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Chapter 8: World Opinion on Human Rights
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CHAPTER 8: WORLD OPINION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The Role of the United Nations in Human Rights

Majorities or pluralities in all nations polled express support for the United Nations (UN) playing an active role in promoting human rights and reject the argument that this would be improper interference in the internal affairs of a country. Publics in most countries favor the UN playing a larger role than it presently does to promote human rights and favor giving it greater power to go into countries to investigate human rights abuses. Large majorities in nearly every country say that the UN should try to further women's rights even when presented the argument that this would conflict with national sovereignty. When asked which should make the decision on matters related to human rights, more respondents prefer either the UN or regional organizations rather than national governments, though an average of four in ten respondents prefer national governments.

In a 2008 WorldPublicOpinion.org poll, respondents in twenty-one nations were told that “the members of the UN General Assembly have agreed on a set of principles called the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” They were then presented with the debate about whether the UN should actively promote such rights: “Some people say the United Nations should actively promote such human rights principles in member states. Others say this is improper interference in a country’s internal affairs and human rights should be left to each country.” They were then asked, “Do you think the UN should or should not actively promote human rights in member states?”

The dominant view in all twenty-four nations—by majorities in twenty-two and pluralities in two—was to favor the UN actively promoting human rights principles in member states. On average, 70 percent favored such efforts while 19 percent were opposed.

Countries with the highest levels of support were Kenya (94 percent), Germany and Argentina (91 percent), Azerbaijan (89 percent), Nigeria (87 percent), and Mexico (85 percent). Support was strong among the permanent members of the UN Security Council, with large majorities being supportive in France (76 percent), the United States (70 percent), Great Britain (68 percent), and China (62 percent), though the Russian majority was relatively modest (55 percent). Support for the UN playing an intrusive role was strikingly high in China (62 percent) given that the Chinese government has invoked the principle of national sovereignty in opposition to the UN playing an active role in regard to human rights. However, support was even higher in Taiwan (78 percent), Hong Kong (73 percent), and Macau (68 percent).

Support for the UN actively promoting human rights was lowest in Thailand, where it was nonetheless a clear plurality (44 percent to 25 percent). Muslim nations and territories included three of the four populations with the highest levels of opposition: Palestinian Territories (41 percent), Jordan (33 percent), and Egypt (33 percent), but these were still minorities in every case. South Korea was the one other country polled with significant minority opposition (35 percent).¹

Greater UN Role on Human Rights

In the same poll respondents were asked: “Would you like to see the UN do more, do less, or do about the same as it has been doing to promote human rights principles?” In twenty-two of the twenty-four publics, majorities wanted the United Nations to do more; in Russia a plurality was in favor, and in the Palestinian Territories views were mixed. On average across twenty-four publics, 65 percent of respondents said the United Nations should do more, 17 percent said it should do the same as it has been doing, and 8 percent said it should do less.

The largest majorities wanting the UN to do more to promote human rights were in Africa and Latin America. Ninety-one percent of Kenyans and 88 percent of Nigerians said the UN should do more, as did 88 percent of Mexicans and 85 percent of Argentines. Italians were also highly supportive (83 percent).

Palestinians, who were divided, were the least supportive among the twenty-four publics of a greater UN role on human rights: 48 percent wanted the UN to do more while 49 percent wanted it to do the same amount (26 percent) or less (23 percent). In Russia, a plurality of 45 percent wanted the UN to do more, while a total of 31 percent either wanted it to do the same (23 percent) or less (8 percent).

In China, a 51-percent majority of respondents wanted the UN to do more, much smaller proportions wanted it to do the same (15 percent) or less (5 percent), and 29 percent did not answer. (In both Hong Kong and Macau, a higher 65 percent wanted the UN to do more, as did 62 percent in Taiwan.)

While the Palestinians had the lowest level of support, and in general majority-Muslim countries tended to express lower than average support, majorities were still supportive of a greater UN role in Turkey (69 percent), Indonesia (66 percent), Jordan (62 percent), and Egypt (55 percent).

Interestingly, some of the more modest majorities for a strong UN role were found in Western countries long associated with promoting human rights: Germany (58 percent), the United States (59 percent), France (64 percent), and Great Britain (64 percent).²

Giving the UN New Investigative Powers

Majorities in polled countries also support giving the United Nations new powers to promote human rights. Broad majorities around the world support active UN investigations on human rights. Asked about possible steps for strengthening the UN, the possibility of “giving the UN the authority to go into countries in order to investigate violations of human rights” garnered support in twenty countries (eighteen majorities, two pluralities); two countries were divided, but none were opposed. On average, about two-thirds of all respondents (65 percent) were in favor, with just 22 percent opposed.

The largest majorities in favor of a robust UN role were in Europe and Africa: France had 92 percent in favor, Great Britain 86 percent, Nigeria 83 percent, and Kenya 81 percent. Clear majorities were also supportive in the United States (75 percent), Russia (64 percent), and China (57 percent).

A plurality of Turks was supportive (47 percent to 25 percent) as was a plurality of Argentines (46 percent to 29 percent). Two countries were divided: Egypt (51 percent to 49 percent) and the Philippines (46 percent to 46 percent).³

The UN Promoting Women’s Rights

Large majorities in nearly every nation said that the United Nations should try to further women’s rights even when presented the argument that this would conflict with national sovereignty. WPO asked, “Do you think the UN should make efforts to further the rights of women or do you think this is improper interference in a country’s internal affairs?”

In eighteen out of the twenty publics polled, a majority of respondents favored such UN efforts. Overall on average, 66 percent approved of UN initiatives to further the rights of women, while 26 percent said this would be improper interference.

The largest majorities were in Kenya (91 percent), Mexico (88 percent), China (86 percent; Hong Kong, 67 percent), Argentina (78 percent), South Korea (78 percent), Indonesia (74 percent), France (74 percent), and Great Britain (70 percent).

The two exceptions were Egypt, where most of those polled (70 percent) thought the United Nations should not get involved in efforts to improve women’s rights, and the Palestinian Territories, where views were evenly divided. In the other predominantly Muslim countries, most respondents supported UN efforts on women’s rights, including in Indonesia (74 percent), Turkey (70 percent), Azerbaijan (66 percent), and Iran (52 percent). Support was also relatively modest in Russia (52 percent) and India (48 percent favor, 28 percent opposed, and 24 percent no answer).⁴

The Role of the UN, Regional Organizations and National Governments

The World Values Survey from 2005 to 2008 asked respondents in forty-two countries who should decide policies in the area of human rights, posing the following question:

“Some people believe that certain kinds of problems could be better handled by the United Nations or regional organizations rather than by each national government separately. Others think that these problems should be left entirely to the national governments. I’m going to mention some problems. For each one, would you tell me whether you think that policies in this area should be decided by the national governments, by regional organizations, or by the United Nations?”

In the area of “human rights,” on average 40 percent favored national governments while 50 percent favored a multilateral approach, with 37 percent favoring the United Nations and 13 percent a regional organization. Twenty-one countries had a majority (nine countries) or a plurality (twelve countries) favoring national governments, led by Ghana (67 percent), Vietnam (59 percent), South Africa (58 percent), and Ukraine (57 percent). Fifteen countries had a majority (nine countries) or plurality (six countries) favoring the United Nations, led by Sweden (73 percent), Andorra (62 percent), Switzerland (62 percent), and Australia (57 percent). In total, sixteen countries had a majority or a plurality favoring a multilateral approach, with only Rwandans favoring (37 percent) a regional organization over the United Nations. Mexico and Argentina were both evenly divided between national governments and the United Nations.⁵

In 2006, AsiaBarometer asked the same question to six Asian publics. On average, 48 percent said national governments, while 50 percent said the United Nations (36 percent) or regional organizations (14 percent). Three publics had a majority or plurality saying the United Nations should decide, while three said national governments should do this.⁶

Freedom of Expression

The principle that individuals have a right to freedom of expression—including criticism of government and religious leaders—appears to be nearly universally supported by people throughout the world. However, when asked whether government should have the right to limit expression of certain political and religious views, the consensus is not as strong. While majorities in most countries say the government should not have such a right, in several countries a majority (and in another few a large minority) says that it should have such a right. At the same time there is widespread consensus that individuals should have the right to demonstrate peacefully against the government.

In a 2008 WPO poll, majorities in all twenty-three nations polled said that it is important that people have the right “to express any opinion, including criticisms of the government or religious leaders.” In nineteen of the twenty-three nations, a majority said that this right is “very important.” On average across all nations polled, 66 percent judged this right to be “very important” and an additional 22 percent saw it as somewhat important; only 7 percent saw it as either not very important (5 percent) or not important at all (2 percent).⁷

Five countries showed exceptionally high levels of support, with 80 percent or more of respondents saying that this right is very important—Mexico (87 percent), Nigeria (86 percent), Argentina (84 percent), Indonesia (82

percent), and Italy (80 percent). This opinion was notably lower in Russia (34 percent), Egypt (43 percent), and India (48 percent). But in all these countries a majority did say it is at least “somewhat important.”

A Pew Global Attitudes Project poll in 2007 asked people in thirty-five nations whether the ability to openly say what you think, or to criticize the state or government, is important. Majorities in every country felt that freedom of speech is important. On average, 87 percent of respondents felt that it was either “very important” (57 percent) or “somewhat important” (30 percent), and 11 percent felt that it was “not too important” or “not important at all.”⁸

Between 2005 and 2006, Afrobarometer surveyed eighteen African countries about whether the government should allow the expression of political views that are fundamentally different from the views of the majority. Majorities in every country except one believed that government should allow free speech. In the average of the eighteen countries, 71 percent believed that people should be able to speak their minds about politics free of government influence, no matter how unpopular their views may be, while 23 percent believed that government should restrict free speech when it is fundamentally different from the views of the majority. The one country that did not have a majority endorsing free speech was Tanzania, where views were divided (43 percent in favor of free speech, 44 percent against).⁹

Right of Governments to Prohibit Expression

The right to free expression can also be examined from the perspective of whether the government has the right to prohibit the discussion of certain views. Interestingly, while the dominant view is that governments should not have such a right, several countries had significant numbers, in some cases even majorities, saying that the government should have such a right.

A 2008 WPO poll asked people in twenty-three nations whether the government should “have the right to prohibit certain political or religious views from being discussed” majorities in thirteen nations and pluralities in three said that the government should not have such a right. On average only 36 percent of people polled worldwide said the government should have such a right, while 57 percent said that the government should not.

In three countries, a majority supported the government’s right to prohibit expression of certain views: Kenya (67 percent), Thailand (63 percent), and Indonesia (55 percent). Curiously, all three of these countries also have large majorities saying that it is very important for people to have the right to express any opinion. A common feature of these countries is that they have all recently had major political instability, with near-civil war in Kenya, a coup in Thailand, and ethnic conflict in Indonesia.

While all European countries polled had majorities saying that the government should not have the right to prohibit expression, in two these majorities were relatively small. In Great Britain, only 53 percent said that government should not have the right to prohibit the expression of certain political and religious views, whereas 39 percent said the government should have such a right. In Germany as well, a relatively small majority (56 percent) opposed the right of government to prohibit the discussion of certain views, while a substantial minority (41 percent) felt that government should be able to prohibit the expression of some views. In both Germany and Britain, the emergence of extremist Islamic groups has generated controversy over whether some of their language should be regarded as incitement. In addition, Germany has a tradition of regulating neo-Nazi activities.

Two countries—Egypt and India—had less than half of respondents saying that the government should not have the right to prohibit expression. They are also two of the three countries where publics place relatively low importance on freedom of expression, suggesting that the norm in favor of freedom of expression, while clearly extant, is relatively weak. In Egypt views were divided on whether the government should have the right to limit expression (49 percent to 49 percent), while just 43 percent said freedom of expression is very important. In India, a modest plurality said that the government should not have the right to limit expression (44 percent to 38 percent), while 48 percent said freedom of expression is very important.¹⁰

Right to Demonstrate Peacefully

WPO asked publics in twenty-two nations in 2008 if they favored the people's right to peacefully demonstrate against the government or if "the government should have the right to ban peaceful demonstrations that it thinks would be politically destabilizing." Majorities in all cases said people should have the right to demonstrate. On average across all nations, 75 percent felt that the people should have the right to demonstrate peacefully against the government, whereas 20 percent believe that the government should have the right to ban peaceful demonstrations that it thinks would be politically destabilizing.¹¹

The only countries and territories where 30 percent or more of the public felt that the government has the right to ban peaceful demonstrations were Egypt (42 percent), Jordan (35 percent), the Palestinian Territories (33 percent), and South Korea (32 percent). However a majority in each case still endorsed the right of the people to demonstrate peacefully.

Media Freedom

Internationally there is robust support for the principle that the media should be free of government control and that citizens should even have access to material from hostile countries. With just a few exceptions, majorities say that the government should not have the right to limit access to the internet. But while most publics say the government should not have the right to prohibit publishing material it thinks will be politically destabilizing, in a significant minority of countries a majority of the respondents say that governments should have such a right.

The broad principle of media freedom gets robust support. In 2008, WPO polled twenty-one nations on how important it is "for the media to be free to publish news and ideas without government control." All twenty-one nations said it is important that media be given this freedom. On average, 81 percent of respondents said it is "important," with 53 percent saying it is "very important," while only 11 percent considered it not important. In no country did more than 26 percent say that media freedom is "not very important" or "not important at all."¹²

Pew Global Attitudes Project in 2007 surveyed publics in thirty-five nations on how important it is to live in a country where the media can report the news without state censorship. Majorities in every one said they felt it was important to live in a country without media censorship. In the global average, 84 percent thought it was important while only 13 percent did not believe it to be important.¹³

Citizens are also seen as having the right to read publications from hostile countries. WPO in 2008 asked whether people in their country should "have the right to read publications from all other countries including those that might be considered enemies." Once again, majorities in all countries affirmed this right; on average by 80 percent.¹⁴

In 2008, WPO polled twenty-one nations asking if people in their country should have the right to read whatever is on the Internet, or if instead they thought the government should have the right to prevent people from having access to some things on the internet. Majorities in all but two nations felt that people should have the right to read whatever is on the internet, while two said the government should have the right to prevent people from having access to some things. In the average of twenty nations, 62 percent of respondents favored people having the right read whatever is on the internet and 30 percent favored the government having the right to prevent access to some things.¹⁵

In China, a country whose Internet censorship policies have received a great deal of international attention, 71 percent of the public said that "people should have the right to read whatever is on the Internet;" only 21 percent of Chinese endorsed their government's right to limit access.

The only two publics not endorsing full access were Jordan and Iran. In Jordan, 63 percent supported government regulation of the Internet, as did 44 percent in Iran (32 percent favor unlimited access). There is also significant minority support for some government control of access to information on the Internet in France (44 percent), the Palestinian Territories (44 percent), Kenya (38 percent), India (36 percent), and Great Britain (35 percent).

Controlling Potentially Destabilizing Information

As is the case with freedom of expression, publics in a significant minority of countries are willing to accept government control of the media in the service of political stability.

WPO in 2008 presented respondents with a choice between an argument in favor of media freedom without government control, on the one hand, and the argument that “government should have the right to prevent the media from publishing things it thinks will be politically destabilizing” on the other. Majorities or pluralities in eighteen publics polled felt that that the risk of political instability does not justify government control.

However, in Russia and in six predominantly Muslim nations this scenario prompted considerable support for government control. Majorities in Jordan (66 percent), the Palestinian Territories (59 percent), and Indonesia (56 percent) supported government control of the media when the government thinks that publishing some things might be politically destabilizing. In Iran, a plurality (45 percent) supported government control under such circumstances (whereas 31 percent felt the media should be able to publish freely). Views were divided in Russia (45 percent to 44 percent), Egypt (49 percent to 52 percent), and Turkey (45 percent to 42 percent).

This does not, however, mean that any of these publics favor greater government regulation in general. Rather, in four of these cases, majorities favored greater media freedom—Egypt (64 percent), the Palestinian Territories (62 percent), Jordan (56 percent), and Indonesia (53 percent). Only minorities favored greater government control in Iran (9 percent), Turkey (30 percent), and Russia (17 percent).¹⁶

Similarly, in 2007, the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) asked publics in fourteen countries to choose between the following statements:

“Freedom of the press to report the news truthfully is very important to ensure we live in a fair society, even if it sometimes leads to unpleasant debates or social unrest.”

“While freedom of the press to report news truthfully is important, social harmony and peace are more important, which sometimes means controlling what is reported for the greater good.”

Majorities in eleven countries said that freedom of the press to report the news truthfully is very important, but in three countries a plurality chose the latter position in favor of social harmony. These included Russia, Singapore, and India.¹⁷

Afrobarometer polled eighteen African countries from 2005 to 2006, asking if the government should close newspapers that print false stories or misinformation, or if the news media should be free to publish any story that they see fit without fear of being shut down. In thirteen countries majorities or pluralities said that the news media should be free to publish any story, but majorities in three countries (Benin 60 percent, Mali 55 percent, and Tanzania 54 percent) said that the government should close such newspapers. A plurality in Senegal agreed and views in Malawi were divided. In the average of eighteen countries, 55 percent said they supported the freedom of the news media and 37 percent supported the government’s right to close newspapers.¹⁸

Religious Freedom

Publics around the world believe it is important for people of different religions to be treated equally. Majorities in most, but not all, nations affirm that followers of any religion should be allowed to assemble and practice in their country. At the same time, discomfort with proselytizing—trying actively to convert others to one’s own religion—is quite widespread. Majorities in more than half of the countries polled do not favor extending religious freedom to a right to proselytize.

Support for the norm of equal treatment of adherents of different religions is quite robust. WPO in 2008 asked respondents in twenty-four nations, “How important do you think it is for people of different religions to be treated equally?” Majorities in every country said that it was somewhat or very important. This ranged from 74 percent in Egypt to 99 percent in Kenya. In twenty of twenty-four nations, majorities called it very important. On average, 89 percent said that it is important, 64 percent very important, and just 7 percent said it was “not very important” or “not important at all.”¹⁹

In no country did a large number say that equal treatment was not very important or not important at all. Egypt was the highest with 24 percent, followed by India (15 percent).

The numbers saying that equal treatment is very important were a bit higher than average among Christians (69 percent) and Buddhists (68 percent), and a bit lower than average for Hindus (58 percent). Muslims were not different from the full sample.

Pew Global Attitudes Project surveyed thirty-five nations in 2007 on whether it was important to live in a country where a person can practice their religion freely. Large majorities in all thirty-five countries said it was “very important” or “somewhat important.” In the average of thirty-five nations, 72 percent believed freedom to practice their religion was “very important,” 21 percent believed it was “somewhat important,” 4 percent believed it was “not too important,” and 1 percent believed it was “not important at all.”²⁰

When respondents were asked to consider the right of *any* religion to be practiced, support was still high, but there were some countries where a majority backed away from endorsing such a right. WPO asked respondents to choose between two statements: “Followers of any religion should be allowed to assemble and practice in [our country],” or “there are some religions that people should not be allowed to practice in [our country].” The question wording intentionally offered a test, by evoking in respondents’ minds “some religion” that they might find specifically objectionable.

In nineteen out of twenty-three countries, majorities (in fifteen cases) or pluralities (in one case) said that followers of any religion in their country should be able to assemble and practice. However, in three countries, majorities said there were some religions that people should not be permitted to practice there. One country was divided on the question. On average across all publics, 61 percent endorsed the right to assemble and practice any religion, while 32 percent said some religions should be excluded.²¹

The highest majority supporting freedom to practice without exceptions was found in Turkey—a majority Muslim—country—at 80 percent. Other countries with high majorities were Poland and Nigeria (both 77 percent); Mexico (76 percent); Kenya (75 percent); France (72 percent); and Azerbaijan (71 percent). The United States was somewhat lower at 67 percent. Russia had a substantial plurality in support, 50 percent to 38 percent.

Three countries had majorities wanting to exclude some religions from the freedom to assemble and practice. The highest was Egypt at 67 percent, followed by Ukraine at 54 percent and Jordan at 51 percent. South Koreans were divided, with 50 percent wanting to disallow some religions and 48 percent saying there should be no exceptions.

Trying to Convert Others

A controversial issue is the right to try to convert others to one's religion. Indeed, more publics opposed such a right than favored it. It should be noted that the Universal Declaration on Human Rights does not explicitly establish such a right, though it does provide for the right to change one's religion.

WPO asked respondents whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement: "In [our country], people of any religion should be free to try to convert members of other religions to join theirs." Fourteen nations had majorities or pluralities that disagreed (i.e. they were unwilling to give activities to convert others the status of a right). In eight countries majorities did agree and one country was divided. On average across all publics, a majority disagreed, 51 percent to 41 percent.²²

Publics in European countries and in Muslim countries express the highest levels of discomfort about proselytizing activities. Indonesia had the largest majority disagreeing with the statement, at 72 percent, followed by Egypt (67 percent), France (64 percent), Russia (62 percent), Poland, and Jordan (both 60 percent).

The highest support for the freedom to seek to convert others came from two East Asian publics: Taiwan (83 percent) and South Korea (79 percent). In Africa, there were also large majorities in Nigeria (78 percent) and Kenya (74 percent). In the Americas, supportive majorities were more modest, at 58 percent in the United States and 56 percent in Mexico.

Women's Rights

Large majorities in all nations support the principle that women should have "full equality of rights" and most say it is very important. Large majorities believe their government has the responsibility to seek to prevent discrimination against women. Large majorities in nearly every country polled favor the United Nations playing an active role in this agenda.

An overwhelming majority of people around the world say that it is important for "women to have full equality of rights compared to men." Large majorities in all nations polled by WPO took this position, ranging from 60 percent in India to 98 percent in Mexico and Great Britain. On average, across the twenty nations polled, 86 percent said women's equality is important, with 59 percent saying it is very important. Ten percent responded that they were "not very important" or "not important at all."²³

Attitudes vary about whether such equality is very important or somewhat important. Large majorities said it is very important in Mexico (89 percent), Great Britain (89 percent), Turkey (80 percent), the United States (77 percent), and China (76 percent). Smaller percentages said it is very important in Egypt (31 percent), Russia (35 percent), India (41 percent), South Korea (43 percent), Ukraine (44 percent), and Iran (44 percent).

Support for equal rights is also robust in all Muslim countries. Large majorities said it is important in Iran (78 percent), Jordan (83 percent), Azerbaijan (85 percent), Egypt (90 percent), Indonesia (91 percent), Turkey (91 percent), and the Palestinian Territories (83 percent).

Between 2005 and 2008, the World Values Survey asked forty-three nations whether women's equality was an essential characteristic of democracy. On a scale of one to ten, with one implying women's equality is not an essential characteristic of democracy and ten implying women's equality is an essential characteristic of democracy, every nation polled answered higher than five, with the global average being 8.53.²⁴

Afrobarometer polled seventeen African countries in 2005 about whether women should have rights equal to those of men in each country. All but one nation had majorities or pluralities agreeing that women should have equal rights. On average, 71 percent said that women should receive the same treatment as men do, and 27 percent said that women have always been subject to traditional laws and customs, and should remain so.²⁵

In 2005 and 2006, Afrobarometer also polled eighteen African countries about whether women should have the same chance of being elected to political office as men. Majorities or pluralities in every nation felt that women have the right to hold elected office. On average, 76 percent of people polled said that women should have the same chance of being elected to political office as men, whereas 23 percent said that men make better political leaders than women, and should be elected rather than women.²⁶

Government Intervention

There is strong support for the government taking an active role to further women's rights. Majorities in all nations polled—with large majorities in nearly all cases said that “the government should make an effort to prevent discrimination against women.” Only small minorities endorsed the view that “the government should not be involved in this kind of thing.”

WPO polled twenty-two nations in 2008 about whether the government should make an effort to prevent discrimination against women, and a majority in every nation responded that it should. An average of 81 percent of those answering felt that the government should be involved, whereas only 15 percent felt that it should not.²⁷

Kenya and Mexico had the largest majorities (97 percent and 96 percent, respectively) endorsing such intervention. India was the only country without a large majority favoring government action (53 percent) and the one with the largest minority saying the government should not be involved (38 percent).

Racial and Ethnic Equality

Large majorities in all countries say people of different races and ethnicities should be treated equally. In nearly every country large majorities say that employers should not be allowed to discriminate based on race or ethnicity and that it is the government's responsibility to stop this from happening. In general, large majorities agree that governments should take action to prevent racial discrimination.

In a 2008 WPO poll, majorities in all twenty-two nations polled considered it important for “people of different races and ethnicities to be treated equally.” In seventeen countries, majorities said this is “very important.” On average, 91 percent said that treating people of different races and ethnicities equally is important, with 69 percent saying it is very important. No more than 13 percent in any country said it is not important.²⁸

Overwhelming majorities said racial equality is very important in Mexico (94 percent), China (90 percent), and Great Britain (87 percent), along with large majorities in Kenya (80 percent), the United States (79 percent), Indonesia (75 percent), Jordan (73 percent), and Turkey (73 percent). Smaller numbers agreed in Russia (37 percent), Thailand (39 percent), India (44 percent), and Ukraine (50 percent).

Workplace Discrimination

Majorities in eighteen out of twenty nations agreed that employers should not have the right to discriminate. Asked whether employers should be allowed to “refuse to hire a qualified person because of the person's race or ethnicity,” on average 72 percent said employers should not be able to base hiring decisions on race, while just 21 percent believed they should.

Majorities against workplace discrimination were largest in France (94 percent), China (88 percent), the United States (86 percent), Indonesia (84 percent), Great Britain (83 percent), and Azerbaijan (82 percent).

Thailand and India stand apart from the other countries polled. Thais were divided on whether employers should be allowed to discriminate based on race or ethnicity (37 percent) or whether they should not (38 percent). In India, although a plurality opposed such discrimination, an unusually high 30 percent said that employers should

be allowed to reject jobseekers because of race or ethnicity. Relatively large minorities also agreed that employers should be free to discriminate in Nigeria (34 percent) and South Korea (41 percent), though in both cases, majorities were opposed (64 percent and 58 percent, respectively).²⁹

Majorities in seventeen out of twenty nations believed that the government has the responsibility to stop employers from discriminating. On average, 58 percent of people polled globally believed that the government has the responsibility to take action against such practices, while just 14 percent believed it does not.

Indonesians (80 percent) and the Chinese (77 percent) believed overwhelmingly that the government should try to prevent discriminatory hiring practices, followed by Azerbaijanis (72 percent), the French (69 percent), and Americans (69 percent). More modest majorities agreed in Russia (58 percent), Egypt (56 percent), Nigeria (56 percent), the Palestinian Territories (53 percent), and South Korea (53 percent). Among Thais, 36 percent said the government has this responsibility, while 37 said companies should be allowed to discriminate, and 9 percent believed the government should not be involved.

Two countries differ: Turkey and India. Only 23 percent of Turks said that the government has the responsibility to take measures against workplace discrimination and 43 percent said it does not. Among Indians, just 27 percent said that government has this responsibility, while 20 percent said it does not.³⁰

Wide Support for Government Action

Majorities in publics around the world agree that governments should act to ensure that racial and ethnic minorities are treated equally. On average, 80 percent agreed that the government “should make an effort to prevent discrimination based on a person’s race or ethnicity,” while just 11 percent felt that the government should not be involved.³¹

Support for government action was greatest in South Korea (96 percent), Kenya (95 percent), Mexico (94 percent), China (90 percent; Hong Kong, 78 percent), Nigeria (90 percent), Spain (89 percent), and Indonesia (88 percent). Large majorities also favored such efforts in Great Britain (85 percent), France (85 percent), the United States (83 percent), Argentina (82 percent), Turkey (79 percent), and Iran (76 percent).

Only in India did less than half of the public (46 percent) favor government action. Seventeen percent opposed such action while large numbers were uncertain.

Eurobarometer in March 2008 asked respondents in twenty-seven EU member states whether specific measures should be adopted to provide equal employment opportunities for people of different ethnic origins. Majorities in all twenty-seven countries favored measures such as special training schemes or adapted selection and recruitment processes. In the European average, 72 percent were in favor and 22 percent were opposed.³²

Eurobarometer also asked in March 2008 if respondents in twenty-seven EU member states favored monitoring the composition of the workforce to evaluate the representation of people from ethnic minorities. Twenty-three countries favored such a step, while four were opposed. In the European average, 57 percent supported this monitoring and 33 percent were opposed.³³

In the same poll, respondents in all twenty-seven countries favored monitoring of recruitment procedures to ensure candidates from ethnic minorities are not discriminated against, with a European average of 71 percent supportive and 21 percent were.³⁴

Norms on Torture and Detention

Large majorities support having international rules against torture. However, significant minorities favor making an exception in the case of terrorists who have information that could save innocent

lives. Limited polling has found that views are more mixed on prohibiting threatening torture or treating detainees in a humiliating or degrading manner. Commanders are generally seen as responsible if their subordinates carry out torture. All countries polled disapprove of allowing the United States to use their airspace to conduct extraordinary renditions.

In a July 2006 WPO poll in the United States, Great Britain, Germany, Poland, and India, majorities in four countries approved a rule against physical torture. In the average of all five countries, 61 percent approved a rule against physical torture and 31 percent said this rule was too restrictive. Indians were divided (35 percent approve, 39 percent too restrictive).³⁵

A 2008 WPO poll of twenty-two nations asked whether governments should generally be able to use torture. While, as discussed below, some thought an exception should be made for terrorism-related suspects, across all nations polled, in no case did more than one in five favor generally allowing governments to use torture. On average just 9 percent said there should be no rules against torture. China and Turkey had the largest percentages (18 percent in both) saying governments should generally be allowed to torture, followed by Nigeria (15 percent). France and Great Britain had the lowest (4 percent in both).³⁶

Making Exceptions for Terrorism-Related Suspects

Since the 9/11 attacks there has been substantial discussion of the possibility of using torture when terrorists have information, representing a challenge to the norm against the use of torture established in various international treaties. A 2008 WPO poll sought to find out how much this argument in favor of an exception has gained credence with publics around the world.

Respondents were presented with an argument in favor of allowing the torture of potential terrorists who threaten civilians: "Terrorists pose such an extreme threat that governments should now be allowed to use some degree of torture if it may gain information that would save innocent lives." They were also presented with the argument: "Clear rules against torture should be maintained because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights standards against torture."

In fifteen out of twenty-two nations, a majority or plurality opted for the unequivocal view in favor of fully maintaining the norm, five favored an exception, and one was divided. On average across all nations polled, 57 percent opted for unequivocal rules against torture. However, 35 percent favored an exception when innocent lives are at risk.

Support for the unequivocal position was highest in Spain (82 percent), Great Britain (82 percent), and France (82 percent), followed by Argentina (76 percent), Mexico (73 percent), and China (66 percent). In two countries it was only a plurality: Russia (49 percent) and Iran (43 percent). South Koreans were divided.

The five publics favoring an exception for terrorists when innocent lives are at risk included majorities in India (59 percent), Kenya (58 percent), Nigeria (54 percent), and Turkey (51 percent), and a plurality in Thailand (44 percent).³⁷

However, this support for an exception does not signify a readiness to abandon the norm against torture. As mentioned above, when respondents who favored making an exception were asked whether the government should generally be allowed to use torture, the numbers saying it should were quite small.

All of the nations or territories polled on this topic are signatories to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and parties to the Geneva Conventions forbidding torture and other forms of abuse. All but three have also ratified

the 1987 UN Convention against Torture. India has signed but not ratified the convention, while Iran has not signed it. The Palestinian Territories are not eligible to be a party to the agreement.

A November 2005 Associated Press-Ipsos poll of nine countries from around the world also found some readiness to consider using torture with suspected terrorists. Respondents were asked, "How do you feel about the use of torture against suspected terrorists to obtain information about terrorism activities?" and then asked "Can that often be justified, sometimes be justified, rarely be justified, or never be justified." Eight countries said torture in such a case could "never" or "rarely" be justified, while one country (South Korea) had a modest majority (53 percent) saying it can "often" or "sometimes" be justified. In the average of all nine countries, 63 percent said torture can rarely or never be justified, but 32 percent said it could be justified.³⁸

Trends on Views of Making an Exception for Terrorists

A June-July 2006 poll conducted for the BBC World Service by GlobeScan and the Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA) asked sixteen of the twenty-one nations polled in the aforementioned 2008 WPO poll the same question about making an exception to rules against torture in the case of terrorists. While there has been little change overall, there have been some dramatic shifts within specific countries.³⁹

In 2006 only India had even a modest plurality favoring an exception. But in the 2008 survey, four countries (India, Kenya, Nigeria, and Turkey) had a majority supporting such exceptions, Thailand had a plurality, and South Korea was divided.

Five countries included in both surveys showed dramatic increases in support for allowing the torture of terrorists: India (from 32 percent to 59 percent), Kenya (38 percent to 58 percent), Nigeria (39 percent to 54 percent), Turkey (24 percent to 51 percent), and South Korea (31 percent to 51 percent). Substantial increases also occurred in Egypt (25 percent to 46 percent) and the United States (36 percent to 44 percent).

At the same time, there were equally dramatic increases among those favoring a complete ban on torture. Support grew substantially in Mexico (rising from 50 percent to 73 percent), Spain (65 percent to 82 percent), China (49 percent to 66 percent), Indonesia (51 percent to 61 percent), Great Britain (72 percent to 82 percent), and Russia (43 percent to 49 percent).

On average, support for an exception went up six points, while support for an unequivocal rule went down two points. Thus the net increase in favor of an exception was just four points.

Of the six countries with the largest increases in support for an unequivocal rule against torture, four (Spain, Great Britain, Indonesia, and Russia) suffered major terrorist attacks before the 2006 poll, but have not suffered major attacks since then. Thus it may be that after a terrorist attack the prohibition against using torture weakens, but then over time gradually reasserts itself.

Threatening Torture/Humiliating and Degrading Treatment

Views having a rule against threatening physical torture are more equivocal than views on torture. Majorities in the United States, Germany, and Poland approved such a rule, while Britons and Indians said this was too restrictive. In the average of all five countries, 52 percent favored a rule against threatening physical torture and 39 percent were opposed.

Similarly, on treating detainees in a way that is humiliating or degrading, majorities in the United States, Germany, and Poland approved a rule against, while those in Great Britain and India said this was too restrictive. The average of all five countries, 53 percent approved a rule against and 38 percent said this was too restrictive.⁴⁰

Responsibility of Commanders for Torture

The July 2006 WPO poll also asked respondents in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Poland, and India whether commanders of military personnel should be held responsible for torture by subordinates, even when they claim not to have been aware of it. All five countries said commanders should be held responsible. On average, 61 percent favored holding commanders responsible in such a case and 28 percent said commanders should not be held responsible.⁴¹

Extraordinary Rendition

The same poll also asked publics about whether their country should allow the United States to use their country's airspace to transport a terrorism suspect to a country that has a reputation for using torture (also known as extraordinary rendition). Majorities or pluralities in all four countries said their country should refuse the United States this permission, with an average of 53 percent of respondents opposing and 31 percent in favor of granting it.⁴²

Social and Economic Rights

Large majorities in every country say their government should be responsible to take care of the poor and for ensuring that citizens can meet their basic needs for food, healthcare, and education. However, there are wide variations in how people perceive their governments to be fulfilling these responsibilities.

An October 2007 Pew Global Attitudes Project survey polled forty-seven countries on whether the government should be responsible for taking care of very poor people who cannot care for themselves. Majorities in all forty-seven countries agreed that this is the responsibility of the state. In the global average, 86 percent of respondents agreed and 12 percent disagreed.⁴³

WPO in 2008 explored perceptions of government responsibility for ensuring citizens can meet their needs for food, healthcare, and education.

When asked whether their "government should be responsible for ensuring that its citizens can meet their basic need for food," or whether "you think that is not the government's responsibility," majorities of 70-97 percent in all twenty-one countries said government should be responsible for this function. The average was 87 percent in support of this proposition.⁴⁴

Even the lowest majorities saying the government is responsible in this case were well above half of all respondents, including Indians (70 percent), Americans (74 percent), and Russians (77 percent). The publics with significant numbers saying the government does *not* have the responsibility to ensure access to food included the United States (25 percent), the Palestinian Territories (17 percent), and France (13 percent).

When asked about government responsibility in regard to "the basic need for healthcare," majorities of the same magnitude (70-97 percent) in all countries polled saw ensuring that people can meet this need as one of government's responsibilities. The average majority was 92 percent, and in all but five countries support was greater than 90 percent.⁴⁵

The only publics in which the public gave less than 90-percent support for the government having a responsibility to provide healthcare included in India (70 percent), the United States (77 percent), the Palestinian Territories (79 percent), Egypt (81 percent), and Thailand (88 percent). The publics with the highest numbers saying that the government did not have such a responsibility were Americans (21 percent), the Palestinians (19 percent), and Egyptians (14 percent).

On education, majorities ranging from 64 to 98 percent also saw the government as responsible for ensuring that people can meet their basic needs. The average majority in support of government providing education was 91 percent across the twenty-one countries, and in only six nations do majorities of less than 90 percent take this position. Egyptians had the largest minority saying the government is not responsible for education (19 percent), followed by Americans (16 percent).⁴⁶

¹ WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008

As you may know, the members of the UN General Assembly have agreed on a set of principles called the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Some people say the United Nations should actively promote such human rights principles in member states. Others say this is improper interference in a country's internal affairs and human rights should be left to each country. Do you think the UN SHOULD or SHOULD NOT actively promote human rights in member states?

	Should	Should not	DK / NS
Argentina	91	4	5
Mexico	85	12	3
United States	70	25	5
France	76	20	4
Germany	91	8	2
Great Britain	68	24	8
Italy	81	14	5
Russia	55	29	16
Ukraine	73	9	18
Azerbaijan	89	8	4
Egypt	64	33	3
Jordan	50	33	17
Palestinian Territories	54	41	5
Turkey	60	19	20
Kenya	94	4	2
Nigeria	87	12	1
China	62	16	22
Hong Kong	73	16	12
Macau	68	15	17
India	55	26	19
Indonesia	70	13	17
South Korea	62	35	4
Taiwan	78	12	10
Thailand	44	25	31
Average	70	19	10

² WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008

Would you like to see the UN do more, do less, or do about the same as it has been doing to promote human rights principles?

	Do more	Do less	Do about the same as it has been doing	DK / NS
Argentina	85	2	8	5
Mexico	88	2	8	2

United States	59	7	28	5
France	64	6	26	4
Germany	58	7	34	2
Great Britain	64	6	22	8
Italy	83	6	8	3
Russia	45	8	23	24
Ukraine	57	4	18	22
Azerbaijan	58	9	29	4
Egypt	55	22	22	1
Jordan	62	17	8	13
Palestinian Territories	48	23	26	3
Turkey	69	7	8	16
Kenya	91	5	3	1
Nigeria	88	7	4	1
China	51	5	15	29
Hong Kong	65	2	26	7
Macau	65	1	22	12
India	54	14	16	17
Indonesia	66	6	12	17
South Korea	69	3	25	3
Taiwan	62	2	25	11
Thailand	60	7	13	20
Average	65	8	17	10

³ WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008

Thinking about specific steps that could be taken to strengthen the United Nations, would favor or oppose...giving the UN the authority to go into countries in order to investigate violations of human rights?

	Favor	Oppose	DK/NS
Argentina	46	29	24
Peru	75	23	3
United States	75	22	3
Armenia	67	16	18
France	92	8	1
Great Britain	86	11	3
Poland	58	14	28
Russia	64	17	19
Ukraine	66	13	21
Azerbaijan	77	11	12
Egypt	51	49	0
Iran	54	22	25

Israel	64	31	5
Turkey	47	25	28
Kenya	81	17	2
Nigeria	83	15	3
China	57	28	16
India	54	29	17
Indonesia	71	14	15
Philippines	46	46	9
South Korea	74	25	2
Thailand	52	26	22
Average	65	22	13

⁴ WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008

Do you think the UN should make efforts to further the rights of women or do you think this is improper interference in a country's internal affairs?

	Make efforts to further the rights of women	Improper interference in a country's internal affairs	DK / NS
Argentina	78	18	4
Mexico	88	9	3
United States	59	38	2
France	74	19	7
Great Britain	70	26	5
Russia	52	30	18
Ukraine	69	16	16
Azerbaijan	66	23	11
Egypt	30	70	
Iran	52	36	12
Palestinian Territories	49	48	3
Turkey	70	20	11
Kenya	91	8	1
Nigeria	66	32	2
China	86	10	4
Hong Kong	67	23	10
India	48	28	24
Indonesia	74	16	10
South Korea	78	21	1
Thailand	64	21	15
Average	66	26	8

⁵ World Values Survey 2005-2008

Some people believe that certain kinds of problems could be better handled by the United Nations or regional organizations rather than by each national government separately. Others think that these problems should be left entirely to the national governments. I'm going to mention some problems. For each one, would you tell me whether you think that policies in this area should be decided by the national governments, by regional organizations, or by the United Nations?

Human Rights

	National governments	Regional Organization	United Nations	DK/NR
Italy	27	15	51	8
Spain	16	14	56	13
United States	44	18	33	5
Japan	27	11	47	16
Mexico	41	9	41	8
South Africa	58	15	23	4
Australia	29	9	57	5
Sweden	16	9	73	2
Argentina	39	4	39	18
Finland	33	8	56	3
South Korea	49	10	40	0
Poland	49	7	41	3
Switzerland	25	8	62	4
Brazil	44	11	39	7
Chile	52	7	34	8
India	36	10	13	41
Slovenia	39	30	20	10
Bulgaria	34	26	30	11
Romania	43	10	30	17
China	32	4	17	48
Taiwan	54	10	32	4
Turkey	41	12	39	8
Ukraine	57	14	19	10
Ghana	67	9	22	3
Moldova	55	17	24	4
Thailand	50	24	26	0
Indonesia	55	3	35	8
Vietnam	59	5	27	8
Serbia	50	8	34	9
Egypt	45	15	37	3
Morocco	34	6	42	18
Jordan	21	15	50	13
Cyprus	33	29	37	1
Trinidad & Tobago	45	11	40	3
Andorra	27	8	62	3
Malaysia	38	29	34	0
Burkina Faso	33	6	46	15
Ethiopia	20	12	55	13
Mali	36	8	45	12
Rwanda	29	37	32	3
Zambia	54	13	26	6
Germany	21	19	55	5

Average 40 13 37 10

⁶ AsiaBarometer 2006

I'm going to mention some issues. For each one, would you tell me whether you think that policies in this area should be decided by the national governments, by regional organizations (such as ASEAN [Association of South East Asian Nations] and APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation]), or by the United Nations?

Human rights

	National Government	Regional Organization	United Nations
Taiwan	53.6	12.4	31.6
Singapore	35.2	11.6	46.6
Korea	25.3	18.2	50.9
Japan	53.4	15.7	40.7
Hong Kong	51.3	11.8	35.9
China	71.7	14.5	12.7

⁷ WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008

How important is it for people to have the right to express any opinion, including criticisms of the government or religious leaders? Is that very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all	Depends (vol.)	DK / NS
Argentina	84	10	3	1	0	1
Mexico	87	8	2	1	0	1
United States	76	22	1	1	0	1
France	68	28	3	1	0	0
Germany	75	20	3	0	1	0
Great Britain	79	18	2	0	1	1
Italy	80	15	3	1	1	1
Russia	34	42	13	2	4	4
Ukraine	52	35	6	1	3	3
Azerbaijan	50	25	10	3	8	5
Egypt	43	37	18	2	2	0
Jordan	65	21	6	3	0	5
Palestinian Territories	67	27	3	2	0	2
Turkey	67	18	6	3	2	5
Kenya	74	20	4	2	1	0
Nigeria	86	9	2	3	0	0
Hong Kong	44	45	7	1	2	2
Macau	47	35	7	1	3	8
India	48	21	5	13	9	4
Indonesia	82	12	1	0	0	4

South Korea	56	38	5	0	1	1
Taiwan	53	38	5	1	1	2
Thailand	58	18	2	3	15	5
Average	66	22	5	2	2	2

⁸ Pew Global Attitudes Project 2007

As I read a list of things that you can and cannot do in some countries, please tell me how important each is to you. How important is it to you to live in a country where? Is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

Where you can openly say what you think and can criticize the (state or government)

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not important at all	DK/ Refused
Argentina	65	30	3	1	2
Bolivia	47	41	9	2	1
Brazil	63	30	6	2	0
Chile	71	23	4	0	2
Mexico	48	43	7	1	2
Peru	65	27	5	2	2
Venezuela	57	38	4	1	0
Bulgaria	48	35	11	1	5
Czech Republic	45	32	16	6	1
Poland	43	49	6	0	1
Russia	34	46	15	3	2
Slovakia	48	30	17	4	1
Ukraine	38	46	11	4	1
Turkey	61	25	9	1	4
Egypt	80	5	14	1	1
Jordan	62	29	7	2	1
Kuwait	37	28	13	19	4
Lebanon	86	11	3	0	0
Morocco	63	18	4	1	15
Palestinian Territories	57	27	8	4	5
Pakistan	58	24	4	1	13
Bangladesh	61	29	8	1	1
Indonesia	47	39	12	1	1
Malaysia	33	42	19	5	1
India	54	36	7	2	1
Ethiopia	67	30	2	0	1
Ghana	50	37	9	4	0
Ivory Coast	64	28	6	3	0
Kenya	68	23	8	2	0
Mali	61	27	7	4	0
Nigeria	70	26	3	1	1
Senegal	59	29	8	4	0
South Africa	47	36	11	5	1
Tanzania	73	16	7	3	1

Uganda	55	31	9	3	2
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⁹ Afrobarometer 2005-2006

Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

	Government should not allow the expression of political views that are fundamentally different from the views of the majority.	People should be able to speak their minds about politics free of government influence, no matter how unpopular their view may be.	Do not agree with either.	DK
Benin	25	73	1	2
Botswana	16	82	1	1
Cape Verde	14	72	4	10
Ghana	18	79	1	2
Kenya	20	76	2	2
Lesotho	16	83	1	0
Madagascar	14	73	2	10
Malawi	29	69	1	2
Mali	38	60	1	1
Mozambique	34	55	3	8
Namibia	34	63	2	1
Nigeria	25	73	2	1
Senegal	23	70	2	5
South Africa	20	73	3	4
Tanzania	44	43	4	8
Uganda	25	73	2	0
Zambia	15	81	3	1
Zimbabwe	11	87	1	0
Average	23	71	2	3

¹⁰ WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008

Do you think the government should or should not have the right to prohibit certain political or religious views from being discussed?

	Should have the right	Should not have the right	DK / NS
Argentina	29	69	2
Mexico	20	76	3
United States	13	85	2
France	27	71	2
Germany	41	56	3
Great Britain	39	53	7
Italy	30	63	7
Russia	29	55	16
Ukraine	29	63	9

Azerbaijan	32	64	4
Egypt	49	49	3
Jordan	41	47	12
Palestinian Territories	33	64	3
Turkey	25	64	11
Kenya	67	33	0
Nigeria	47	51	1
Hong Kong	16	78	6
India	38	44	18
Indonesia	55	32	12
South Korea	14	85	2
Taiwan*	15	81	5
Thailand	63	16	21
Average	36	57	7

¹¹ WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008

Do you think that:

	A. People should have the right to demonstrate peacefully to protest against the government	B. The government should have the right to ban peaceful demonstrations that it thinks would be politically destabilizing	DK / NS
Mexico	84	11	4
United States	94	5	2
France	91	7	2
Germany	84	15	1
Great Britain	87	11	2
Italy	87	10	3
Russia	76	17	7
Ukraine	82	11	7
Azerbaijan	72	28	1
Egypt	55	42	3
Jordan	53	35	12
Palestinian Territories	65	33	2
Turkey	67	21	12
Kenya	72	28	0
Nigeria	83	17	1
Hong Kong	82	11	8
Macau	72	16	12
India	68	20	12
Indonesia	83	10	8

South Korea	66	32	3
Taiwan	78	13	9
Thailand	55	29	17
Average	75	20	5

¹² **WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008**

How important is it for the media to be free to publish news and ideas without government control?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all	Depends (vol)	DK / NS
Argentina	70	24	4	1	0	0
Mexico	79	15	4	0	1	1
Peru	65	31	3	0	0	1
United States	56	32	10	1	0	1
France	54	26	11	5	3	1
Britain	65	23	7	4	1	1
Russia	23	41	21	5	5	6
Ukraine	39	35	13	5	3	6
Azerbaijan	52	34	5	5	3	1
Egypt	64	33	2	0	0	0
Iran	29	36	9	8	3	16
Jordan	50	28	12	7	0	4
Palestinian Territories	52	30	12	5	0	1
Turkey	56	18	9	9	3	5
Kenya	70	21	7	2	0	0
Nigeria	54	37	6	1	1	1
China	58	27	10	1	2	2
Hong Kong*	56	29	4	0	8	3
India	34	18	8	6	33	2
Indonesia	42	31	13	3	2	8
South Korea	64	29	6	1	0	0
Thailand	45	28	6	1	16	5
Average	53	28	8	3	4	3

¹³ **Pew Global Attitudes Project 2007**

As I read a list of things that you can and cannot do in some countries, please tell me how important each is to you. How important is it to you to live in a country where (see below)? Is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

The media can report the news without (state or government) censorship

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not important at all	DK/Refused
Argentina	65	29	3	1	3
Bolivia	36	44	13	3	3
Brazil	58	31	8	2	1
Chile	71	23	4	1	2
Mexico	51	36	9	2	3
Peru	71	23	2	1	2
Venezuela	57	28	5	0	0
Bulgaria	66	25	4	1	4
Czech Republic	69	20	8	2	1
Poland	51	36	9	1	3
Russia	40	41	13	3	3
Slovakia	65	20	10	4	2
Ukraine	58	32	7	1	2
Turkey	50	27	12	3	7
Egypt	75	11	5	8	2
Jordan	45	48	1	5	1
Kuwait	53	23	7	13	4
Lebanon	72	16	8	4	1
Morocco	62	24	5	1	9
Palestinian Territories	49	25	12	6	8
Pakistan	50	24	7	3	16
Bangladesh	43	30	10	4	13
Indonesia	33	44	18	5	1
Malaysia	32	43	20	3	1
India	51	36	8	3	2
Ethiopia	73	22	3	2	1
Ghana	46	37	12	3	1
Ivory Coast	38	33	18	11	0
Kenya	72	22	5	1	0
Mali	55	30	10	4	0
Nigeria	69	25	4	1	1
Senegal	46	29	16	9	0
South Africa	47	34	12	5	3
Tanzania	55	13	9	20	2
Uganda	58	30	7	2	3

¹⁴ WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008

Do you think people in [country] should or should not have the right to read publications from all other countries, including those that might be considered enemies?

	Should	Should not	DK / NS
Argentina	92	7	1
Mexico	95	3	2
United States	92	7	1
France	82	15	4

Great Britain	89	7	4
Poland	84	7	9
Russia	71	15	14
Ukraine	82	8	10
Azerbaijan	73	14	13
Egypt	74	26	
Iran	79	6	16
Palestine	72	23	5
Turkey	74	18	9
Kenya	84	15	0
Nigeria	91	8	1
China	78	17	5
Hong Kong*	86	8	6
India	56	33	11
Indonesia	84	7	9
South Korea	73	26	1
Thailand	79	7	13
Average	80	13	6

¹⁵ **WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008**

Do you think people in [country] should have the right to read whatever is on the Internet or do you think the government should have the right to prevent people from having access to some things on the internet?

	People should have the right to read whatever is on the internet	Government should have the right to prevent people from having access to some things on the Internet	DK / NS
Argentina	84	13	3
Mexico	67	28	5
United States	75	24	1
France	52	44	4
Great Britain	61	35	5
Russia	57	27	17
Ukraine	64	21	16
Azerbaijan	79	12	10
Egypt	65	35	
Iran	32	44	24
Jordan	29	63	9
Palestinian Territories	52	44	4
Turkey	60	30	10
Kenya	59	38	2

Nigeria	72	23	5
China	71	21	8
Hong Kong	80	9	12
India	52	36	12
Indonesia	65	24	12
South Korea	69	31	0
Thailand	75	11	13
Average	62	30	8

¹⁶ **WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008**

Which view is closer to yours? Do you think:

	The media should have the right to publish news and ideas without government control.	The government should have the right to prevent the media from publishing things that it thinks will be politically destabilizing.	DK / NS
Argentina	80	16	4
Mexico	77	17	6
Peru	83	12	5
United States	72	27	1
France	70	26	4
Great Britain	69	28	3
Poland	78	13	9
Russia	45	44	12
Ukraine	59	31	10
Azerbaijan	55	34	11
Egypt	49	52	
Iran	31	45	24
Jordan	26	66	8
Palestinian Territories	36	59	6
Turkey	45	42	13
Kenya	67	33	
Nigeria	71	28	1
China	53	42	5
Hong Kong	76	18	6
India	42	33	25
Indonesia	35	56	9
South Korea	72	26	1
Thailand	48	37	15
Average	57	35	8

¹⁷ BBC November 2007

Which of the following statements on the freedom of the press is closest to your own view?

	Freedom of the press to report the news truthfully is very important to ensure we live in a fair society, even if it sometimes leads to unpleasant debates or social unrest.	While freedom of the press to report news truthfully is important, social harmony and peace are more important which sometimes means controlling what is reported for the greater good.	DK/NA
United States	70	28	2
Venezuela	64	36	
Brazil	52	48	
Mexico	51	46	3
Great Britain	67	29	4
Germany	67	26	7
Russia	39	47	14
Egypt	55	45	
United Arab Emirates	51	48	1
South Africa	63	34	3
Kenya	62	37	1
Nigeria	56	43	1
Singapore	43	48	9
India	41	48	11

¹⁸ Afrobarometer 2005-2006

Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

	Government should close newspapers that print false stories or information.	The news media should be free to publish any story that they see fit without fear of being shut down.	Do not agree with either.	DK
Benin	60	34	1	5
Botswana	25	71	3	1
Cape Verde	21	60	8	11
Ghana	36	55	2	6
Kenya	38	50	6	5
Lesotho	36	62	1	1
Madagascar	35	51	3	11
Malawi	47	50	1	2
Mali	55	41	2	2

Mozambique	20	67	3	10
Namibia	42	52	3	2
Nigeria	35	61	3	2
Senegal	49	37	7	6
South Africa	28	62	5	5
Tanzania	54	31	5	10
Uganda	41	56	2	1
Zambia	29	63	6	2
Zimbabwe	20	78	2	1
Average	37	55	4	5

¹⁹ **WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008**

How important do you think it is for people of different religions to be treated equally? Would you say it is very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all	Depends (vol.)	DK / NS
Argentina	90	7	1	0	0	1
Mexico	83	11	3	1	0	1
United States	77	18	3	1		1
France	66	28	3	2	1	0
Germany	67	26	4	1	2	0
Great Britain	70	22	2	3	2	1
Italy	66	25	4	2	2	1
Poland	40	46	8	3		4
Russia	34	44	8	3	6	5
Ukraine	44	40	6	2	4	4
Azerbaijan	57	31	4	3	3	1
Egypt	29	45	18	6	2	1
Jordan	59	26	6	5		5
Palestinian Territories	52	36	10	1		2
Turkey	75	15	4	2	2	2
Kenya	83	16	1	0		
Nigeria	83	11	4	1	0	0
Hong Kong	54	38	4	1	1	1
Macau	56	29	5	1	2	7
India	56	20	2	13	6	4
Indonesia	82	13	2	0	1	2
South Korea	67	26	6	0	0	1
Taiwan	67	23	5	1	1	3
Thailand	61	16	6	3	8	6

Average	64	25	5	2	2	2
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²⁰ **Pew Global Attitudes Project October 2007**

As I read a list of things that you can and cannot do in some countries, please tell me how important each is to you. How important is it to you to live in a country where (see below)? Is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

You can practice your religion freely

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not important at all	DK/ Refused
Argentina	65	30	3	0	1
Bolivia	48	41	8	1	2
Brazil	77	20	2	1	0
Chile	76	19	3	1	2
Mexico	52	34	9	3	2
Peru	72	23	3	1	1
Venezuela	54	41	4	0	0
Bulgaria	49	30	12	4	5
Czech Republic	48	27	16	9	0
Poland	62	33	4	0	1
Russia	45	37	11	5	3
Slovakia	64	21	11	4	0
Ukraine	54	31	8	3	3
Turkey	70	18	7	1	3
Egypt	90	2	7	1	1
Jordan	73	24	0	4	0
Kuwait	90	6	1	1	1
Lebanon	85	8	6	1	0
Morocco	71	18	1	0	9
Palestinian Territories	74	15	4	3	4
Pakistan	68	18	4	1	9
Bangladesh	75	20	4	1	1
Indonesia	80	19	1	0	0
Malaysia	60	32	6	1	1
India	64	29	5	1	1
Ethiopia	92	8	0	0	1
Ghana	71	25	4	1	0
Ivory Coast	88	11	1	0	0
Kenya	83	14	2	0	0
Mali	86	12	1	0	0
Nigeria	86	12	1	1	0
Senegal	95	5	0	0	0
South Africa	68	27	3	1	1
Tanzania	92	6	1	1	1
Uganda	78	18	2	1	1

²¹ **WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008**

Do you think:

	A. Followers of any religion should be allowed to assemble and practice in [country].	There are some religions that people should not be allowed to practice in [country].	DK / NS
Mexico	76	19	5
United States	67	28	5
France	72	26	2
Germany	61	36	3
Great Britain	59	33	9
Italy	64	30	6
Poland	77	16	7
Russia	50	38	12
Ukraine	30	54	16
Azerbaijan	71	26	3
Egypt	31	67	3
Jordan	39	51	9
Palestinian Territories	56	43	2
Turkey	80	12	8
Kenya	75	25	0
Nigeria	77	22	1
Hong Kong	65	25	10
Macau	51	33	16
India	63	18	18
Indonesia	65	28	7
South Korea	48	50	2
Taiwan	75	14	12
Thailand	63	13	24
Average	61	32	7

²² **WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008**

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: "In [country], people of any religion should be free to try to convert members of other religions to join theirs."

	Agree	Disagree	DK/NS
Mexico	56	40	4
United States	58	38	4
France	33	64	3
Germany	49	46	6
Great Britain	37	57	7
Italy	44	53	3
Poland	27	60	14

Russia	23	62	15
Ukraine	30	48	22
Azerbaijan	32	63	5
Egypt	30	67	3
Jordan	34	60	7
Palestinian Territories	18	78	4
Turkey	34	55	10
Kenya	74	25	0
Nigeria	78	20	2
Hong Kong	63	30	8
Macau	58	31	11
India	33	52	15
Indonesia	17	72	12
South Korea	79	20	1
Taiwan	83	11	6
Thailand	36	45	18
Average	41	51	8

²³ **WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008**

How important do you think it is for women to have full equality of rights compared to men? Would you say that is very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all	Depends (vol.)	DK / NS
Argentina	71	24	3	0	1	1
Mexico	89	9	2	0	0	0
United States	77	20	2	1	0	1
France	75	22	2	2	0	0
Great Britain	89	9	1	0	1	0
Russia	35	41	17	3	1	3
Ukraine	44	35	15	3	1	2
Azerbaijan	55	30	11	3	1	1
Egypt	31	59	9	1	0	0
Iran	44	34	5	3	2	12
Jordan	55	28	10	5	0	2
Palestinian Territories	54	29	9	7	0	1
Turkey	80	11	3	3	2	1
Kenya	66	24	8	1	0	0
Nigeria	44	32	15	9	1	0

China	76	19	2	1	0	1
Hong Kong	41	42	5	1	9	1
India	41	19	6	6	26	1
Indonesia	71	20	4	1	1	3
South Korea	43	43	13	2	0	0
Thailand	49	35	3	1	10	3
Average	59	27	7	3	2	2

²⁴ **World Values Survey 2005-2008**

Many things may be desirable, but not all of them are essential characteristics of democracy. Please tell me for each of the following things how essential you think it is as a characteristic of democracy. Use this scale where 1 means “not at all an essential characteristic of democracy” and 10 means it definitely is “an essential characteristic of democracy.”

Women have the same rights as men.

Spain	8.91
United States	8.58
Japan	8.27
Mexico	8.23
South Africa	8.09
Australia	9.21
Sweden	9.84
Argentina	9.47
Finland	9.17
South Korea	8.27
Poland	9.02
Poland	9.02
Switzerland	9.27
Brazil	8.44
Chile	8.54
India	8.21
Slovenia	8.89
Bulgaria	8.69
Romania	9.35
China	9.04
Taiwan	9.05
Turkey	8.77
Ukraine	8.35
Peru	8.93
Ghana	8.49
Moldova	8.7
Thailand	7.58
Indonesia	8.09
Vietnam	9.32
Serbia	8.61
Egypt	7.85
Morocco	7.61
Jordan	7.71
Cyprus	8.82

Trinidad and Tobago	8.85
Andorra	9.6
Malaysia	6.73
Burkina Faso	8.34
Ethiopia	9.05
Mali	7.88
Rwanda	7.8
Zambia	7.72
Germany	9.13
Average	8.53

²⁵ **Afrobarometer 2005-2006**

Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Choose Statement A or Statement B.

A: In our country, women should have equal rights and receive the same treatment as men do.

B: Women have always been subject to traditional laws and customs, and should remain so.

	Agree very strongly with A	Agree with A	Agree with B	Agree very strongly with B	Agree with neither	Don't know
Benin	71	8	7	13	0	
Botswana	42	25	11	19	3	1
Cape Verde	62	17	10	7	2	2
Ghana	56	26	10	8	0	0
Kenya	50	19	15	14	2	0
Lesotho	30	10	10	48	1	0
Madagascar	35	43	17	5	0	0
Malawi	53	4	3	39	1	1
Mali	27	28	21	23	1	0
Mozambique	55	26	9	5	2	2
Namibia	44	35	14	6	1	0
Nigeria	36	28	18	16	2	0
Senegal	32	24	22	19	2	1
South Africa	49	34	8	5	2	2
Tanzania	76	12	5	5	1	1
Uganda	47	22	14	16	1	0
Zambia	47	29	10	10	4	0
Average	47	24	12	15	2	1

²⁶ **Afrobarometer 2005-2006**

Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Choose Statement A or Statement B.

A: Women should have the same chance of being elected to political office as men.

B: Men make better political leaders than women, and should be elected rather than women.

	Agree very strongly with A	Agree with A	Agree with B	Agree very strongly with B	Agree with neither	Don't know
Benin	75	10	7	8	0	
Botswana	55	28	9	7	2	1
Cape Verde	64	19	6	9	1	2
Ghana	58	26	9	7	0	0
Kenya	57	24	10	7	2	0

Lesotho	37	14	11	36	2	0
Madagascar	34	47	13	4	0	1
Malawi	76	4	3	16	0	1
Mali	33	30	16	20	1	1
Mozambique	54	27	8	5	3	3
Namibia	41	26	20	12	1	0
Nigeria	33	25	19	20	1	0
Senegal	42	30	15	12	1	1
South Africa	47	33	9	7	3	1
Tanzania	77	13	3	6	1	0
Uganda	54	25	11	10	1	0
Zambia	43	27	13	14	2	1
Zimbabwe	43	24	10	21	3	0
Average	51	25	11	12	1	1

²⁷ **WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008**

Do you think the government should make an effort to prevent discrimination against women or do you think the government should not be involved in this kind of thing?

	Should make an effort	Should not be involved	DK / NR
Argentina	74	24	2
Mexico	96	3	1
United States	82	17	1
France	88	11	2
Great Britain	88	11	1
Russia	74	14	12
Spain	89	9	3
Ukraine	77	14	9
Azerbaijan	77	15	9
Egypt	77	23	0
Iran	70	18	12
Jordan	71	22	7
Palestinian Territories	77	17	6
Turkey	85	11	4
Kenya	97	3	
Nigeria	76	23	1
China	86	11	3
Hong Kong	70	24	6
India	53	38	9
Indonesia	93	6	2
South Korea	87	12	1
Thailand	83	9	8

Average	81	15	4
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²⁸ WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008

How important is it for people of different races and ethnicities to be treated equally?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all	Depends (vol)	DK / NS
Argentina	72	24	3	1	1	0
Mexico	94	5	1	0	0	0
Peru	70	28	2	0	0	1
United States	79	17	2	1	0	1
France	69	25	2	2	1	1
Great Britain	87	10	1	0	0	1
Russia	37	46	10	3	1	3
Ukraine	50	37	8	2	1	3
Azerbaijan	68	21	8	2	1	1
Egypt	71	26	3	0	0	0
Iran	62	20	2	1	0	14
Jordan	73	17	5	2	0	2
Palestinian Territories	70	23	5	2	0	1
Turkey	73	15	5	3	2	2
Kenya	80	17	3	0	0	0
Nigeria	71	25	3	1	1	0
China	90	8	1	0	0	1
Hong Kong	47	41	4	1	6	1
India	44	15	5	5	30	2
Indonesia	75	14	5	1	2	3
South Korea	71	23	5	1	0	0
Thailand	39	36	6	2	13	4
Average	69	22	4	1	2	2

²⁹ WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008

Do you think that employers should or should not be allowed to refuse to hire a qualified person because of the person's race or ethnicity?

	Should	Should not	DK / NS
Argentina	23	73	4
Mexico	24	72	3
United States	13	86	1

France	6	94	1
Great Britain	16	83	1
Russia	18	72	10
Ukraine	15	77	9
Azerbaijan	8	82	10
Egypt	25	75	0
Iran	12	72	16
Palestinian Territories	23	74	3
Turkey	18	72	10
Kenya	28	72	1
Nigeria	34	64	1
China	10	88	3
Hong Kong	6	88	6
India	30	43	27
Indonesia	13	84	3
South Korea	41	58	1
Thailand	37	38	25
Average	21	72	7

³⁰ WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008

Do you think the government has the responsibility to try to prevent employers from refusing to hire someone because of a person's race or ethnicity or do you think the government should not be involved in this kind of thing?

	Has responsibility	Should not be involved	Should be allowed to hire	not to hire	DK / NS
Argentina	60	16	23	2	2
Mexico	64	9	24	2	2
United States	69	17	13	1	1
France	69	23	6	3	3
Great Britain	69	13	16	2	2
Russia	58	13	18	11	11
Ukraine	65	10	15	10	10
Azerbaijan	72	9	8	10	10
Egypt	56	19	25	0	0
Iran	61	5	12	22	22
Palestinian Territories	53	19	23	4	4
Turkey	23	43	18	16	16
Kenya	63	9	28	0	0
Nigeria	56	8	35	1	1
China	77	11	10	3	3

Hong Kong	66	22	6	6
India	27	20	30	24
Indonesia	80	3	13	4
South Korea	53	6	41	0
Thailand	36	9	37	18
Average	58	14	21	7

³¹ WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008

Do you think the government should make an effort to prevent discrimination based on a person's race or ethnicity or do you think the government should not be involved in this kind of thing?

	Should make an effort	Should not be involved	Government does too much (vol.)	DK / NS
Argentina	82	14	2	3
Mexico	94	5	1	1
United States	83	17	0	0
France	85	12	1	3
Great Britain	85	13	0	2
Russia	71	11	4	14
Spain	89	8	0	3
Ukraine	71	16	3	10
Azerbaijan	70	11	12	7
Egypt	73	27	1	0
Iran	76	10	0	14
Palestinian Territories	64	15	17	4
Turkey	79	8	4	9
Kenya	95	5	0	0
Nigeria	90	8	2	0
China	90	8	0	2
Hong Kong	78	17	1	5
India	46	17	6	31
Indonesia	88	8	2	2
South Korea	96	4	0	0
Thailand	64	10	10	16
Average	80	11	3	6

³² Eurobarometer March 2008

Would you be in favor of or opposed to specific measures being adopted to provide equal opportunities for everyone in the field of employment? Measures such as for example special training schemes or adapted recruitment processes, for people depending on their...

Ethnic origin

	In favor	Opposed	DK
Belgium	65	35	
Bulgaria	76	13	11
Czech Republic	65	29	6
Denmark	69	29	2
German	69	26	5
Estonia	83	13	4
Greece	76	24	
Spain	85	9	6
France	73	22	5
Ireland	74	15	11
Italy	61	31	8
Republic of Cyprus	72	25	3
Latvia	66	25	9
Lithuania	77	14	9
Luxembourg	79	14	7
Hungary	77	19	4
Malta	68	23	9
The Netherlands	69	30	1
Austria	54	36	10
Poland	75	15	10
Portugal	74	19	7
Romania	71	17	12
Slovenia	75	23	2
Slovakia	78	17	5
Finland	72	26	2
Sweden	69	27	4
United Kingdom	78	18	4
Average	72	22	6

³³ Eurobarometer March 2008

To what extent do you oppose the following in the workplace?

Monitoring the composition of the work-force to evaluate the representation of people from ethnic minorities

	Support	Opposed	DK
Belgium	61	37	2
Bulgaria	61	18	21
Czech Republic	54	38	8
Denmark	71	26	3
German	40	54	6
Estonia	53	35	12
Greece	77	22	1
Spain	65	18	17
France	55	36	9
Ireland	71	17	12
Italy	59	30	11

Republic of Cyprus	78	13	9
Latvia	41	45	14
Lithuania	59	24	17
Luxembourg	52	33	15
Hungary	70	21	9
Malta	59	12	29
The Netherlands	59	38	3
Austria	42	46	12
Poland	52	31	17
Portugal	65	23	12
Romania	57	21	22
Slovenia	50	43	7
Slovakia	42	49	9
Finland	61	32	7
Sweden	50	46	4
United Kingdom	66	26	8
Average	57	33	10

³⁴ Eurobarometer March 2008

To what extent do you support or oppose the following in the work place?

Monitoring the recruitment procedures to ensure that candidates from ethnic minorities have the same chance of being selected for interview or hired as other candidates with similar skills and qualifications

	Support	Opposed	DK
Belgium	77	22	1
Bulgaria	73	10	17
Czech Republic	68	26	6
Denmark	84	12	4
German	58	38	4
Estonia	76	16	8
Greece	76	24	
Spain	72	14	14
France	80	14	6
Ireland	78	10	12
Italy	66	26	8
Republic of Cyprus	77	17	6
Latvia	71	19	10
Lithuania	71	18	11
Luxembourg	77	13	10
Hungary	78	14	8
Malta	60	16	24
The Netherlands	82	17	1
Austria	55	34	11
Poland	67	19	14
Portugal	76	14	10
Romania	67	14	19
Slovenia	72	23	5
Slovakia	66	27	7
Finland	78	19	3

Sweden	83	16	1
United Kingdom	78	17	5
Average	71	21	8

³⁵ **WorldPublicOpinion.org July 2006**

As you may know, the [COUNTRY] has signed treaties that limit what a government can do to pressure detainees to give information. Here are some methods that are not allowed. For each one please say whether you approve of having a rule against it or if you think such a rule is too restrictive.

Using physical torture

	Approve rule against	Rule too restrictive	DK/NA
United States	75	21	4
Great Britain	53	45	2
Germany	76	21	3
Poland	67	27	6
India	35	39	27

Threatening physical torture

	Approve rule against	Rule too restrictive	DK/NA
United States	60	37	3
Great Britain	43	53	4
Germany	69	28	3
Poland	54	38	8
India	33	39	28

Treating detainees in a way that is humiliating or degrading

	Approve rule against	Rule too restrictive	DK/NA
United States	61	36	4
Great Britain	43	53	4
Germany	72	25	3
Poland	59	32	8
India	32	42	25

³⁶ **WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008**

Most countries have agreed to rules that prohibit torturing prisoners. Which position is closer to yours?

	Clear rules should be maintained	Should be rules prohibiting torture in all other cases - Depends - DK	Governments should be allowed to use torture	DK/NS
Argentina	76	13	5	6

Mexico	73	17	7	3
United States	53	31	13	3
France	82	12	4	2
Great Britain	82	11	4	3
Poland	62	20	7	11
Russia	49	29	7	15
Spain	82	6	6	7
Ukraine	59	18	8	15
Azerbaijan	54	26	8	12
Egypt	54	40	6	0
Iran	43	28	8	22
Palestinian Territories	66	23	5	6
Turkey	36	34	18	13
Kenya	41	44	14	2
Nigeria	41	39	15	5
China	66	10	18	6
Hong Kong	67	9	13	12
India	28	47	12	13
Indonesia	61	29	6	5
South Korea	48	38	13	1
Thailand	36	34	10	19
Average	57	26	9	8

³⁷ WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008

Most countries have agreed to rules that prohibit torturing prisoners. Which position is closer to yours?

	Terrorists pose such an extreme threat that governments should now be allowed to use some degree of torture if it may gain information that saves innocent lives	Clear rules against torture should be maintained because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights standards against torture	DK/NS
Argentina	18	76	6
Mexico	24	73	3
United States	44	53	3
France	16	82	2
Great Britain	16	82	3
Poland	27	62	11
Russia	36	49	15
Spain	11	82	7
Ukraine	26	59	15
Azerbaijan	33	54	12
Egypt	46	54	0
Iran	35	43	22
Palestinian Territories	28	66	6
Turkey	51	36	13
Kenya	58	41	2
Nigeria	54	41	5
China	28	66	6
Hong Kong	22	67	12
India	59	28	13

	Clear rules should be maintained	Should be rules prohibiting torture in all other cases - Depends - DK	Governments should be allowed to use torture	DK/NS
Indonesia	34		61	5
South Korea	51		48	1
Thailand	44		36	19
Average	35		57	8
	Clear rules should be maintained	Should be rules prohibiting torture in all other cases - Depends - DK	Governments should be allowed to use torture	DK/NS
Argentina	76	13	5	6
Mexico	73	17	7	3
United States	53	31	13	3
France	82	12	4	2
Great Britain	82	11	4	3
Poland	62	20	7	11
Russia	49	29	7	15
Spain	82	6	6	7
Ukraine	59	18	8	15
Azerbaijan	54	26	8	12
Egypt	54	40	6	0
Iran	43	28	8	22
Palestinian Territories	66	23	5	6
Turkey	36	34	18	13
Kenya	41	44	14	2
Nigeria	41	39	15	5
China	66	10	18	6
Hong Kong	67	9	13	12
India	28	47	12	13
Indonesia	61	29	6	5
South Korea	48	38	13	1
Thailand	36	34	10	19
Average	57	26	9	8

³⁸ Associated Press-Ipsos Poll November 2005

How do you feel about the use of torture against suspected terrorists to obtain information about terrorism activities? Can that...?

	Often be Justified	Sometimes be Justified	Rarely be Justified	Never be Justified	Not Sure
United States	11	27	23	36	3
Canada	9	19	21	49	2
Mexico	9	22	18	40	11
South Korea	6	47	33	10	4
France	12	20	25	40	3
Germany	8	22	20	48	2
Italy	9	14	14	50	3
Spain	7	14	16	54	9
United Kingdom	9	21	21	48	1

³⁹ BBC July 2006

Most countries have agreed to rules that prohibit torturing prisoners. Which position is closer to yours?

	Terrorists pose such an extreme threat that governments should now be allowed to use some degree of torture if it may gain information that saves innocent lives	Clear rules against torture should be maintained because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights standards against torture	Neither / Depends	DK / NA
Australia	22	75	2	1
Brazil	32	61	4	4
Canada	22	74	3	1
Chile	22	62	6	10
China	37	49	8	6
Egypt	25	65	6	3
France	19	75	4	2
Germany	21	71	6	1
India	32	23	28	17
Indonesia	40	51	4	4
Iraq	42	55	-	3
Israel	43	48	1	8
Italy	14	81	5	1
Kenya	38	53	3	6
Mexico	24	50	10	17
Nigeria	39	49	5	7
Philippines	40	56	2	3
Poland	27	62	5	7
South Korea	31	66	2	1
Russia	37	43	10	10
Spain	16	65	8	11
Turkey	24	62	7	7
Ukraine	29	54	11	7
Great Britain	24	72	2	2
United States	36	58	4	3
Average	29	59	6	6

⁴⁰ WorldPublicOpinion.org July 2006

As you may know, the [COUNTRY] has signed treaties that limit what a government can do to pressure detainees to give information. Here are some methods that are not allowed. For each one please say whether you approve of having a rule against it or if you think such a rule is too restrictive.

Using physical torture

	Approve rule against	Rule too restrictive	DK/NA
United States	75	21	4
Great Britain	53	45	2
Germany	76	21	3
Poland	67	27	6

India	35	39	27
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Threatening physical torture

	Approve rule against	Rule too restrictive	DK/NA
United States	60	37	3
Great Britain	43	53	4
Germany	69	28	3
Poland	54	38	8
India	33	39	28

Treating detainees in a way that is humiliating or degrading

	Approve rule against	Rule too restrictive	DK/NA
United States	61	36	4
Great Britain	43	53	4
Germany	72	25	3
Poland	59	32	8
India	32	42	25

⁴¹ WorldPublicOpinion.org July 2006

When acts of torture have been committed by military personnel, but their commander says that he or she did not order it and was not aware of it, should the commander be held responsible or not held responsible?

	Held responsible	Not held responsible	DK/NA
United States	58	37	5
Great Britain	73	23	4
Germany	72	21	6
Poland	59	31	10
India	41	27	32

⁴² WorldPublicOpinion.org July 2006

If the United States requests permission to fly through [COUNTRY'S] airspace when it is transporting a terrorism suspect to a country that has a reputation for using torture, do you think [COUNTRY] should allow the United States to do this, or do you think that it should refuse permission?

	Should allow United States to fly through airspace	Should refuse permission	DK/NA
Great Britain	26	66	7
Germany	35	55	10
Poland	36	48	16
India	28	42	30

43 Pew Global Attitudes Project October 2007

As I read another list of statements, for each one, please tell me whether you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or completely disagree with it:

It is the responsibility of the (state or government) to take care of very poor people who can't take care of themselves

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not important at all	DK/ Refused
United States	28	42	17	11	3
Canada	40	41	14	3	1
Argentina	55	34	7	3	2
Bolivia	34	44	17	4	2
Brazil	60	30	8	2	0
Chile	54	36	8	1	1
Mexico	31	50	14	2	2
Peru	49	37	9	3	2
Venezuela	44	42	11	2	0
Great Britain	53	38	5	3	1
France	49	34	14	3	0
Germany	52	40	4	3	1
Italy	46	40	7	2	4
Spain	53	43	3	0	1
Sweden	56	30	8	4	1
Bulgaria	67	26	1	0	5
Czech Republic	58	30	9	2	1
Poland	54	35	9	2	0
Russia	57	29	9	2	2
Slovakia	44	42	12	2	0
Ukraine	64	23	8	4	1
Turkey	62	24	10	1	3
Egypt	38	29	26	6	1
Jordan	34	33	29	3	1
Kuwait	70	23	3	3	1
Lebanon	60	32	4	1	1
Morocco	67	25	2	0	5
Palestinian Territories	68	21	5	4	3
Israel	60	30	9	1	1
Pakistan	58	26	8	2	6
Bangladesh	65	28	5	1	0
Indonesia	48	45	5	1	0
Malaysia	54	39	5	1	1
China	46	44	8	1	1
India	57	35	6	2	0
Japan	15	44	31	7	2
South Korea	30	57	11	1	1
Ethiopia	57	29	12	1	1
Ghana	46	38	17	8	1
Ivory Coast	65	27	5	3	0

Kenya	58	31	8	3	0
Mali	61	28	8	3	0
Nigeria	66	24	7	3	0
Senegal	68	22	8	2	0
South Africa	50	35	10	4	0
Tanzania	73	20	5	2	1
Uganda	54	30	10	3	2

⁴⁴ **WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008**

Do you think the [country's] government should be responsible for ensuring that its citizens can meet their basic need for food OR do you think that is NOT the government's responsibility?

	Should be responsible	Should not be responsible	Depends (vol.)	DK / NS
Argentina	94	3	1	1
Mexico	89	7	2	2
United States	74	25		1
France	86	13	1	1
Germany	93	5	2	0
Great Britain	86	10	3	1
Italy	92	5	3	0
Russia	77	12	10	1
Ukraine	89	6	3	2
Azerbaijan	93	5	2	1
Egypt	82	14	3	1
Jordan	96	2		2
Palestinian Territories	80	17	1	1
Turkey	87	10	3	1
Kenya	96	4	0	
Nigeria	84	10	3	3
China	96	1	2	2
Hong Kong	92	4	4	0
Macau	95	3	1	1
India	70	10	13	7
Indonesia	97	2	1	0
South Korea	85	12	2	1
Taiwan	92	3	2	3
Thailand	85	1	9	4
Average	87	8	3	2

⁴⁵ **WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008**

What about the basic need for healthcare? Do you think the government should or should not be responsible for ensuring that people can meet this need?

	Should be responsible	Should not be responsible	Depends (vol.)	DK / NS
Argentina	97	1	0	1
Mexico	96	2	1	1
United States	77	21		2
France	92	7	1	0
Germany	95	4	1	0
Great Britain	93	4	2	1
Italy	97	2	2	0
Russia	96	2	2	1
Ukraine	97	1	1	1
Azerbaijan	96	2	2	1
Egypt	81	14	4	0
Jordan	97	1		2
Palestinian Territories	79	19	2	1
Turkey	96	3	1	0
Kenya	96	4	0	0
Nigeria	95	3	1	1
China	96	1	2	1
Hong Kong	94	2	4	1
Macau	99	1	1	0
India	70	12	11	6
Indonesia	97	2	1	0
South Korea	93	4	1	1
Taiwan	96	1	2	1
Thailand	88	2	5	6
Average	92	5	2	1

⁴⁶ WorldPublicOpinion.org 2008

What about the basic need for education? Do you think the government should or should not be responsible for ensuring that people can meet this need?

	Should be responsible	Should not be responsible	Depends (vol.)	DK / NS
Argentina	98	1	0	1
Mexico	96	2	2	1
United States	83	16		1
France	89	10	1	0
Germany	93	5	2	0
Great Britain	96	3	1	1
Italy	95	3	1	1
Russia	94	3	2	1
Ukraine	95	2	2	1

Azerbaijan	89	3	7	2
Egypt	77	19	4	1
Jordan	97	1		2
Palestinian Territories	85	11	3	2
Turkey	97	2	0	0
Kenya	95	5	0	0
Nigeria	91	3	6	0
China	98	1	1	1
Hong Kong	97	1	2	1
Macau	98	1	0	1
India	64	8	19	8
Indonesia	97	2	1	1
South Korea	95	3	1	1
Taiwan	95	2	1	2
Thailand	90	1	3	6
Average	91	5	3	1

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