopea](#)

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Italians show higher-than-average support for the UN actively promoting human rights principles in member states and have the largest majority among all European countries polled and the second-largest among all nations that would like to see the UN do more than it has been doing to promote such principles.

- More than eight in 10 (81%) in Italy believe the UN should actively promote human rights in member states, while very few (14%) believe the UN should not.
- 83% of Italians think the UN should do more to promote human rights principles, compared to very small numbers that say the UN should do less (6%) or about the same (8%).

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Italians strongly agree that treating people of all faiths equally is important and support the right of people to practice any religion. A modest majority—less than other Europeans--opposes allowing followers of any religion to seek to convert others.

- More than nine in 10 (91%) believe equal treatment for members of different religions is important, with 66% saying this is “very important” and 25% saying “somewhat important.”
- 64% of Italians believe all religions should be free to practice their beliefs, compared to 30% who believe some religions should be not be allowed.
- A slight majority (53%) opposes permitting any religion to seek to convert people of other faiths, while 44% support the right to seek to convert.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Italians have widespread support for the right to free expression and have one of the largest majorities (along with Great Britain) supporting the right to demonstrate peacefully against the government.

- Italians show overwhelming support (95%) for the importance of the right to express any opinion, with 80% saying it is “very important” and 15% saying it is “somewhat important.”
- 63% of Italians think the government should not have the right to prohibit the expression of certain views, while 30% think the government should have such a right.
- Presented two statements, a large majority (87%) agrees people should have the right to demonstrate peacefully, while only 10% feel the government should be able to ban peaceful demonstrations if they could be politically destabilizing.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Italians show near-unanimity on the government being responsible to help citizens meet their basic needs for food, education, and healthcare. Among developed countries, they are more negative on how well their government is doing meeting citizens' need for food and healthcare, and the only public among those developed countries polled that is divided regarding its government's performance in regards to education.

- More than nine in 10 Italians agree that the government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet their basic needs for healthcare (97%), education (95%), and food (92%).
- Majorities criticize the Italian government's performance on meeting citizens' needs for food (55%) and healthcare (52%), but they are divided on how well the government has been ensuring that citizens can meet their need for education (46% well, 48% not well).

POLAND

CBOS

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Polish support for giving the UN investigative powers, while a majority, is lower than average.

- Significant majorities in Poland support giving the UN “the authority to go into countries in order to investigate violations of human rights” (58%).

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Poles are one of the largest majorities out of all publics favoring the freedom of any religion to assemble and practice. However, like most other publics polled in Europe, they oppose people of any religion having the freedom to attempt to convert people of different faiths.

- 86% of Poles say treating those of different faiths equally is either “very important” (40%) or “somewhat important” (46%).
- A large majority (77%) supports the right of any religion to assemble and practice, with only 16% opposed to such a right.
- Six-in-10 (60%) do not agree with allowing people of any religion to try to convert members of other religions, while 27% agree this should be allowed.

MEDIA FREEDOM

- A very large majority of Poles (78%) believes that the media should have the right to publish news and ideas without government control, while very few (13%) believe government should have the right to restrict this freedom.
- An overwhelming majority (84%) agree that people in Poland should have the right to read publications from all other countries, even those that might be considered enemies.

GOVERNANCE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

Poles widely endorse democratic principles and are among the largest majorities in favor of the will of the people having greater influence. Poles are also one of the largest majorities favoring the selection of government leaders through elections. At the same time, they have the third-lowest assessment of how much their country is currently governed by the will of the people.

- An overwhelming majority (93%) agrees that the will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government, and 91% say that government leaders should be selected through elections in which all citizens can vote.

- Asked to say how much the country should be governed by the will of the people, Poles give a mean response of 8.1 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 meaning “completely”). Asked to say how much the country is currently governed by the will of the people, Poles give a very low score of 3.4. A very large 81% say the government should be more responsive to the will of the people.
- 63% say that their country is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, rather than for the benefit of all the people (19%).
- More than nine in 10 (91%) support leaders paying attention to public opinion polls when they make a big decision in order to get a sense of the public views, and 88% say that leaders should consider the views of the public between elections as they make decisions.

RUSSIA

[Levada Center](#)

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Although close to two-thirds in Russia favor giving the UN authority to investigate human rights violations in countries, it also has the most modest support of all nations in favor of greater UN action in the promotion human rights. However, Russians express majority support for the UN making efforts to promote the human rights principles of the Universal Declaration in its member states, though this support is lower than average.

- A majority (55%) of Russians think the UN should actively promote human rights principles in member states, although 29% believe this would be improper interference in a country's internal affairs.
- 45% of Russians would like to see the UN do more than it has been doing to promote human rights principles, while 33% feel that the UN should do less (8%) or the same (23%).
- 64% of Russians favor giving the UN authority to go into countries in order to investigate violations of human rights.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Russians agree that treating people of different religions is important, but their support for this principle is more modest than most other publics polled—less than a majority says that it is very important. Only half agree that people of any religion having the right to assemble and practice—lower than in any Western European nation. Opposition to allowing efforts to convert is also quite high.

- 78% of Russians endorse the importance of treating people of different religions equally (34% very important, 44% somewhat).
- Half (50%) in Russia agree with the view that followers of any religion should be allowed to assemble and practice in Russia, while 38% say there are some religions that should not be allowed.
- More than six in 10 (62%) disagree that people of any religion should be free to try to convert members of other religions to join theirs, with just 23% saying they should have this freedom.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Russia has the lowest number among all publics polled saying the right to express any opinion is “very important.” However they are similar to the global average on all other questions related to freedom of expression.

- Three in four Russians (76%) say it is “very important” (34%) or “somewhat important” (42%) for people to have the right to express their opinions freely.

- More than one in 10 (15%) say it is “not very important” (13%) or “not important at all” (2%).
- 55% of Russians oppose the government having the right to prevent the discussion of certain views, although 29% support the government having this right.
 - A large majority (76%) thinks people should have the right to protest against the government through peaceful demonstrations, while just 17% think the government has the right to ban peaceful demonstrations that it sees as politically destabilizing.

MEDIA FREEDOM

Although a substantial majority of Russians agree it is important for the media to be free to publish news and ideas without government control, it is the second smallest majority. More significantly, Russians are one of the few publics (and the only non-Muslim one) divided on whether the government should have the right to control the media in the effort to preserve stability. They are among the publics with the lowest levels of support for the media gaining more freedom than it already has.

- 64% of Russians feel it is either somewhat (41%) or very important (23%) for the media to be free to publish news and ideas without government control, while 57% believe they should have the right to read whatever is on the Internet.
- Given two positions, Russians are one of the few publics divided on whether the media should have the right to publish news and ideas without government control (45%) or whether the government should have the right to prevent the media from publishing things in order to preserve stability (44%).
- 71% in Russia believe that they should have the right to read publications from all other countries, even those considered enemies.
- Asked how much freedom the media currently have in Russia, the most common view is it has “some” (44%), followed by “a lot” (25%). Only 39% believe the media should have more freedom, while 33% believe it should have the same amount and 17% believe it should have less.

THE PROHIBITION AGAINST TORTURE

More Russians favor unequivocal rules against the use of torture than say exceptions should be made for terrorism. However only a plurality takes this position and support is less widespread than in other publics.

- Approximately half (49%) oppose the use of torture under any circumstances, while 36% make an exception in the case of terrorists. Seven percent favor governments being allowed to use torture as a general rule.
- Russian opposition to all torture has risen somewhat since 2006 (49%, up from 43%), while those saying its use should be allowed in cases of terrorism has remained steady (36%, from 37% in 2006).

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Although a large majority of Russians believe in the importance of equal rights for women, support is not as strong as in most countries polled. Majorities favoring government and UN action to prevent discrimination against women are also smaller than in other publics.

- 76% in Russia say that equality of rights for women compared to men is important, although only 35% say “very important,” and 41% say “somewhat important.”
- A majority (63%) believes women have gained more equality of rights compared to men (24% much more, 39% a little more), although 19% believe there has been no real change over their lifetimes.
- Three in four Russians (74%) agree that the government should act to prevent discrimination against women, with 39% saying it should do more and 23 percent feeling it does enough.
- Only a slight majority (52%) feels that the UN should make efforts to promote women’s rights, while 30 percent feel this would be “improper interference.”

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

Russians are one of a few publics which express mixed views about whether racial and ethnic equality has improved compared to the past. A large majority favors the government making efforts to prevent racial and ethnic discrimination, but only one in three believe the government should do more. A large majority rejects employers having the right to discriminate based on race or ethnicity.

- 83% of Russians agree that equal treatment of people of different races and ethnicities is important, although only 37% say it is very important.
- A strong majority (71%) thinks the government should make efforts to prevent racial and ethnic discrimination, though only 35% say it should do more and 24% say it already does enough.
- Russians have mixed views about whether racial and ethnic minorities have won greater equality: 37% say they are better off, 20% say they are worse off and 25% say there has been no real change.
- 72% say that employers should not have the right to refuse to hire people based on their based on race or ethnicity. A majority (58%) believes that the government has the responsibility to prevent employers from doing so, while just 13% say it does not

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Like other countries with similar levels of economic development, Russians negatively evaluate their government’s performance on ensuring that its citizens can meet their basic needs, and give some of the most negative ratings on healthcare. Russians show widespread consensus that the government has the responsibility for healthcare and

educational needs. On food, they agree that the government should ensure that its citizens can meet this need, but to a more modest degree than other publics.

- Russians near-unanimously support the government having the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet their basic needs for healthcare (96%) and education (94%), while more than three in four (77%) say the government also has this responsibility regarding food.
- Majorities judge the Russian government poorly on meeting citizens' basic needs in all three areas, including healthcare (83% not well), food (68%), and education (61%).

GOVERNANCE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

Russians widely favor democratic principles, including that the will of the people should serve as the basis for the authority of government, and have one of the highest ratings for how much their country should be governed by the will of the people. A majority of Russians also believe they can trust their government to do the right thing most of the time, although a majority also says their country is run by a few big interests for themselves over the benefit of all the people. While Russians say that world public opinion should have substantial influence over their government they are one of only three countries that does not have a plurality or majority calling for greater influence.

- More than three in four (76%) Russians endorse the principle of the will of the people as the basis for the authority of government, along with 85% favoring the selection of leaders through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked to what degree the country should be governed according to the will of the people, Russians give a response of 8.6 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 meaning "completely"), one of the highest among nations asked. However, when asked how much the country is currently governed by the will of the people, Russians give a response of 4.7. Seventy-seven percent say that the government should be more responsive to the will of the people.
- A majority (53%) of Russians says they trust their government to do the right thing "most of the time," rather than "only some of the time" (29%) or "just about always" (11%).
- Nearly three in five (59%) say that their country is run for the benefit of a few big interests over the benefit of all the people (30%).
- 83% of Russians say leaders should pay attention to polls to help them get a sense of the public's views, and 73% take the position that leaders should pay attention to the views of the people between elections, rather than having elections be the only time when the views of the people have influence (22%).
- Asked how much their government should take into account world public opinion when making foreign policy, Russians give a response of 6.6 on a scale of 0-10, (with 10 meaning "a great deal"), although when asked how much their government takes world public opinion into account currently, Russians give a 5.5. Only 36% say the government should give world public opinion greater

influence, while 24% say it should have the same amount and 21% feel it should have less.

SPAIN

[Elcano Royal Institute](#)

THE PROHIBITION AGAINST TORTURE

Spain is one of the countries that has the largest majority endorsing norms against the use of torture (along with Britain and France) and has had one of the largest increases in majority support for unequivocal rules against torture among publics asked in recent years.

- A large majority (82%) supports rules against the use of torture in any circumstances, and just 11% say that exceptions should be made for cases like terrorism. Six percent favor allowing governments to use torture in general.
- Spanish opposition to the use of torture has increased significantly since 2006 (82%, up from 65%) while the number of those who favor allowing its use in cases of terrorism has fallen somewhat (11%, down from 16%).

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The Spanish public widely endorses the government taking action to prevent discrimination against women compared to other countries polled in Europe, and a relatively large majority says that women have gained more equality with men compared to publics in neighboring countries.

- 80% in Spain agree that women have achieved greater equality of rights compared to men during their lifetime, compared to very few who say they have the same degree of equality (15%) or less (4%).
- Nearly nine in 10 (89%) believe the government should make efforts to prevent discrimination against women.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

The Spanish public most widely supports government action to prevent ethnic or racial discrimination among the publics polled in Europe, and perceives a relatively average improvement in treatment of people of different race and ethnicities compared to neighboring publics.

- 54% in Spain say that people of different races and ethnicities are now treated more equally than in the past, compared to those who say they are treated the same (30%) or less equally (15%).
- Nearly nine in 10 (89%) say the government should make an effort to prevent discrimination based on race or ethnicity, while just 8% believe it should not be involved.

UKRAINE

[Kiev International Institute of Sociology](#)

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Overall, Ukrainians show widespread support for UN action to promote human rights principles, though overall support is somewhat more modest than other neighboring publics polled, with the exception of Russia.

- Nearly three in four Ukrainians (73%) think the UN should actively promote human rights in member states, while just 8% believe this would be improper interference.
- 57% would like to see the UN do more than it has been doing to promote human rights principles, compared to those who would prefer it do the same amount (18%) or less (4%).
- Two-thirds of Ukrainians (66%) support giving the UN the authority to go into countries in order to investigate violations of human rights.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Ukrainians have the second largest majority out of the publics polled (next to Egyptians) that believes some religions should not be permitted to practice in their country, and less than half say that it is very important for people of different religions to be treated equally. However, they are relatively moderate among European nations in their opposition to allowing efforts to convert.

- A large majority (84%) thinks it is “very important” (44%) or “somewhat important” (40%) that people of all religions be treated equally.
- 54% of Ukrainians say that followers of some religions should not be allowed to practice, while 30% say all religions should be free to assemble and practice.
- Roughly half (48%) reject permitting any religion to seek to convert others, compared to 30% who favor allowing followers of any religion to do this.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Ukrainians show especially strong support for people’s right to demonstrate peacefully to protest against the government. They are a bit lower than average in saying that freedom of expression is very important but a bit higher in saying that the government should not have the right to limit expression.

- 87% of Ukrainians feel it is “very important” (52%) or “somewhat important” (35%) that people have the right to express any opinion.
- More than six in 10 (63%) Ukrainians think the government should not have the right to prohibit certain views from being discussed, though three in 10 (29%) think the government should have such a right.

- Presented two statements, a significant majority (82%) endorses people's right to demonstrate peacefully, whereas 11% support the government having the right to ban peaceful demonstrations that may be politically destabilizing.

MEDIA FREEDOM

Ukrainians agree with most other publics that it is important for the media to have freedom. Approximately half believe the media in their country should be more free than it is now.

- 74% of Ukrainians agree it is important for the media to have the freedom to publish news and ideas without government control and a majority (64%) believes people should have the right to read whatever is on the Internet rather than having the government impose restrictions.
- Ukrainians tend to reject the argument that the government should have the right to restrict the media's freedom in order to preserve stability (31%), while nearly three in five (59%) agree more that the media should be free to publish news and ideas without control.
- A large majority of Ukrainians (82%) believes people should have the right to read publications from any country, even those that could be considered enemies.
- 46% in the Ukraine say the media only have "some" freedom, while just 18% feel it has "a lot." 45% believe it should have more freedom than it does now, 35% feel it should have about the same, and 10% say it should have less.

THE PROHIBITION AGAINST TORTURE

Most Ukrainians continue to reject the use of torture under any circumstances, and very few favor allowing governments to use torture in cases of terrorism or in general.

- Nearly six in 10 (59%) endorse norms prohibiting the use of torture in all cases, while 26% say limited torture should be allowed in the exceptional case of terrorism. Eight percent believe that governments should be allowed to use torture in general.
- Opposition to the use of all torture has risen slightly in Ukraine from 2006 (54%) to 2008 (59%).

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

While a majority of Ukrainians believe that women's rights have improved in their country, Ukraine has a significant minority that disagrees. However, Ukrainians widely favor government and UN action to promote the rights of women.

- Eight in 10 (79%) Ukrainians say that equality of rights for women is very (44%) or somewhat important (35%).

- 63% say that women have gained either much (31%) or a little more (32%) equality compared to men in their lifetimes; however, 21% believe there has been no real change.
- More than three in four Ukrainians say (77%) the government should try to prevent discrimination against women, with a plurality (46%) saying it should do more and 26% saying it already does enough.
- 69% feel that the UN should act to further the rights of women, while just 16% reject this as “improper” intervention.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

Ukrainians are one of a few publics which hold mixed views on whether improvements in racial and ethnic equality have occurred during their lifetime, although a large majority feels that equal treatment is important. Large majorities also agree that employers should not have the right to engage in discriminatory hiring practices and that the government has the responsibility to prevent this from occurring.

- A large majority (87%) of Ukrainians believe that equal treatment of different races and ethnicities is very (50%) or somewhat important (37%).
- 71% of Ukrainians say that the government should make efforts to prevent racial and ethnic discrimination, including 46% who feel the government should do more, while only 19% say it is already doing enough.
- Ukrainians have mixed views about whether there have been gains in racial equality during their lifetimes: 38% perceive no real change, 36% say minorities are treated better and 11% say worse.
- More than three-quarters (77%) believe employers should not be allowed to turn away qualified jobseekers because of race or ethnicity, and 65% feel the government has the responsibility to prevent this from occurring. Very few say it does not (10%).

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Ukrainians give the most negative evaluations of their government’s performance on meeting its citizens’ needs for healthcare among countries with a similar level of economic development, and are also among the most negative on food and education. Among Ukrainians there is a very broad consensus that the government should be responsible for meeting citizens’ needs for healthcare and education.

- Ukrainians show widespread agreement that the government has the responsibility to ensure citizens’ basic needs for healthcare (97%), education (95%), and food (89%).
- An overwhelming majority of Ukrainians (93%) rate their government negatively on ensuring that its citizens can meet their needs for healthcare, and very large majorities also give negative evaluations for government performance on education (82%) and food (80%).

GOVERNANCE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

Ukrainians have the largest majority strongly agreeing that the will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government and are one of three publics giving the highest mean number for how much the country should be governed according to the will of the people. However, Ukrainians also rate their country the lowest on the degree to which it is governed by the will of the people, and a very large number believe that the government should be more responsive to the will of the people.

- An overwhelming majority (94%) endorses the principle of the will of the people as the basis for the authority of government, including 77% who strongly agree. More than nine in 10 (91%) also favor selecting government leaders through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked how much the country should be governed according to the will of the people, Ukrainians give an 8.7 on a 10-point scale (with 10 meaning “completely”). However, Ukrainians also give their country the lowest rating (2.8) for how much the country is currently governed according to the will of the people. Eighty-six percent favor the will of the people having greater influence on the government.
- A majority (57%) of Ukrainians say they can only trust the national government to do the right thing “some of the time,” while just 20% say they can trust it “most of the time” (16%) or “just about always” (4%).
- Ukrainians widely perceive their country as being run by a few big interests looking out for themselves (84%), rather than for the benefit of all the people (5%).
- Nine in 10 (90%) say leaders should pay attention to public opinion polls when making an important decision to get a sense of the public’s views, and three-quarters (76%) also feel that leaders should consider the views of the people between elections when making decisions.
- Asked how much the government should take into account world public opinion when making foreign policy decisions Ukrainians give a response of 7.2 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 being “a great deal”), but only give a response of 4.5 when asked how much the government currently takes world public opinion into account. Fifty-five percent favor the government paying more attention to world public opinion when making foreign policy decisions.

MIDDLE EAST/EURASIA:

AZERBAIJAN

International Center for Social Research

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Azerbaijan has one of the largest majorities saying the UN should actively promote the human rights principles of the Universal Declaration. However, support for the UN doing more to promote such rights is less than average.

- Nearly nine in 10 (89%) believe the UN should actively promote human rights in member states.
- 58% would like to see the UN do more than it has been doing to promote human right principles, while 29% want the UN to do about the same and 9% believe it should do less.
- 77% support giving the UN the authority to go into countries to investigate human rights violations, while 11% oppose this proposal.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Azerbaijanis strongly agree that treating people with different religious beliefs equally is important and widely support allowing followers of any religion to assemble and practice. However, like other predominantly Muslim publics polled, they oppose followers of any religions being allowed to seek to convert others.

- 88% believe equal treatment for people of different religions is “very important” (57%) or “somewhat important” (31%).
- More than seven in 10 (71%) say the followers of any religion should be permitted to practice in Azerbaijan, compared to 26% who say some religions should not be permitted.
- A majority (63%) of Azerbaijanis oppose people of any religion being free to try to convert members of other religions, while 32% favor this.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Azerbaijanis display overall support for the freedom of expression; however, they have a relatively smaller majority saying it is “very important” for people to have this freedom. They are higher than other predominantly Muslim publics in their support for the right to demonstrate.

- Three in four Azerbaijanis (75%) say it is either “very important” (50%) or “somewhat important” (25%) for people to have the right to express their opinion, while 13% say it is “not very important” (10%) or “not important at all” (3%).

- 64% think the government should not have the right to prohibit the expression of certain views, while 32% think the government should have such a right.
- More than seven in 10 (72%) say people should have the right to demonstrate peacefully, while 28% think the government should have the right to ban such peaceful demonstrations if it perceives them to be politically destabilizing.

MEDIA FREEDOM

Azerbaijanis have the second-largest majority supporting the right to have unrestricted access to material on the Internet. While most say the media in Azerbaijan have at least some freedom, they are among the smallest numbers saying the media have a lot of freedom and a majority believes the media should have even greater freedom.

- A very large majority of Azerbaijanis (86%) say that it is important for the media to have the freedom to publish news and ideas without government control and 79% say that people should have the right to read whatever they want on the Internet, the largest majority out of all nations asked.
- Few Azerbaijanis (34%) find the argument convincing that the government should have the right to prevent the media from publishing news and ideas that could be politically destabilizing, while 55% favor the media having the right to publish news and ideas without government control.
- Nearly three in four (73%) say that people should have the right to read publications from all other countries, including those that could be considered enemies.
- Azerbaijanis most commonly say that the media have “some” freedom (38%), while very few say it has “a lot” of freedom. Fifty-seven percent feel that the media should have more freedom than it does now, significantly more than those who say it should have the same amount (23%) or less freedom (13%).

THE PROHIBITION AGAINST TORTURE

While most Azerbaijanis believe that any use of torture should be prohibited, this majority is slightly lower than average.

- A majority (54%) of Azerbaijanis endorse unequivocal rules against torture, while slightly more than one in three (33%) support the limited use of torture against terrorists to protect innocent lives. Just 8% believe that the torture should be generally allowed.

WOMEN’S RIGHTS

Azerbaijanis largely share the view of most publics about the importance of women’s rights and that improvements have been made, although a significant number believes that no real changes have occurred in their lifetime. Majorities also support government and UN action to promote women’s rights.

- 85% of Azerbaijanis say that equality of rights for women is important (55% very important).
- A significant majority (63%) feels that women have gained more equality of rights (29% much more, 34% a little more), yet 18% say that “no real change” has occurred during in their lifetime.
- More than three-quarters (77%) believe that the government should make efforts to protect women from discrimination, with 40% saying the government should do more and 30% feeling it already does enough.
- Two-thirds (66%) say that the UN should make efforts to promote women’s rights, and just 23% reject this as “improper interference” in a country’s internal affairs.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

Azerbaijanis are among the publics with the smallest percentage—less than four in ten—saying that there has been improvement in racial equality over the course of their lifetime. Although a majority of Azerbaijanis believes the government should make efforts to prevent racial and ethnic discrimination, they are divided on whether the government should do more on this front and a significant number believe the government already does too much. However, a majority thinks that employers should not have the right to discriminate based on race or ethnicity, and they are among the largest majorities believing the government has the responsibility to prevent this.

- A very large majority (89%) of Azerbaijanis consider equal treatment of different races and ethnicities very (68%) or somewhat (21%) important.
- 70% feel the government should take measures to stop discrimination but only 33% say it needs to do more, 34% say it is already doing enough, and 16% say it is doing too much.
- Just 39% of Azerbaijanis believe racial and ethnic equality has improved over their lifetime, while half say there has either been “no real change” (31%) or that there is now less equality (19%).
- More than four in five (82%) say employers should not be able to make hiring decisions based on race or ethnicity, and 72%—one of the largest majorities among the publics polled—agree that the government has the responsibility to prevent this.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Azerbaijan is the only developing country polled whose public is critical of its government’s performance on healthcare, but positive about its performance on food and education. They widely support the principle that the government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet these basic needs.

- Azerbaijanis overwhelming say the government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet their basic needs for healthcare (96%), food (93%), and education (89%).

- Majorities approve of their government's performance on ensuring that its citizens can meet their needs for education (64% well) and food (57%), but a majority criticizes its efforts to ensure that citizens can meet their healthcare needs (54% not well).

GOVERNANCE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

Azerbaijanis have one of the largest majorities strongly agreeing that the will of the people should be the basis of government authority, and give a very high rating for how much the country should be governed by the will of the people. They are also among the large majorities that favor the government giving the will of the people greater influence.

- 83% of Azerbaijanis agree that the will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government, including a majority (63%) saying they “strongly agree,” and 86% favor selecting government leaders through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked to say how much their country should be governed according to the will of the people Azerbaijanis give a response of 8.3 on a scale of 0-10 (with 10 being “completely”), although when asked to what degree the country is currently governed by the will of the people, on average the response is only 4.2. More than three in four (76%) say the will of the people should have greater influence than it currently does.
- Azerbaijanis are divided between those who say they can only trust their government some of the time (40%), and those who say it can be trusted “most of the time (33%) or “just about always” (8%). A further 16% volunteer they can never trust the government.
- A majority (61%) says that their country is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, while just 25% feel it is run for the benefit of all the people.
- 72% favor leaders paying attention to public opinion polls when they make an important decision in order to get a sense of the public's view, and 76% believe that leaders should consider the views of the people in between elections.
- Asked how much their government should consider world public opinion when making foreign policy, Azerbaijanis give a response of 7.5 on a scale of 0-10 (with 10 meaning “a great deal”), although when asked to say how much their government already considers world public opinion, the response is a 5.4. A slight majority (51%) favors the government taking world public opinion into greater account.

EGYPT

Attitude Market Research

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Although a majority in Egypt shows support for UN involvement in promoting human rights, support is more modest than in most other publics polled. Egypt also has some of the largest minorities saying the UN should not actively promote human rights in member countries and should do less than it has been doing.

- Nearly two-thirds (64%) of Egyptians think the UN should actively promote human rights in member states, while one-third (33%) think the UN should not.
- A majority (55%) want the UN do more to promote human rights principles, while 44% want the UN to do less (22%) or about the same (22%).
- Egyptians are divided on whether the UN should be given authority to go into countries to investigate violations of human rights (51% favor, 49% oppose).

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Egyptians have the largest majority of all publics polled that says some religions should not be free to practice and are the third-largest majority opposed to the right of members of any religion to seek to convert members of other religions. While overall they endorse the importance of equal treatment of members of different religions, they also have the largest number of respondents saying equal treatment of all religions is not important and one of the lowest numbers saying that it is very important.

- Nearly three in four (74%) Egyptians say it is “very important” (29%) or “somewhat important” (45%) that people of different faiths are treated equally. However, 24% say this is not important.
- A majority (67%) thinks that some religions should not be allowed to assemble and practice in Egypt, while 31% think the practice of any religion should be allowed.
- 67% do not agree that followers of any religion should be permitted to attempt to convert others, while 30% agree.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Egypt has the largest minority among all countries polled (over 4 in 10) saying that the government has the right to ban peaceful demonstrations. Egypt also has the largest minority saying the right to free expression is not important and, among all predominantly Muslim publics polled, Egypt has the smallest number that say the right to express any opinion is “very important.”

- Four in five Egyptians (80%) consider the right to express any opinion “very important” (43%) or “somewhat important” (37%), while 20% consider it “not very important” (18%) or “not important at all” (2%).
- Egyptians are divided on the issue of whether or not the government has the right to prohibit expression of certain political or religious views (49% should, 49% should not.)
- Presented two statements, 55% endorse the right of the people to demonstrate peacefully, while 42% feel the government has the right to ban peaceful demonstrations.

MEDIA FREEDOM

Egyptians are among the publics most supportive of the principle of media freedom—they have the highest number saying media freedom is important. However they are also one of three divided on whether the government should have the right to restrict freedom to prevent political instability. Egyptians are also one of the five largest majorities calling for more freedom.

- An overwhelming majority (97%) of Egyptians say it is important for the media to be free (64% very important) and 65% believe that people should have the right to read whatever is on the Internet.
- Presented two arguments, Egyptians are among the few publics divided on whether the government should have the right to prevent the media from publishing things it thinks will be destabilizing (52%) and whether the media should have the right to publish news and ideas without government control (49%).
- Nearly three in four (74%) say that people in Egypt should have the right to read publications from all other countries, even those that might be considered enemies.
- A majority in Egypt (63%) says that the media have “some” freedom, although 31% also say it has “a lot” of freedom. A large majority (64%) also feels it should have more freedom, while just one-third (32%) says it should have the same amount and 4% say it should have less freedom.

THE PROHIBITION AGAINST TORTURE

While a majority of Egyptians favor maintaining clear rules against torture, Egypt has one of the largest numbers endorsing making exceptions in the case of terrorism. This minority has also grown substantially since 2006.

- A modest majority (54%) believe that clear rules against torture should be maintained, while a sizable minority (46%) believes that some degree of torture should be allowed in the case of terrorists. Just 6% say that governments should be allowed to torture in general.

- Egyptians' support for the limited use of torture in cases of terrorism has risen 21 points since 2006 (46%, up from 25%), while the majority endorsing clear rules against all torture has dropped significantly (54%, down from 65%).

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Egypt has the largest majority of all countries polled believing that women have gained much more equality. While a large majority supports their government taking action to prevent discrimination against women, Egypt, has by far the smallest percentage saying that the government should do more, and is the only country where a majority opposes the United Nations making efforts to promote women's rights.

- Nine out of 10 (90%) say that gender equality is important, although only 31% think it is very important.
- 94% of Egyptians believe that women have gained more equality during their lifetimes, including 57% saying much more.
- A large majority (77%) wants the government to be involved in protecting women from discrimination, but only 17% say it should do more and 59% feel it is already doing enough.
- 70% of Egyptians see the United Nations making efforts to further women's rights is "improper interference in a country's internal affairs," while just 30% are in favor of the UN making these efforts to further women's rights.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

Among Muslim publics, Egyptians have the largest number expressing support for the importance of racial and ethnic equality. Egyptians widely oppose employers having the right to discriminate based on race or ethnicity in their hiring practices, and believe the government has the responsibility to prevent this from happening. But while a large majority agrees that the government should prevent discrimination, Egyptians are divided on whether further action is necessary, and they have the most respondents saying the government should not be involved at all.

- 97% of Egyptians see equal treatment of people of different races and ethnicities as very (71%) or somewhat important (26%).
- 73% believe the government should try to prevent discrimination, although only 37% say it should do more, while 36% say it already does enough. 27% (the largest of any country) say the government should not be involved.
- Three in four (75%) believe employers do not have the right to discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity. A majority (56%) says the government has the responsibility to prevent such discrimination while just 19% say it does not.
- A majority (64%) says that people of different races and ethnicities are now treated more equally than in the past, although just 17% believe they are treated "much more equally." More than a third (35%) feels they are treated less equally.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

While Egyptians share the belief of most publics that the government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet certain basic needs, agreement on the responsibility to meet education needs is less widespread than in other publics polled. Among developing countries, Egyptians are the most negative on the government's performance on healthcare, and among the most negative on the need for food.

- Large majorities of Egyptians agree that the government should have the responsibility to meet citizens' basic needs for food (82%), healthcare (81%), and education (77%).
- A majority of Egyptians (53%) rates the government positively on its performance on handling citizens' need for education, but they are negative on how well the government is handling the need for food (61% not well) and healthcare (57%).

GOVERNANCE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

Egyptians have the largest majority—nearly unanimous—endorsing the principle of the will of the people serving as the basis of government authority, and widely believe that their country should give the will of the people greater influence. However they give the second-lowest rating for how much their country is currently governed by the will of the people. On the other hand large numbers feel they can trust their government most of the time and a majority believes their country is run for the benefit of all the people.

- A near unanimous 98% of Egyptians agree that the will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government, and 76% favor government leaders being selected by elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked how much their country should be governed by the will of the people, Egyptians give a response of 8.3 on a 10-point scale (with 10 meaning “completely”), though when asked to say how much the country is currently governed by the will of the people, they give a very low rating of 3.2. A very large majority (97%) believes the will of the people should have greater influence than it currently does.
- A large majority of Egyptians (84%) say they can trust their national government to do the right thing most of the time (71%) or just about always (13%), while just 16 percent say they can only trust the government some of the time.
- 57% say that their country is run for the benefit of all the people, though a significant number (44%) say that it is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves.
- 64% of Egyptians say leaders should pay attention to polls when making decisions because this will help them gain a sense of the public's views, while just 36% take the opposite view that this will distract leaders from deciding what they think is right.
- Asked how much their government should take into account world public opinion when making foreign policy decisions, Egyptians give a response of 7.3 on a 10-

point scale (with 10 meaning “a great deal”), although when asked to rate how much their government is currently taking into account world public opinion, they only give a 4.1. A large majority (72%) favors the government taking world public opinion into account more than it already does.

IRAN

WorldPublicOpinion.org

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Though it is smaller than average, a majority of Iranians favor giving the UN the power to investigate human rights abuses.

- 54% of Iranians favor giving the UN authority to go into countries in order to investigate violations of human rights.

MEDIA FREEDOM

While two thirds of Iranians favor press freedom, overall their support is among the weakest. Iranians are one of two publics asked that lean in favor of the government having the right to restrict access to information on the Internet and among the few nations that feel the government should have the right to prevent the press from publishing news and ideas that could be destabilizing. However, a large majority believes Iranians should have the right to read publications from all other countries.

- A majority of Iranians (65%) agrees that it is important for the press to have the freedom to publish news and ideas without government control.
- 44% support the government having the right to prevent people from having access to some things on the Internet, while 32% believe people should have the right to read whatever is on the Internet.
- A plurality (45%) favors the argument that the government should have the right to restrict the press' freedom to publish things it thinks could be destabilizing, while 31% prefer the argument that the press should have the right to publish news and ideas without government control.
- A very large majority (79%) believes people in Iran should have the right to read publications from all other countries.
- Iranians most commonly say that the press has "some" freedom in their country (45%), while just very few (17%) say that it has "a lot" of freedom. Most say that the press should have the same amount of freedom as it does now (43%), while fewer say it should have more (34%) or less freedom (9%).

THE PROHIBITION AGAINST TORTURE

While more Iranians endorse clear rules against torture than support an exception for terrorists, this number is relatively small. However the numbers favoring the government's right to use torture more generally is quite low.

- A plurality of Iranians (43%) support clear rules against torture, while 35% say exceptions can be made in the case of terrorists. Eight percent believe that governments should be allowed to use torture in general.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Iranians consider gender equality to be important and also think that women have gained more rights in recent years. Although a majority does believe their government should make an effort to prevent discrimination, Iranians are less supportive of increased efforts than most countries polled. A modest majority supports the United Nations working to further women's rights.

- 78% of Iranians say women having equal rights compared to men is important, with 44% saying it is “very important.”
- Three out of four Iranians (75%) believe women have gained more rights in their lifetimes, with roughly equal numbers saying they have gained “much more” equality (39%) and “a little more” equality (36%).
- A significant majority (70%) says the government should act to prevent discrimination against women, while 36% think it should do more and 24% say it already does enough; a further 18% say it should not be involved.
- 52% want the UN to work in favor of women's rights, although 36% would see this as improper interference in a country's internal affairs.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

A large majority of Iranians believes that racial and ethnic equality is important, although they have the lowest number calling this “very important” out of all Muslim publics polled. Although Iranians mostly favor the government preventing discrimination, more feel that it already does enough than say it should do more.

- More than four in five (82%) Iranians say that treating people of different races and ethnicities equally is important, including 62% who call this “very important.”
- Three-quarters (76%) feel their government should try to prevent racial and ethnic discrimination, although half say it already does enough (40%) or should not be involved (10%). Only a third (31%) think it needs to do more.
- 72% of Iranians think employers should not be allowed to discriminate based on race or ethnicity. A majority (61%) says the government has the responsibility to prevent such workplace discrimination. Only 5% say it does not.
- Three-quarters (76%) feel that people of different races and ethnicities are treated better than in the recent past, including (32%) who say they are much better treated. Very few say minorities are treated less equally (7%) or that there has been no real change (5%).

GOVERNANCE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

Iranians widely endorse democratic principles, including that the will of the people should be the basis for the authority of government and that leaders should be elected by all the citizens. They give one of the highest mean numbers for how much the will of the

people should have influence and a majority calls for greater influence. A significant number express trust in the national government to do the right thing.

- Two in three Iranians (67%) endorse the principle that the authority of government should be based on the will of the people, and 80% favor selecting government leaders through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked how much the will of the people should influence the governing of the country on a 10-point scale, with 10 meaning “completely,” Iranians give a response of 8.4. When asked to rate how much the country is currently governed by the will of the people, Iranians give a 5.9 and 59% say the will of the people should have greater influence in governing the country than it currently does.
- Half of Iranians (48%) say that they trust the national government to do what is right “most of the time,” while one in four say “some of the time” (26%). Only 13% say they trust the government “rarely” (11%) or “never” (2%). [Note: In Iran this question was asked slightly different than for other countries.]
- More than two-thirds (68%) of Iranians say leaders should pay attention to the views of the peoples as they make decisions between elections, while very few (14%) say that elections are the only the time views of the people should have influence.

JORDAN

[Center for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan](#)

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Only half of Jordanians (the second-lowest of all nations polled) express support for UN involvement in promoting human rights. Jordan also has the third-largest minorities saying the UN should not actively promote human rights in member states and that they would like to see the UN do less than it has been doing.

- 50% of Jordanians believe the UN should actively promote the human rights principles of the Universal Declaration in member states, while 33% oppose this as improper interference in a country's internal affairs.
- A majority (62%) would like to see the UN do more to promote human rights principles, while 17% would like to see the UN do less and 8% believe it should do the same amount.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Jordan has the third-largest majority, after Egyptians and Ukrainians, that believes not all religions should be permitted to assemble and practice in their country, although a large majority agrees that equal treatment of people of different religions is important, with a clear majority saying it is very important. A majority also disagrees that followers of any religion should be allowed to attempt to convert others.

- A very large majority (85%) says treating people of different religions equally is “very important” (59%) or “somewhat important” (26%).
- A slight majority (51%) of Jordanians believe followers of some religions should not be free to practice in their country, compared to 39% who believe any religion should be free to practice.
- 60% reject allowing followers of any religion to try to convert members of other religions, while 34% would allow this.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Jordan has the second-largest minority saying the government has the right to ban peaceful demonstrations out of all publics polled, and is lower than the average in its assertion that the government should not have the right to limit expression. However it also has a very large majority saying freedom of expression is “very important.”

- 86% of Jordanians feel it is “very important” (65%) or “somewhat important” (21%) that people have the right to express any opinion.
- A plurality of Jordanians (47%) agree the government should not have the right to prohibit expression, while 41% say the government should have such a right.

- More than half (53%) think that people should have the right to protest against the government through peacefully demonstrations, while 35% agree that the government should have the right to prohibit these demonstrations.

MEDIA FREEDOM

Despite a robust eight in 10 supporting media freedom in principle, among the nations asked, Jordanians are the only case in which a majority favors the government restricting access to things on the Internet. Jordanians also favor the argument that the government should have the right to prevent the media from publishing things in order to maintain stability.

- Nearly four in five (78%) Jordanians agree on the importance of the media having freedom to publish news and ideas.
- A majority (63%) says that the government should have the right to prevent people from having access to some things on the Internet (one of two nations where this is the most common view), while just 29% say people should be able to read whatever is on the Internet.
- A majority of Jordanians (66%) favors the argument that the government should have the right to restrict the media from publishing things that could be destabilizing, while just 26% feel that the media should be free to publish news and ideas without government control.
- 54% in Jordan say the media have at least “some” freedom, while 24% feel it has “a lot” of freedom. A majority (56%) also believes the media should have more freedom, while only 26% say it should have the same amount and 12% feel it should have less.

WOMEN’S RIGHTS

Jordanians widely endorse the importance of equality of rights for women and agree with other Muslim publics in the region that the government should make efforts prevent discrimination. Although the most common response is that women have gained greater equality of rights, a significant number of Jordanians compared to other publics now say women have less equality than in the past,. Jordan also has a plurality saying the government is already doing enough to prevent discrimination—only one other nation (Egypt) agrees.

- A large majority (83%) of Jordanians agree that equality of rights for women compared to men is very (55%) or somewhat (28%) important.
- 43% say that women have gained more equality compared to men, although 34% say that they now have less equality and 15% believe there has been no real change.
- More than seven in 10 (71%) agree that the government should take action to prevent discrimination against women, though only 29% believe the government should do more, while 42% say it is already doing enough.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

- Nine in 10 (90%) Jordanians say that it is very (73%) or somewhat important (17%) for people of different races and ethnicities to be treated equally. This support similar to other predominantly-Muslims publics polled in the region.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Among developing countries, Jordanians give their government some of the most positive ratings for its performance on ensuring citizens can meet their basic needs for healthcare, education, and food. Jordanians also show some of the highest levels of consensus that their government has the responsibility to meet these needs.

- Jordanians are nearly unanimous in their belief that the government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet their basic needs for healthcare (97%), food (96%), and education (96%).
- Majorities rate their government quite positively on handling citizens' basic needs for education (77% well), healthcare (74%), and food (67%).

GOVERNANCE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

Jordanians strongly support democratic principles, including that leaders should be elected by all the citizens. While Jordanians are lower than average in their support for the will of the people having influence, their mean level of support is quite high and half favor greater influence. At the same time, a modest majority of Jordanians express trust in their government to do the right thing and half believe it is run for the benefit of all the people.

- 81% of Jordanians agree that the will of the people should be the basis of government authority, while 71% say that government leaders should be selected through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked to say how much their country should be governed by the will of the people Jordanians give a response of 6.6 on a scale of 0-10 (with 10 being "completely"). When asked to rate how much the country is currently governed by the will of the people, Jordanians say 5.4 on average, one of the higher numbers among publics polled. Still, 44% say that the will of the people should have greater influence on the government than it currently does, though 27% say it is the same as it should be and 17% say it should be less.
- A majority (54%) says they trust their national government to do the right thing "most of the time" (38%) or "just about always" (16%), while 41% say they can only trust the government some of the time.
- Jordanians are divided whether their country is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves (47%) or whether it is run for the benefit of all the people (47%).
- Nearly nine in 10 (89%) favor leaders paying attention to public opinion polls when making an important decision in order to get a sense of the public's views,

while just 8% reject this position because they think it will distract leaders from deciding what they think is right.

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

[Palestinian Center for Public Opinion](#)

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Although a modest majority of Palestinians do support the UN actively promoting human rights principles, they are among the lowest and they have the largest minorities expressing opposition to the UN making these efforts and calling for the UN to do less.

- 54% of Palestinians think the UN should actively promote human rights principles in member states, while a significant minority (41%) thinks the UN should not as it is improper interference in a country's internal affairs.
- Palestinians are divided on whether they would like to see the UN do more, do less, or about the same as it has been doing to promote human rights principles: slightly less than half (49%) would like to see the UN do less (23%) or about the same (26%), while 48% would like to see the UN do more.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Palestinians are the most opposed out of all nations surveyed to followers of any religion having the freedom to seek to convert others. On the other hand, they do agree that the equal treatment of people of different faiths is important and a majority favors allowing all religions to practice.

- 88% think it is “very important” (52%) or “somewhat important” (36%) to treat people equally regardless of religion.
- A majority (56%) favor allowing followers of any religion to assemble and practice, while 43% oppose some religions being allowed.
- Nearly eight-in-10 (78%) Palestinians do not believe all religions should be free to try to convert people of different faiths, while only 18% believe all religions should.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Compared to other predominantly Muslim publics, Palestinians, together with the Turks, consistently express some of the highest levels of support for the importance of freedom of expression on various questions. .

- An overwhelming majority of Palestinians (94%) think it is “very important” (67%) or “somewhat important” (27%) that people have the right to express any opinion freely.
- 64% believe the government should not have the right to prohibit certain views from being discussed, while 33% believe the government should have the right to prohibit the expression of certain views.

- Presented two statements, more than two-thirds of Palestinians (65%) take the view that people should have the right to protest peacefully; however one-third (33%) also say the government should have the right to ban peaceful demonstrations if it perceives them to be politically destabilizing.

MEDIA FREEDOM

Palestinians are among the publics more willing to tolerate government restrictions on media freedom in order to maintain stability. However Palestinians have the smallest number agreeing that the media have “a lot” of freedom now, and has one of the largest majorities feeling that it should have greater freedom.

- 82% of Palestinians agree that it is important for the media to have the freedom to publish news and ideas without government control.
- A slight majority (52%) favors people having the right to read whatever is on the Internet, although 44% take the opposite view that the government should have the right to prevent people from having access to some things on the Internet.
- A majority of Palestinians (59%) subscribes to the argument that the government should have the right to restrict media freedom to prevent instability, while 36% find the argument that the media should have the right to publish news and ideas without government control more convincing.
- 72% believe that Palestinians should have the right to read publications from all countries, even those that could be considered enemies.
- Palestinians most commonly say that the media have “some” freedom (51%), and very few (10%) feel it has “a lot” of freedom. A large majority (62%) believes the media should have more freedom than it does now, while 20% feel it should have the same amount, and 15% say it should have less.

THE PROHIBITION AGAINST TORTURE

An exceptionally large majority of Palestinians express opposition to the use of all torture, and an exceptionally small minority says that torture should be allowed in general.

- Nearly two-thirds (66%) believe that governments should maintain clear rules prohibiting all torture. Twenty-eight percent say that governmental use of torture against terrorists to save innocent lives is acceptable; while a mere 5% say the use of torture in general should be allowed.

WOMEN’S RIGHTS

A slight majority of Palestinians say they have seen women’s rights become less equal—only one other nation (Nigeria) approaches this level. However, majorities believe women having equal rights compared to men is important and want their government to do more to prevent discrimination. Palestinians are divided on whether the UN should

take action to further women's rights—only one other nation (Egypt) does not favor such UN efforts.

- A large majority of Palestinians (83%) considers gender equality important, including 54% saying it is “very important.”
- 51% say women have less equality now when compared to the rest of their lifetimes, 15% saying much less and 36% saying a little less. Only 41% say that women have gained more equality (30% a little more, 11% much more).
- 77% of Palestinians believe the government should protect women from discrimination and 56% think the government should do more, while 19% say it is already doing enough.
- Palestinians have mixed views on whether the UN should make efforts to further the rights of women: 49% favor such efforts and 48% consider them “improper interference in a country's internal affairs.”

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

A large majority of Palestinians believe that equal treatment for people of different races and ethnicities is important. The Palestinians are the only nation where a majority says that people of different races and ethnicities have less equality of treatment than in the past. Two-thirds of Palestinians are supportive of the government making efforts to prevent racial and ethnic discrimination.

- Palestinians say overwhelmingly (93%) that it is important for people of different races and ethnicities to be treated equally, including 70% who say this is “very important.”
- 64% feel the government should try to prevent racial or ethnic discrimination, while only 32% believe that it should not be involved (15%) or that it already does too much (17%).
- Only 27% say their generation has seen improvements in the treatment of minorities. A majority (54%) say they are treated “a little less equally” (36%) or “much less equally” (18%). Twelve percent say they are treated the same.
- Nearly three-quarters (74%) of Palestinians say that employers should not be allowed to turn down qualified people because of their race or ethnicity. A majority (53%) say the government has a responsibility to try to prevent this.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Among developing nations, Palestinians give some of the most positive evaluations for how well it is helping citizens meet their basic needs for food, healthcare, and education, considering the limits of the government's resources. Palestinians also demonstrate a widespread belief that the government has the responsibility to see that its citizens can meet these basic needs.

- Very large majorities of Palestinians agree that the government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet their needs for education (85%), food (80%), and healthcare (79%).
- Asked to consider the limits of their government's resources, majorities of Palestinians positively rate their government's performance on ensuring that its citizens can meet their needs for education (69%), healthcare (65%), and food (61%).

GOVERNANCE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

Palestinians widely support the will of the people being the basis of the authority of government and favor the government being more responsive to the will of the people. Although a majority says their country is run by a few big interests rather than the benefit of all the people, Palestinians are one of the few publics to have a majority say they trust their government to do the right thing. While Palestinians say that world public opinion should have substantial influence and half of Palestinians think it should have more influence, they are lower than most countries on both of these dimensions.

- Nine in 10 (90%) Palestinians endorse the principle that the will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government, and 84% say that government leaders should be selected through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked how much the country should be governed according to the will of the people, Palestinians on average say 7.6 on a 10-point scale (with 10 meaning "completely"), although when given the same scale and asked how much the country is currently governed by the will of the people, they only give a response of 4.1. More than three in four (76%) favor the government being more responsive to the will of the people.
- A majority (55%) says they can trust the government to do the right thing "most of the time" (39%) or "just about always," (16%), while one-third (32%) says it can only be trusted some of the time.
- Two-thirds (66%) say that their country is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, rather than for the benefit of all the people (28%).
- 70% say that leaders should pay attention to public opinion polls when making an important decision, although they are divided on whether elections are the only time when the views of the people should have influence (49%) or whether leaders should also pay attention between elections (48%).
- Asked how much the government should take into account world public opinion when making foreign policy, Palestinians give a response of 5.9 on a 0-10 scale, with 10 being "a great deal," although Palestinians also say world public opinion already has some influence on their government (5.1). Forty-seven percent say world public opinion should have greater influence, while 29% say it should have less and 16% believe it should have the same amount.

TURKEY

[ARI Foundation](#) / [Infakto Research Workshop](#)

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Turks follow an unusual pattern. A large majority—higher than average--would like to see the UN do more to promote human rights principles, more than in any other predominantly Muslim public polled. However, the public shows more modest support—lower than average--for the UN to actively promote human rights in member states and only a plurality favors giving the UN authority to go into countries to investigate human rights violations. Both of the latter questions highlighted the potential for intervention in countries' internal affairs.

- Six in 10 Turks (60%) say the UN should actively promote human rights in member states, while 19% say the UN should not because this would be improper interference in a country's internal affairs
- Nearly seven in 10 (69%) want to see the UN do more to promote human rights principles, while 15% want to see the UN do less (7%) or about the same (8%).
- 47% favor giving the UN authority to go into countries to investigate human rights violations, while a quarter (25%) opposes giving the UN such an authority.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Turkey has the largest majority of all countries, not to mention among majority Muslim nations, supporting the right of any religious group to assemble and practice in their country. Among majority Muslim countries they have the largest number saying that equal treatment of all religions is very important. However, a majority disapproves of people of any religion trying to convert members of other religions.

- Nine in 10 (90%) say equal treatment of people of different faiths is “very important” (75%) or “somewhat important” (15%).
- 80% of Turks think any religion should be permitted to practice, compared to 12% who think some religions should not be permitted.
- 55% disagree with allowing any religion seeking to convert others, while 34% agree with this.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Among majority Muslims nations Turks, like the Palestinians, are the most consistent in their support for freedom of expression.

- A large majority of Turks (85%) say it is either “very important” (67%) or “somewhat important” (18%) for people to have the right to express their opinion.
- 64% believe the government should not have the right to prohibit the expression of certain views, while just 25% think the government should have such a right.

- About two in three (67%) endorse the people's right to demonstrate peacefully, while 21% support the government's right to ban peaceful demonstrations that may be politically destabilizing.

MEDIA FREEDOM

Among Muslim publics, Turks have the largest number saying the media already have a great deal of freedom. Though supporting freedom of the media in principle, Turks are one of the few publics divided on whether the government should have the right to restrict media freedom in order to maintain political stability.

- Nearly three in four (74%) Turks say that freedom of the media is important, and 60% believe that people should have the right to read whatever they want on the Internet.
- Presented two arguments, Turks are among the few publics that are divided between the media having the right to publish news and ideas without government control (45%) and the government having the right to prevent the media from publishing things that it thinks will be politically destabilizing (42%).
- 74% say that the people in Turkey should be able to read publications from other countries, even those considered enemies.
- Many Turks believe the media have "a lot" (41%) of freedom, the largest number among the Muslim publics asked, while an additional 31% say it has "some" freedom. Thirty-eight percent say it should more freedom than it does now, while 30% feel it should have less and 25% feel it should have about the same amount.

THE PROHIBITION AGAINST TORTURE

Turks now show majority support for making exceptions for using torture in cases of terrorism, a dramatic shift from the majority that endorsed clear rules against torture in 2006. Turks also have the largest minority (along with China) among the publics polled that favor allowing governments to use torture in general.

- In Turkey, a slight majority (51%) believe that governments should be allowed to use some degree of torture for exceptions such as terrorists, including 18% that feel governments should be allowed to use torture in general. A significant number (36%), though one of the smallest, says that unequivocal rules against torture should be maintained.
- Support for making exceptions to use torture in the case of terrorists has risen dramatically from 2006 and is now a majority (51%, up from 24%), while those endorsing clear rules against using torture in any circumstance have decreased just as significantly (36%, down from 62%).

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Among all Muslim countries polled, Turkey stands out with the largest majority saying equal rights for women is very important. Turks are among the largest majorities in

Muslim countries that feel the government should make greater efforts to prevent discrimination and the United Nations should play a role.

- More than nine in 10 (91%) Turks think it is important for women to have equal rights compared to men, including 80% that say it very important.
- A majority (69%) says women have gained greater equality of rights during their lifetime: 21% say they have gained much more and 48% say a little more.
- Turks overwhelmingly (85%) believe the government should make efforts to prevent discrimination against women, with a significant majority (60%) saying the government should do more and 22% saying it already does enough.
- Seven in 10 (70%) support the United Nations acting to advance women's rights, while just 20% would see this as improper interference in a country's affairs.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

A large majority of Turks say that it is important for people of different races and ethnicities to be treated equally. A majority believes that the government should make an effort to prevent discrimination. However, when it comes to discrimination in employment, Turkey is the one country where a majority says that the government does not have the responsibility to prevent discrimination, even though a large majority says employers should not be allowed to refuse to hire someone based on their race or ethnicity.

- An overwhelming 88% believe it is important for people of different races and ethnicities to be treated equally, including 73% who say it is "very important."
- 79% say the government should try to prevent discrimination. Fifty-two percent say it "should do more," although 38% say it is already "doing enough" (25%), "doing too much" (5%), or "should not be involved" (8%).
- A large majority (72%) thinks employers should not be able to refuse to hire someone qualified because of their race or ethnicity. But large numbers (43%) say the government is not responsible for preventing such discrimination while only 23% say that it is.
- 54% say treatment of minorities has become more equal in their lifetime, including 16% who say that they have gained "much more" equality. Only 20% say they are treated less equally and 9% say about the same.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Among developing countries, Turks are one of five publics that negatively rate their government's performance on meeting its citizens' needs for food, but criticism is less widespread than in the other developing countries polled. Turks have some of the most widespread agreement that the government is responsible for ensuring that its citizens can meet their healthcare and education needs.

- Turks overwhelmingly believe that their government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet their basic needs for education (97%), healthcare (96%), and food (87%).
- Majorities in Turkey evaluate their government's performance positively in the areas of healthcare (57% well) and education (56%), but half (50% not well) give it a negative rating for how well it is ensuring that its citizens can meet their basic need for food.

GOVERNANCE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

Turks strongly support democratic principles, and are one of the largest majorities that strongly agrees the will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government. They also give one of the highest ratings for how much influence the will of the people should have in governing their country. Turks support leaders paying attention to polls as they make their decisions, but, curiously, a slight majority (and the only one of all nations polled) says the public should only have influence at the time of elections.

- 87% in Turkey endorse the principle of the will of the people as the basis of authority of government, including a very large 70% saying they “strongly agree” with this principle. A very large majority (87%) also says they favor selecting government leaders through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked to say how much their country should be governed by the will of the people, Turks give a response of 8.4 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 being “completely”). Yet, when asked to rate how much their country is currently governed by the will of the people on the same scale, on average Turks say 5.0. Sixty-four percent say that the will of the people should have greater influence on the way the country is governed.
- While 40% of Turks say they can only trust the national government to do the right thing “some of the time,” 43% also say they can trust the government “most of the time” (24%) or “all of the time” (19%). A further 14% volunteers the government can never be trusted.
- A significant majority (61%) feels their country is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, while just 31% says it is run for the benefit of all the people.
- 83% believe that government leaders should pay attention to public opinion polls when making an important decision to help them get a sense of the public's views. However Turks are unique in that a slight majority (53%) also says that elections are the only time when the views of the people should have influence, rather than leaders paying attention to the views of the people between elections (43%); they are the only public to take this position.
- Asked how much their government should consider world public opinion when it makes foreign policy decisions, Turks give a 6.8 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 meaning “a great deal”). Rating how much the government currently considers world public opinion on the same scale, they give a 5.7. More Turks say world public opinion should be taken into account more (42%) than those who say less (21%), although 25% say it should be considered the same amount.

AFRICA:

KENYA

[Research Path Associates Limited](#)

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Among all nations polled, Kenya has the largest majority saying that the UN should actively promote human rights in member states. It also has the largest majority that would like to see the UN do more than it has been doing to promote human rights principles.

- An overwhelming majority of Kenyans (94%) believes the UN should actively promote the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in member states.
- More than nine in 10 Kenyans (91%) would like to see the UN do more to promote human rights principles, while only 8% would like to see the UN do less (5%) or about the same (3%).
- 81% support giving the UN the authority to go into countries to investigate violations of human rights, while 17% oppose this proposal.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Overall, Kenyans support for freedom of religion is exceptionally high. Kenyans have the largest majority (virtual unanimity) of all publics polled that believes equal treatment of people regardless of religion is important and the second-highest saying that it is very important. They are also among the largest majorities agreeing with people having the right to seek to convert others to their religion and that followers of any religion should have a right to practice in their country.

- A near-unanimous majority (99%) of Kenyans think equal treatment for people of different religions equally is “very important” (83%) or “somewhat important” (16%).
- Three-quarters (75%) say followers of any religion should be allowed to assemble and practice in Kenya, while 25% saying some religions should not be allowed.
- 74% agree with permitting people of any religion to try to convert members of other religions to theirs, compared to 25% who disagree with this.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Kenya has a significant majority saying it is very important for people to have the right to express any opinion and a large majority endorsing the right to demonstrate. However, it also has the largest majority among all countries polled supporting the government’s right to prohibit the expression of certain views.

- An overwhelming majority of Kenyans (94%) believe it is “very important” (74%) or “somewhat important” (20%) for people to have the right to express any opinion.
- More than two-thirds (67%) say the government should have the right to prohibit certain views from being discussed, whereas 33% say the government should not have such a right.
- Presented two statements, 72% of Kenyans take the view that people should have the right to protest against the government through peaceful demonstrations, while 28% agree the government has the right to ban such peaceful demonstrations.

MEDIA FREEDOM

Kenyans are the largest majority (along with Mexico) among the nations polled that believes the media should have more freedom. Although an overwhelming majority says it is very important for the media to have the right to publish news and idea without government control, support is more modest for people having the right to read whatever is on the Internet.

- 91% in Kenya say that is important for the media should be free to publish news and ideas without government control, including 70% who say it is “very important.”
- 59% believe that people should be free to read whatever is on the Internet, although a substantial 38% agree the government should have the right to prevent access to some things on the Internet.
- Presented two arguments, 67% take the view that the media should have the right to publish news and ideas without government control, while only 33% agree with the position that the government should have the right to prevent the media from publishing things it thinks would be politically destabilizing.
- 84% in Kenya agree that people should have the right to read publications from all other countries, even those considered enemies.
- More than seven in 10 (71%) say that the media has a good deal of freedom in Kenya, while three in four (75%) say that it should have more, rather than less (11%) or the same amount of freedom (14%).

THE PROHIBITION AGAINST TORTURE

Among all the nations polled, Kenya has the second largest minority that believes there should be an exception in the use of torture when innocent lives are at risk. Support for having an exception in case of terrorism has grown in Kenya since 2006.

- More than four in 10 (41%) feel that clear rules should be maintained to prohibit torture in all cases, while 44% favor an exception for terrorists when innocent lives are at risk. A high minority (14%) feel that government should be allowed to use torture to try to get information.

- Kenyan support for rules against torture has decreased from 53% in 2006 to 41%, while the number supporting an exception in case of terrorism has grown from 38% to 58%.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

More than any other public polled, Kenyans overwhelmingly favor the government and the UN taking action in favor of the rights of women. A very large number also says they have seen women gain more equality of rights during their lifetime.

- An overwhelming majority (90%) say that full equality of rights for women is very (66%) or somewhat important (24%).
- 80% in Kenya agree that women have gained much more (38%) or a little more (42%) equality of rights compared to men in their lifetime, while just 19% believe they now have less equality.
- Kenyans near-unanimously (97%) agree that the government should make efforts to prevent the discrimination against women, including 69% who say it should do more (27% does enough).
- More than nine in 10 (91%) believe the UN should make efforts to further the rights of women, while just 8% say this would be improper interference in a country's internal affairs.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

Kenyans are the second-largest majority favoring the government taking action to prevent discrimination based on race or ethnicity, and a large majority believes that employers should not be allowed to discriminate in hiring based on race or ethnicity. Kenyans are also among the largest majorities perceiving improvement in equal treatment of people of different races and ethnicities.

- An overwhelming majority (97%) believe it is important for people of different races and ethnicities to be treated equally, including 80% that say it is very important.
- A very large 95% of Kenyans agree that the government should act to prevent discrimination based on race or ethnicity, including 72% that agree the government should do more (22% believe it does enough).
- More than seven in 10 (72%) believe that employers should not have the right to refuse to hire a qualified person based on race or ethnicity. Sixty-three percent (63%) say that the government has the responsibility to prevent employers from using discriminating based on race or ethnicity, while just 9% believe the government should not be involved.
- Nearly eight in 10 (78%) perceive improvement in the equal treatment of people of different races and ethnicities during their lifetime, while just 20% say they are now treated less equally.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Among those developing countries polled, Kenyans show the highest approval for their government's performance on ensuring that its citizens can meet their basic need for education, but are somewhat more critical of their government's performance in ensuring that its citizens can meet their need for food. Kenyans show some of the highest levels of consensus that their government has the responsibility to ensure that citizens can meet these needs.

- Kenyans near-unanimously agree that their government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet their basic needs for food (96%), healthcare (96%), and education (95%).
- Asked to consider the limits of government resources, a very large majority of Kenyans (86%) say their government is doing a good job ensuring people can meet their basic need for education, along with 65% that say it is doing a good job on healthcare. However, 59% say it is not doing a good job ensuring that citizens can meet their basic need for food.

GOVERNANCE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

Kenya has one of the largest majorities supporting the principle that the will of the people should be the basis of the authority of government. It also has the second largest majority believing government leaders should be selected through elections in which all citizens can vote.

- A significant majority (89%) of Kenyans agree the will of the people should be the basis of the authority of the government and 93% think that government leaders should be selected through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- When asked to rate how much the country should be governed by the will of the people, Kenyans give a response of 8.7 on a 10-point scale, with 10 meaning "completely." However, when asked to rate how much is this true in their country, Kenyans give an average of 3.9. A significant majority (94%) believe that the government should be ruled by the will of the people more than it already is.
- A majority (58%) of Kenyans say they can trust their national government to do what is right "just about always" (27%) "most of the time" (31%). Forty-two percent say "only some of the time" (34%), or "never" (8%).
- More than seven in 10 (72%) say that their country is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, rather than for the benefit of the people (27%).
- 86% of Kenyans feel that leaders should pay attention to public opinion polls when making important decisions, and 69% feel that leaders should pay attention to the views of the people between elections as they make decisions, instead of having elections be the only time when the views of the people have influence (31%).
- On a 10-point scale (with 10 meaning "a great deal"), Kenyans gave a response of 8.0 when asked how much do they think the government should take into account world public opinion. However, when asked how much that is currently true,

Kenyans gave a response of 3.9. Eighty-six percent believe that the government should take world public opinion more into account than it already does.

NIGERIA

Market Trends Research International

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Nigeria has the second-largest majority that would like to see the UN do more to promote human rights principles out all nations polled, and the public expresses widespread support for the UN actively promoting the principles of the Universal Declaration in its member states.

- A very large majority of Nigerians (87%) think the UN should actively promote human rights principles in its member states, while 12% think it should not.
- 88% would like to see the UN do more to promote human rights, while just 11% would like to see the UN do less (7%) or about the same (4%).
- More than eight in 10 (83%) favor giving the UN authority to go into countries in order to investigate human rights violations.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Overall Nigerians show some of the strongest support for different aspects of freedom of religion. They are the second-largest majority (along with Poland and next to Turkey), that thinks that believers of any religion should be allowed to assemble and practice in their country. They are the second-highest saying equal treatment of all religions is very important. They are also the third-most supportive of permitting followers of any religion to seek to convert others.

- 94% say it is “very important” (83%) or “somewhat important” (11%) that people of different faiths are treated equally.
- A large majority (77%) believes all religions should be permitted to practice, compared to 22% who believe some religions should not be permitted.
- 78% of Nigerians think any followers of any religion should be free to attempt to convert others to their religion, while just 20% disagree with this freedom.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Nigerians have the second-largest majority (after Mexico) that says freedom of expression is very important among all publics polled. However, a very large minority says the government should have the right to prevent discussion of certain political or religious views.

- Nigerians show overwhelming support (95%) for the importance of people’s right to express any opinion, with 86% saying it is “very important” and 9% saying it is “somewhat important.”
- A slight majority (51%) thinks the government should not have the right to prohibit certain political or religious views from being discussed, although nearly

- half (47%) believe that the government should have the right to limit the expression of certain views.
- A large majority (83%) feels that people should have the right to demonstrate peacefully, while 17% feel the government should have the right to ban such peaceful demonstrations.

MEDIA FREEDOM

Nigerians have the largest number saying the media lacks freedom in their country and have the third-most widespread support for greater media freedom among all nations asked. Nigerians are also among the largest majorities favoring the right to read publications from all countries and rejecting the argument that government should restrict media freedom to preserve stability.

- An overwhelming 91% say it is important to have freedom of the media and 72% say they should have the right to read whatever is on the Internet.
- Nigerians have one of the largest majorities rejecting the argument that the government should have the right to restrict media freedom to ensure stability (28%) in favor of the media having the right to publish news and ideas without government control (71%).
- A large majority (91%) says Nigerians should have the right to read publications from other countries, even those that could be considered enemies, one of the largest majorities among all nations asked.
- Nigerians have the largest number saying the media have “not very much freedom” (38%) or “none at all” (6%), though 42% say it has “some” freedom. 70% feel that Nigeria should have more freedom for the media, while just 18% say they should have less and 11% say it should remain about the same.

THE PROHIBITION AGAINST TORTURE

Nigerians are one of few publics with a majority saying that limited torture should be allowed against terrorists if it can save innocent lives. This number has risen dramatically since 2006.

- A majority (54%) of Nigerians favor allowing torture in cases of terrorism, while 41% say that rules against torture under any circumstances should be maintained. However just 15% endorse the government using torture in general.
- Support for allowing torture in cases of terrorism has grown dramatically since 2006, shifting from a plurality unequivocally opposing the use of torture (49% to 39%) to a majority saying it should be allowed in cases of terrorism (54% to 41%).

WOMEN’S RIGHTS

Nigerians are one of only two publics polled that do not clearly perceive improvement in women’s rights. A relatively large minority also says that women’s equality is not

important. However, Nigeria has a relatively large majority saying that the government should do more to prevent discrimination, and support for UN efforts to improve women's rights is strong.

- Three-quarters (76%) of Nigerians agree that equality of rights for women is important, with slightly more saying this is very important (44%) than somewhat important (32%). However 24% say it is not very important (15%) or not important at all (9%).
- Nigerians are divided on whether women have gained more equality of rights compared to men in their lifetimes, with 46% saying they have gained more equality and 46% feeling they now have less; 6% say there has been no real change.
- A large majority (76%) says the government should act to prevent discrimination against women, including 61% that feel the government should go further, while just 14% say it does enough and 23% say it should not be involved.
- Two-thirds (66%) feel the UN should make efforts to promote women's rights, while nearly one-third (32%) believes this would be "improper interference" in a country's internal affairs.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

Nigerians widely believe that the government should make an effort to prevent racial and ethnic discrimination and has the third-largest majority saying that the government should do more to prevent this type of discrimination. However, a significant number of Nigerians feel that an employer should have the right to refuse to hire someone based on their race or ethnicity. Nigeria is one of the few countries where a majority does not perceive that racial equality has improved.

- A large majority (96%) believes it is important for people of different races and ethnicities to be treated equally, although only 71% say it is "very important."
- Nine out of 10 Nigerians (90%) say their government should make an effort to prevent discrimination based on race or ethnicity, including 79% who believe it "should do more." Only 9% say it is "doing enough."
- 64% say employers should not be allowed to turn away qualified jobseekers because of their race or ethnicity but a third (34%) say they should be free to hire whom they chose, more than in most other countries polled. A majority of Nigerians (56%) feel their government has the responsibility to prevent this form of discrimination.
- Only 43% say different races and ethnicities are treated more equally than they were a generation ago. A majority (55%) say they are either treated less equally (28%), much less equally (17%) or about the same (10%).

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Among those developing countries polled, Nigerians have the most negative views of their government's performance on ensuring that citizens can meet their need for food,

and they are the only developing country that evaluates their government negatively on education. Like other publics, Nigerians do show overwhelming consensus that the government has the responsibility to ensure that citizens can meet all of these needs.

- Very large majorities of Nigerians believe that the government has the responsibility to ensure that citizens can meet their basic needs for healthcare (95%), education (91%), and food (84%).
- More than three in four Nigerians (77%) rate their government negatively on how well they are ensuring that citizens can meet their need for food, while smaller majorities say the government is also doing poorly on education (61% not well) and healthcare (57%).

GOVERNANCE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

Nigerians are among the publics most supportive of democratic principles. They are the second-largest majority strongly agreeing that the will of the people should serve as the basis for the authority of government and the third-largest favoring greater influence for the will of the people in governing their country. They are also the second-largest majority favoring their government giving greater consideration to world public opinion as it makes foreign policy decisions.

- More than nine in 10 (92%) agree the will of the people should be the basis the authority of government (75% strongly), while 88% support the selection of government leaders through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked how much their country should be governed by the will of the people, Nigerians give a response of 8.5 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 meaning “completely”), although when asked how much their country is currently governed by the will of the people, Nigerians only give a 3.9. Nearly nine in 10 (89%) favor the will of the people having greater influence in the governing of their country.
- A majority of Nigerians (53%) say they can only trust their government to do the right thing “some of the time,” while 41% feel it can be trusted “most of the time” (27%) or “just about always” (14%).
- 78% say that their government is run by a few big interests looking out for their own benefit, rather than for the benefit of all the people (21%).
- 93% favor government leaders paying attention to public opinion polls as they make important decisions, while 72% say leaders should pay attention to the views of the public between elections.
- Asked to what degree their government should consider world public opinion as it makes its foreign policy decisions, Nigerians give a score of 8.2 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 meaning “a great deal”). Rating how much the government currently considers world public opinion on the same scale, Nigerians only give a mean of 4.6. An exceptionally large 78% favor their government paying more attention to world public opinion.

ASIA:

CHINA

WorldPublicOpinion.org / [Fudan Media and Public Opinion Research Center \(FMORC\), Fudan University](http://FudanMediaandPublicOpinionResearchCenter(FMORC),FudanUniversity)

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

A majority of the Chinese support UN action to promote human rights principles in general and support is similar to other publics polled in Asia and only modestly lower than the global average. While lower than other Asian nations and global average, still a slight majority supports the UN doing more than it has been doing to promote human rights principles. Perhaps most striking, a majority favors the UN having the power to investigate human rights abuses.

- 62% of Chinese think the UN should actively promote human rights in member states, while 16% thinks this would be improper interference in a country's internal affairs.
- A slight majority (51%) wants to see the UN to do more to promote human rights principles, while 20% want the UN to do less (5%) or about the same (15%).
- Majorities favor giving the UN the power to go into countries in order to investigate human rights violations (57%).

MEDIA FREEDOM

The Chinese public expresses robust support for freedom of the media in principle and has the most widespread support among Asian publics asked for the right to read publications from other countries and for unrestricted access to the Internet. China also has one of the largest majorities calling for greater freedom.

- 85% say it is important to have freedom of the media and 71% agree that people should have the right to read whatever is on the Internet.
- While a significant number of the Chinese (42%) favor the argument that the government should have the right to prevent the media from publishing news and ideas that it thinks will be politically destabilizing, a majority (53%) says the media should have the right to publish news and ideas without government control.
- A large majority (78%) says that people in China should have the right to read publications from other countries, even those that could be considered enemies.
- A slight majority (51%) in China says the media have a least “some” freedom, though very few (12%) say it has “a lot.” Two-thirds (66%) feel that the media should have more freedom in China, while 25% are satisfied with the freedom they have.

THE PROHIBITION AGAINST TORTURE

While a large and growing majority in China rejects the use of torture in all cases, it also has one of the largest minorities that believes torture should generally be allowed.

- Two-thirds (66%) of Chinese support unequivocal rules against torture, while 28% feel that exceptions should be made for terrorists. Almost one-fifth (18%), think that torture should be allowed in general.
- Chinese support for clear rules against torture has risen 17 points since 2006 (66%, up from 49%), while those that feel there should be exceptions for using torture against terrorists decreased from 37% to 28%.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The Chinese have the largest majority among Asian publics saying that equality of women's rights is very important. Worldwide, they have one of the three largest majorities calling for greater government action to prevent discrimination, and the third-highest calling for UN action.

- 95% of Chinese respondents say gender equality is important and 76% say it is very important.
- Three out of four (76%) say they have seen women's rights improve: 32% say much more and 44% say a little more.
- A large 86% majority believes the Chinese government should act to prevent discrimination and 70% say it needs to do more.
- 86% want the United Nations to work in favor of women's rights. Just 10% say that this would be improper interference in a country's internal affairs.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

The Chinese are among the publics with the greatest support for importance of equal treatment for different races and ethnicities, second only to Mexicans among the publics polled. China also has the second-largest majority rejecting employers having the right to discriminate based on race or ethnicity, and are among the largest majorities that favor their government making efforts to prevent racial and ethnic discrimination.

- Nearly all Chinese (98%) believe treating people of different races and ethnicities equally is very important, including 90% who say it is "very important."
- An overwhelming 90% agree that the government should try to prevent racial and ethnic discrimination and 70% think it should be doing more.
- 88% of Chinese feel that employers should not be allowed to turn away jobseekers because of their race or ethnicity. More than three in four (77%) believe the government has a responsibility to prevent such practices.
- 78% say that people of different races and ethnicities are treated more equally now than a generation ago, with 34% saying "much more" and 44% saying "a little more."

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Among developing countries, mainland Chinese give their government the most positive ratings on its ability to ensure that its citizen can meet their basic need for food, and are among the most positive about healthcare and education. In addition, as compared to other regions of China, the majorities rating the government efforts positively are higher on the mainland in almost all areas, except for the slightly more positive evaluation of the local government on helping meet education needs in Macau and healthcare needs in Taiwan. Overwhelming majorities on the mainland, as in other regions, believe that the government has a responsibility to help its citizens meet these needs.

- On mainland China, very large majorities believe their government should help its citizens meet their basic needs for food (96%), healthcare (96%), and education (98%).
- Nearly nine in 10 believe the government's efforts to ensure access to food to be successful (89%), while the Chinese government also receives positive ratings on its ability to help citizens meet their basic need for healthcare (68%) and education (71%).

GOVERNANCE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

The Chinese public expresses robust support for democratic principles, including the will of the people as the basis for the authority of government and selecting government leaders through elections in which all citizens can vote. They have uniquely positive views among all countries on how much their country is currently governed by the will of the people, but a majority still favors the will of the people having greater influence. China also has the largest majority saying the government is run for the benefit of the people and that they trust their government to do the right thing.

- A large majority (82%) endorses the principle of the will of the people as the basis for the authority of government, and 83% also favor selecting government leaders through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked how much the country should be governed according to the will of the people, the Chinese give an 8.0 on a 10-point scale (with 10 meaning "completely"). When asked how much the country is currently governed according to the will of the people, the Chinese give their country the highest rating (6.7) of all publics polled, though roughly six in 10 (59%) still favor the will of the people having greater influence on the government than it does.
- A large majority (83%) of Chinese say they can trust the national government to do the right thing "most of the time" (60%) or "just about always" (23%), while just 15% say they can trust it "some of the time."
- The Chinese are one of two publics (along with Egypt) that perceives their country as being run for the benefit of the people (65%), rather than by a few big interests looking out for themselves (30%).
- 74% say leaders should pay attention to public opinion polls when making an important decision to get a sense of the public's views, and four out of five (81%)

also feel that leaders should consider the views of the people between elections when making decisions.

- Asked how much the government should take into account world public opinion when making foreign policy decisions, the Chinese give a response of 7.8 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 being “a great deal”), but give a response of 6.6 when asked how much the government currently takes world public opinion into account. Still, a plurality of 49% favors the government paying more attention to world public opinion when making foreign policy decisions.

HONG KONG

[Hong Kong University Public Opinion Programme](#)

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

People of Hong Kong are similar to the global average, and higher than mainland China, in their robust support for the UN promoting human rights and preference that the UN should do more to promote human rights principles.

- 73% believe that the UN should actively promote human rights principles in the Universal Declaration in member states.
- A majority (65%) would like to see the UN do more to promote human rights principles, while 26% would like to see the UN do about the same.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

People in Hong Kong are above the world average when it comes to allowing followers of any religion to practice. They have the fifth-largest majority of all publics saying that people should be able to seek to convert others.

- More than nine out of 10 (92%) among the public in Hong Kong believe it is “very important” (54%) or “somewhat important” (38%) that people of different religions are treated equally.
- A majority (65%) agrees that followers of any religion should be allowed to freely assemble and practice, while one quarter (25%) feel this freedom should not be extended to some religions.
- 63% take the view that people of any religion should be free to convert members of other religions, though almost a third (30%) disagree with this statement.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

People in Hong Kong are well above the global average in their rejection of the government having the right to limit or expression and in their support for the right to demonstrate..

- Nearly nine in 10 of those in Hong Kong (89%) say it is “very important” (44%) or “somewhat important” (45%) for people to have freedom of expression.
- A large majority (78%) thinks the government should not have the right to prohibit the discussion of certain views, while 16% say the government should have such a right.
- Presented two arguments, 82% in Hong Kong support people’s right to demonstrate peacefully to protest against the government, while only 11% think the government should be able to ban peaceful demonstrations if it thinks it would be politically destabilizing.

MEDIA FREEDOM

People in Hong Kong widely agree that people should have the right to read whatever is on the Internet, although support is somewhat more widespread than in mainland China. Attitudes in Hong Kong and mainland China are similarly supportive of the importance of the media being free to publish news and ideas without government control. The public in Hong Kong also overwhelmingly perceives the media as having a significant amount of freedom, relatively more than mainland China or other publics in the region, and tends to believe the media should have the same amount of freedom rather than more than it currently does.

- 85% of people in Hong Kong agree that is important for the media to be free to publish news and ideas without government control, while a similar number (80%) say that people should have the right to read whatever is on the Internet.
- Three in four (76%) favor the statement that the media should be free to publish without government restrictions, as compared to just 18% that would agree the government should have the right to prevent the media from publishing things that it thinks would be politically destabilizing.
- 86% agree that people should be free to read publications from any country, even those considered enemies.
- A very large 88% say that the media has a lot (39%) or some (49%) freedom in Hong Kong, with 55% saying it should have the same as it does now, compared to those that say the media should have more (39%) or less freedom (3%).

THE PROHIBITION AGAINST TORTURE

People in Hong Kong demonstrate support for the principle that clear rules should be maintained to prohibit torture in all cases.

- Two-thirds (67%) of people in Hong Kong reject the use of torture in all cases, while few (9%) favor a exception for terrorists when innocent lives are at risk. Thirteen percent feel that torture should generally be allowed.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The public in Hong Kong expresses support for the importance of equal rights for women, although less than in mainland China and other publics in the region. They also see gains for women in equality of rights compared to men and believe the government should take action to prevent discrimination—though again this is relatively lower compared to mainland China and other Asian publics.

- 83% in Hong Kong believe that it is very (41%) or somewhat important (42%) for women to have equality of rights compared to men.
- Nearly three in five (59%) believe women have achieved more equality compared to men during their lifetime, compared to 22% that believe they now have less and 13% that say there has been no real change.

- 70% in Hong Kong agree that the government should make efforts to prevent discrimination against women. Fifty-seven percent believe the government should do more than it currently does, while just 12% feel it already does enough and 24% believe it should not make these efforts.
- Two-thirds (67%) say the UN should make efforts to further the rights of women, compared to 23% that would consider this improper interference in a country's internal affairs.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

People in Hong Kong agree that equal treatment of people of different races and ethnicities is important, but a relatively low number call this very important compared to mainland China. The public in Hong Kong also is divided on whether treatment of people of different races and ethnicities has improved, whereas people in mainland China perceive considerable improvement. They widely support the government taking action to prevent discrimination, but this support is somewhat less than in mainland China and other publics in the region.

- Nearly nine in 10 (88%) agree that it is important for people of different races and ethnicities to be treated equally (47% very important).
- Nearly eight in 10 (78%) believe that the government should take action to prevent discrimination based on race or ethnicity, including 68% that believe the government should do more (11% say it already does enough).
- Nearly nine in 10 (88%) believe employers should not be allowed to discriminate in hiring based on race or ethnicity. Sixty-six percent say the government has a responsibility to prevent employers from doing this, while 22% believe the government should not get involved.
- While 39% of people in Hong Kong see people of different races and ethnicities as treated more equally now than in the past, 40% believe they are now treated worse and 15% do not perceive a real change.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Chinese in Hong Kong evaluate their local government positively on helping citizens meet their basic needs of food and healthcare, although the majorities are more modest than those on the mainland. However, as opposed to positive responses on the mainland and in Macau, Chinese living in Hong Kong are divided on the local government's ability to meet its citizens' education needs. As in all regions in China, overwhelming majorities believe that the government has a responsibility to help its citizens meet these needs.

- Chinese living in Hong Kong respond near-unanimously that their local government should ensure that its citizens have access to healthcare (94%), and education (97%), and food (92%).
- Asked to rate their government's ability to ensure that citizens can meet their basic needs, Chinese in Hong Kong respond positively on food (62%), while half (50%) rate the government positively on healthcare. Views on education are

divided, however, with 46% responding favorably and 49% responding negatively.

GOVERNANCE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

Out of all the publics polled, Hong Kong has the third-lowest majority that believes government leaders should be selected through elections in which all citizens can vote. In addition, it also has one of the lowest majorities to believe government leaders should pay attention to public opinion polls when making an important decision.

- Two-thirds (66%) of the people in Hong Kong agree that the will of the people should be the basis of authority of government and 72% feel that the government leaders should be selected through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- On a scale of 10 (with 10 meaning “completely”), people in Hong Kong give a response of 7.1 when asked how much they think their country should be governed according to the will of the people. However, when asked how much of their country currently is governed according to the will of the people, they give a response of 4.8. Two-thirds (66%) say that the country should be governed by the will of the people more than it already is.
- 65% feel that they can trust their national government to do what is right “only some of the time,” rather than “most of the time” (27%) or “never” (3%).
- 68% of people in Hong Kong say that their government is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, while 24% feel that it is run for the benefit of the people.
- A significant majority (62%) of the people think that government leaders should pay attention to public opinion polls when they are making an important decision, and 67% feel that leaders should pay attention to the views of the people as they make decisions instead of having elections as the only time the views of the people have influence (24%).
- When asked how much do they think the government should take world public opinion into account, people in Hong Kong give a score of 6.2 on a 10-point scale (with 10 meaning “a great deal”), while they give a score of 5.2 for how much it already takes world public opinion into account. Four in 10 (40%) of people in Hong Kong believe the government should take world public opinion more into account than it already does.

INDIA

[Centre for Voting Opinion & Trends in Election Research \(CVoter\)](#)

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Although a majority of Indians show support for the UN playing a major role in human rights the level of support tends to be relatively modest and below the global average.

- A majority (55%) of Indians think the UN should actively promote human rights in member states, while 26% think the UN should not.
- 54% of Indians would like to see the UN do more to promote human rights principles, although a significant number (30%) say it should do less (14%) or the same amount (16%).
- A majority favors the proposal to give “the UN the authority to go into countries in order to investigate violations of human rights” (54%).

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

While a significant majority of Indians believe it is important to treat people of all religions equally, of all publics polled, India has the second-largest minority saying this principle is not important. Indians have a typically large majority saying that all religions should have the right to practice, but a smaller than average minority favoring the right to seek to convert others.

- More than three in four (76%) Indians agree that equal treatment for people of different religions is “very important” (56%) or “somewhat important” (20%). However, 15% say equal treatment is not important.
- 63% agree with the right to assemble for followers of any religion in India, while 18% disagree with the right to assemble and practice for some religions.
- A modest majority (52%) opposes members of all religions being free to try to convert others, although 33% favor this freedom.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Indians show relatively modest support for freedom of expression compared to other publics polled, with half saying this freedom to express any opinion is “very important,” but the largest minority saying it is “not important at all.” Opposition to the government having the right to prohibit the discussion of certain views is also more lukewarm than the global average, but Indians widely support people’s right to peaceful demonstration.

- Nearly seven in 10 Indians (69%) say it is either “very important” (48%) or “somewhat important” (21%) for people to have the right to express their opinion, whereas 18% say it is “not very important” (5%) or “not important at all” (13%).

- A plurality of Indians (44%) think the government should not have the right to prohibit expression of certain political or religious views, while 38% say the government should have such a right.
- Presented two statements, 68% agree people should have the right to demonstrate peacefully, while 20% support the right of the government to ban peaceful demonstrations that it considers politically destabilizing.

MEDIA FREEDOM

Indians have the most modest majorities expressing support for the importance of media freedom and for the right to read publications from unfriendly countries. They have the largest percentage calling for less freedom.

- Modest majorities of Indians (52%) say it is important to have freedom of the media and that people should have the right to read whatever is on the Internet (52%).
- Given two arguments, a plurality (42%) maintains that the media should be free to publish news and ideas without government control, while just one-third (33%) prefer that the government should have the right to prevent the media from publishing things that could be politically destabilizing.
- 56% say that people in India should have the right to read publications from other countries, including those that could be considered enemies, though one-third (33%) say people should not have this right, the most of any public asked.
- Only 29% believe the media have “a lot” of freedom in India, while 26% say it has “some.” Indians are somewhat divided on whether they favor greater freedom for the media (36%), less freedom (32%) or whether it should remain about the same (19%).

THE PROHIBITION AGAINST TORTURE

India has the largest number saying that there should be exceptions for allowing the use of torture against terrorists, as well as the lowest support for unequivocal rules against torture. Among all nations polled in both 2006 and 2008, India also has the largest increase in support of making exceptions for torture in the case of terrorism.

- A majority of Indians (59%) support governments allowing exceptions for the use of torture against terrorists, including 12% that believe torture should generally be allowed, while 28% overall say that all torture should be prohibited.
- Indian support for making exceptions for the use of torture against terrorists has increased from 32% in 2006 to a majority of 59%. At the same time, the number of those that reject torture with no exceptions also rose from 23% in 2006 to 28%. It should be noted that in 2006 28% of Indians gave an answer of “neither” or “depends” on this question.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Indians share majority support for the importance of equal rights for women with other countries polled, although this majority is more modest than in other countries. A slight majority says that women's rights have improved over time, along with a significant number who feel women's rights have now exceeded those of men. Indians also favor government action to prevent discrimination against women, although they have the largest number opposed to government involvement among all countries polled.

- Six in 10 (60%) Indians say that equality of rights for women is very (41%) or somewhat important (19%).
- A modest majority (53%) in India say that women have gained more equality of rights compared to men during their lifetimes, and an additional 14% go further to volunteer that "women now have more rights than men."
- 53% believe that the government should take action to prevent discrimination against women, including 23% that feel the government should do more and 21% who feel the government already does enough. A significant minority (38%) says that the government should not be involved.
- A plurality (48%) feels that the UN should make efforts to further women's rights, while 28% reject this as "improper interference in a country's internal affairs" and nearly one in four (24%) decline to offer an opinion.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

Indians stand out as the public with the weakest levels of support for racial equality. On most questions this is due to large numbers providing equivocal answers or not providing an answer. However, Indians have the largest number who does not support the government taking more action to protect people from ethnic or racial discrimination. In fact, one in five (21%) think the government is doing too much, highest out of all nations polled. They also have the second-lowest number saying that their government has the responsibility to prevent racially or ethnically discriminatory hiring practices, with only Turks showing more resistance. Modest majorities of Indians say that equal treatment of different races and ethnicities is important and that they have seen progress in this area during their lifetimes.

- 59% of Indians agree that racial and ethnic equality is important, including 44% who say it is "very important." About a third (30%) volunteer that this depends.
- A plurality of 46% says the government should protect people from discrimination based on race or ethnicity, although 17% think the government should not be involved and 31% decline to offer an opinion. A majority of Indians (62%) do not want their government to take more action on the matter: 24% say the government is doing enough, 21% volunteer the government is doing too much, and 17% say it should not be involved.
- 43% believe that employers should not have the right to discriminate because of race or ethnicity, while an unusually high 30% think employers should have the

- A majority (54%) thinks treatment of different races and ethnicities has grown more equal, including 27% who say “much more.”

Yashwant Deshmukh, director of the WPO network’s Indian partner Team C Voter, comments that the relatively low levels for greater government action to prevent racial discrimination may be due in part to the already-existing robust affirmative action programs in favor of the lower castes implemented by the Indian government. He explains that the question of race or ethnicity is seen “as more relevant to the Indian caste system.”

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Although Indians largely say the government has the responsibility to ensure that people can meet their basic needs for food, education, and healthcare, these majorities are somewhat smaller than in other publics polled. Among developing countries, Indians are one of four publics rating their government positively on ensuring access to food, though only a modest majority takes this view.

- Seven in 10 in India agree that the government has the responsibility to ensure citizens can meet their basic need for food (70%) and healthcare (70%), while 64 percent agree that this is also true of education (19% say it “depends”).
- Asked to consider the limits of their government’s resources, modest majorities of Indians rate its performance positively on ensuring that its citizens can meet its education (59% well), food (53%) and healthcare (52%) needs.

GOVERNANCE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

While India is the largest democracy in the world, Indians show some of the lowest levels of enthusiasm for democratic principles. Though a majority of Indians endorse the principle of the will of the people as the basis for government authority, it is the smallest majority out of all publics polled. Indians also give the lowest score for how much the will of the people should influence the governing of their country, and only modest numbers say it should have more influence than it currently does. India also has the smallest majority that says government leaders should be selected by elections in which all citizens can vote.

- A modest majority (53%) of Indians endorse the principle of the will of the people as the basis for the authority of government (26% disagree), while 54% of Indians favor selecting government leaders through elections in which all citizens can vote, though one-third (33%) say leaders should be selected some other way, the largest number out of all countries asked.
- Asked how much the country should be governed according to the will of the people, Indians give the lowest score of any country (6.2) on a 10-point scale (with 10 meaning “completely”). However, Indians give their country a lower

rating (4.1) for how much the country is currently governed according to the will of the people, and a plurality (46%) still says government should be governed by the will of the people more than it is.

- A plurality (43%) of Indians say they can trust the national government to do the right thing “most of the time” (24%) or “just about always” (19%), while 39% say they can trust it just “some of the time” (22%) or even volunteer “never” (17%).
- Six in 10 (60%) Indians say their country is being run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, rather than for the benefit of the people (30%).
- Indians have the lowest percentage (56%) saying leaders should pay attention to public opinion polls when making an important decision to get a sense of the public’s views, and only a plurality of Indians (45%) feels that leaders should consider the views of the people when making decisions between elections, with a sizable minority (41%) says that elections are the only time when the views of people should have influence.
- Asked how much the government should take into account world public opinion when making foreign policy decisions, Indians only give a response of 5.8 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 being “a great deal”), the lowest rating of any country. When asked how much the government currently takes world public opinion into account, Indians give a response of 4.7, and only a small plurality of 34 percent says India should pay more attention to world public opinion when making foreign policy decisions, while fewer say it should stay the same (15%) or pay less attention (13%).

INDONESIA

[Synovate](#)

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Indonesians are similar to the global average in their widespread support for UN action on human rights. They are the second-highest among Asian nations in their support for the UN having the right to investigate abuses.

- 70% think the UN should actively promote the human rights principles of the Universal Declaration in member states, while just 13% believe this would be improper interference.
- Two-thirds (66%) of Indonesians want the UN to do more to promote human rights principles, while 12% want the UN to do about the same as it has been doing and just 6% say it should do less.
- Seven in 10 Indonesians (71%) support giving the UN the authority to go into countries to investigate human rights violations.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

A majority in Indonesia widely supports the importance of equal treatment for people of different religions, as well as the right to assemble for people of any religion in their country. However, of all publics polled, Indonesians express the second-most widespread opposition to the freedom of followers of any religions to try to convert others.

- More than nine in 10 (95%) Indonesians support the importance of equal treatment for people of all religions, with 82% seeing it as “very important” and 13% as “somewhat important”.
- 65% favor the right to assemble and practice for followers of any religion, though 28% disagree with this position.
- A large majority (72%) disagrees with the statement that people of any religion should be permitted to try to convert members of another religion, while just 17% agree with this statement.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Indonesians show an unusual pattern. Indonesia has the largest majority saying freedom of expression is “very important” among all Muslim publics polled and the fourth-largest of all publics polled. Indonesians also have one of the largest majorities endorsing the right of the people to demonstrate peacefully. However, a majority thinks the government has the right to prohibit the expression of certain political or religious views.

- An overwhelming majority of Indonesians (94%) believe it is “very important” (82%) or “somewhat important” (12%) for people to have the right to express any opinion.
- More than half of Indonesians (55%) support the government’s right to prohibit expression of certain views, while 32% oppose such a right.
- 83% think people should have the right to protest against the government through peaceful demonstrations, while 10% take the position that the government has the right to ban such peaceful demonstrations.

MEDIA FREEDOM

Though a large majority of Indonesians think it is important to have freedom of the media, Indonesia is one of a handful of nations to have a majority saying that restricting the media is appropriate so as to preserve political stability. At the same time a majority favors greater freedom.

- 73% say it is important to have freedom of the media and 65% feel people should have the right to read whatever is on the Internet.
- Presented two positions, Indonesians are one of the few majorities that endorse the government having the right to restrict media freedom in order to ensure political stability, while 35% say that the media should be free to publish news and ideas without government control.
- A very large majority (84%) agrees that Indonesians should have the right to read publications from other countries, even those considered enemies.
- A significant number in Indonesia believes the media have at least “some” (47%) or “a lot” (28%) of freedom. A majority (53%) feels that the media should have greater freedom, while just 24% believe it should be about the same and 15% say it should have less.

THE PROHIBITION AGAINST TORTURE

A very large majority of Indonesians endorse unequivocal rules against torture, even in cases of terrorism, a figure that has increased significantly in the past two years.

- 61% of the Indonesian public says that governments should maintain clear rules against torture, while 34% endorse exceptions for terrorists and only 6% feel that torture should generally be allowed.
- Indonesian opposition to the use of torture in any case has grown substantially since 2006 from a slight majority (51%) to a large majority (61%). Support for allowing exceptions for the use of torture in the case of terrorists has decreased from 40% to 34%.

WOMEN’S RIGHTS

Indonesia has the third-largest majority favoring government action to prevent discrimination, and one of the largest favoring increased government efforts. Very large

numbers also believe in the importance of equality of rights for women and that the United Nations should make efforts to further these rights.

- 91% say it is important for women to have equal rights, including 71% who call this very important.
- Four out of five (80%) say their generation has seen women win more rights, though only 25% say they have won much more.
- 93% think the government should make an effort to prevent discrimination and 69% think it should be doing more.
- Three in four Indonesians (74%) think the United Nations should act to advance women's rights.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

Indonesians have the largest majority among all countries polled saying the government has the responsibility to prevent employers from discriminating on the basis of race or ethnicity. Indonesians also have the largest majority (along with Americans) to perceive improvement in the treatment of people of different race or ethnicity now, compared to the past.

- Nearly nine in 10 (89%) Indonesians say it is important for people of different races and ethnicities to be treated equally, including 75% who feel it is “very important.”
- 88% say that the government should take action to prevent racial and ethnic discrimination. Two-thirds (66%) say the government needs to do more and just 17% say it already does enough.
- A very large majority (84%) rejects allowing employers to discriminate based on race or ethnicity, and an overwhelming 80% say that the government has the responsibility to prevent this. No other public polled has such a large majority in favor of such action. Just 3% say the government does not have this responsibility.
- More than four in five (82%) say they have seen the treatment of different races and ethnicities improve over their lifetime. About a third (31%) say they are treated much more equally and half (51%) say they are treated a little more equally. Only the United States has an equally large majority with this view.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Among all nations polled, Indonesians have some of the largest majorities in support of the government being responsible for ensuring that citizens can meet their basic needs for healthcare, education, and food. Among developing countries, Indonesians rate their government relatively well on education, and are among the five developing countries polled whose respondents are critical of their government on the issue of food.

- Indonesians near-unanimously believe that the government has the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet their basic needs for food (97%), education (97%) and healthcare (97%).
- Majorities of Indonesians say their government is doing a good job on ensuring citizens can meet their needs for education (57% well) and healthcare (55%), but a majority rates its performance poorly on meeting basic needs for food (56% not well).

GOVERNANCE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

Indonesians have some of the most widespread support for the will of the people as the basis for the authority of government, and the largest majority saying leaders should be selected through elections. Though Indonesians widely support leaders paying attention to public opinion polls, a significant minority believes elections are the only time when the views of the people should have influence. Indonesians express very high levels of support for being responsive to world public opinion and though they also give one of the highest ratings to their government's responsiveness, a modest majority favors even more responsiveness.

- An overwhelming 94% endorses the principle that the will of the people should be the basis of government authority, including 72% that “strongly agree,” while an even greater 97% supports selecting government leaders via elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked to rate how much their country should be governed by the will of the people, Indonesians give a score of 8.7 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 meaning “completely”), though when asked to give a score for how much their country is currently governed by the will of the people, they respond with a mean of 5.9. More than three-quarters (78%) favor giving the will of the people greater influence in governing their country.
- Indonesians are quite skeptical about trusting their government, with 65% saying it can only be trusted “some of the time” and just 32% saying they trust it “most of the time” (19%) or “just about always” (13%).
- A majority (57%) believes that their country is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, rather than for the benefit of all the people (37%).
- 85% say that leaders should pay attention to public opinion polls when making important decisions to get a sense of the public's views, and a more modest majority (55%) says leaders should pay attention to the views of the people between elections, while 44% say that elections are the only time when the views of the people should have influence.
- When asked how much their government should consider world public opinion when making foreign policy decisions, Indonesians give the highest score (8.4) out of all countries polled on a 10-point scale (with 10 being “a great deal”). Indonesians also give the highest score (6.6, along with China) when asked to rate how much their government currently considers world public opinion, although 56% still say that their government should consider world public opinion more than it already does.

MACAU

[University of Macau](#)

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Macau is similar to Hong Kong on promoting human rights in that it is similar to the global average and higher than mainland China, having a large majority favoring the UN promoting human rights and playing a larger role than it does now.

- 68% think the UN should actively promote human rights in member states, while 15% would say this is improper interference in internal affairs.
- A significant majority (65%) would like to see the UN do more to promote human rights principles, while 23% would like to see the UN do less (1%) or about the same (22%).

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

People in Macau are similar to the global average in endorsing the importance of equal treatment of all religions. They are lower than average in support for allowing people of any religion to practice, but they are higher than average in their support for allowing people to seek to convert others. In all cases, majorities in Macau are more modest than those in Hong Kong and Taiwan.

- 85% of people in Macau support the importance of equal treatment for people of different religions, with 56% considering it “very important” and 29% “somewhat important.”
- A slight majority (51%) supports the right of followers of any religion to assemble and practice, while 33% do not.
- When asked if people of any religion should be free to try to convert followers of other religions, 58% agree with this freedom, while 33% disagree.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Macau has a relatively small number saying the right to express any opinion is “very important” in comparison to all publics polled. However, people in Macau also widely support people’s right to protest against the government through peaceful demonstrations.

- 82% of people in Macau consider people’s right to express any opinion “very important” (47%) or “somewhat important” (35%).
- More than seven in 10 (72%) say people should have the right to demonstrate peacefully.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Chinese in Macau rate their local government the most positively on its ability to meet its citizens' education needs compared to other regions of China. Similar to the other regions, those living in Macau evaluate their local government's ability to ensure access to food and healthcare positively, although the majorities are more modest than on the mainland. Overwhelming majorities believe that the government has a responsibility to help its citizens meet these needs.

- Chinese living in Macau respond near-unanimously that their local government should ensure that its citizens have access to healthcare (99%), education (98%), and food (95%).
- Asked to consider the limits of their local government's resources, Chinese living in Macau rate their government quite positively on its ability to ensure that citizens can meet their need for education (74% well), food (58%), and healthcare (53%).

SOUTH KOREA

[East Asia Institute](#)

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Curiously, South Koreans are higher than average in their robust support for the UN doing more than it has been doing in promoting human rights and for the UN having the right to investigate abuses, however they are below average on the general principle of UN promoting human rights. This may be because the latter question mentioned the possibility of improper interference.

- Almost two-thirds (62%) of South Koreans think the UN should actively promote human rights in member states, while one-third (35%) think the UN should not.
- Nearly seven in 10 (69%) would like to see the UN do more to promote human rights principles, compared to just 28% that say it should do the same (25%) or less (3%).
- Three-quarters of South Koreans support allowing the United Nations to enter countries to investigate violations of human rights (74%).

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

South Koreans show an unusual combination of attitudes. They are fairly typical in their support for the principle of equal treatment for people of all religions. Of all nations polled, South Korea has the second-largest majority endorsing the right for all religions to seek to convert other members. However, they have the fourth-largest number (half) opposing the right for followers of any religion to assemble and practice in their country.

- More than nine in 10 (93%) South Koreans agree that it is “very important” (67%) or “somewhat important” (26%) for people of all religions to be treated equally.
- South Koreans are divided over whether followers of any religion should (48%) or should not (50%) be allowed to assemble and practice.
- A large majority (79%) agrees with the right of people of any religion to seek to convert others, though 20% disagree with this view.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

South Korea is one of two countries that have the largest majority (including the United States) that opposes the government having the right to prohibit discussion of certain political or religious views. Majorities of South Koreans also say that the freedom of expression is “very important” and that people should have the right to protest peacefully, although support is relatively modest compared to other publics polled.

- 94% of South Koreans say that it is “very important” (56%) or “somewhat important” (38%) for people to have the right to express any opinion.

- A large majority (85%) opposes the government's right to prohibit the expression of certain views, while just 14% endorse the government having such a right.
- Two-thirds of South Koreans (66%) feel that people should have the right to demonstrate peacefully, while 32% feel the government should have the right to ban such peaceful demonstrations if it feels they could be politically destabilizing.

MEDIA FREEDOM

Among Asian countries, South Korea has the highest support for freedom of the media in principle. South Koreans are also among the largest majorities favoring greater freedom for the media in their country, and the least supportive among Asian publics for the argument that government should be able to restrict the freedom of the media in order to preserve stability.

- An overwhelming majority (93%) say it is important to have freedom of the media and nearly seven in 10 (69%) say that people should have the right to read whatever is on the Internet.
- Presented two arguments, very few South Koreans (26%) favor the government having the right to prevent the media from publishing things it could consider politically destabilizing and are among the publics that most widely support the media having the right to publish news and ideas without government control (72%).
- 73% say that people in South Korea should have the right to read publications from other countries, including those that may be considered enemies.
- South Koreans most commonly say the media have at least "some" freedom in their country (48%), although an additional 27% say it has "a lot" of freedom. A large majority (65%) feels that the media should have greater freedom, while 23% are satisfied with the freedom they already have.

THE PROHIBITION AGAINST TORTURE

South Koreans are divided on the issue of the use of torture in cases of terrorism, with roughly half endorsing existing norms and half endorsing an exception for terrorists. This is a dramatic shift from 2006, when a majority of South Koreans rejected the use of torture.

- While approximately half of South Koreans (51%) feel that there should be exceptions for allowing torture, a statistically equivalent number (48%) say there should be clear rules against torture in all cases. Just 13% say that torture should generally be accepted.
- South Korean support for making an exception for terrorists and allowing the use of torture has risen significantly from 31% in 2006 to 51%. Conversely, those that reject any use of torture decreased from a majority of 66% in 2006 to 48%.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

A very large majority of South Koreans believes equal rights for women is important, although a relatively smaller number says it is very important. Nonetheless, it has the second-largest majority calling for greater government action to prevent discrimination and one of the largest calling for UN efforts. Among other Asian publics polled it has the highest percentage saying that women's rights have improved.

- 86% call equal rights for women important, though only 43% consider it very important.
- Nearly nine out of ten (89%) say that over their lifetime women's rights have improved, though two out of three (66%) say they have gained only a "little more equality."
- South Koreans (87%) want their government to try to prevent discrimination and do not think it is doing enough (73%) in this regard.
- Three in four (78%) believe the United Nations should further women's rights.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

South Koreans demonstrate the most widespread support for the government making further efforts to prevent racial and ethnic discrimination. However, they also have the largest minority saying that employers should have the right to refuse to hire a candidate based on race or ethnicity.

- An overwhelming majority (94%) of South Koreans feels that equal treatment of people of different races and ethnicities is important, including 71% who say it is very important.
- Nearly all South Koreans polled (96%) support government action to prevent racial or ethnic discrimination and 91% say it should do more, the highest percentage among the publics polled. Just 5% feel that the government already does enough.
- A more modest majority of South Koreans (58%) thinks employers should not be able to turn away jobseekers because of their race or ethnicity. An exceptionally high 41% say employers should have the freedom to hire whomever they choose, the largest number among all countries polled. Only a modest majority (53%) says the government has the responsibility to prevent employers from discriminating.
- 71% say that equal treatment of people of different races and ethnicities has improved in their lifetimes, though just 4% say they are treated "much more equally" and 67% say "a little more equally."

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Among developed countries, South Koreans give their government the second-most critical scores on the issues of both healthcare and food. South Koreans widely endorse

the principle that government should be responsible for ensuring that citizens can meet these basic needs.

- Overwhelming majorities in South Korea agree that the government has the responsibility to ensure that citizens can meet their basic needs for education (95%), healthcare (93%), and food (85%).
- Asked to consider the limits of their government's resources, majorities negatively rate their government on ensuring that citizens can meet their needs for food (56% not well) and healthcare (51%), but the government receives a positive evaluation on the issue of education (54% well).

GOVERNANCE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

Overwhelming majorities in South Korea endorse democratic principles and are among the very highest in their support for leaders paying attention to public opinion polls as well as considering the views of the people between elections. A large majority favors the will of the people having greater influence on the government than it does. South Koreans show the most skepticism about trusting their government to do the right thing.

- An overwhelming majority (93%) endorses the principle of the will of the people as the basis for the authority of government and 91% also favor selecting government leaders through elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked how much the country should be governed according to the will of the people, South Koreans give a 7.4 on a 10-point scale (with 10 meaning "completely"). Yet, South Koreans give their country a fairly low rating (4.6) for how much the country is currently governed according to the will of the people and more than four in five (83%) favor the will of the people having greater influence on the government than it does.
- Nearly eight in 10 (79%) say they can trust the government to do the right thing "only some of the time", the largest majority out of all publics asked, with an additional 3% volunteering never. Only 18% say they trust the government "most of the time" (15%) or "just about always" (3%), the lowest of any other nation.
- South Koreans widely perceive their country as being run by a few big interests looking out for themselves (78%), rather than for the benefit of all the people (20%).
- Overwhelming majorities (94%) say leaders should pay attention to public opinion polls when making an important decision to get a sense of the public's views and also feel that leaders should consider the views of the people between elections when making decisions (93%).
- Asked how much the government should take into account world public opinion when making foreign policy decisions, South Koreans give a response of 6.9 on a 0-10 scale (with 10 being "a great deal"), and when asked how much the government currently takes world public opinion into account, give a response of 5.9. A majority (55%) favors the government paying more attention to world public opinion when making foreign policy decisions.

TAIWAN

[TVBS](#)

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Taiwan has a larger majority than average and the largest majority among Asian publics polled saying the UN should actively promote human rights principles in member states.

- A large majority (78%) believes the UN should actively promote human rights in member states, while just 12% say this would be improper interference.
- 62% of Taiwanese would like to see the UN do more to promote human rights principles, while 27% want the UN to do less (2%) or do about the same (25%).

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The Taiwanese express the most widespread support out of all publics polled for the right of people of all religions to try to convert members of other religions. They are also exceptionally high in their support for allowing followers of any religion to practice in their country.

- A very large majority (90%) of Taiwanese believe it is “very important” (67%) or “somewhat important” (23%) for people of different religions to be treated equally.
- Three-quarters (75%) support the right of followers of any religion to assemble and practice in Taiwan, while only 14% oppose it.
- 83% agree that all people of different religions should have the right to convert others, while only 11% disagree.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Of all publics polled, Taiwan has the third-largest majority rejecting the right of the government to limit expression.

- 91% of Taiwanese consider the right of the people to express any opinion important, with just over half saying “very important” (53%) and 38% saying “somewhat important.”
- More than eight in 10 (81%) show opposition to the government having the right to prohibit the expression of certain views, whereas only 15% show support for the government having such a right.
- A large majority (78%) believes that people should have the right to demonstrate peacefully to protest the government, while 13% believe the government should have the right to ban them if they consider them politically destabilizing.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Taiwanese have the most positive evaluation of the government's performance on healthcare among all regions of China polled, though they (along with Hong Kong) rate their government negatively on education. They overwhelmingly support the government having the responsibility to ensure that its citizens can meet these needs.

- More than nine in 10 in Taiwan endorse the principle that the government should have the responsibility to ensure that citizens can meet their basic needs for healthcare (96%), education (95%), and food (92%).
- A large majority (72%) rates their government positively on ensuring that citizens can meet their needs for healthcare, while a more modest majority says the government is also performing well on the issue of food (56%). However, a slight majority (51%) gives a negative evaluation to the government on the issue of education.

THAILAND

[ABAC Poll Research Center, Assumption University](#)

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Thailand is the only country that only has plurality support for the UN to actively promote the human rights principles of the Universal Declaration in member states, though only one in four opposes it. Thai support for the UN to do more on human rights and have the authority to investigate violations in countries is also more modest than in other nations polled. Thais are exceptionally high in not providing an answer to these questions.

- A plurality (44%) thinks the UN should do more to actively promote human rights in member states, while 25% oppose this as improper interference in a country's internal affairs.
- A majority (60%) would like to see the UN do more to promote human rights principles, while 20% would like the UN to do less (7%) or about the same (13%).
- A majority (52%) supports a UN right to go into countries to investigate human rights violations.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

With the exception that they have relatively high levels of people who do not answer some questions, Thais are fairly similar to the global average on religious freedom, with a large majority endorsing the importance of equal treatment for people of all religions, a robust majority agreeing with the right to assemble and practice for followers of all religions, and a plurality rejecting the right for people of all religions to try to convert other members.

- More than three in four (77%) in Thailand believe it is “very important” (61%) or “somewhat important” (16%) for people of all religions to be treated equally.
- 63% support the freedom to assemble and practice for followers of all religions, though 13% oppose this view.
- A plurality (45%) disagrees with the view that people of any religions should be allowed to seek to convert others, though 36% do approve of this.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Thailand is one of three countries, along with Kenya and Indonesia, where a majority supports the government's right to prohibit expression of certain political or religious views. However, majorities of Thais also say that the freedom of expression is “very important” and believe that people have a right to protest through peaceful demonstrations.

- A significant majority of Thais (76%) think it is “very important” (58%) or “somewhat important” (18%) for people to have the right to express any opinion freely.
- More than six in 10 (63%) believe the government should have the right to prohibit certain views from being discussed, while only 16% say the government should not have such a right.
- 55% think that people should have the right to protest against the government through peaceful demonstrations, while 29% think the government should have the right to ban such demonstrations.

MEDIA FREEDOM

Along with the United States, Thais have the third-largest number of respondents saying that people should have the right to read whatever is on the Internet. However an unusually large minority says that government has the right to restrict the media to preserve political stability.

- Nearly three-quarters (73%) say it is important for the media to be free to publish news and ideas without government control and similar numbers (75%) believe they should have the right to read whatever they want on the Internet without government restrictions.
- A plurality (48%) says that the media should have the right to publish news and ideas without government control, but 37% favor the argument that the government should have the right to restrict this freedom in order to preserve stability.
- A large majority (79%) feels that Thais should be free to read publications from other countries, even those considered enemies.
- More than two-thirds (68%) feel that the media have “a lot” or “some” freedom. However more a large number (44%) says it should have more freedom than it does; fewer say it should have either the same amount (27%) or less freedom (16%).

THE PROHIBITION AGAINST TORTURE

A plurality of Thais feels that there should be an exception made for terrorists on the issue of the use of torture.

- A plurality of Thais (44%) agree that governments should allow some degree of torture against terrorists, though only 10% that say that torture should be allowed in general. Thirty-six percent of Thais reject the use of torture no matter the circumstances.

WOMEN’S RIGHTS

Thais perceive substantial growth in the equality of women and seem eager for this to continue. They are one of three countries with majorities saying that women now have *much* more equality compared to men than in the past and a majority agrees that equality

of rights for women is important. Thailand also has the third-largest majority saying that the government should do more to prevent discrimination against women.

- 84% of Thais say that equality of rights for women is important, including 49% that say it is “very important.”
- A robust 82% say that women have gained equality compared to men in their lifetimes, with 52% saying much more. Only 4% say women now have less equality; 7% say there has been “no real change.”
- A large majority of Thais (72%) say that the government “should do more” to prevent discrimination against women. Only 18% says that either the government already does enough (9%) or it should not make an effort (9%).
- 64% feel that the UN should act to further the rights of women, while just 21% reject this as “improper interference in a country’s internal affairs.”

RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUALITY

A majority says that the government should make an effort to prevent discrimination based on race or ethnicity and that the government should do more. However, Thais are the only public divided over whether the government has the responsibility to prevent employers from refusing to hire qualified jobseekers because of their race or ethnicity or whether employers should be free to hire whomever they choose.

- Three in four Thais (75%) say it is important for people of different races and ethnicities to be treated equally.
- 64% say that the government should take action to prevent racial and ethnic discrimination, including 55% who say it should do more, while 21% say the government “should not be involved” (10%) or volunteer that it already “does too much” (11%).
- Thais are divided on whether the government has the responsibility to prevent employers from refusing to hire qualified jobseekers because of their race or ethnicity (36%), or whether employers should be free to hire whomever they choose (37%).
- A majority of Thais (57%) say they have seen the treatment of different races and ethnicities improve over their lifetime: 32% say they are treated much more equally and 25% say they are treated a little more equally.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Thais tend to approve of their government’s performance on education and give the only positive evaluation on this area among publics with similar levels of development. They are also critical of their government’s performance on ensuring citizens can meet their need for food. They widely support the principle that the government has the responsibility to ensure citizens can meet these basic needs.

- Very large majorities in Thailand endorse the principle that the government has the responsibilities to ensure that citizens can meet their basic needs for education (90%), healthcare (88%), and food (85%).
- Nearly six in 10 (59%) express disapproval about their government's efforts to ensure citizens can meet their basic needs for food, while they lean negatively on how well the government is doing on the issue of healthcare (42% well, 45% not well), though a plurality (47%) says the government is doing a good job ensuring citizens can meet their need for education.

GOVERNANCE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

Thais widely endorse democratic principles, including that the will of the people should serve as the basis for government authority, although Thais have the lowest number that feel the will of the people should have *greater* influence in government. Thais are also unique in that they are far less likely to say that their government should take world public opinion into account more than it does.

- A large majority of Thais (79%) endorse the principle of the will of the people as the basis for the authority of government and a robust 85% favor government leaders being selected by elections in which all citizens can vote.
- Asked how much their country should be governed by the will of the people, on average Thais give a response of 7.9 on a 0-10 scale, and when asked to say how much the country is currently governed by the will of the people, they give a lower average rating of 5.5. However, comparing the two responses given, only a plurality (41%) gives a higher rating for what the level of influence should be over what it is, while 27% say it already has enough influence.
- Half of Thais (49%) say they can trust their national government to do the right thing “only some of the time”—17% say “never”. Only 7% say they can trust their national government “always,” and 16% say “most of the time.”
- 57% say that their country is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, and only a quarter (26%) say that it is run for the benefit of all the people.
- 72% of Thais say leaders should pay attention to polls when making decisions because this will help them gain a sense of the public's views, while just 12% take the opposite view that this will distract leaders from deciding what they think is right.
- Asked how much their government should take into account world public opinion when making foreign policy decisions, Thais give an average response of 6.5 on a 0-10 scale. When asked to rate how much their government is currently taking into account world public opinion, they give a 5.0. Thais are divided on whether the government should take world public opinion into account more than it already does (28%), or whether it does as much as it should (27%).