



مركز البيان للدراسات والتخطيط
Al-Bayan Center for Planning and Studies

Iraqis' Opinions on the Anti-Domestic Violence Law and Other Issues Related to the Iraqi Family



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Al-Bayan Center Studies Series

About

Al-Bayan Center for Planning and Studies is an independent, nonprofit think tank based in Baghdad, Iraq. Its primary mission is to offer an authentic perspective on public and foreign policy issues related to Iraq and the region.

Al-Bayan Center pursues its vision by conducting independent analysis, as well as proposing workable solutions for complex issues that concern policymakers and academics.

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Introduction:

The Ministerial Cabinet has recently approved the draft law of the Anti-Domestic Violence, referring it to the House of Representatives, after more than ten years of dialogues and discussions in which local, international organizations, institutions, and official bodies participated.

The draft law included paragraphs that sparked many discussions and dialogues, especially by the various political forces. Some of them saw that some articles contradict Islamic law or customs and traditions. Simultaneously, others argued for the need to update Iraqi laws and uncover the Iraqi family's hidden problems, especially women and children, when traditional social institutions such as the tribes cannot play a useful role in such issues.

In order to get acquainted with the orientations of the Iraqis and their positions regarding the approval of this law, Al-Bayan Center for Planning and Studies took the initiative to get the views of the Iraqi public on the Anti-Domestic Violence draft law and several other issues that concern the family and Iraqi women in particular.

Through this survey, Al-Bayan Center aims to help decision-makers in the legislative and executive authorities feel the street's pulse in the crucial issues that require public interaction and acceptance of state decisions.

An electronic form was designed and published on social media, in which 13,684 people participated. It is the largest survey conducted by the Center over the past years. This active and unexpected participation reflected citizens' desire to shed light on a chronic problem covered in good faith or lousy intentions, or compelling circumstances, politically, security, and economically for decades.

The current survey shows the active participation of women. Their participation rate is 60%. This active presence exceeded the standard rate of female participation in the questionnaires previously conducted by Al-Bayan Center, or the reliable questionnaires of other institutions and think tanks, which did not exceed 27% –35% at best.

Although the questionnaire targeted all Iraqis everywhere in the country, the data obtained show less interaction by the western governorates and the Kurdistan region. In contrast, the governorates that witnessed protests from October 2019 show great interaction.

The survey also shows the active participation of young people between the ages of 18–29 and educated people with a bachelor's degree. It is an indication of these groups' interest in these urgent issues.

Al-Bayan Center for Planning and Studies hopes this survey results will be useful in the ongoing discussions about the Anti-Domestic Violence Law draft and other women's issues.

The Center hopes that this poll will be an important indicator for academic research and studies and beneficial to those interested. It will be useful for the dialogues and discussions conducted by civil society organizations and the media in this regard.

Al-Bayan Center for Planning and Studies

Methodology

Tool

An electronic questionnaire was designed for the survey. The form included (26) questions considering that it consists of the Iraqis' positions regarding the approval of this law and its articles and paragraphs. The questions included other issues related to controversial women's rights in Iraqi laws like the right of women to have an abortion, and reduce the penalty for the perpetrator in crimes against women related to honor crimes and the attitude towards early marriage. Conducting this survey represents an opportunity to identify the public's positions on these issues.

Sample

The survey is based on a Convenient Sample. The poll sample of 13,684 people was accessed by publishing the electronic form on the Facebook page of Al-Bayan Center for Planning and Studies by sponsoring the post, including the survey. Sample respondents were accessed through the Facebook algorithm by reaching account holders in the 18 Iraqi governorates. Users of social networking sites in Iraq were the survey sample accounts. Therefore, the poll's opinions express Iraqis' views who can use the Internet and who have the minimum education that qualifies them to answer an online survey. From the scientific point of view, the sample represents the opinions of its owners. It is not easy

to generalize this survey results except within the limits of general trends and overall impressions.

Demographic Data:

The survey sample was distributed among all the eighteen governorates of Iraq, with an apparent discrepancy in participation rates in the poll between governorates.

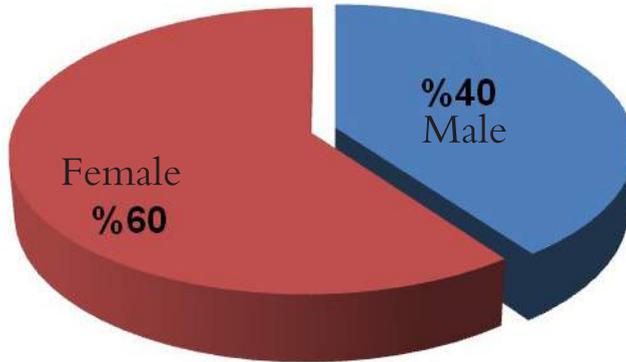
Table (1): The Relative Distribution of the Sample by Governorate

Governorate	Frequency	Percentage	Governorate	Frequency	Percentage
Baghdad	3924	28.7	Wasit	456	3.3
Babylon	886	6.5	Najaf	911	6.7
Basra	1274	9.3	Dhi Qar	699	5.1
Qadisiyah	469	3.4	Anbar	547	4
Nineveh	540	3.9	Salahaddin	479	3.5
Karbala	854	6.2	Diyala	627	4.6
Kirkuk	463	3.4	Dohuk	91	0.7
Muthana	385	2.8	Maysan	648	4.7
Erbil	307	2.2	Sulaymaniyah	124	0.9
			Total	13684	100

It is clear from Table (1) that the population distribution of respondents included all governorates of Iraq. Still, the Kurdistan region’s governorates and the western governorates (Salah al-Din, Anbar, and Nineveh) were weak in the participation compared to the rest of the governorates. Perhaps the language barrier was a reason for the Kurdish governorates or the existence of the law against domestic violence approved in the region since 2011, which prevented the region’s residents from paying attention to the survey topic. The poll topic’s primary interaction seemed to be more evident in the

governorates that witnessed protests in October 2019.

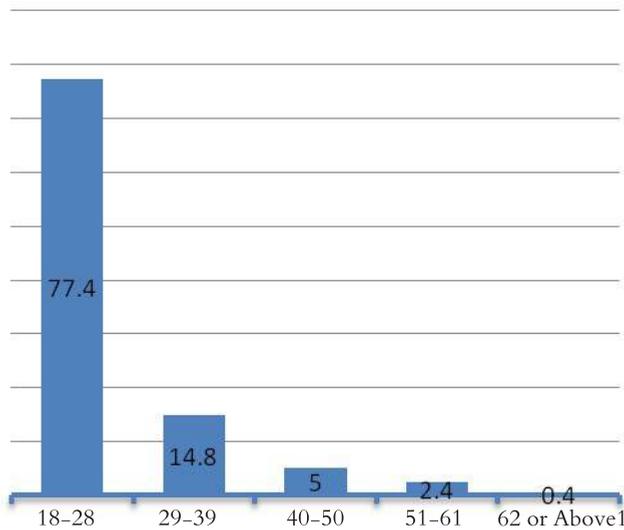
Figure (1): The Relative Distribution of the Sample According to Gender (Male / Female).



The percentage of women participating in the survey is 60%, while men's participation is 40%. This percentage reflects women's considerable interaction with the questionnaire on women's rights and the Anti-Domestic Violence Law. However, previous questionnaires conducted by Al-Bayan Center showed 27% -35% participation of women in public affairs issues.

As mentioned earlier, the data show that the subject of the survey indicates that the subject is essential for women. It is worth noting that women's issues may be a decisive and essential factor in encouraging women to interact with public affairs, particularly related to elections and the political process.

Figure (2): The Relative Distribution of the Sample According to Age Groups

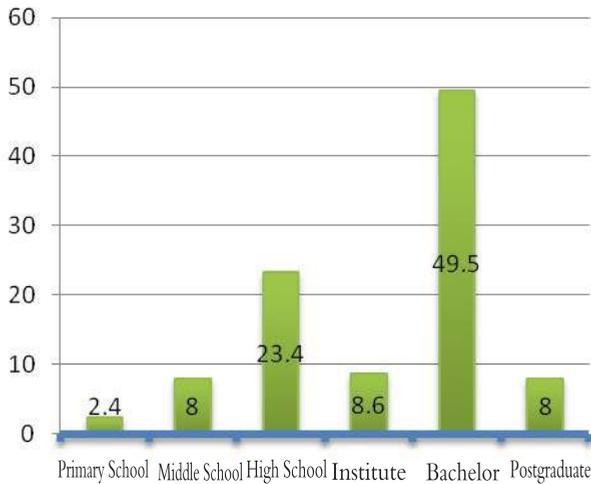


Young people below 29 years of age constitute the majority of the respondents, 77.4%. The age distribution of the survey sample reflects the great interest that younger generations attach to the issues of women’s rights, the law against domestic violence, and the sensitivity of these age groups towards issues of freedoms and rights compared to older age groups that may be more interested in other matters related to health and income levels, according to previous surveys.

The age distribution of the survey sample also indicates the nature of the Iraqi society, which is going through the stage of “the demographic gift,” as official figures indicate that ages 0–35 years constitute 65% of the total population. If we

consider that the current survey targets ages 18 and over, it seems that the age distribution is close to the reality of the Iraqi society in general.

Figure (3): The Relative Distribution of the Sample According to the Level of Education



The study sample is identified as an educated due to the tool's nature that requires a certain amount of education to answer the questions. Therefore, nearly half of the sample has a bachelor's degree, 49.5%, followed by those with a middle school degree, 23.4%, taking into account that a large percentage of them may be students. This means that those interested in women's rights and the Anti-Domestic Violence law have a relatively higher education.

Figure (4): The Relative Distribution of the Sample According to Marital Status

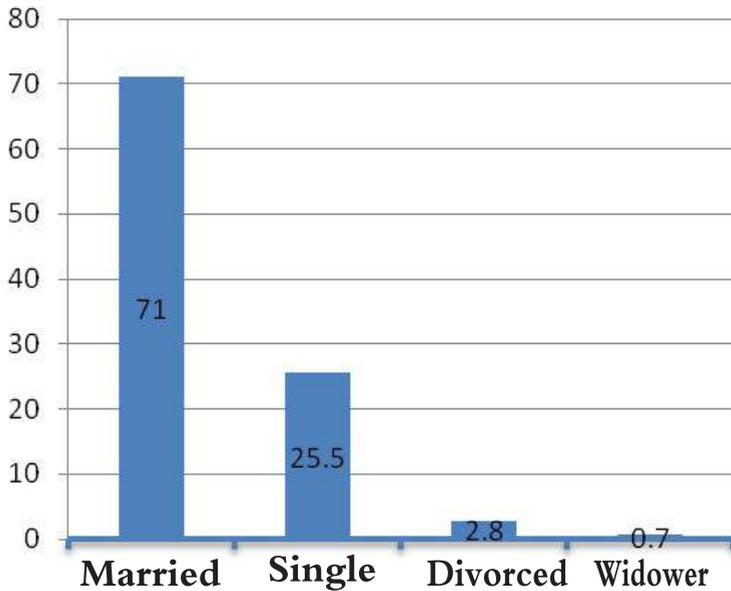


Figure (4) shows the distribution of the survey sample according to marital status, as it is evident that married males and females prevail over others in the survey by 71%.

The questionnaire targeted – as indicated – all other social status groups such as single males and females, unmarried males and females, divorced males and females, and widowers of both genders.

Compared to previous surveys conducted by Al-Bayan Center, the studied sample appears to be very balanced and is similar to previous data.

Figure (5): The Relative Distribution of the Sample According to the Nature of Work

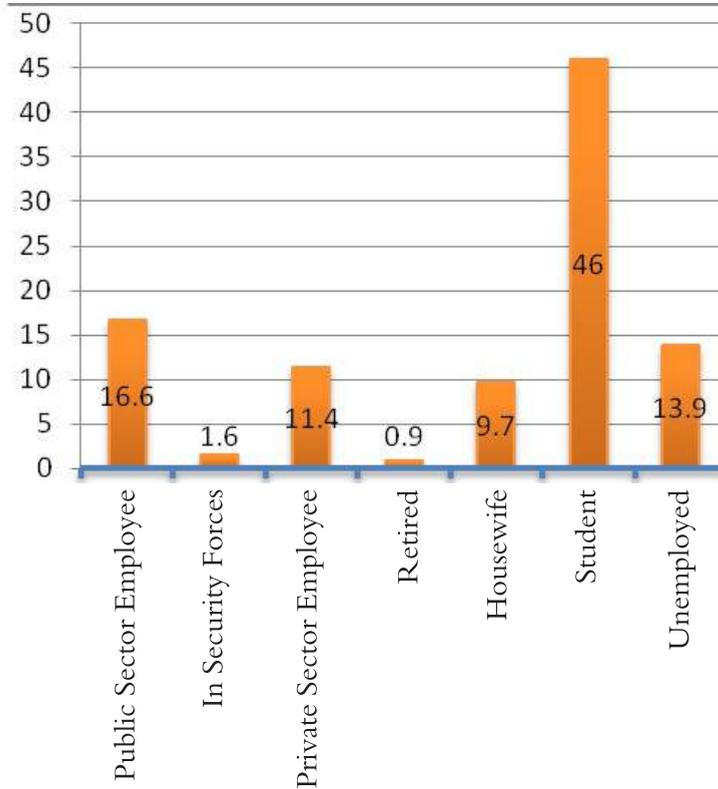
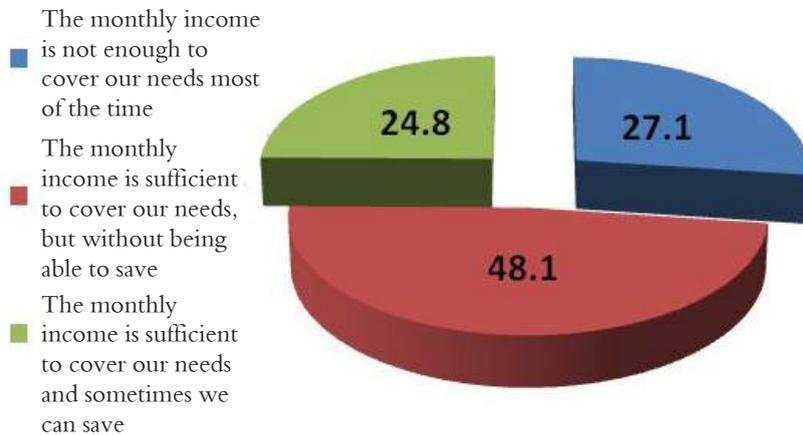


Figure (5) shows the survey sample distribution according to different professions, as 46% of those surveyed were students. This result is consistent with the young nature of the age groups participating in the survey. It is related to this group's widespread use of the Internet and its interaction with public issues within the virtual world.

Figure (6): The Relative Distribution of the Sample According to the Standards of Living

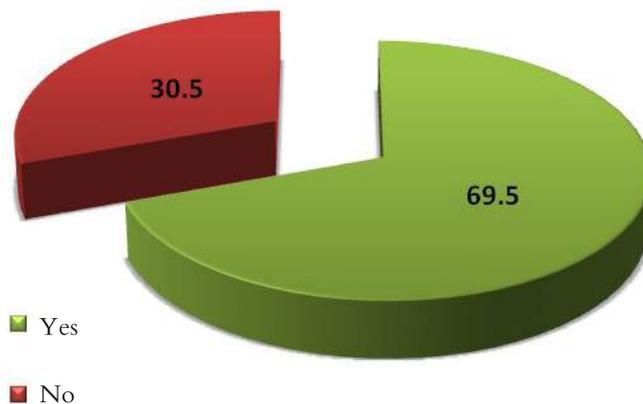


It is evident from the data above that 48% of respondents have middle income. 27% stated that their monthly income is often not sufficient to secure their monthly needs, which is close to the rate of poverty in social reality, according to official figures, which is about 30% now. 25% classified their income status as luxurious.

Views on the Draft Law

To identify whether the respondents' opinions and stances, whether they support or reject the Law's passage, are based on their knowledge of the draft and reading its details, a question was asked in this regard. Nearly two-thirds of the sample reported that they had seen a draft, compared to 30% who had not seen it.

Figure (7): The Relative Distribution of the Sample Based on whether they have read the draft of the Anti-Domestic Violence Bill

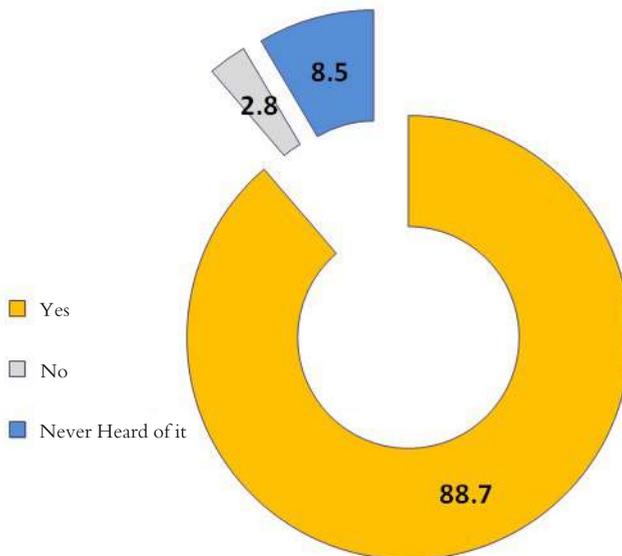


Although the majority of respondents stated that they had read this draft, this does not necessarily mean “reading the draft in detail” as it sometimes means “hearing about” or “reading news about” issues related to the draft law.

The Position on Approving the Anti- Domestic Violence Law

Approval of the Anti-Domestic Violence Law was supported by nearly 89% of the respondents. In comparison, the percentage of those who refused to approve this Law does not exceed 2.8%, whose number is 377 out of a total of 13,684 people, and 8.5 of the sample do not possess any knowledge about this Law.

Figure (8): The Relative Distribution of the Sample According to their Support for the Approval of the Anti-Domestic Violence Bill



Although 30% did not see the draft law (according to Figure 7), a large part of this percentage supported its approval. This may mean that upholding the Law stems from the importance of the Law's existence without knowing the details.

Those Who Reject the Anti-Domestic Violence Law: General Features and Trends

While most respondents state their support for the promulgation of the Law, 2.8% of the sample, 377 out of 13,684 people, refuse the passage of the Law. Although this percentage is statistically small, it is necessary to give a more detailed picture of this group. Who are the opponents of the Law? What are their characteristics?

The statistical analysis results revealed that most of those who reject the Law against domestic violence are men, 2% compared to 0.8% for women.

It seems that this Law raised the concerns of a special group of men, as the majority of the men surveyed showed clear support for its promulgation, as indicated above, through the “supporters”.

Most of those who reject the Law are “married”, with a rate of 56% of the number of those who reject it. Married couples are more concerned about the family’s fate than any law that may undermine the unlimited authority imposed by parents’ customs and traditions in the way they deal with family members.

Figure (9): The Difference Between Different Genders and their Approval of the Bill (Total Sample)

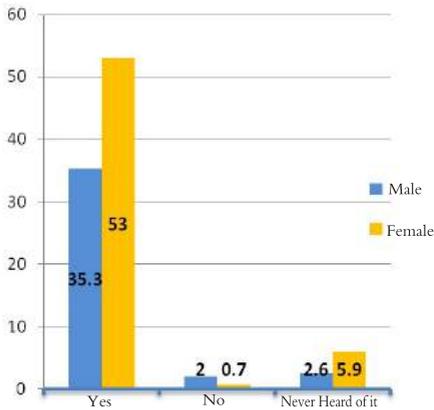
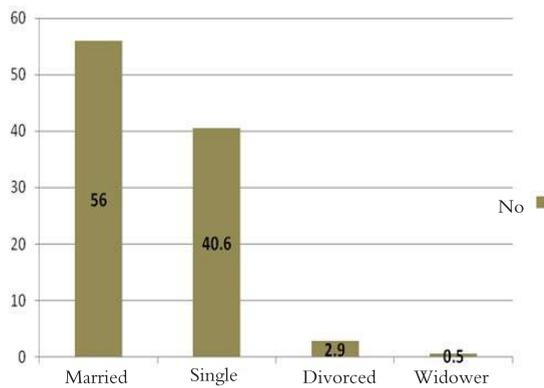


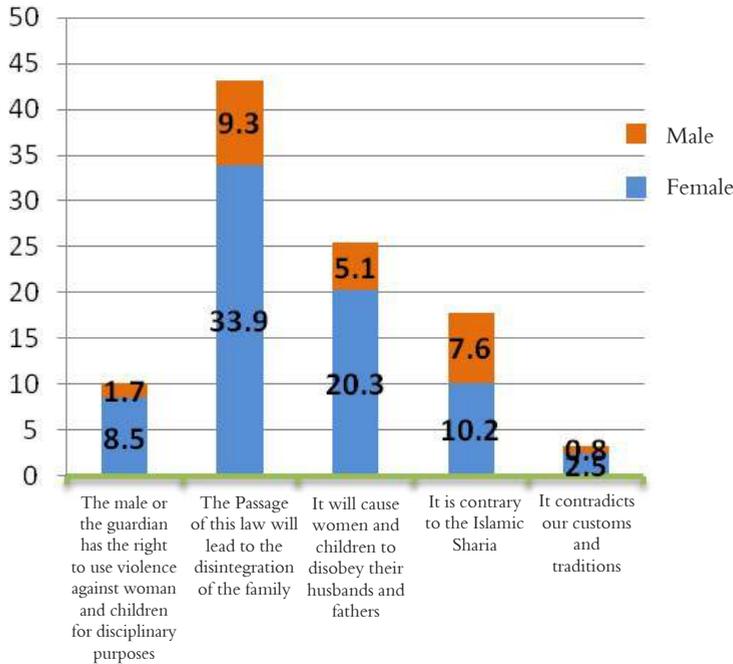
Figure (10) The Marital Status of those who Reject the Anti-Domestic Violence Law (Sample of those who Refuse Only)



Reasons for Rejecting the Law

Despite the low percentage of those who do not support the Law, it is unnecessary to know the reasons behind their rejection. A question was asked to non-supporters about the reasons that led them to reject this Law. A set of alternatives representing the most important objections raised in the media and social media platforms prevent this Law’s passage. The results show a prevailing belief that the passage of the Law will lead to the family’s disintegration, followed by the belief that this Law will cause women and children to disobey the father or husband, and it will violate the principles of the Islamic Law.

Figure (11): The Reasons for not Supporting the Passage of this Law, Broken Down according to Gender (Male/Female)



The Effectiveness of the Anti-Domestic Violence Law

88.1% of the respondents believe that the passage of the Law could have a tangible effect on protecting women, children, and the elderly from the violence they may be exposed to within the family. Women were more inclined to this belief than men.

Figure (12): The Relative Distribution of the Sample According to their Belief in the Effect of the Law in Reducing Domestic Violence

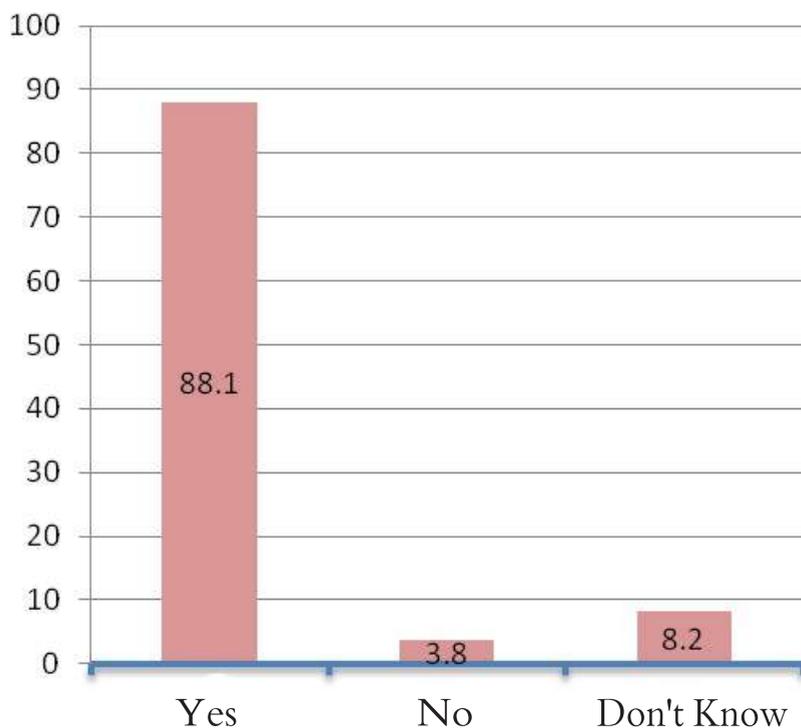
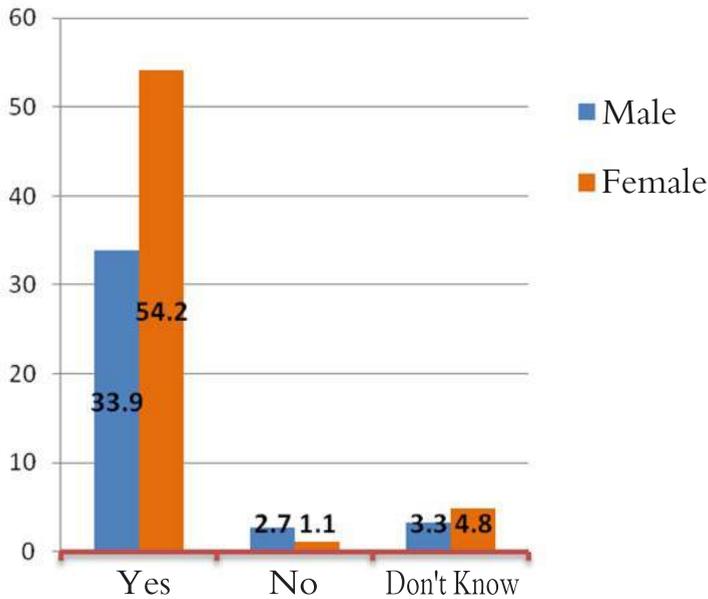


Figure (13) Percentage of Female and Male According to their Belief in the Effect of the Law in Reducing Domestic Violence



While the majority of respondents indicate the fundamental importance of issuing the Law, the percentages that did not believe that this Law is useful were repeated. However, one of the striking results in this poll is the reluctance of nearly 5% of women to answer (I do not know) about the Law's possibility in making some real differences in Iraqi families' lives. Mostly, women, despite their support for the adoption of a law that protects them from domestic violence, are not sure that the existence of these laws can protect them from this violence, especially in a society where violence precedes the Law and is characterized by the weak role of the Law in general.

Beating the Wife

The absolute majority of the survey sample, 95.4%, believes that hitting the wife is a crime that should be punished by Law. This may mean a clear rejection of beating as a “discipline” and a “right.” This has been defined in the Iraqi laws currently in force. Thus, according to this survey, the Anti-Domestic Violence bill finds clear public support to change the laws towards counting beatings as a crime punishable by Law. The percentage of supporters for considering beating as a crime is higher than the percentage of supporters for adopting the Anti-Domestic Violence Law itself, with a difference of approximately 7% (notes Figure 8). This may mean that the attitude towards violence practiced against wives, in particular, is not necessarily related to the position on the adoption of the Law and that the belief in the necessity of criminalizing violence is not followed by a position supporting the endorsement of violence.

Figure (14): The Respondents' Opinion of Classifying Wife Beating as a "Crime"



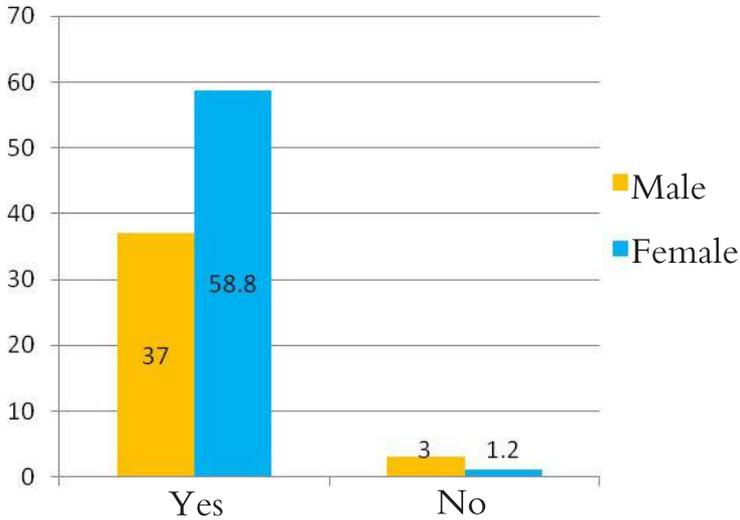
Attitudes and opinions regarding some articles of the Anti-Domestic Violence Law and its Paragraphs

The draft law against domestic violence, which was approved by the Council of Ministers, and submitted to Parliament in early August last year, include (27) articles, many of which have raised major differences, including opposition from some political forces recently. Al-Bayan Center went to the public to seek their views on some of the articles included in the draft law:

Reporting Violence

Article 11 of the draft bill specifies who has the right to file a complaint, giving those who have been subjected to violence this right, but this right is inconsistent with the prevailing culture that disgraces women if they expose violence or go to police stations. This resulted in underreporting such cases; Therefore, a question was asked to the public whether they support women's right to go to police stations. The results showed that nearly 96% of the sample supports women's right to go to the police when they are exposed to violence, while those who reject this measure do not exceed 4% only, and most of those who oppose this right are men.

Figure (15): The Difference between Gender and the Right to Report Violence to the Police Stations



Right to Complain

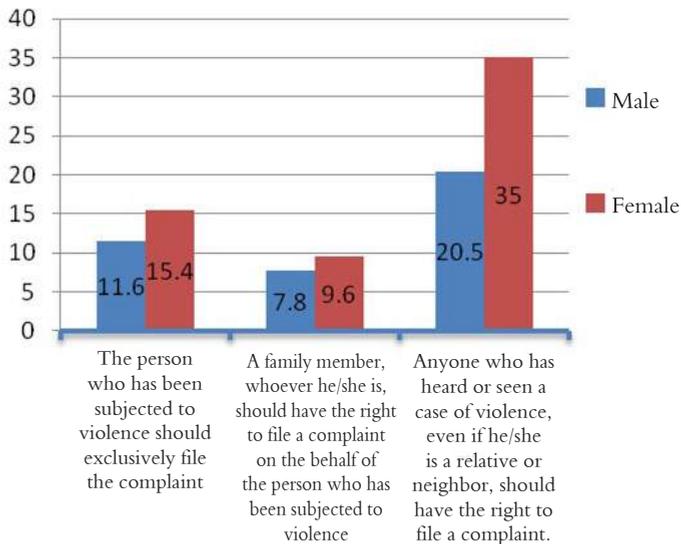
Article 11 of the Anti-Domestic Violence Bill restricts the right to submit a complaint to anyone who has been subjected to violence or who is legally acting on his /her behalf. Article 12 of the draft law obliges public servants to report violence. Many believe that restricting those who have the right to file a complaint in this way does not lead to the protection of women and children from violence, especially in cases where those who have been subjected to violence do not have the ability to report and complain due to their imprisonment or threats. The respondents were asked a question about who has the

right to file a complaint. The results reflect a great awareness of the problems surrounding this issue, as the majority, 55.6% of the respondents, indicate the need to give the right to report violence to everyone who witnesses or hear about a case of violence, whether he/she is a neighbor, friend, or others.

27% of the respondents answer that the one who has been subjected to violence is the one who should file the complaint. Of course, in this case, children under 18 years of age will be deprived of this right because only adults have the right to submit complaints according to Iraqi Law.

17.4% of the respondents believe adult parents or a family member should have the right to file a complaint on behalf of the victim of violence.

Figure (16) Respondents’ Opinions of the Legal Right to File a Complaint, Broken Down According to Gender



Establishing Safe Shelters to Protect the Victims of Violence

Establishing safe shelters for victims of violence is one of the most problematic issues that have raised great opposition, especially by some political forces that reject the Anti-Domestic Violence Law.

The poll results show that most respondents, 82.7%, support the establishment of such shelters. The rapid examination revealed that the percentage of men who refused to establish the shelters is higher than women's percentage. This attitude may be due to the men's general fear that these shelters could undermine their patriarchal authority.

Figure (17): Approval about the Establishment of Safe Shelters within the Anti-Domestic Violence Law

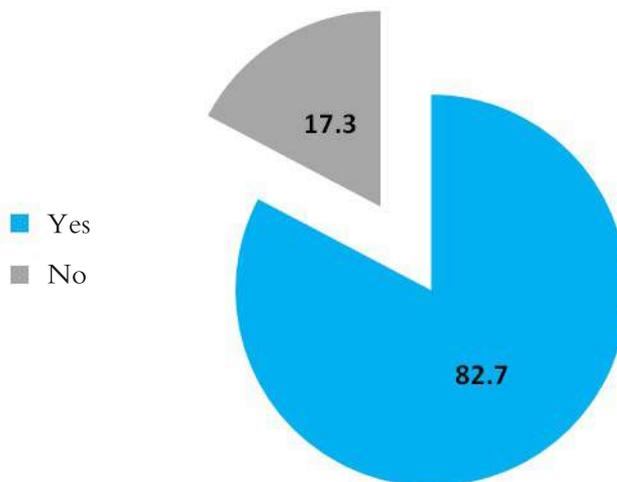
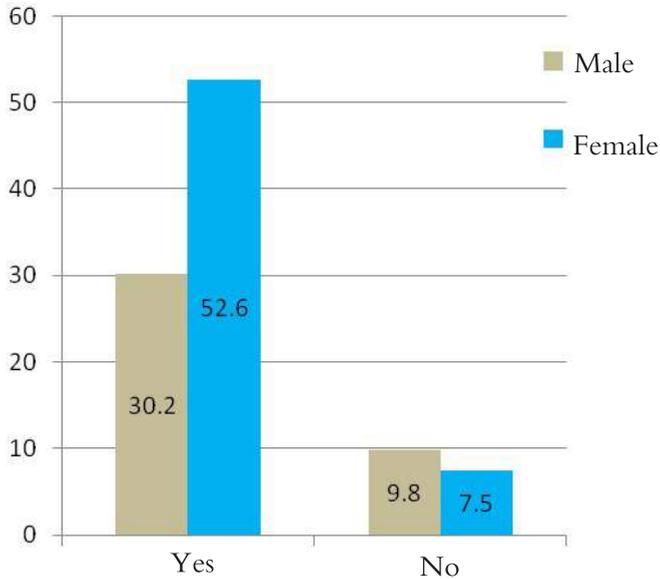


Figure (18): The Difference between Genders' Approval about the Establishment of Safe Shelters within the Law

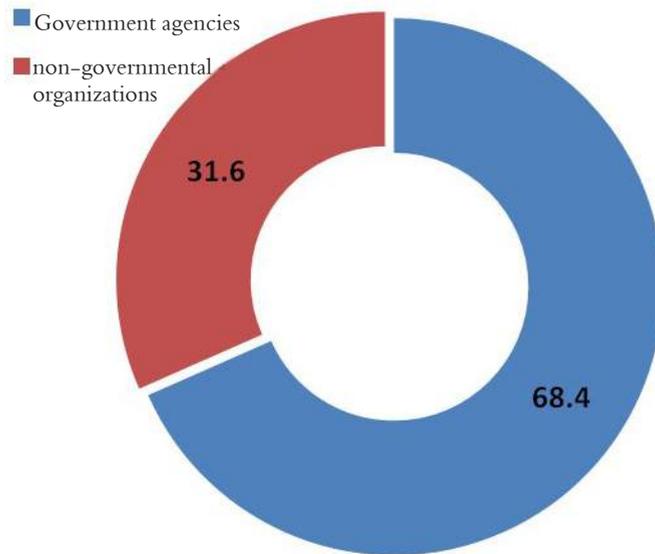


Managing Safe Shelters

The majority of respondents agree to establish safe shelters for victims of domestic violence. 68.4% prefer that these shelters be administered by the government, while the rest prefer NGOs.

It appears that the administration of these shelters is also one of the problematic provisions of the Law. Therefore, people must be assured in the event of the establishment of these shelters. Among the options presented is government management of shelters under non-governmental organizations' supervision, which could constitute a realistic and reassuring solution for the Iraqis.

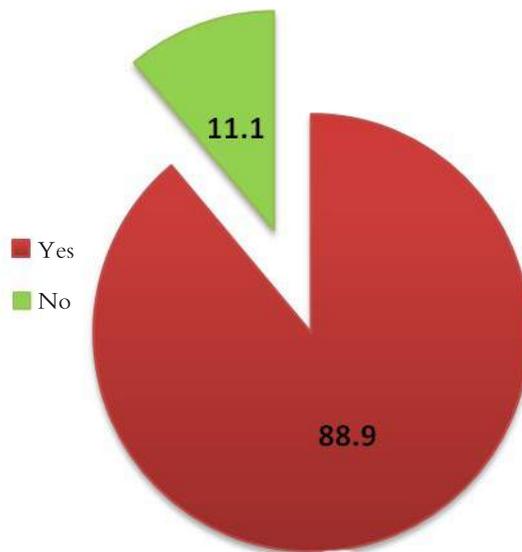
Figure (19): The Respondents' Opinions on who should manage the Safe Shelters for the victims of Domestic Violence



Rehabilitating the Perpetrators of Violence

Article 17 of the Anti-Domestic Violence draft law obligates perpetrators of violence to undergo rehabilitation programs in specialized centers. Approximately 89% of those polled support the need to rehabilitate the perpetrators of violence.

Figure (20): The Respondents' Views on Forcing Perpetrators to Undergo Rehabilitation Programs in Special Centers



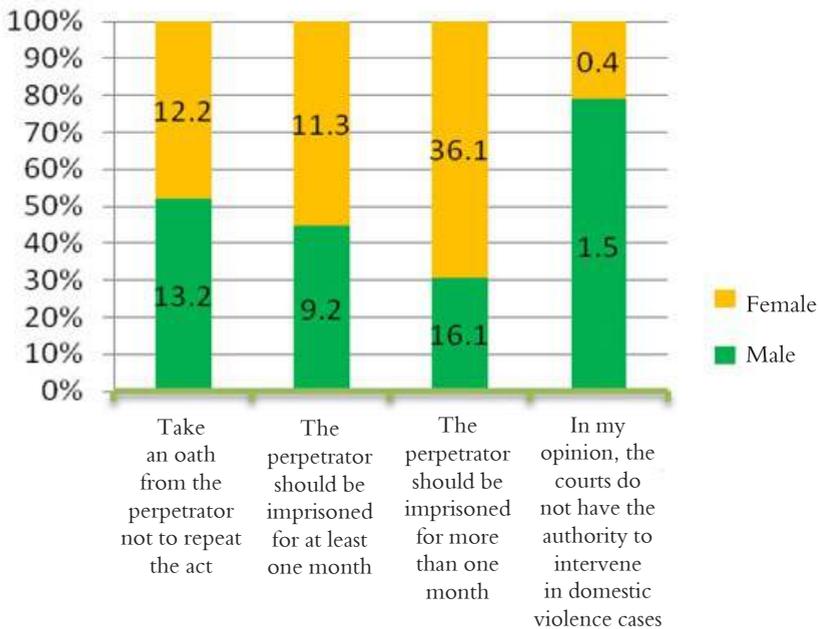
Attitudes Toward the Nature of Punishment Against Perpetrators of Violence

The draft of the Anti- Domestic Violence law gave priority to reconciliation and did not specify a penalty for the defendant. The Law does not stipulate any legal liability for committing or reporting an act of violence. In an attempt to solicit the public's views on the procedures to be taken by the court against the aggressor if he assaults a family member, the majority of respondents, with a total of 52.2%, call for the penal punishment to include imprisonment for more than one month, which is the highest punishment determined by the

poll. Obviously, women favorite this option more. 25.3% of those polled stated that the court should take the least possible penal measures, represented in taking a pledge from domestic violence perpetrators not to repeat the act. More men than women chose this option. 20.5% of the respondents believe that a prison sentence of one month or less is sufficient to deter the perpetrator of violence against the family. Men's percentage in choosing this opinion is close to women's.

Finally, 1.9% of the respondents decide that the court has no right to intervene in domestic violence cases.

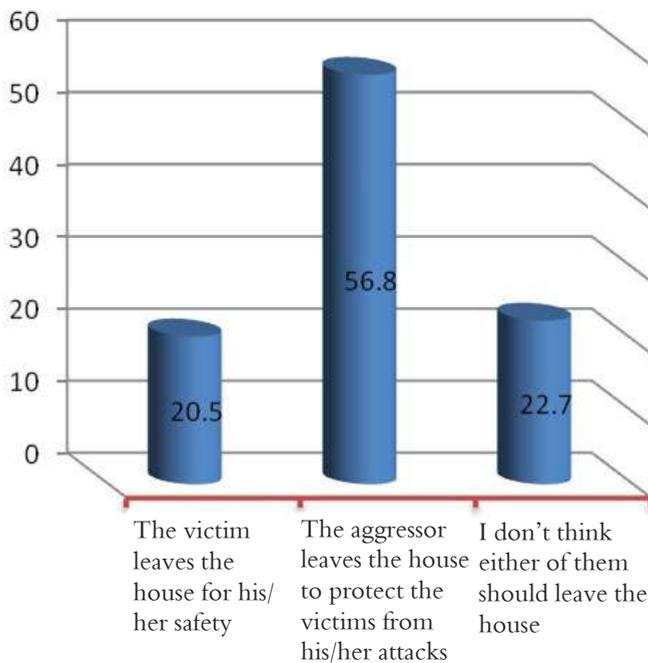
Figure (21): The Respondents' Opinion on how the Court should deal with the Aggressor against a Family Member



Protecting the Family when Subjected to Violence

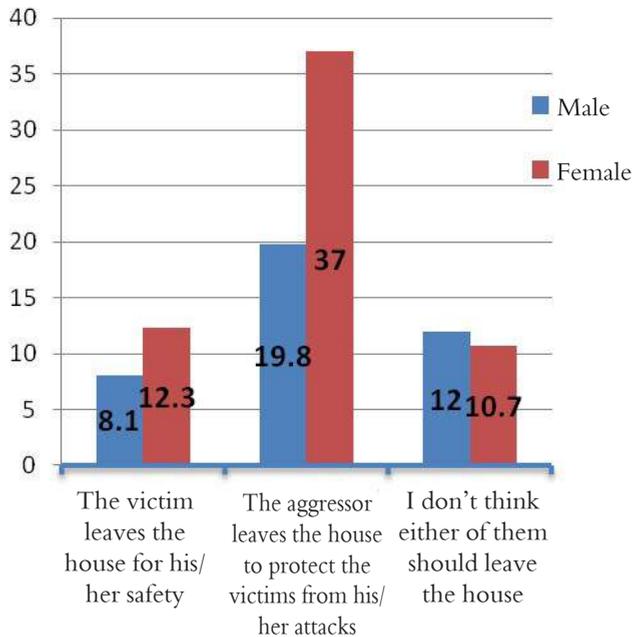
To ensure protection for victims in the event of exposure to violence by a family member, most respondents suggested, with a rate of nearly 57%, that the aggressor should leave the house to protect the victims from the attacks. The other two options were somewhat close, including the victim leaving home for his / her safety or not forcing either the victim or the aggressor to leaving the house.

Figure (22): How to Protect the Family in Violence Cases



When looking at the difference between women and men's views, it becomes clear that women have shown a tendency toward the option that the victim should leave the house. Men see no need to leave the victim or the aggressor at home because it may cause disputes that lead to violence within the family.

Figure (23): The Difference According to Gender on the Method of Protecting the family in Violence Cases



Beyond the Anti-Domestic Violence Law: Attitudes of Iraqis towards several Issues Related to Females

Young Girls Marriage

Although Iraqi Law sets the age of marriage at eighteen years old, many parents offer to marry their sons and daughters before they reach 18. The phenomenon of child marriage has increased remarkably in recent years, as the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS 4) showed that one out of every five young women aged (15-19) is currently married. Child marriage is a form of gender-based violence and is classified as child abuse.

To get acquainted with the respondents' positions and opinions on this issue, a question was asked regarding whether they consider such marriage a crime punishable by Law.

The results of the survey show a significant shift in the attitudes of young people, who represent the predominant percentage in the sample, toward early marriage compared to the older generation who saw marriage for children as a "cover" for the girl, a "safeguard" for society, and protection from delinquency. 78.6% of the respondents consider such marriages a crime that should be punishable by law, and the percentage of women rejecting such marriage was higher than men.

Figure (24) The Percentage of Supporters and Non-supporters of Marrying off a Son or Girl under the age of 18

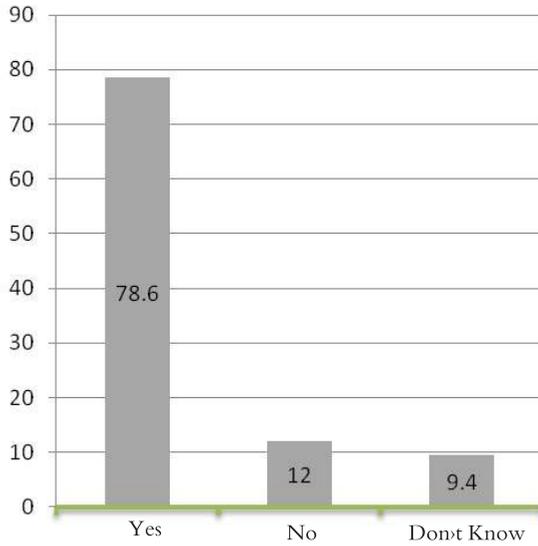
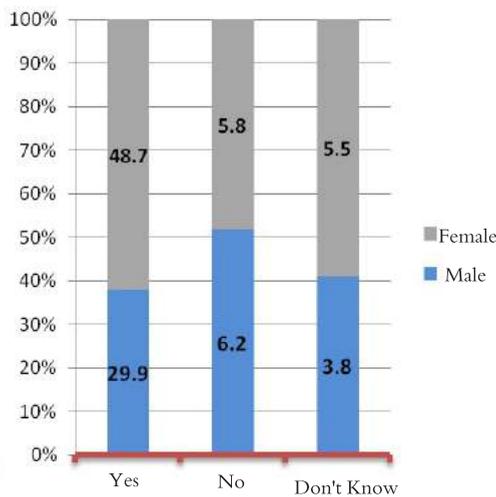


Figure (25): The Difference according to Gender on the Consideration of Child Marriage as a Crime



The Marriage Contract Must Include the Wife's Rights to Divorce if Subjected to Violence

More than 90% of the respondents supported the inclusion of a clause or condition in the marriage contract that gives the wife the right to divorce in the event of violence, which could be a useful measure to reduce gender-based violence.

The men who rejected this proposal are more than the women, although the total number of those who rejected this proposal did not exceed 9.3% of the total sample of 13,684 people.

It is useful to point out that the Iraqi Personal Status Law in Article 6, paragraph 3, says: "The legitimate conditions stipulated within the marriage contract must be fulfilled." Iraqi laws recognize any reasonable condition within the contract form, including the stipulation of the right to divorce in the event of violence. However, Iraqi customs have undermined this right by actual practice.

Figure (26) The Respondents' Opinions Regarding the Inclusion the Wife's Right to Divorce in the Case of Violence in the Marriage Contract

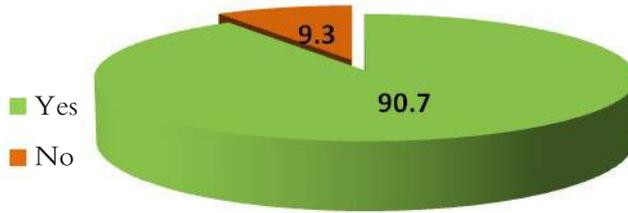
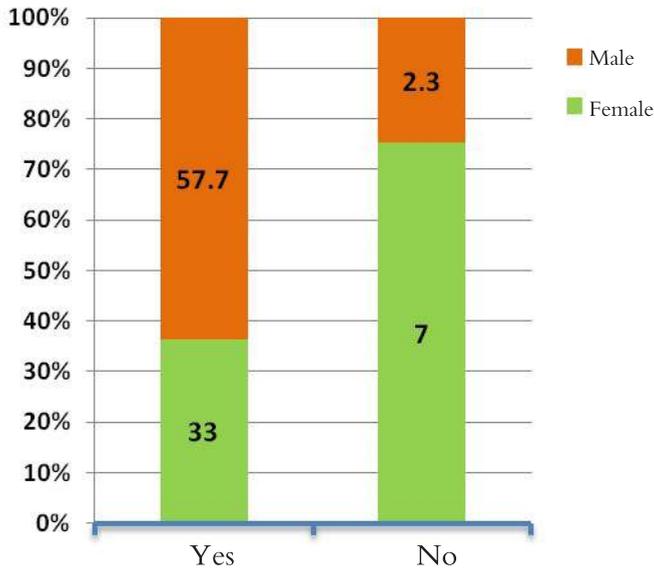


Figure (27): The Difference between Gender on the Inclusion of the Wife's Right to Divorce when Exposed to Violence



Children Custody

Although Iraqi Law in Article 57 gives the mother the right of custody of until the kids are fifteenth years old, parliamentary voices call for the amendment of this Law because it opposes the Islamic Sharia and Iraqi customs.

It is clear from the sample population of 13,684 people that about 65.7%, males and females, prefer that a judge be the decision-maker in deciding who should have custody, based on financial ability personal qualifications.

The percentage of those supporting the option of child custody fully and definitively for the mother is 19.4%. The percentage of those supporting the continuation of custody of children up to the age of 18 years, after which it passes to the father, is approximately 12%. Only 2.6% support that custody of children is three years old to the mother and then moves to the father.

The respondents did not support the option of “custody of children completely and permanently by the father, except for 0.5% of them, most of whom are men.”

Figure (28): The Suggested Solutions for Children in the Event of Divorce

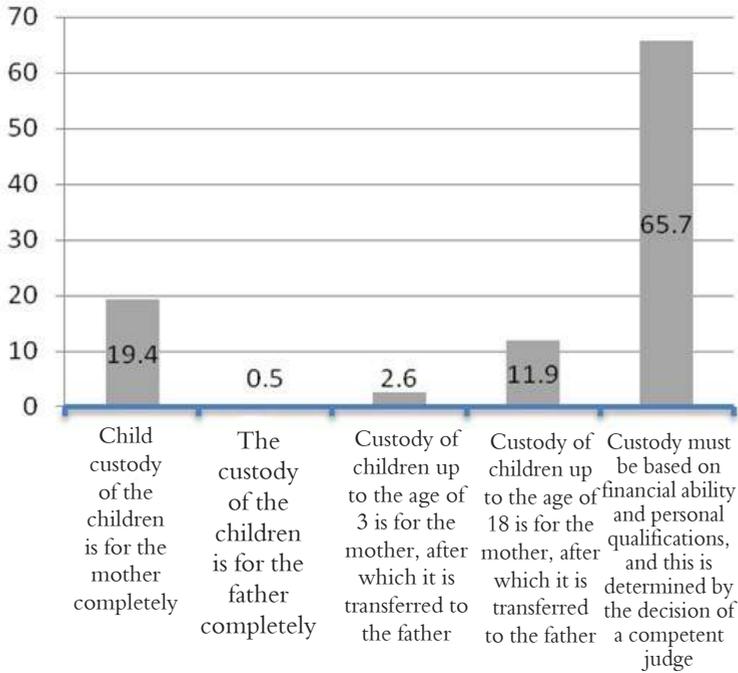
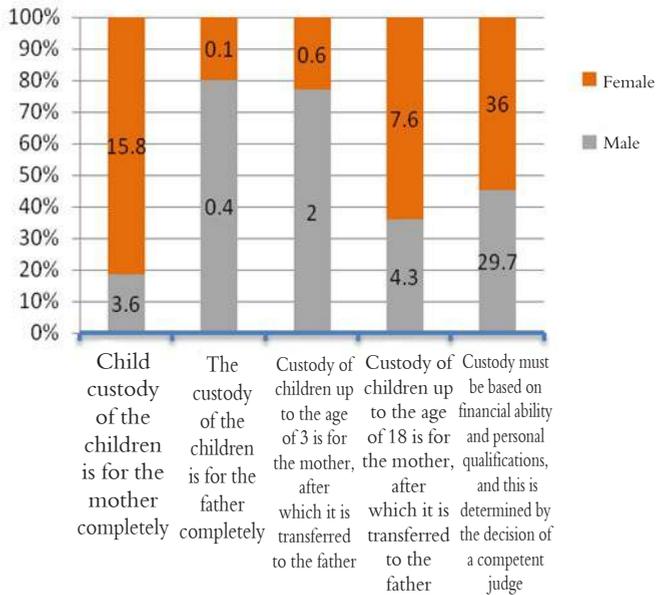


Figure (29): The Difference between Gender on Status of Children in the event of Divorce



Abrogating the Mitigating Excuse for Honor Crimes

Honor crimes are among the most severe cases of violence. Many Iraqis believe these practices, which are related to the sacred value of the social groups to which they belong, do not fall within the framework of acts of violence against women.

Iraqi laws facilitate committing honor crimes. Article 128-1 of the Penal Code No. 111 of 1969 grants the perpetrator a reduction in the penalty if he commits honor crimes against his wife or relatives. The penalty does not exceed three years. (It is considered a mitigating excuse for committing the crime due to honorable motives or based on dangerous provocation by the victim).

More than half of the poll respondents, 52.3%, support the abolition of the article that gives a mitigating excuse to the perpetrator in honor of crimes against one of his female relatives. Nevertheless, the percentage of those who do not support this article, 47.7%, is also high and reflects concern within the total sample regarding rejection or acceptance options.

These figures indicate tacit agreement among nearly half of the sample respondents to support the use of violence against women on the one hand and reinforce and accept a culture of violence on the other.

Figure (30): The Respondents' Opinion of Cancelling the Reduction of Punishment of the Perpetrators of Honour Crimes

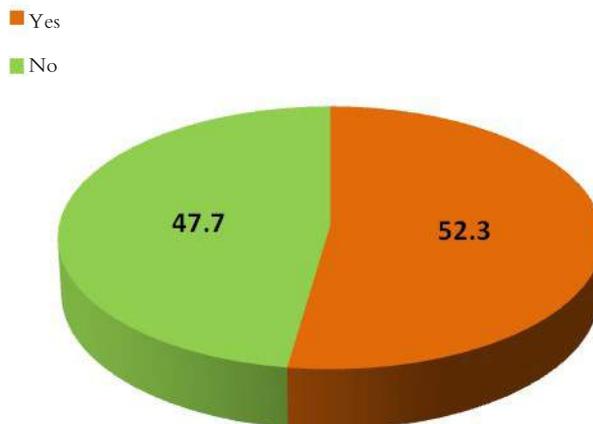
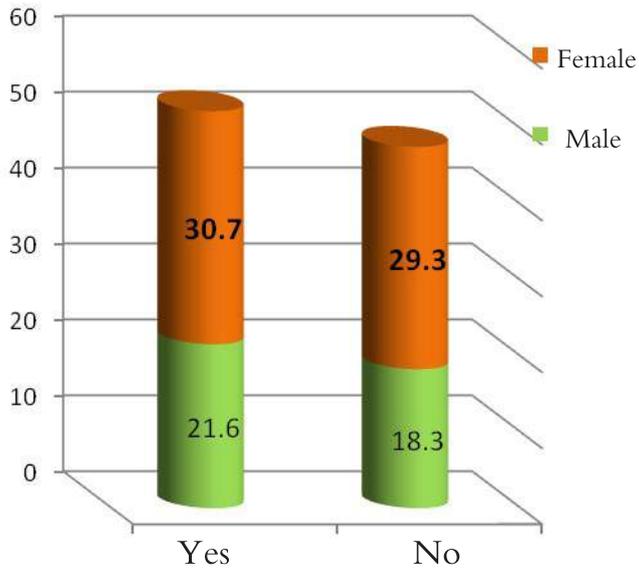


Figure (31) The Respondents' Opinions, according to gender, of Abolishing the Reduction of Punishment for the Perpetrator of Honour Crimes



The Rapist Marries the Victim

Many human rights defenders in Iraq see that one of the most important loopholes in Iraqi law is the rapist's exemption from punishment if he marries the victim. Article 398 of the Penal Code suspends judicial proceedings against the accused of raping if he marries his victim. Thus, the rape victim is forced to marry her rapist, and she will have to live with him for at least three years or life with her rapist.

The public's opinions in this poll reflect a clear rejection of this type of marriage, as 81.6% state that they do not support it, while the percentage of those supporting this type of marriage does not exceed 18.4%. The percentage of supporters for this marriage is close to the percentage of men supporting this move.

Mostly, support for this marriage comes within the concepts of "concealment" and concealing shame by marrying the rapist to his victim, and stems from an awareness of the harm inflicted on the victim within the framework of the Iraqi-tribal culture that holds the woman responsible for what happened to her even if she is the victim.

Figure (32): The Support for the Rapist's Marriage to the Victim

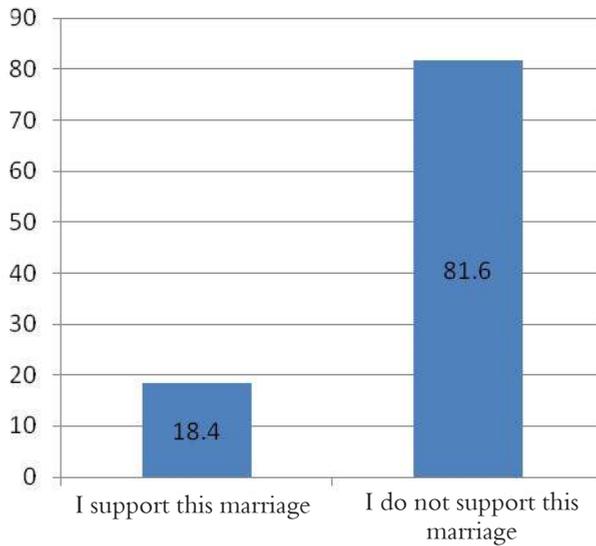
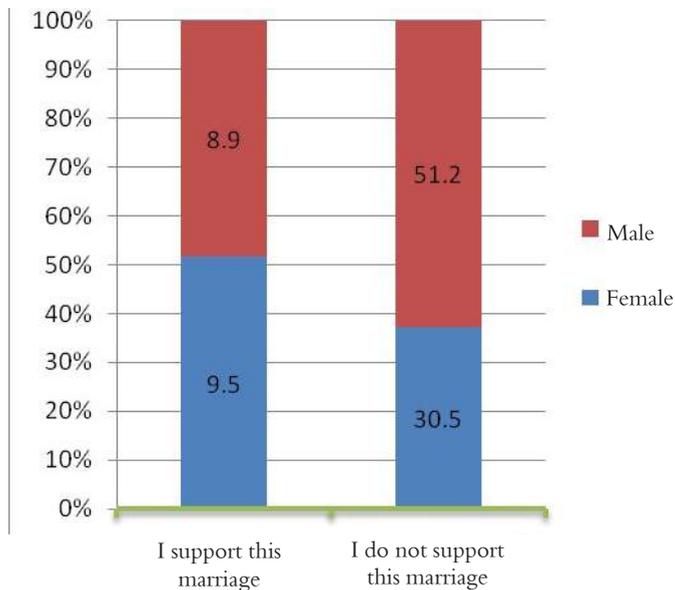


Figure (33): The Difference between Gender on Supporting the Rapist's marriage to the Victim



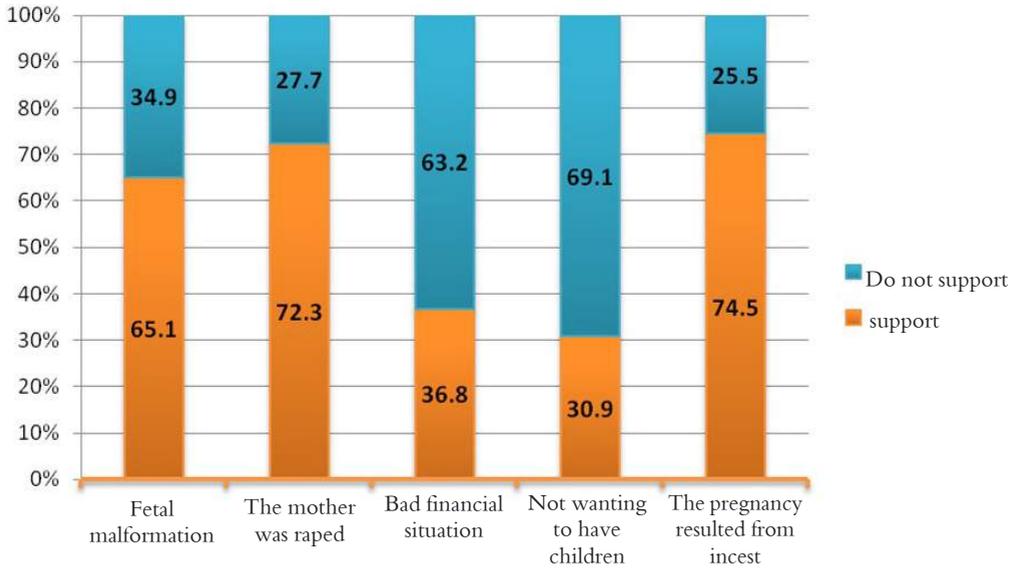
Attitude toward Miscarriage

The public's views varied between supporters and opponents of abortion under any circumstances, even in cases requiring abortion, such as a deformed fetus, or if pregnancy is the result of rape. 65% of the respondents support a woman's right to have an abortion in the event of a deformity of the fetus. 35% say they do not support them even in this case. The percentage of supporters of abortion increases in cases where pregnancy is the result of rape, as the percentage of those who report the necessity of having an abortion under these circumstances reach 72%. This percentage increases in incest cases, as the percentage of supporters, reached 74.5%, yet about a quarter of the sample, 25.5%, do not support abortion, even if the pregnancy results from incest.

It is worth noting that Iraqi law prohibits abortion and considers it a crime punishable by imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or with a fine according to Article 417 of the Penal Code. If a woman has an abortion to avoid shame, it is considered a mitigating judicial circumstance but does not exempt her from punishment if she has become pregnant with incest. This forces victims of rape or incest to maintain a pregnancy or resort to unsafe abortion methods.

63% of the respondents do not support the right of abortion in cases of inability to support a newborn, while two-thirds of the sample rejects an abortion if they do not want to become pregnant.

Figure (34): The Right of Abortion in Different Cases



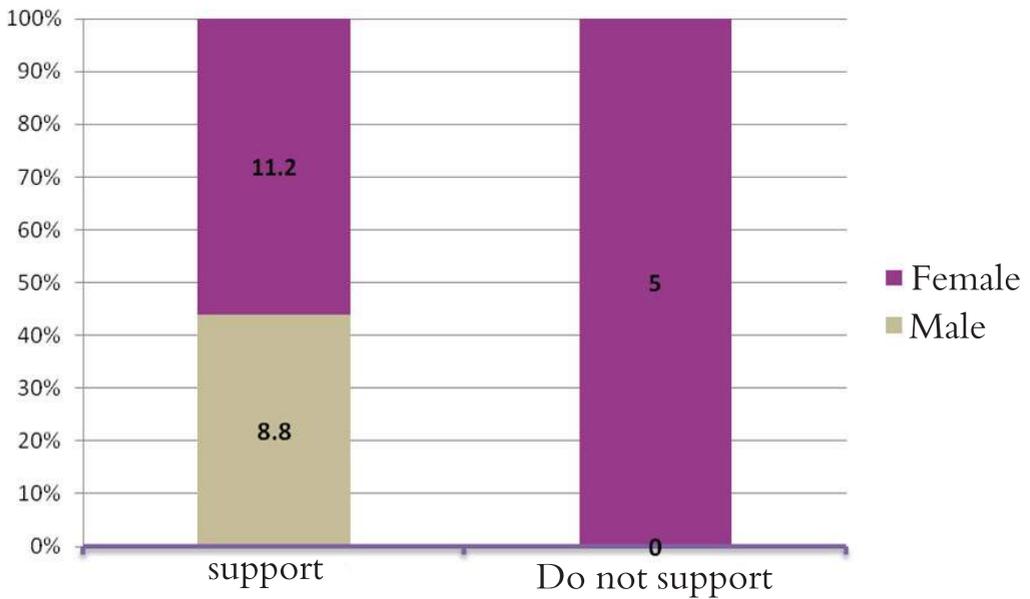
Abortion is one of the most sensitive topics that is rarely discussed.

It seems clear Iraqis do not approve of abortion, as the percentage of those supporting the absolute right of women to have an abortion, regardless of the reasons, do not exceed 20% (2731 persons) of the total sample after counting the total number of those who reported consenting to abortion in all circumstances referred to by the poll. The percentage of women among them is 11.2%, while men made up about 8.8%.

Interestingly, the percentage of those who did not support abortion under any circumstances constituted 5% of the total sample, reaching 686 persons, all of whom are women. This

means men are more realistic in their view of abortion in the search for convincing reasons, while the women refuse (and it would seem) because of decisive doctrinal points of view.

Figure (35): Rejection and Support for abortion in all Cases According to Gender



Iraqis' Confidence in Social and Official Institutions in Family and Women's Issues

Courts:

Figure (36): The Extent of Trust in the Courts

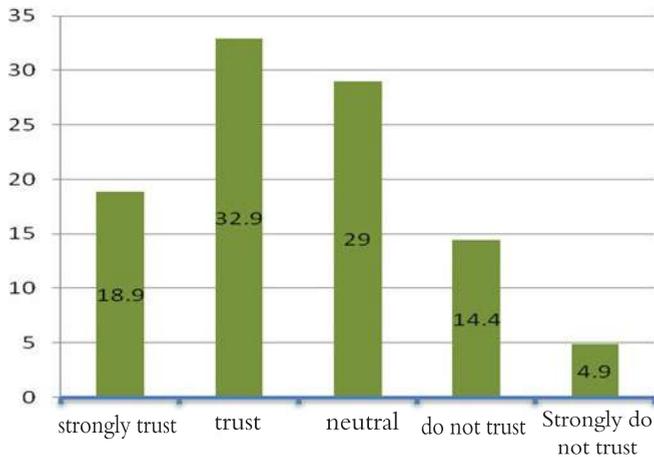
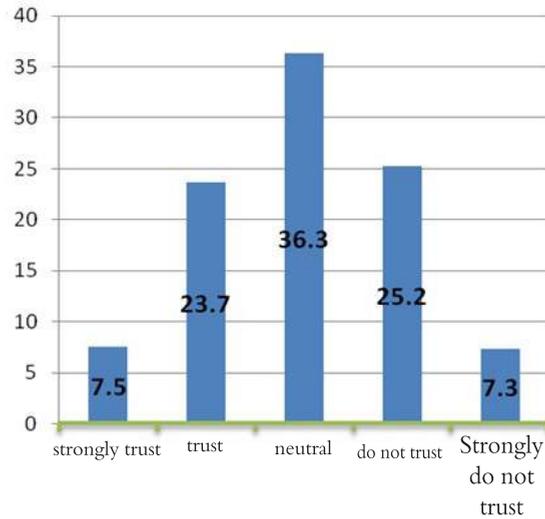


Figure (37) shows the respondents' confidence in the courts in resolving domestic violence cases.

The cumulative percentage of respondents who “trust” and “strongly trust” the Iraqi courts is about 51.8%, while the cumulative percentage of those who “do not trust” and “strongly do not trust” of the total sample is 19.2%. The rest prefer impartiality.

The Police:

Figure (38): The Extent of Trust in the Police



The above figure shows the respondents' confidence in the police in solving domestic violence cases.

It is clear that the cumulative percentage of respondents who “do not trust” and “strongly do not trust” the Iraqi police is about 32.5%. In comparison, the cumulative percentage of those who “trust” and “strongly trust” of the total sample is 31.2%. The rest, who formed a relative majority of 36.3%, prefer to be neutral in their police stance.

The uncertainty and reassurance of the police situation are evident in their potential intervention in domestic violence cases. This calls for reassuring measures to correct the stereotypical image of the police in the minds of Iraqis.

The Tribe:

Figure (39) The Extent of Trust in the Tribe

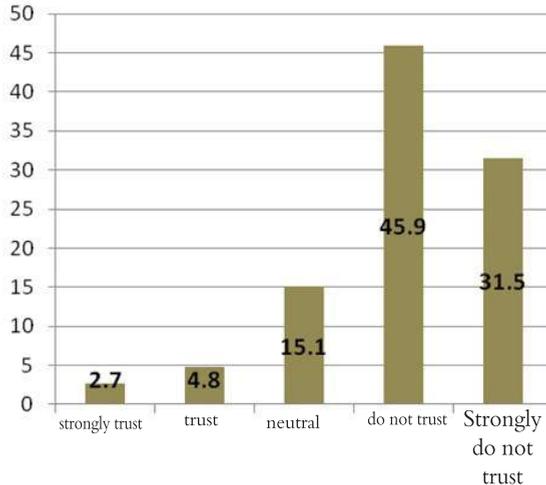


Figure (39) shows the respondents' confidence in the clan in solving domestic violence cases.

The cumulative percentage of respondents who “do not trust” and “strongly do not trust” the tribe is about 77.4%. This indicates an almost absolute lack of confidence in tribes to intervene in violent cases in the family. The cumulative percentage of those who “trust” and “strongly trust” the tribe is only 7.4%. The rest preferred neutrality.

It is clear that the tribe's reputation and the role are at its lowest in the cases it interferes with domestic violence cases. The transformations of Iraqi society and its young nature and the studied sample's educational level are sufficient factors to push the respondents to take a negative attitude towards tribes in general.

Conclusion:

The wide participation in the poll, especially women's participation, indicates a great desire to change the reality of the social situation, which has been imposed by customs, traditions, and the weakness of the system and the law for decades.

It is noteworthy that the governorates that witnessed the October 2019 protests were the most interacting with their most educated and educated young men and women.

The respondents show strong positions on various problematic issues related to the Anti-Domestic Violence draft law, as well as other issues related to the private and public rights of women, which were often marginalized demands in the midst of the political, security, and economic problems that dominated the other issues for many years.

Decision-makers in legislative, executive, and judicial institutions are faced with heavy responsibility in representing the voice of the people and feeling the pulse of the street when deciding the fate of laws, instructions, and decisions that are made especially those related to the family in general, and women and children in particular.

The issues of "rights" and "freedoms" have become vital, given that Iraqi society passes through the peak stages of youth in the average age, the effects of which will be seen politically and socially soon. It is evidenced by this poll's results, which

showed the existence of an audience that constitutes an overwhelming majority, but has been silent until the moment from expressing an opinion except within narrow limits that this group is a candidate to demand those rights and freedoms by all means, as long as its voice is not heard.