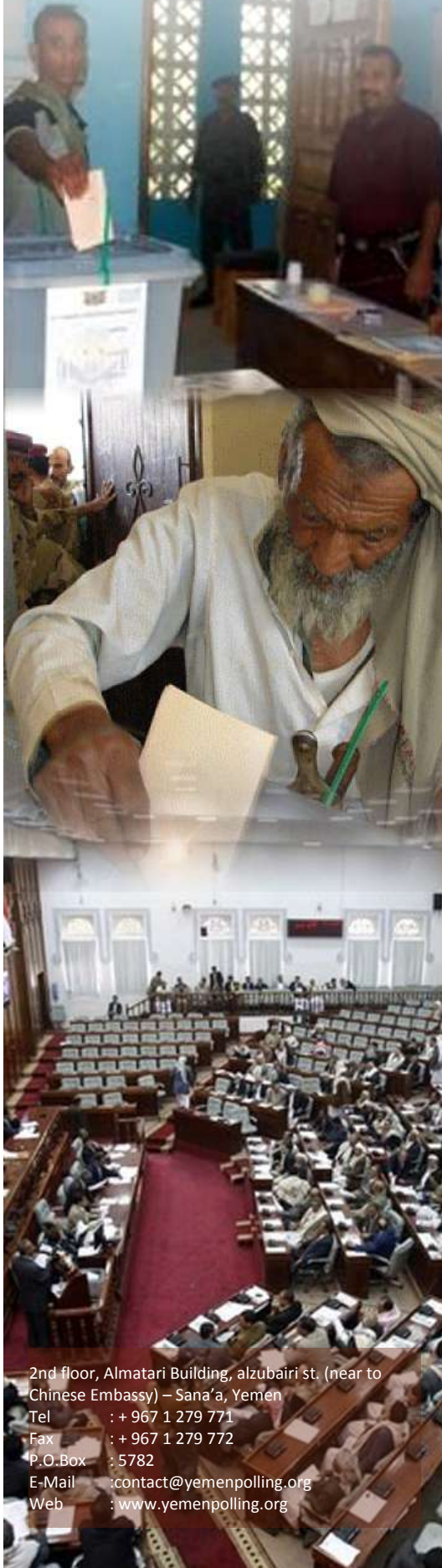




Yemen Polling Center

المركز اليمني لقياس الرأي العام

*Addressing Life Issues & Voicing Public Opinion*



# What Do Yemenis Know About The Parliament?

## Public Knowledge And Awareness

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# ABOUT THE YEMEN PARLIAMENT WATCH PROJECT

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This opinion survey is the first in a series of surveys the Yemen Polling Center (YPC) will be conducting between December 2009 and June 2011 as part of the activities of the Yemen Parliament Watch Project. YPC is implementing The Yemen Parliament Watch Project (YPW) in cooperation with the European Union's European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) initiative. The Yemen Parliament Watch project also includes the following primary components:

## **1- YPWATCH.ORG HOMEPAGE**

This homepage is intended to provide MPs, civil society activists, journalists, and the interested public with a means of informing themselves thoroughly about the contents and processes of the work of Parliament and its members. It provides a mechanism to directly contact MPs. It also provides guides on the work of Parliament, the rules, procedures and decision-making process in Parliament, as well as a guide for journalists on monitoring and reporting the work of the Parliament.

## **2- FIVE PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS**

The survey whose results are the subject of this report will be conducted again at the beginning of 2011 to measure the impact of the YPW project. The other three surveys will focus on women's political rights and participation, electoral rights and electoral reforms, and the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press. All three polls will be conducted during the 18 month time period of the project.

The main objectives of the opinion surveys are to give Yemeni citizens a voice in civil society and political development by bridging the existing gap between three important components of Yemeni society - citizens, civil society organizations (CSOs), and Parliament. Consequently, the surveys will help both Parliament and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to better understand public opinion and citizens' attitudes.

## **3- REPORTS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF PARLIAMENT**

YPC will compile a report on the performance of Parliament every four months during the 18 month-period of the project. The first report will be published during the first half of May 2010. These reports are intended to provide the public as well as the relevant stakeholders (MPs, media, and civil society) with a summary of the most recent activities by Parliament. These reports will serve also as references for journalists in monitoring the work of Parliament and in reporting on and informing the general public about its work.

## **4- FIVE TRAINING WORKSHOPS**

Members of Parliament, members of civil society organizations and journalists of various media organizations active in women's political rights will participate in workshops pertaining to electoral rights and electoral reforms, and the rights of the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press.

The workshops aim to contribute to the building and strengthening of the capacities of civil society organizations in lobbying parliamentarians on democratic and human rights issues. Additionally the workshops aim to build and strengthen the capacities of journalists in monitoring and reporting on the work of Parliament. Additionally the workshops will emphasize the importance to MPs of addressing the three above-mentioned issues in Parliament.

# THIS OPINION SURVEY

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## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This opinion survey has been designed to measure the level of public knowledge and awareness about the role and work of Yemen's Parliament. The opinion survey also sought to identify perceptions and attitudes of the general public toward women's political rights and participation, electoral rights and the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press. Therefore, the main goals of the opinion survey were to:

1. To measure public knowledge about contents, processes and duties of the work of Parliament;
2. To measure the level of public awareness concerning the importance of Parliament, the work of Parliament, and the volume of confidence in the parliamentary work; and
3. To measure the level of public knowledge and awareness on women's political rights, electoral rights, and the freedom of expression and the freedom the press.

One of the main objectives of the opinion survey was to identify and determine what the best means and possible approaches are in order to increase public awareness about the roles and functions of the Parliament; increase public awareness of the importance of the Parliament and its work and; increase public confidence on the work of the Parliament.

The other objective of the opinion survey was to identify and determine what the best means and possible approaches are in order to address women's political rights, electoral rights, and the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press.

The results of this opinion survey have achieved its main goals and objectives. The results pave the way to developing tools and means to increase public awareness and knowledge among citizens and the community about the roles and responsibilities of the Parliament as well as about the importance of the Parliament as a legislative authority enjoying the confidence of Yemeni citizens. Moreover, the results point to the appropriate approaches and the possible measures to address and enhance women's political rights and participation, to motivate citizens' participation in elections, and to improve the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press.

Yemen Polling Center hopes, through this opinion survey, to present a clear image about citizens' attitudes and expectations, and demands of the Parliament with the aim of enhancing and advancing the Yemeni parliamentary experiment. In addition, this opinion survey identifies suitable and practical channels of communications between citizens and Members of Parliament, and between the community and the Parliament as an institution.

## STUDY COMMUNITY

This opinion survey was implemented during the period 5-15 March 2010 in 12 governorates spanning most of the country: Sana' city, Taiz, Ibb, Al-Hodeidah, Dhamar, Hajjah, Aden, Hadhramout, Mareb, Lahj, Abyan, and Amran. The survey targeted 1000 respondents from the 12 governorates. The distribution of the respondents was based on the population of

each governorate. The males constituted 50.2% and the females constituted 49.8% of the respondents. The interviews were conducted by 38 male and female field researchers and 6 field coordinators. All of interviewers were trained for 6 days on the selection of respondents and how to conduct the interviews. Below are the study community characteristics.

### **Geographic Representation**

The interviews were conducted in 100 neighborhoods and quarters scattered in 94 districts in the 12 governorates. The neighborhoods, quarters, districts and governorates were selected based on a random sample determined through a multi-phase processes. The first phase was choosing 12 governorates out of 19 governorates. Sa'ada governorate was not included for security reasons. Al-Mahara was not included either because its population does not exceed 0.05% of the general population. Furthermore, conducting interviews in al-Mahara would have been very costly and difficult. The 12 governorates were selected as follows:

1. Aden and Sana'a city were selected purposefully for several demographic, social and population factors.
2. The remaining 10 governorates were divided into four similar regions in a number of geographic and population characteristics in order to for the sample to be representative. These regions are:
  - a. Governorates in the central areas
  - b. The distant mountainous governorates in the north
  - c. The arid governorates in the east and the south east
  - d. The western and coastal governorates.

The governorates in each region were selected based on a systematic sample. The sample was categorized based on its population according to the 2004 population census. The number of interviews per governorate was determined based on its population size among the twelve governorates

In the second phase, the primary sampling units (PSUs) were selected randomly in neighborhoods and quarters using the smallest administrative division available for each governorate and based on the governorate's population. No replacement of the selected sample was needed except for one respondent in Lahj governorate for security reasons.

**Table :1 Sample per governorates**

Governorate	Population	Weight%	PSUs	Interviews
Sana'a City	2,006,619	12.1	12	120
Aden	654,099	3.9	4	40
Taiz	2,589,769	15.6	16	156
Ibb	2,306,919	13.9	14	139
Lahj	784,412	4.7	5	47
Abyan	468,420	2.8	3	28
Hajjah	1,618,858	9.8	10	98
Hadhramout	1,126,355	6.8	7	68
Al-Hodeidah	2,370,444	14.3	14	143
Dhamar	1,455,280	8.8	9	88
Amran	937,791	5.7	6	57
Mareb	259,356	1.6	2	16

It is worth mentioning that 29 percent of the interviews were conducted in urban areas and

71 percent in rural areas.

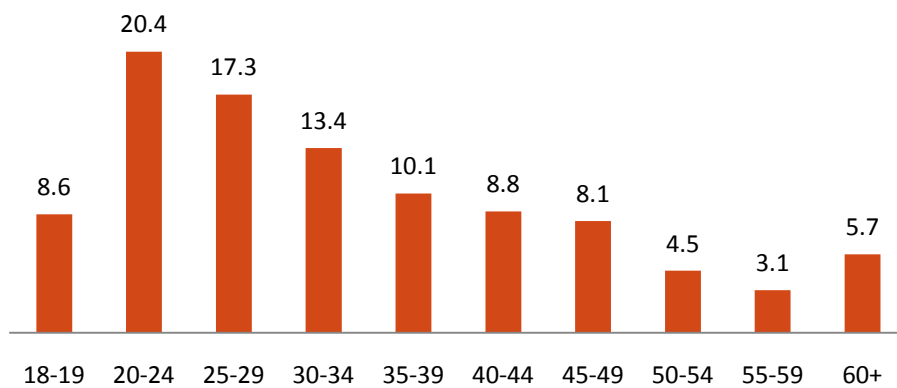
**Gender Representation**

The sample was divided equally between males and females with the exception of two cases in an area in Amran governorate. It was difficult to conduct the interview with two females. Therefore, the sample consists of 498 females and 502 males.

**Age Group**

The sample targeted respondents 18 years of age and above, according to a precise selection mechanism process of the respondents inside the homes using (Kish) table which achieves the principle random of selection. No significant difference was recorded in the distribution of the age group between the male respondents and the female respondents.

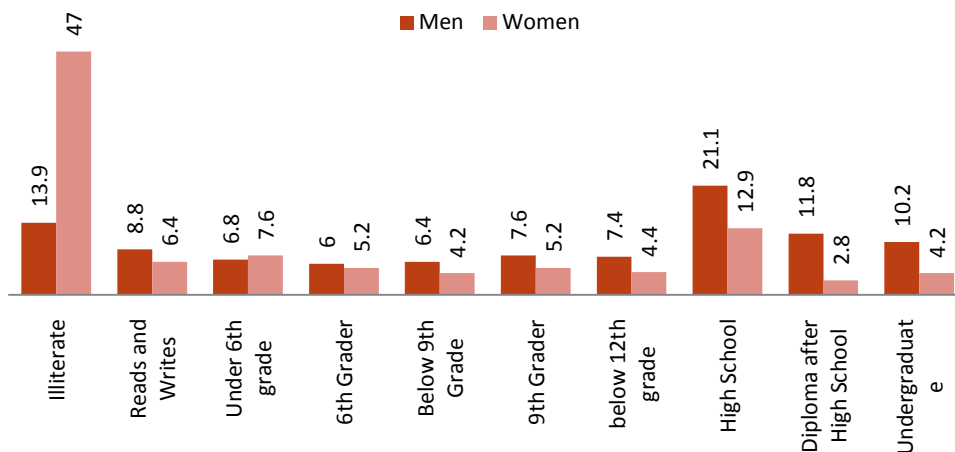
**Diagram 1: Respondents' age groups**



**Level of Education**

Within the group of female respondents, 47 percent were illiterate. The majority of the male respondents (21 percent) noted they had completed high school. In general, males respondents tended to be literate more often than female respondents.

**Diagram 2: Level of education based on gender**



### **Professional Status**

Within the group of the male respondents, 63.9 percent noted that they work (have jobs) comparing to only 8.8 percent of the female respondents. As reflected in Table2 , 22.7 percent of the working males noted they work in the public sector, 8.2 percent work in the private sector and 33.1 percent as freelancers (daily workers, owners of businesses, vocational work). And 36.1 percent of the male respondents noted that they did not work.

Within the group of the female respondents, 4.6 percent work in the public sector, 1.4 percent work in the private sector, and 2.8 percent have a private business. More than ninety one percent of female respondents noted that they did not work.

**Table 2 : Professions of respondents, based on gender**

Work Sector	Men	Women	Total
Public Job	22.7	4.6	13.7
Private Sector	8.2	1.4	4.8
Freelancer	33.1	2.8	18
Not Working	36.1	91.2	63.5

**Table : 3 Reasons for not working, based on gender**

Reason	Men	Women
Medical impediment	3.3	0.9
Housewife	0.0	74
Student	26.5	7.9
Retired	14.9	4.4
Unemployed	38.7	3.7
No job available	16	5.7
Family objection	0.6	3.3



# KEY GENERAL RESULTS

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## KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE PARLIAMENT

Only 23.4 percent of Yemenis know the number of MPs in the Parliament. Some 71.2 percent noted that they did not know how many MPs there are in Parliament while 5.4 percent stated different, incorrect numbers of MPs in Parliament.

61.4 percent of the male respondents and 26.3 percent of the female respondents stated the correct name of the Speaker of the Parliament.

According to 26.2 percent of the respondents, providing services and projects was placed on the top list of the main functions of the Parliament.

64.3 percent of the respondents believe that the Parliament is important compared to 15.8 percent who believe the Parliament is unimportant.

While 30.3 percent of the respondents believe the Parliament always performs its legislative function, 13.4 percent of respondents believe the Parliament does not perform this function at all, and 27.5 percent believe the Parliament sometimes performs this function.

Only 18.1 percent of the respondents believe the Parliament always performs the oversight function. Just over thirty percent of the respondents believe the Parliament does not fulfill its oversight function at all. Alternatively, 22.6 percent of the respondents believe the Parliament sometimes performs this function.

Improving the living conditions of citizens is the most important issue the Parliament ought to pay attention to according to 38.7 percent of the respondents followed by providing services according to 10.9 percent of the respondents.

## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MPs AND CONSTITUENTS

59.1 percent of the respondents replied correctly to the question asking them to state the name of the MP of the parliamentary constituency where they reside.

Only 21.4 percent of the respondents believe they are able to contact the MP of their parliamentary constituency.

Only 19.8 percent of the respondents noted that they were content with the performance of the MP of their parliamentary constituency while 59.7 percent of the respondents stated that their MP did not do anything during his/her current term in the Parliament.

Only 15.1 of the respondents stated that the MP did fulfill the promises he/she made in the electoral campaign. While providing services and projects for the region was the prominent promise made by the MP during electoral campaign according to 51.6 percent of the respondents, providing services and projects is seen to be the main function of MP according to 32.4 percent of the respondents.

## CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

Nearly 68 percent of the male respondents and more than half of the female respondents

noted that they would participate in the elections.

Nearly half of the respondents, mostly females noted that they supported enhancing women's political rights whereas 22.5 percent of them would support enhancing and supporting some political rights for women but not all.

30 percent of the respondents believe there is a broad freedom for media in Yemen while 19.1 percent respondents, most of whom were male, believe this freedom does not exist. 26.1 percent of the respondents noted that the freedom of the press is too little.

32.8 percent of the respondents expressed total confidence in the media organizations versus 20.7 percent who do not have any confidence in the media organizations at all.

# OVERALL RESULTS

## PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS

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### INTEREST IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Politics does not usually constitute a high priority of interest among Yemeni citizens. This was evident in opinion polls YPC conducted in the past. However, recent and current political developments in Yemen have made Yemenis more interested in public affairs. It is one of the topics always or often discussed among members of the same family, according to most of the respondents in this survey.

As Table4 makes clear, 29.3 percent of the respondents always talk about political issues with family members and relatives and 31.3 percent sometimes talk about political issues. Politics are not discussed by 37.4 percent of the respondents.

The high proportion of those who chose the option “sometimes” may confirm that political events in recent months have affected the interests of Yemenis. Recent events affecting a large segment of society may have created a temporary interest in politics.

**Table4 : Talk about politics with family and relatives based on gender**

Answer	Men	Women	Total
Yes	32.5	26.1	29.3
Sometimes	21.5	41.2	31.3
No	44.8	29.9	37.4
Do not know	1.2	2.8	2.0

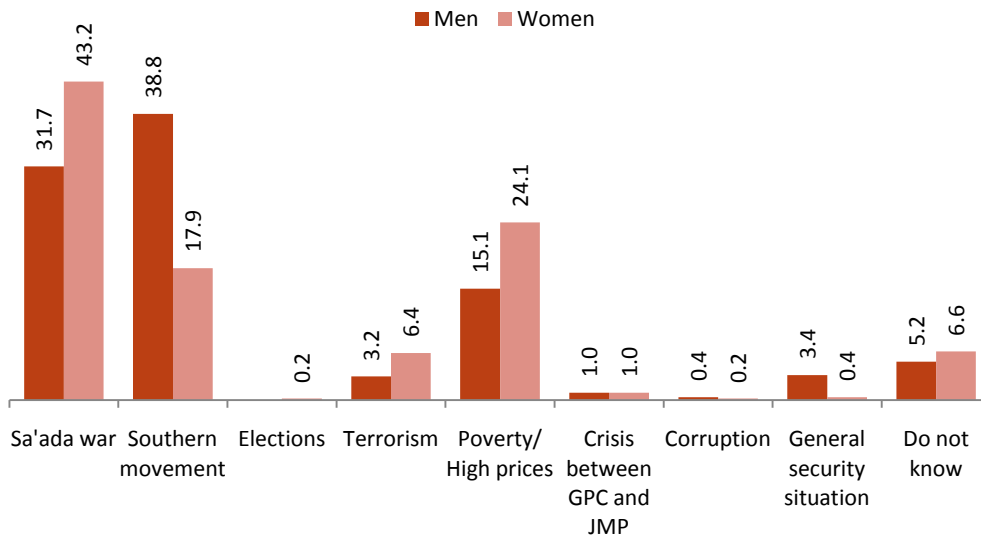
Another conclusion reflects the political events Yemen has witnessed recently (the opinion survey was implemented after the end of the sixth war in Sa’ada and at the peak of escalating protests in the southern governorates). Both the Sa’ada war and the events in the south were noted as the two most important issues in Yemen by respondents. Poverty and high prices were ranked as the third most important issue in Yemen.

Within the group of male respondents, 38.8 percent noted the political events in the southern governorates to be the most important issue in Yemen now compared to 31.7 percent who felt that the Sa’ada war was the most important issue.

Within the group of the female respondents, 43.2 percent noted the Sa’ada war was the most important issue in Yemen now compared to 17.9 percent who considered the Southern Movement to be the most important issue.

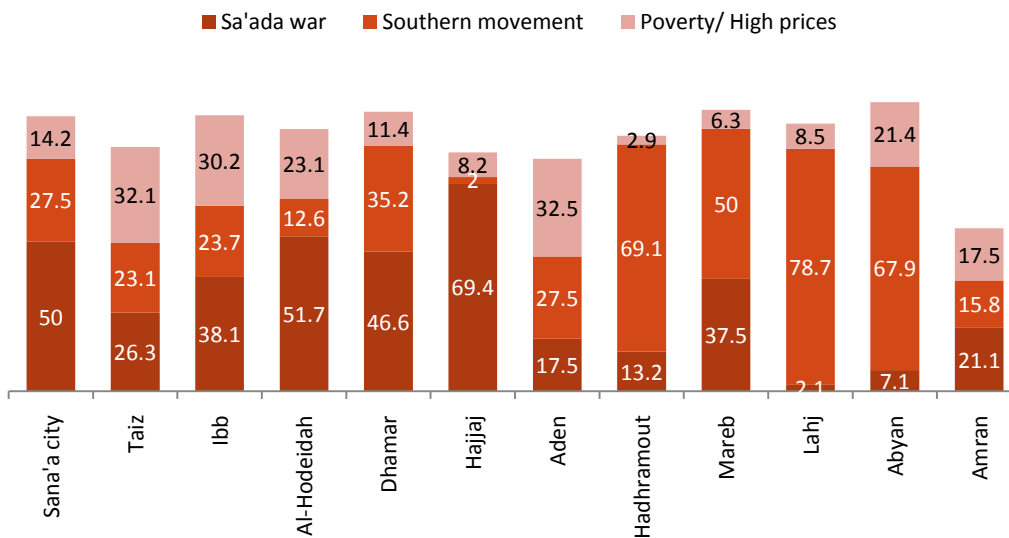
Poverty and high prices remained the most important issue in Yemen now according to 24.1 percent of the male respondents and 15.1 percent of the female respondents.

Diagram 3: Most important political issue in Yemen now, based on gender



While most of the respondents who considered Sa’ada war to be the most important were in the northern governorates such as Hajjah, Dhamar, Al-Hodeidah, Ibb, Mareb and Sana’a city, most of the respondents who considered the events in the southern to be the most important issue were in Lahj, Abyan, hadhramout, Aden and Mareb.

Diagram 4: Most important political issues now, based on governorates

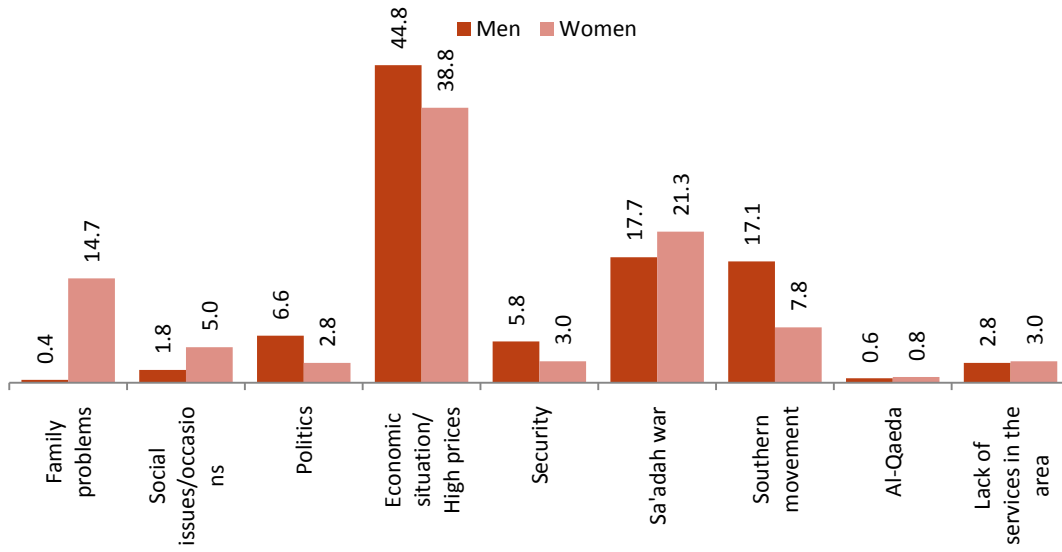


Despite respondents ranking the Sa’ada war and the Southern Movement as their greatest concerns, economic issues still dominate discussions at social occasions, meetings, and qat chews. Nearly half (44.8 percent) of the male respondents and 38.8 percent of the female respondents noted that the economic situation and high prices were the most talked about issues at such gatherings.

Sa’ada war came in second according to 21.3 percent of female respondents and 17.7 percent of the male respondents, and the events in the south was in third place according to 17.1 percent of the male respondents and 7.8 percent of the female respondents. Additionally, women talk about family problems during their sittings according to 17.7

percent of the female respondents.

Diagram 5: Citizens' priorities, based on gender



# PUBLIC AWARENESS AND THE PARLIAMENT

## PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE

### Number of MPs in the Parliament

Many Yemenis do not know much about the Parliament. According to the results shown in Table5 , 23.4 percent of the respondents knew that there are 301 MPs in the Parliament, while 71.2 percent noted that they simply do not know, and 5.4 percent provided wrong numbers to how many members there are in the Parliament.

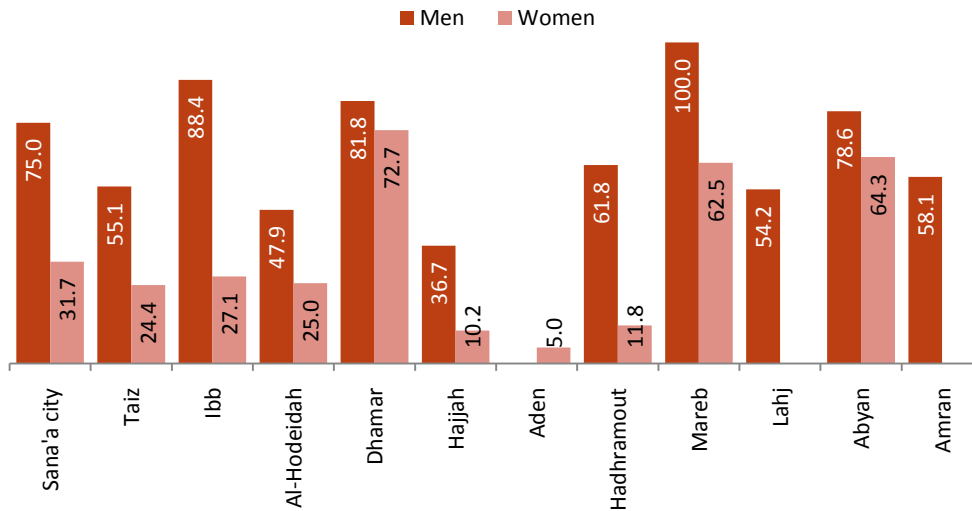
**Table:5 Knowledge about number of MPs**

	Urban	Rural	Total
Right answer	24.8	22.8	23.4
Wrong answers	5.2	5.5	5.4
Do not know	70.0	71.7	71.2

### The Speaker of Parliament

Level of public knowledge about the name of the Speaker was higher than that of the number of MPs in the Parliament. This may be due to the dominant role of MPs individually on the account of Parliament as an institution, which is common in third world countries.

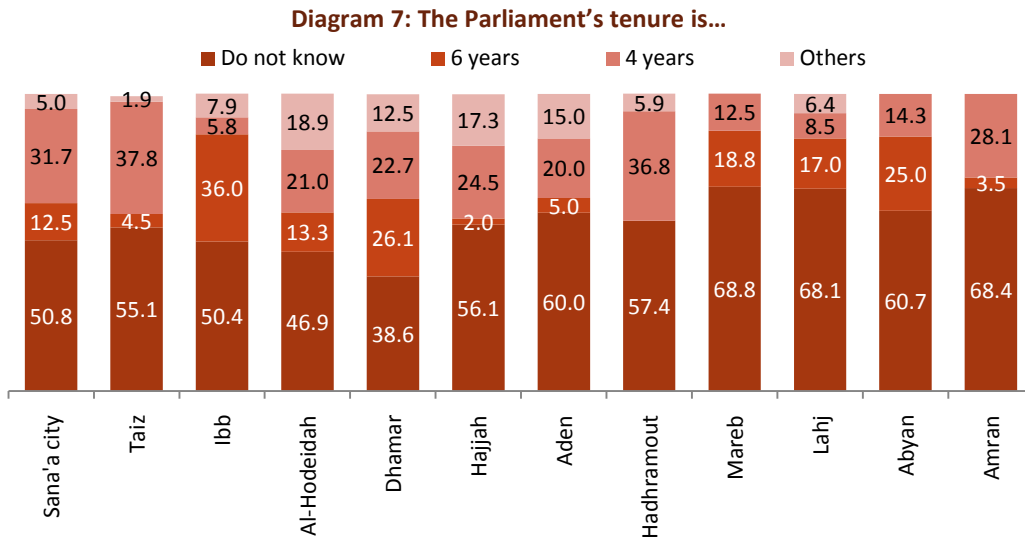
**Diagram 6: Knowing the name of current Speaker of Parliament**



61.4 percent of the male respondents and 26.3 percent of the female respondents knew the name of the current Speaker of Parliament while 2.2 percent of the male respondents and 1.5 percent of the female respondents came up with different names including Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein and Sultan Al-Barakani, and the rest of the respondents noted that they did not know the name of the Speaker. The highest correct answer to the name of the Speaker was recorded among the male respondents in Mareb governorate. No correct value was recorded among the male respondents in Aden governorate nor among the female respondents in Lahj and Amran governorates. (See Diagram 6)

### Tenure of Parliament

More than 53% of the respondents, mostly women, as shown in Table 6 said that they did not know what the Parliament's tenure is. Twenty-four percent of the respondents, mostly men, said that the Parliament's tenure is 4 years, while only 13.8 percent of the respondents, mostly men, said that the Parliament's tenure is 6 years, which is the correct answer. Diagram 7 shows the proportion of respondents' answers about the Parliament's tenure in each targeted governorate.



**Table :6 The Parliament's tenure is..., based on gender**

Answers	Men	Women	All
6 years	20.5	7.0	13.8
Others	9.2	8.4	8.8
4 years	34.9	12.7	23.8
Do not know	35.5	71.7	53.5
Refuse to answer	0.0	0.2	0.1

### Proposing Laws and the Decision-Making Process in the Parliament

The low level of public knowledge among citizens about the Parliament becomes patently clear when the respondents were asked about the roles and the responsibilities of the Parliament. The respondents were asked about how laws are proposed in Parliament, and which authority has the right to do that.

Only 6 percent of them know at least one mechanism for proposing laws if we assume that a group of MPs has the right to propose laws is another mechanism, while 92.4 percent of the respondents said they do not know how laws are proposed and which authority has the right to present law.

Table7 shows that 87% of male and 98 percent of female respondents neither know how laws are proposed in Parliament nor which authority has the right to propose laws. Equally disconcerting, only 6.8 percent of men and less than 1 percent of women respondents said it is the government that proposes laws and has the right to do so.

There was not much difference with respect to the decision-making process in Parliament once a law has been discussed. Nearly 74 percent of males and 87.3 percent of the females

said they did not know what the decision-making process is. According to Table 8, nearly 20 percent of the males and 11.2 percent of the female respondents said that a law requires the majority vote of the members present in the session to be approved by Parliament.

**Table 7 : Proposing legislation mechanism**

	Men	Women	All
Do not know the mechanism	86.9	98.0	92.4
Government	6.8	0.8	3.8
An MP / several MPs	2.2	0.6	1.4
Any ministry or government institution	1.8	0.0	0.9
Party bloc in the Parliament	1.6	0.0	0.8
Others	0.6	0.0	0.3
A group of citizens		0.4	0.2
All of the above	0.2	0.2	0.2

**Table:8 Knowledge about proposing legislation mechanism (percentage of votes)**

	Men	Women	All
Do not know the mechanism	73.7	87.3	80.5
Majority present in session	20.7	11.2	16.0
Unanimously	2.0	0.6	1.3
Majority of MPs present and absent	1.4	0.8	1.1
Two third majority	2.2		1.1

### **Functions of Parliament**

Respondents did not have a good understanding of the functions of Parliament. Table 9 shows that 26.2 percent of respondents believed that providing services and implementing projects was the main function of Parliament. Twenty one percent of respondents said that they did not know what the function of the Parliament is. Only 27.9 percent of the males and 13 percent of the females said that the function of the Parliament is to vote laws and legislation, which is one of the actual functions of Parliament.

Only 12.6 percent of the males and 6.6 percent of the females said that oversight of the performance of the government is the function of the Parliament. However, those respondents considered the oversight function as: 1) oversee the performance of the government and 2) hold the officials to account. An additional 2.3 percent of the respondents stated a number of responsibilities as the functions of the Parliament, such as to resolve conflicts and disputes among citizens, to provide job opportunities and to reduce prices.

**Table :9 The function of the Parliament according to respondents**

	Men	Women	All
Provide services and projects	22.5	29.9	26.2
Do not know	15.9	26.1	21.0
Issue laws and legislation	27.9	13.1	20.5
Demanding citizens' rights- discussing citizens' issues	13.9	18.3	16.1
Oversee the government's activities /Holding officials to account	12.6	6.6	9.6
Others	2.4	2.2	2.3
Nothing	1.6	2.6	2.1
Representing the people	1.6	0.6	1.1

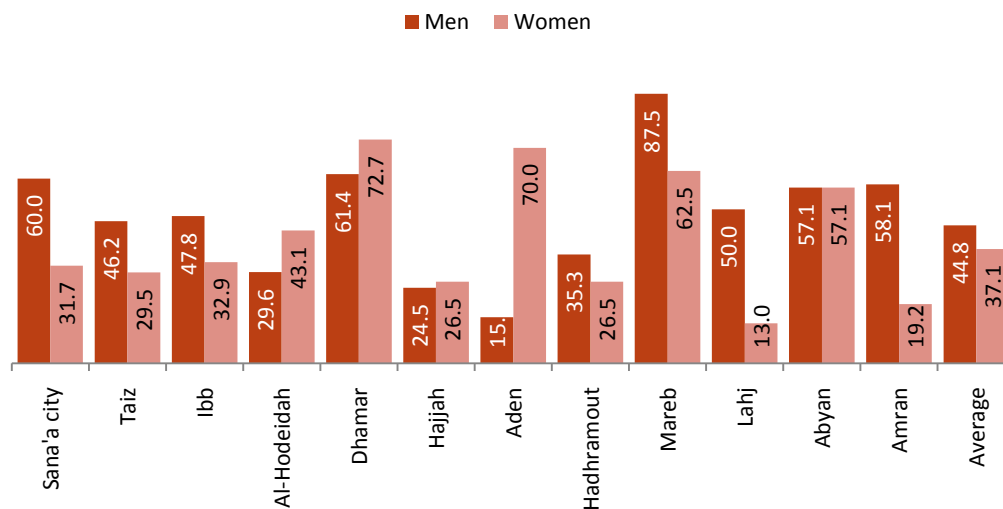


### Interest in Parliament's Activities and Sessions

Forty one percent of the respondents (44.8 percent of the males and 37.1 percent of the females) said that they follow the Parliament's activities and sessions. Per governorate, Mareb governorate is the governorate most interested in following the Parliament's activities and sessions especially among the males. Aden governorate is the least interested governorate among males, but surprisingly, it is the second highest among the females after Dhamar governorate.

With regards to the source of information on the Parliament's activities and sessions, TV was the main source of information for 84.9 percent for male respondents and for 95.1 percent of female respondents.

**Diagram 8: I follow up – even a little- on the Parliament's activities and sessions**



**Table :10 Sources used to follow up on Parliament's activities**

	Men	Women	All
TV	84.9	95.1	89.5
Newspapers and Magazines	8.4	0.5	4.9
Family members/relatives/ friends/ etc.	1.8	2.7	2.2
Social sittings and Qat Chews	2.2	0.5	1.5
Radio	0.9	0.5	0.7
Others	0.9	0.5	0.7

### IMPORTANCE OF PARLIAMENT

The majority of the respondents considered the Parliament to be important for Yemen. Despite the low level of public knowledge about the Parliament, 64.3 percent of the respondents believed in the importance of the Parliament comparing to 15.8 percent who believed the Parliament was unimportant.

**Table11 : Do you think the Parliament is important?**

	Men	Women	All
Important	69.1	59.4	64.3
Not important	17.3	14.3	15.8
Do not know	13.3	25.9	19.6
Refused to answer	0.2	0.4	0.3

The importance of the Parliament, as depicted by respondents is connected with their visions of the role entrusted to the Parliament (the questions were presented to mean the Parliament as an institution in general and not about a specific or the current Parliament, per se). When the respondents were asked why they believe the Parliament is important, their answers or justifications related to the functions they expect the Parliament to perform. For example, the Parliament is important in order to discuss citizens' issues and to provide services and projects. It is worth mentioning that the majority of those respondents were defining "discussion" as synonymous to providing a solution or a public service (the living conditions, high prices and lack of public services were the main issues referred to here by the respondents).

Parliament was considered important in order to discuss citizens' issues and to provide services and projects according to 42.3 percent, 16.6 percent of respondents, respectively.

Nearly 12 percent of respondents considered the Parliament to be important for enacting legislation. Just over 5 percent felt that Parliament was important due to its oversight functions.

It is also worth mentioning that the male respondents connected the importance of the Parliament with its legislative and oversight functions more than the female respondents.

Despite the high awareness level among the general public of the importance of the Parliament among respondents, tying the importance of the Parliament with roles and functions that are not actually the main functions of the Parliament creates confusion in the relationship between the Parliament and society. When citizens do not differentiate between the functions of the Parliament and the functions of the executive authority, they therefore assess the performance of the Parliament based on the extent of the efficiency or inefficiency of the executive authority.

**Table12 : Reasons why Parliament is important**

	Men	Women	All
To discuss citizens' issues	30.5	56.1	42.3
To provide services and projects	13.3	20.6	16.6
To make laws and legislation	17.6	5.1	11.8
To represent the people	14.7	6.4	10.9
To oversee the government	8.4	1.4	5.1
Do not know	4.3	4.1	4.2
Essential for any country	4.0	3.0	3.6
Others	2.9	2.4	2.6
Essential for democracy	3.7	1.0	2.5
For legislation and oversight	0.6		0.3

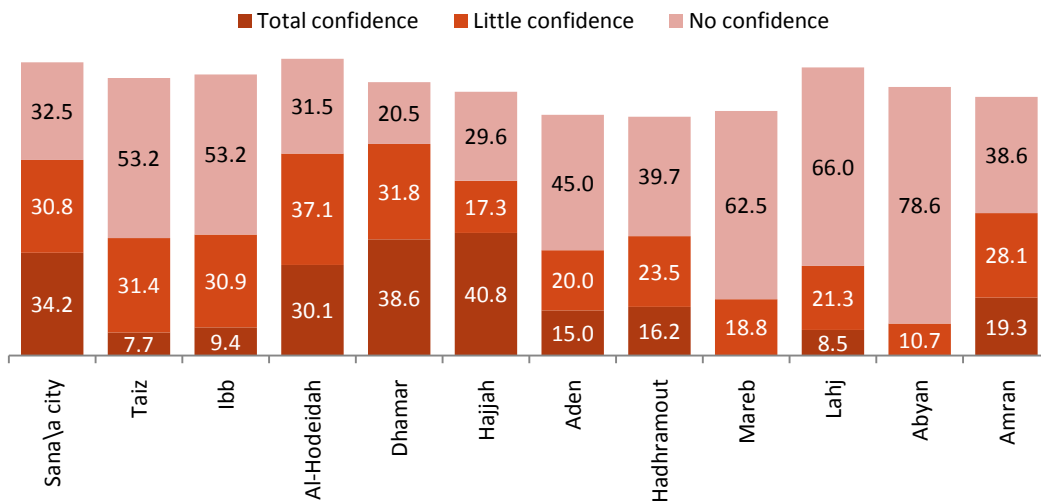
## LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE AND CONTENT IN CURRENT PARLIAMENT

More than half of all male respondents and 29.3 percent of females do not have any confidence on the Parliament today. In general, nearly half of the respondents have no confidence in the Parliament. Less than a quarter of respondents, mostly women, expressed their confidence in the current Parliament. Also, 28.3 percent of the respondents have little confidence in the Parliament.

In terms of governorates, the highest confidence rates in the performance of the Parliament were recorded in Hajja, Dhamar and Sana'a city, respectively. The lowest rates were

recorded in Abyan and Mareb governorates, respectively.

**Diagram 9: Level of confidence in the current Parliament**



In addition, 56.6 percent of the male respondents and 37.1 percent of the female respondents do not feel content with the performance of the Parliament compared to 22.5 percent of the male respondents and 27.1 percent of the female respondents who feel somewhat satisfied. The proportion of those who feel satisfied with the performance of the Parliament does not exceed 13.5 percent among the males and 19 percent among the female respondents.

The Parliament always performs the legislative function according to 30.3 percent of the respondents in comparison to 27.5 percent who noted that the Parliament only sometimes performs this function. Also, 28.8 percent of the respondents did not know whether the Parliament is or is not performing this function.

With respect to the oversight function of the Parliament, only 18.1 percent of the respondents noted that the Parliament always performs this function while 30.5 percent of the respondents noted that the Parliament does not perform this function at all.

**Table:13 Level of satisfaction with performance of current Parliament**

	Men	Women	All
Satisfied	13.5	18.9	16.2
Somewhat satisfied	22.5	27.3	24.9
Not satisfied	56.6	37.1	46.9
Do not know	7.4	16.3	11.8
Refused to answer	0.0	0.4	0.2

**Table :14 Does the Parliament perform its legislative role?**

	Men	Women	All
Always	35.7	24.9	30.3
Sometimes	29.7	25.3	27.5
Not at all	16.5	10.2	13.4
Do not know	18.1	39.6	28.8

**Table :15 Does the Parliament perform its oversight role?**

	Men	Women	All
Always	19.7	16.5	18.1
Sometimes	24.9	20.3	22.6
Not at all	37.6	23.3	30.5
Do not know	17.7	39.6	28.6
Refused to answer		0.4	0.2

### **MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE DISCUSSED BY THE PARLIAMENT**

More than half of the respondents noted that they did not know what the most important issue discussed by the Parliament is. While 13.2 percent of the respondents felt that Sa'ada War was the most important issue, 11.6 percent of the respondents said that the Parliament did not discuss any important issue as far as they are concerned.

**Table16 :Most important issue discussed by Parliament**

	Men	Women	All
Do not know	49.0	59.2	54.1
Sa'ada war	15.9	10.4	13.2
Nothing	14.7	8.4	11.6
High prices	3.2	9.4	6.3
Southern Movement	4.0	2.0	3.0
Corruption	1.4	2.6	2.0
Electricity	1.6	1.8	1.7
Security situation	2.0	0.8	1.4
Others	8.2	5.2	6.7

### **MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS**

Among the respondents, 38.7 percent noted that improving the living conditions of citizens is the most important issue the Parliament ought to pay attention to while 10.9 percent stated that providing services ought to be the most important issue for the Parliament to discuss.

**Table17 : Most important issue Parliament ought to be discussing**

	Men	Women	All
Improving living conditions/ jobs opportunities/ Prices	36.9	40.6	38.7
Providing public services/ water/ electricity/ education	14.5	7.2	10.9
Sa'ada war	6.0	13.5	9.7
Fighting corruption	10.0	8.6	9.3
Do not know	5.8	10.4	8.1
Southern Movement	10.6	5.0	7.8
Ensuring security	4.2	6.8	5.5
Others	4.6	1.6	3.1
Human rights	3.0	1.6	2.3
Reforming the judiciary	1.2	1.2	1.2
Applying current laws	1.6	0.4	1.0

# MPs AND CONSTITUENTS

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## KNOWING THE MP IN THE REGION (CONSTITUENCY)

Among the respondents, 59.1 percent knew the name of the MP in their constituency where they reside. Almost 36 percent said they did not know the name of the MP in the constituency where they reside, and 5 percent of respondents provided wrong names.

The results (in Table18 ) indicate that urban residents know less about MPs in comparison to rural residents. This does not mean that the MPs in rural areas are more visible and known to the public as much it points to the nature of the formation of rural congregations where MPs naturally blend in to the community.

**Table :18 Do you know the name of the MP of your constituency?**

	Urban	Rural	Total
Right answers	41.0	66.5	59.1
Wrong answers	5.9	4.6	5.0
Do not know	53.1	28.9	35.9

## ABILITY TO CONTACT MPs

Among the respondents, 70.5 percent noted that they are unable to contact their MP while 21.4 believed they were able to contact their MP. The ability of the respondents to contact their MP did not change significantly between urban and rural areas. Therefore it only confirms that a higher percentage of those who knew the name of their MP in rural areas does not indicate more visibility of MPs in rural constituencies.

**Table19 : Can you contact your MP?**

	Urban	Rural	Total
Yes	18.6	22.5	21.4
I may and I may not be able	8.6	7.9	8.1
I can not	72.8	69.6	70.5

The majority of the respondents had not contacted the MP for their constituencies and only 8.5 of the respondents had contacted their MP in order to ask the MP to intervene in personal disputes, to demand projects, or to ask for his assistance in official procedures. The majority of the latter had used the telephones and house visits to contact the MP or meeting with the MP in places where the MP was meeting with people.

**Table20 : Have you contacted your MP? Have tried to contact your MP?**

	Urban	Rural	Total
Yes	6.6	9.2	8.4
No	91.7	87.5	88.7
Do not know	1.7	3.4	2.9

## WAYS TO CONTACT MPs

In response to an open question about the best way to contact their MP, 27.5 of interviewees noted that they prefer that their MP visits the constituency regularly in order to be reached, 16.7 percent noted that they would prefer to contact the MP through the telephone, and 24.7 percent did not know what the best way is to contact their MP.

The results of the survey indicate a difference between urban and rural areas pertaining to having an office for the MP in the constituency in order to contact or be contacted, where 13.8 percent of the respondents in urban areas noted that they would prefer to contact their MP in his/her office in the constituency comparing to 6.9 percent of the respondents in rural areas.

**Table21 : Preferred ways to contact MPs**

	Urban	Rural	Total
To be present in the area – visit the area	20.0	30.6	27.5
Do not know	26.9	23.8	24.7
Through Telephone	15.2	17.3	16.7
An office in the constituency	13.8	6.9	8.9
Visit homes/ direct contact	4.1	7.6	6.6
Do not want to contact	6.9	5.9	6.2
Through social dignitaries	2.4	3.4	3.1
Rallies	4.8	2.0	2.8
Social meetings and occasions	1.7	0.7	1.0
Party office/Headquarters	2.1	0.1	0.7
Others	0.3	0.4	0.4
In elections periods	0	0.6	0.4
Refused to answer	0.3	0.3	0.3
Email	0.7		0.2
Lectures or sermons in mosques	0.3	0.1	0.2
Brochures		0.3	0.2
Other	0.3		0.1

### SATISFACTION LEVEL OF MPs’ PERFORMANCE

The majority of the respondents do not feel satisfied with the performance of MPs. Almost one fifth of respondents are satisfied with the performance of their MP and 19 percent are little satisfied. In contrast most (51.4 percent) of the respondents noted that they were not satisfied with the performance of their MP while 9.5 of the respondents said that they did not know.

**Table:22 Percentage of satisfaction regarding the performance of MPs**

	Urban	Rural	Total
Satisfied	18.6	20.3	19.8
Little satisfied	14.8	20.7	19.0
Not satisfied	53.8	50.4	51.4
Do not know	12.4	8.3	9.5
Refused to answer	0.3	0.3	0.3

Almost a quarter (24.5 percent) of the respondents believed that the MPs can express their opinions freely in Parliament even if their opinions differ from the stances of their political parties. Among the respondents, 23.2 percent noted that the MPs could only do that sometimes. Whereas 35.2 percent noted that the MPs could not voice opinions different from their party, 16.8 percent noted they did not know whether MPs could or could not express their opinions freely in Parliament.

**Table23 : MP’s ability to express his/her opinion freely in Parliament**

	Men	Women	All
Yes	22.9	26.1	24.5
Sometimes	24.9	21.5	23.2
No	38.8	31.5	35.2
Do not know	12.9	20.7	16.8
Refused to answer	0.4	0.2	0.3

According to the majority of respondents, the MPs did not accomplish anything during the current tenure of the Parliament. The respondents’ discontent with the performance of MPs may be connected to the inability of the MPs to present anything tangible for their constituents in addition to other factors such as not fulfilling the promises they had made in electoral campaign. These issues are dealt with in more detail later in this report.

In replying to a question about the most important accomplishment by the MP in their constituency, three fifths (59.7 percent) of the respondent said that the MP did not accomplish anything for their constituency. Only 11.9 percent of the respondents noted that the MP has accomplished something for their constituency in the form of introducing and providing services such as electricity, water and constructed roads. Interestingly, only 0.6 percent of the respondents noted that their MP did accomplish something pertaining to their legislative and oversight role.

**Table :23 Most important work done by MP in the area**

	Urban	Rural	Total
Nothing	56.9	60.8	59.7
Providing services for the area (water, electricity, road, etc.)	10.3	12.5	11.9
Providing jobs for the unemployed	2.1	0.4	0.9
Paying attention to rights (for women, marginalized people)		0.6	0.4
Proposed laws and legislation (did his/her legislative role)		0.1	0.1
Performed his oversight role (raised an important issue)	0.7	0.4	0.5
Resolved citizens’ problems	0.3	0.7	0.6
Do not know	29.7	24.4	25.9

**ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN PROMISES**

The results of this survey indicate that the promises made during the electoral campaign periods fall outside the frame of the duties and responsibilities of the MPs. A majority of respondents (51.6 percent) noted that providing services to the areas was the most prominent promise made by MPs. The results show also that MPs in rural areas are the most likely to make such promises. The respondents in rural areas are more forgetful of and less knowledgeable of the promises made by MPs in comparison to the respondents in urban areas.

**Table24 : Most prominent promise by MPs**

	Urban	Rural	Total
Provide services to the region (water, electricity, etc.)	32.8	59.3	51.6
Do not know or do not recall what the MP had promised to do	27.9	18.3	21.1
Do not recall what the MP promised to do	23.1	17.6	19.2
Provide jobs for unemployed – social security insurance	12.8	3.9	6.5
Fighting corruption	1.4		0.4
Did not promise anything	0.3	0.4	0.4
Propose laws or amendments to laws	0.7	0.3	0.4
Presents the region’s issues in Parliament	0.7		0.2
To pay attention to human rights issues (women’s political participation, marginalized groups)	0.3		0.1
Refused to answer		0.1	0.1

Among the respondents, 65.6 noted that the MP did not fulfill the promises made during the

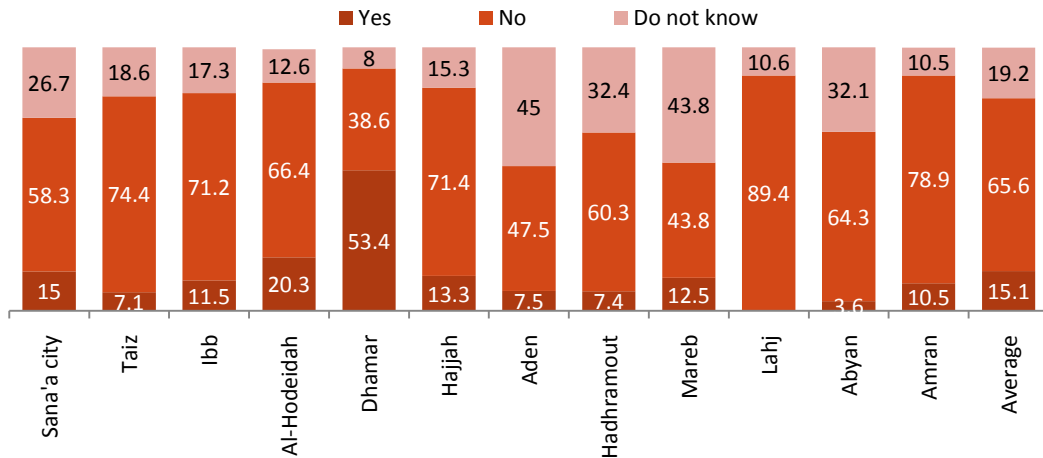
elections campaign in comparison to 15.1 percent who noted that promises were fulfilled.

**Table :25 Did the MP accomplish elections’ promises?**

	Urban	Rural	Total
Yes	13.8	15.6	15.1
No	62.4	66.9	65.6
Do not know	23.4	17.5	19.2
Refuse to answer	0.3		0.1

Disaggregated by governorates, the MPs in Dhamar governorate are the most likely to have fulfilled the promises they made during the elections campaign. These were most likely to have been in the form of services and projects for their areas.

Diagram 10: Did the MP fulfill electoral promises?



### THE DUTIES OF MPs

The majority of respondents, especially in rural areas, believe that the most important job and duty for MPs is to provide services and projects for their regions. Only 9.1 percent of the respondents noted the main job for MPs is oversight. Only 6 percent noted it to be the legislation.

**Table26 : The main duty of MPs**

	Urban	Rural	Total
To provide services and projects for people	18.6	38.0	32.4
Do not know	14.1	16.5	15.8
To adopt voters’ issues	23.4	11.5	15.0
To resolve problems among people	17.6	7.6	10.5
To enact laws and legislation	4.5	6.6	6.0
To hold officials to account	2.4	6.2	5.1
To resolve problems of individuals	5.2	4.2	4.5
To oversee the performance of government	3.4	4.2	4.0
Other	3.8	1.7	2.3
To appoint employees	4.8	1.1	2.2
Nothing	0.3	0.8	0.7
To oversee the government’s budget	0.3	0.7	0.6
To implement electoral platforms	1.0	0.1	0.4
To fight corruption	0.3	0.1	0.2
Refused to answer		0.3	0.2
To serve personal interests only		0.1	0.1



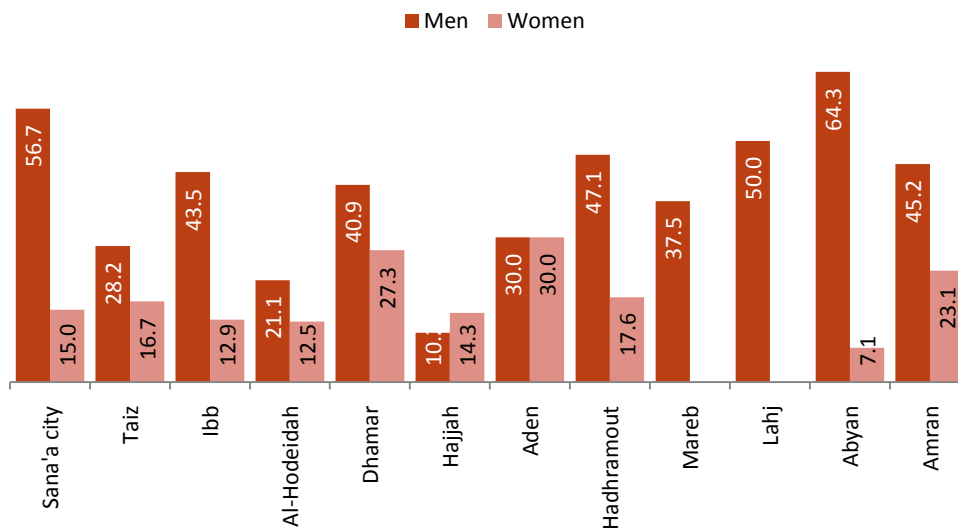
# ELECTORAL RIGHTS

## PARTICIPATION IN THE COMING ELECTIONS

### Change of the Date of Elections

When the respondents were asked about the date of the upcoming parliamentary elections, the answers of 26.2 of the respondents (36.7 percent of the males and 15.7 percent of the females) was April 2011. And 53 percent of the male and 79.5 percent of the female respondents noted that they did not know the year the upcoming parliamentary elections would be held.

**Diagram 11: Who knows the date of the next parliamentary elections?**



The majority of the respondents who know the correct date of the upcoming parliamentary elections, mostly women, noted that the elections had been postponed until 2011. Nearly 5 percent of the respondents stated the year 2011 to be the original date for the elections.

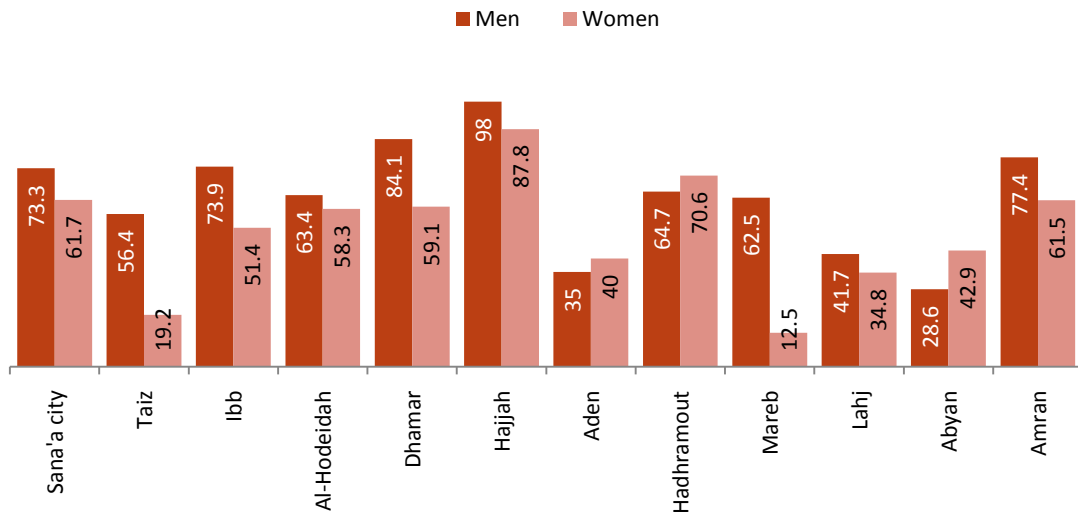
**Table 27 : Change the elections' date**

	Men	Women	All
Original date has changed	90.2	94.9	91.6
Did not change	5.4	2.6	4.6
Do not know	4.3	2.6	3.8

### Level of Participation

Nearly 68 percent of the males and half of the female respondents noted that they would participate in the upcoming parliamentary elections. Among the respondents, 22.5, mostly women, noted that they were undecided and that they may participate or they may not participate. Among males, 10.6 percent of males said they would not participate while 17.5 percent of the female respondents said that they would not participate.

Diagram 12: Level of Participation in the Upcoming Parliamentary Elections



### Motives to Participate in Elections

The respondents were asked about what will motivate people to participate in the parliamentary elections and what will discourage from participating. The most important motives to participate in the upcoming parliamentary elections according to the respondents were associated with the candidates more than the electoral platforms.

More than a quarter (27.8 percent) of the respondents, most of whom were female respondents, believe that people will participate in the elections to elect a competent person able to serve the region. While 13.8 percent of the respondents believe that a candidate with a good reputation will motivate people to participate and 8.7 percent of the respondents said that people will be motivated by the desire for change. Only 6.8 percent of the respondents said that people will be motivated to participate in the elections if they were getting financial rewards.

Table28 : What will motivate you most to participate in the coming parliamentary elections?

	Men	Women	All
A candidate competent to serve the region	24.3	31.3	27.8
A candidate with good reputation	14.7	12.9	13.8
For change	10.6	6.8	8.7
Reward or financial gain	5.2	8.4	6.8
Improving the economic situation	9.0	4.0	6.5
Practicing democratic rights	6.2	4.8	5.5
Do not know	2.8	6.4	4.6
A new candidate other than the incumbent	4.0	4.4	4.2
A candidate my family, friends and relatives are convinced of and has their confidence	2.6	5.2	3.9
A candidate to be of a certain party	3.4	3.6	3.5
A convincing elections platform	3.0	1.2	2.1
It is a national duty	1.4	2.0	1.7
Ensuring the integrity of elections operation	2.4	0.8	1.6
Political or social pressure	2.2	1.0	1.6
Others	2.0	1.0	1.5
To maintain stability and security	1.2	1.4	1.3
The candidate is a friend, relative	1.6	0.8	1.2
The candidate is educated	0.8	1.2	1.0

On the other hand, unacceptable candidates and not fulfilling electoral promises will lead people not to participate in the elections according to 31.1 percent and 21.1 percent of the respondents, respectively.

**Table :29 What might hinder you in participating in the coming parliamentary elections?**

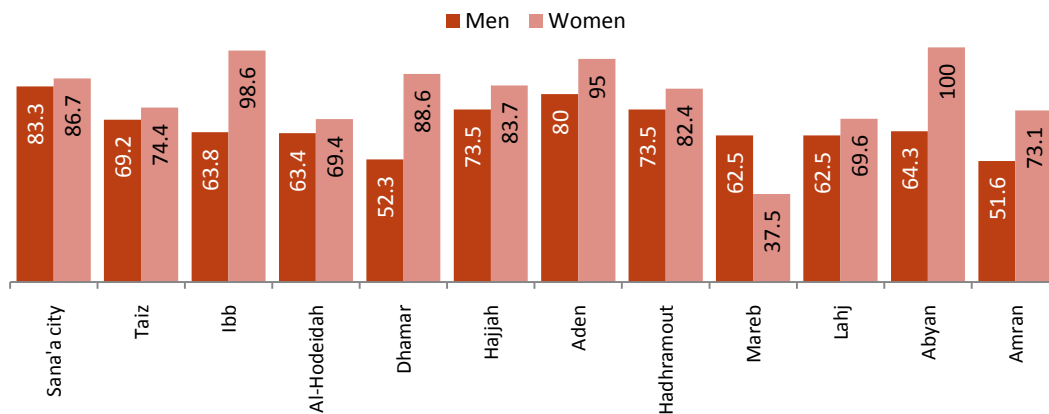
	Men	Women	All
No acceptable candidate	34.5	27.7	31.1
Not fulfilling electoral promises	12.2	12.0	12.1
Do not know	7.6	16.3	11.9
The general situations remain as are	11.2	4.2	7.7
Feeling the elections are useless	4.2	9.8	7.0
Forging the elections	8.0	3.4	5.7
No attention to region's situations	3.6	4.4	4.0
Deterioration of security situations	2.8	3.6	3.2
Personal and special reasons	0.8	5.0	2.9
Other	3.6	2.0	2.8
No awareness of democratic rights	1.8	3.6	2.7
No financial gain –reward	2.2	3.0	2.6
No candidate of a specific party	2.6	1.4	2.0
No convincing electoral platform	2.2	1.6	1.9

# WOMEN'S POLITICAL RIGHTS

## WORKING UNDER WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

On average, 82 percent of the female respondents and 67.3 of the male respondents noted that they would accept a job if the boss or the supervisor was a woman. In Mareb governorate, however, only 37.5 of the female respondents said they would accept working under females' leadership.

Diagram 13: Working for a female boss

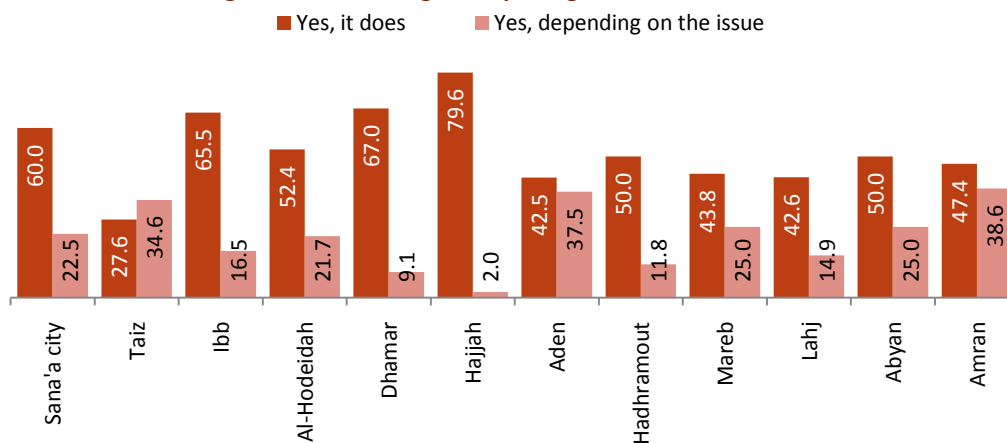


## POLITICAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN IN THE LAW

More than half of the respondents believe that the Yemeni law gives equal political rights to men and women such as the right to cast a ballot, to run in elections, to hold governmental posts, to hold a post in political parties, and to participate in political rallies, etc.

More than one fifth (20.8 percent) of the respondent noted that the Yemeni law treats men and women as equal only in some rights but not in all matter. Furthermore, 15.6 percent of the respondents, most of whom were women, felt that the law does not provide equal political rights for men and women. The rest of the respondents stated that they did not know whether or not the Yemeni law gives equal political rights to men and women.

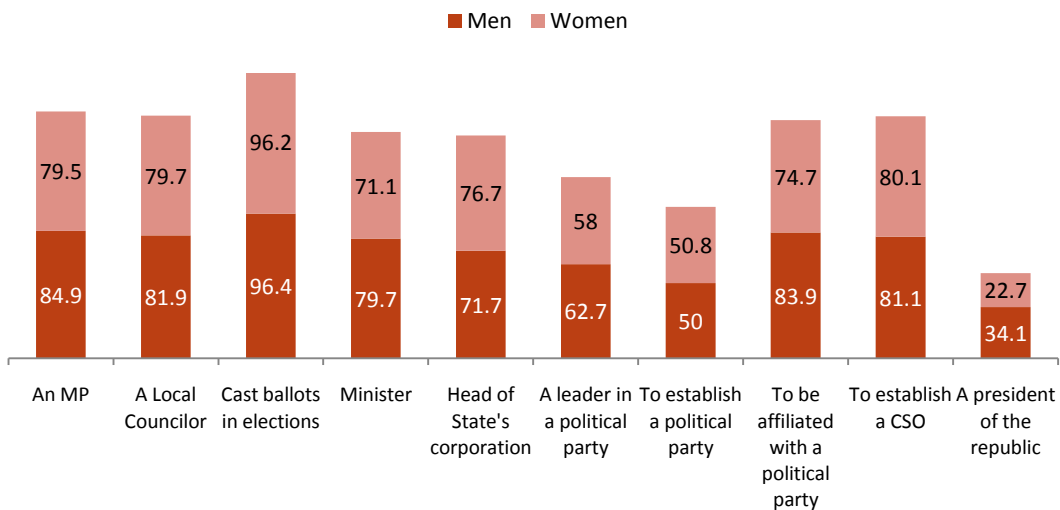
Diagram 14: The law gives equal rights to men and women



When the respondents were asked about a number of women's political rights and whether Yemeni laws do or do not guarantee them, the majority of the respondents generally showed high expectations. The majority of the respondents confirmed that the Yemeni Law gives women the right to be a member of the Parliament and local councils, to vote in elections, to be a minister and to be head of a state's corporation. However, the right for women to hold a leadership position in political parties (Chairperson or Secretary General) was not expected to be a realistic possibility according to the respondents. The lowest expectation expressed by the respondents was for the right for women to be the president of the republic.

However, the result pertaining to the right for woman to run for the position of the president of the republic is the highest recorded result in comparison to the results recorded of the surveys conducted by YPC in 2005 and 2006. This may be interpreted as an increase in public awareness as a result of actual presence of women in political life (voting, being members of political parties, running for local councils) rather than reflecting that the public has become more aware of the legal texts pertaining to women's political rights.

**Diagram 15: Level of knowledge about women's political rights in the law**



## ENHANCING WOMEN'S POLITICAL RIGHTS

### Level of Support and Opposition

Nearly half of the respondents, a majority of whom are women, support enhancing women's political rights. More than a quarter (25.5 percent) support enhancing some political rights for women but not all the privileges. The justifications of the opponents to enhancing women's political rights as noted by the respondents were as follows: 26 percent of the males and 12.7 of the female respondents noted to religious factors; 20 percent of all respondents suggested customs and traditions; and 44 percent of the female respondents noted the inability of women. The most important reason noted by 20 percent of the male respondents was women's household responsibility.

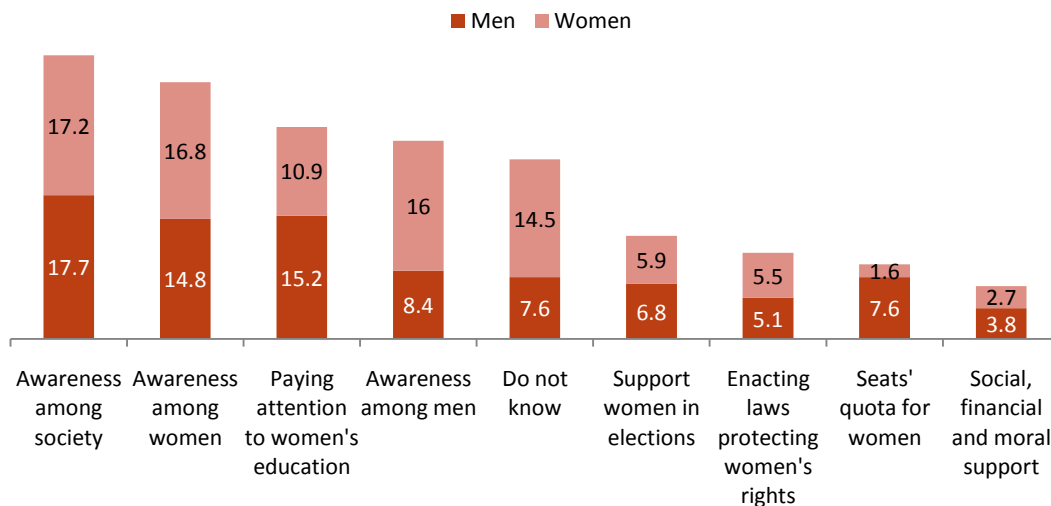
**Table30 : Enhancing and supporting women’s political rights**

	Men	Women	All
Yes	47.2	51.4	49.3
Only some political rights	24.3	26.7	25.5
Against	24.3	14.3	19.3
Do not know	3.6	7.6	5.6
Refuse to answer	0.6		0.3

**Table31 : Reasons for not supporting women’s political participation (non-supporters)**

	Men	Women	All
Religious reasons	26.6	12.7	20.3
Social reasons (customs and traditions)	20.1	21.1	20.5
Women are incompetent	20.5	44.1	31.3
Family’s responsibility is more important	30.7	19.1	25.4
Others	0.8	1.0	0.9
Do not know	0.8	2.0	1.3

**Diagram 16: Means to support women’s political rights (supporters)**



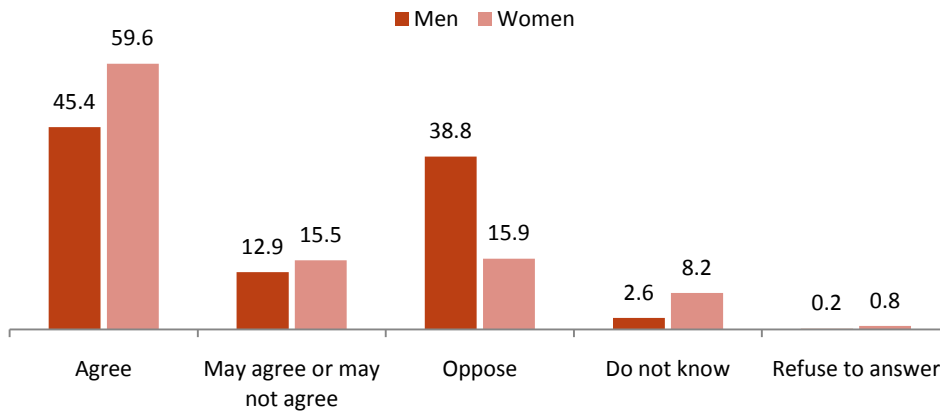
The supporters of enhancing women’s political rights believed that the best means to empower women’s political rights was to increase awareness among the community in general and among the women in particular, to pay attention to the education of women, and to increase awareness among men. The respondents’ views changed, however, when suggesting some means to support and enhance women’s political participation, as seen later in this report. It was also clear that most of the respondents who did not know how to enhance political rights for women were female respondents. Additionally, most of the female respondents suggested increasing awareness among men as a means to enhance women’s political participation.

**Quota for Women in Parliament**

Awareness was the most suggested approach to enhancing and supporting the political rights for women for the supporters of women’s political rights. Allotting a seats quota for women in Parliament and including women in various jobs and political posts were mentioned as options to enhance women’s political rights only by less than 1 percent of the

respondents. Nonetheless, when the respondents were asked specifically about allotting 20-30 seats for women in Parliament, more than 45 percent of the males and 59 percent of the female respondents expressed their support compared to 38.8 percent of the males and 16 percent of the female respondents who opposed it.

**Diagram 17: Stance to allocate 20-30 seats for women in Parliament**



**WOMEN'S POLITICAL RIGHTS**

Aside from the stipulations in the law, the personal stances of the respondents toward the political empowerment of women varied even among the female respondents in comparison to their attitudes about women working as medical doctors and teachers. The personal support rate among men toward women’s right to be an MP, a Local Councilor, or the Head of a State corporation dropped tremendously compared to the rate of those who noted that the law gives women these rights.

The rate support dropped also among the female respondents toward women’s rights to form a political party, be a minister or prime minister. The rate of support, however, increased towards women’s rights to be a judge. The level of support dropped especially among the male respondents when the question was explicit about supporting female members of the same family.

**Diagram 18: Women ought to be able to hold the following positions**

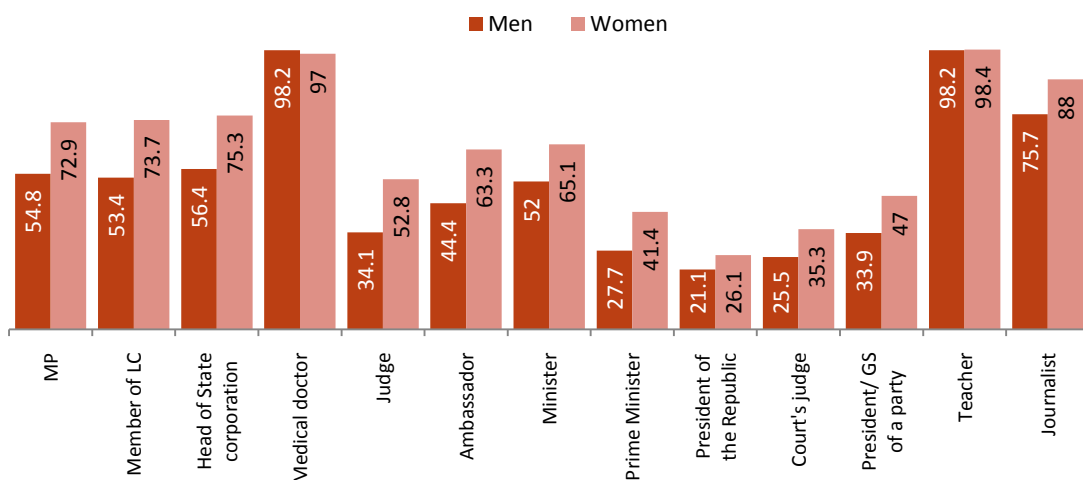
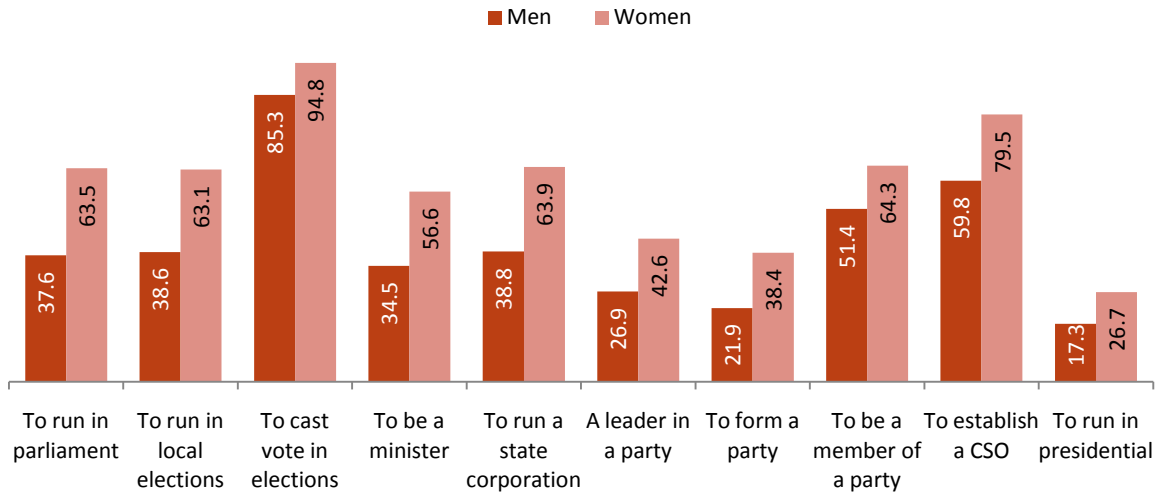


Diagram 19: Family supporters of a woman member of same family





# FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

## PRESS FREEDOM IN YEMEN

Nearly one third (30 percent) of the respondents felt that there is broad freedom of the press in Yemen. In comparison, 26.1 of the respondents felt that there is hardly any freedom of the press in Yemen. Almost one fifth (19.1 percent) of the respondents, most of whom were men, stated that there is no freedom of the press in Yemen. Additionally, 10.7 percent of the respondents, mostly women noted that the freedom of the press is not always granted.

Table :32 Level of press freedom in Yemen

	Men	Women	All
No broad freedom for the media	30.5	29.5	30.0
Little freedom	26.5	25.7	26.1
Sometimes there is and sometimes there isn't	7.4	14.1	10.7
No freedom for the media	25.3	12.9	19.1

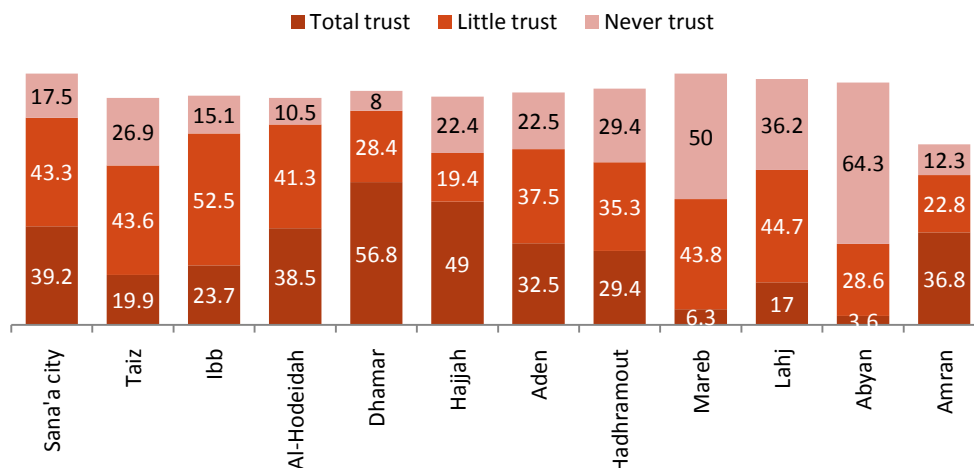
## LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE IN MEDIA

Just under one third (32.2 percent) of the respondents, most of whom were females, have confidence in the media compared to 20.7 percent who noted they did not have any confidence in the media. An additional 38.4 percent of the respondents noted that they have little confidence in the media.

Table:33 Level of confidence in the media (print press, radio, TV)

	Men	Women	All
Total confidence	25.1	40.6	32.8
Little confidence	39.6	37.1	38.4
Never confidence	31.3	10.0	20.7
Do not know	4.0	12.0	8.0
Refuse to answer		0.2	0.1

Diagram 20: Level of confidence of the media based on governorate



## THE MEDIA AND CITIZENS' ISSUES

According to 42.7 percent of the respondents, the media organizations express and adopt citizens' issues compared to 18.3 percent of the respondents who noted that the media organizations do not express and adopt citizens' issues at all. While 18.3 percent of the respondents noted that the media organizations sometimes express and adopt citizens' issues, 10.5 percent of the respondents noted that only some media organizations express and adopt citizens' issues.

**Table34 : Do the media express citizens' issues?**

	Men	Women	All
Does not express or adopt citizens' issues	20.7	8.4	14.6
Sometimes it does and sometimes it does not	15.5	21.1	18.3
Some media organizations but not all	11.6	9.4	10.5
Yes, the media expresses citizens' issues	43.4	42.0	42.7
Do not know	8.6	18.9	13.7
Refuse to answer	0.2	0.2	0.2

When the respondents who said that all or some media organizations do not express and adopt citizens' issues or they do so only sometimes were asked about the reasons behind that, 40.8 percent noted the fear of being oppressed while 18 percent of the respondents noted that the reason is that the media themselves do not care about citizens' issues and 14.7 percent noted that journalists do not care about citizens' issues.

**Table 35: Reasons why the media do not express and adopt citizens' issues**

	Men	Women	All
Face oppression	41.7	39.7	40.8
Law does not permit	4.2	5.2	4.6
Media people do not care	13.3	16.5	14.7
Citizens' issues not important to media	15.8	20.6	18.0
Media run by government	10.0	1.5	6.2
Media for who pays more- interest	2.9	0.5	1.8
Media belongs to parties	0.8	0.5	0.7
Media's weak capabilities	0.8	2.1	1.4
Other	1.3		0.7
Do not know	8.8	12.9	10.6
Refuse to answer	0.4	0.5	0.5

## PUNITIVE MEASURES AGAINST THE MEDIA

The majority of the respondents supported abolishing the imprisonment and execution of journalists and the suspension of newspapers.

Sixty five percent, 69.4 percent, and 58.9 of the respondents supported abolishing of the imprisonment of journalists, the execution of journalists and the suspension of newspapers, respectively. In contrast, 12.2 percent, 11.8 percent, and 16.3 percent of the respondents opposed abolishing imprisonment of journalists, execution of journalists, or suspension of newspapers.

**Table35 : Imprisonment of journalists ought to be abolished**

	Men	Women	All
Support	65.1	64.9	65.0
Little support	16.3	14.7	15.5
Do not support	12.9	11.4	12.2
Do not know	5.4	9.0	7.2

**Table:36 The death sentence for journalists ought to be abolished**

	Men	Women	All
Support	69.5	69.3	69.4
Little support	12.9	10.0	11.5
Do not support	11.8	11.8	11.8
Do not know	5.4	8.8	7.1
Refuse to answer	0.4		0.2

**Table37 : The suspension of newspapers ought to be abolished**

	Men	Women	All
Support	54.6	63.3	58.9
Little support	20.9	11.6	16.3
Do not support	17.7	14.9	16.3
Do not know	6.4	10.2	8.3
Refuse to answer	0.4		0.2