TENT TRACKER
PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS
USA YEAR 2
2016/2017
BACKGROUND & PROJECT OBJECTIVES
TENT TRACKER 2016/17

The Tent Foundation seeks to improve the lives of those who have been forcibly displaced by ensuring that they are able to realize their full potential. It does so by providing direct support to organizations doing good work, investing in innovation and facilitating partnerships with NGOs and businesses, as well as through gathering data and insights to help inform the general public and policymakers.

Since 2015 The Tent Foundation has been working closely with AudienceNet, a London-based research agency working on matters of public importance, on its research strategy. The research to date has focused on two main areas:

• Yearly tracking of international public perceptions of the refugee crisis
• Giving refugees a voice through comprehensive quantitative research with 1583 refugees in Germany, Greece and Jordan

Tent’s research has been presented to key decision-makers at the United Nations and the World Economic Forum (2016 and 2017).

This document reports on Year 2 of the International Public Perceptions Tracking Research.

The overall study consists of statistically and demographically representative research, with 11 countries covered in Year 1 (2015/16) and 12 countries in Year 2 (2016/17).

This report looks specifically at the US. It comments on shifts in public opinion since Year 1 (2015/16), as well as benchmarking the US against the rest of the world.
METHODOLOGY
DATA COLLECTION & SAMPLE

YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 CHANGES:
In the interests of year on year comparability, the methodology was largely kept the same. There were two adaptations worthy of note, however. These are:
- An additional country (Italy) was added
- Refreshing aspects of the questionnaire (adapting/adding questions) to cover pertinent topics for 2016/17

TOPICS:
The research seeks to establish a holistic understanding of public opinion by focusing on factors that influence it, broadly covering:
- Personal circumstances
- Interest and engagement with public affairs
- Awareness of and attitudes towards the refugee crisis
- Level of compassion towards refugees
- Assessment of refugees’ needs and (national and global) policy solutions/approaches
- Sense of public/personal responsibility

FIELDWORK:
Statistically and demographically represented research was conducted in the following countries:
Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Serbia, Sweden, Turkey, UK, US
Surveys lasted 15-20 minutes and were completed online, in native languages.
A fresh sample of participants took part in Year 2.
US fieldwork took place between 12/21/2016 – 01/10/17 | N= 1,501

Note: See individual country reports for sample breakdown and fieldwork dates.
The survey encompassed a statistically representative sample of the US population in terms of gender, age, geographic location, life-stage and socio-economic status.

In terms of political stance/affiliation, in Year 2 there was a relatively even balance between those identifying as Conservative (39%) and those identifying as Progressive/Liberal (35%), with 20% saying Neutral/Centrist and the remainder being unsure. Interestingly, US participants were somewhat more likely to identify as Conservative than participants across the globe (25%).

The types and frequency of information sources used (“Fairly” or “Very frequently”) to keep up with news/current affairs was generally similar in all countries surveyed:
• The top two sources were traditional media (TV and News sites on the Internet), but the opinions of peers and influencers were not far behind in the form of “Word of mouth” and “Social media.”
• Other traditional sources (print newspapers/magazines and radio) are used but to a slightly lesser degree and have experienced a small decline in the US since Year 1.

In terms of identifying the sources that can influence opinion (“A great deal”/“To some extent”), a diverse list emerged:
• A key finding was that, although the views of experts are clearly important, as much (if not more) emphasis is placed on the views of people they know. In both the US (63%) and survey-wide (70%), “Talking with friends or family” received the highest ranking for being able to influence opinion.
• Listening to interviews on the radio/TV, or reading articles by journalists came joint third (59% each).
• In terms of more curated sources a high level of trust is placed on the arts (approximately half selected relevant films or TV shows). However, the public do appear to be somewhat skeptical, especially in the US, with only around 3 in 10 being influenced by opinion led pieces in the media or by social media posts.
LENGTH OF AWARENESS, PERCEIVED CAUSES AND GLOBAL IMPACT

▲ Level of concern about the refugee crisis is high and comparable to other national and global matters: 7 in 10 US participants identified it as something they were worried about (slightly higher survey-wide). Furthermore, this proportion has remained stable since Year 1.

▲ In the US, awareness of the refugee crisis has been slightly more recent than survey-wide: 50% have known for more than a year (71% survey-wide), while 44% have been aware for less time.

▲ There was a general consensus across all countries surveyed and amongst US participants that “War” was a primary cause of the crisis (9 in 10). However, interestingly, US participants were more likely to also select other causes, with half citing “Religious persecution” and “Lack of safe places closer to countries of origin.” Furthermore, the proportion saying seeking “Better economic opportunities” was just 35% (lower than the survey-wide average of 43%).

▲ US participants viewed the need to escape war as the primary motive for refugees fleeing (7 in 10). Importantly, again, they were less inclined to see motives as opportunistic in any way, with just 35% feeling refugees may have been motivated by seeking better opportunities in wealthier countries (45% survey-wide).

▲ Overall, almost all participants felt the refugee crisis was a pressing global matter, with 22% of US participants saying it was “the most pressing crisis” the world has faced.
PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS
US EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SECTION 3

COMPASSION/EMPATHY AND CONCERNS ABOUT THE REFUGEE CRISIS

CHANGES OVER TIME

▲ Opinions about the economic impact of resettling refugees were somewhat divided. A relatively even proportion of participants thought that refugees can positively contribute and benefit the economy (total 53%) vs. those who saw them as a burden (46%). These scores have remained consistent between Year 1 and 2.

CONCERNS:

▲ In the time that they have been aware of the refugee crisis, participants’ level of concern has either increased (46%) or remained the same (52%); it has not decreased.

▲ In terms of sympathy towards the refugee crisis, results were somewhat more complex. While US participants were more likely than those survey-wide to say they had become “More sympathetic” in recent months (55%), since last year there had been a 14% increase in the proportion who became “Less sympathetic.”

INCREASE IN SYMPATHY:

▲ While facts and figures on refugees’ circumstances and impacts were important, the main drivers of sympathy were information about their hardships and imagining being in their situation.

DECREASE IN SYMPATHY:

▲ In both the US and survey-wide, fear over “security/terrorism” was (by far) the primary reason, with over half citing this.

▲ The participants were asked what (if anything) would make them more sympathetic. Primarily, they would want to be assured of minimal negative impact on host countries. They responded well to facts/figures on refugees’ intentions and ability to integrate.
CONCERNS FOR REFUGEES:
▲ Almost all participants expressed concern for refugees’ wellbeing as a result of the circumstances they had faced. These generally focused on the emotional stress of experiencing violence and the impact on families, along with practical factors such as losing possessions and the length of the journey.

IMPACT ON HOST COUNTRIES:
▲ Participants did identify concerns for host countries, but importantly no single factor was mentioned by more than 6 in 10 respondents.
▲ The main concerns related to the potential impact on the national economy and security.
▲ Importantly, concerns relating to cultural impact (integration, acceptance of culture etc.) were less commonly mentioned, especially in the US.
▲ Compared to the survey-wide average, US participants were more outward thinking, demonstrating concern for other host countries.
▲ Perhaps unsurprisingly, there was a strong correlation between level of concern and viewpoint towards refugees: the “Overtly negative” generally expressed a higher level of concern.
▲ US participants were generally optimistic about refugees’ intentions and ability to work, with half (49%) saying “Refugees are willing to work hard.” They were more inclined to say this than those in other countries (38%). However, 35% were skeptical, selecting the statement “Refugees are just looking for handouts.”
▲ When probed further on security risks, across all countries surveyed and in the US, most participants were fearful that accepting refugees could lead to an increase. However, it is important to note that approximately half of this group felt these risks could be effectively managed through diligence.
▲ When compared to other religions, there are undeniable anxieties relating to Islam, with around 50% of participants mentioning “extremism” and “intolerance.” But there was also some positive sentiment, and more so in the US: 20-30% of participants saw Islam as “peaceful” and conducive to integration.
PARTICIPANTS WERE ASKED HOW OPEN/HONEST PUBLIC DISCOURSE IS IN RELATION TO THE REFUGEE CRISIS:

▲ A high proportion (2 in 3) felt that people do not express their true opinions about the refugee crisis for fear of being judged.

▲ However, when asked specifically about themselves, just under half felt comfortable expressing their opinions. This sentiment was highest amongst those who our segmentation defines as “Overtly positive” (58%) or “Mixed” (52%) comparative to the “Overtly negative” (32%).

▲ Another metric revealed that approximately 6 in 10 (in the US and survey-wide) felt ‘pressure to think and speak a certain way about refugees.’

▲ In terms of the media, just 1 in 4 felt reporting was fair and honest. Amongst the remainder, there was a fairly even split between those who disagreed and those who were undecided. Opinions varied somewhat based on sympathies towards refugees, with those with “Overtly negative” views considerably more likely to disagree.
There was a relatively even split between participants who felt refugees were seeking long-term support and those who felt they wanted short-term help until it was possible to return home.

TREATING ALL REFUGEES EQUALLY VS. PRIORITISING: AGE & GENDER:
- 3 in 10 said that all refugees should be helped equally. Of those saying specific groups should be prioritized, women and children emerged as main priorities.

RELIGION:
- Encouragingly, the highest proportion (6 in 10) said that all religious groups should be treated equally. Of the remainder, a small proportion identified specific religions or thought priority should be given to those who had faced religious persecution.

TYPES OF SUPPORT THROUGH POLICIES AND INITIATIVES:
- Overall, both in the US and survey-wide, “Temporary shelter” was the key priority (6 in 10).
- Other commonly selected factors related to social and economic integration/empowerment (language classes, assistance finding work and job training).

EVALUATION OF OWN COUNTRY’S CONTRIBUTION:
- Views of US participants differed considerably to those survey-wide. While they were similarly proud of their country’s approach to helping refugees throughout history, there was a sense that they had contributed less towards the current crisis.
Participants saw the refugee crisis as requiring global action, with “All countries” and the “United Nations” most often identified as having the “greatest responsibility.”

In terms of responsibility of the US, 1 in 3 (consistent between Year 1 and 2) did not feel their country had a responsibility to accept refugees. The remainder thought that they did have a responsibility. In terms of the approach, they generally felt a quota system would be best.

Providing financial support to refugees received varied responses:

- 3 in 10 US participants and participants across all countries surveyed were not in favor of donations or taxes.
- Among those who were open to financial support, there was a relatively evenly spread between those preferring taxes, donations or both.

Personal actions:

- The most common action was speaking to friends and family. More active involvement (such as interactions with refugees, donations or joining petitions) was relatively low.
- Overall, approximately half felt they had been able to contribute as much as they would like and half did not. For the latter, the main reason was lack of financial resources. Notably however, 1 in 3 said they did not “know what to do to help.”
NAVIGATING THE REPORT
ANALYSIS & REPORTING

Where percentages do not add up to 100%, this is due to rounding of the data.

Where base sizes are below 30, results must be interpreted with caution. These will be indicated by a caution symbol 🔄.

The data has been weighted to demographically match the national population (see Section 1 for more detail).

Sub-group Analysis:

• Thorough analysis has been conducted to establish if/where differences emerge between key population groups. These are highlighted on each slide.

• Key population groups are defined by demographics as well as attitudes and behaviors (see grey box).

KEY VARIABLES/POPULATION GROUPS

Gender: Male, Female, Other

Age: 18-34, 35-54, 55+

Political stance: Conservative, Neutral/Centrist, Liberal, Unsure

Opinion about refugees: Overtly Positive, Mixed Views, Overtly Negative
NAVIGATING THE REPORT
RESEARCH TOPICS & SECTIONS

▲ SECTION 1: PARTICIPANT PROFILE
▲ SECTION 2: AWARENESS OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS
▲ SECTION 3: COMPASSION & CONCERNS ABOUT THE REFUGEE CRISIS
▲ SECTION 4: REFUGEES’ NEEDS VS. PROVIDING SUPPORT
▲ SECTION 5: PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY
▲ SECTION 6: APPENDIX
PARTICIPANT PROFILE

Demographics, worldviews and key influences on opinion formation
### INTERNATIONAL SAMPLE SIZES

#### YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2016/17 (Year 1)</th>
<th>2015/16 (Year 2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>1,001 (1,019)</td>
<td>1,001 (1,070)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>1,009 (1,057)</td>
<td>1,009 (1,070)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>1,001 (1,037)</td>
<td>1,003 (1,063)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1,000 (1,080)</td>
<td>1,000 (1,070)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>1,001 (1,063)</td>
<td>1,001 (N/A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>1,000 (1,080)</td>
<td>1,001 (1,070)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>1,001 (N/A)</td>
<td>1,001 (1,059)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>1,000 (1,059)</td>
<td>1,001 (1,059)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>1,006 (1,059)</td>
<td>1,001 (1,070)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>1,000 (1,059)</td>
<td>1,001 (1,070)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>1,003 (1,152)</td>
<td>1,003 (1,152)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>1,501 (1,583)</td>
<td>1,501 (1,583)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL SAMPLE**

- **2016/17:** 12,527
- **2015/16:** 12,249
The sample of participants was demographically representative of the US population in relation to gender, age, geographic location, life-stage and socio-economic status. Importantly, given their influence on society, millennials were well represented, making up approximately 1 in 3 survey participants.

**GENDER %**

- **Female**: 52%
- **Male**: 48%

**AGE %**

- 18-34: 31%
- 35-54: 37%
- 55+: 32%

**REGION %**

- West: 23%
- Midwest: 22%
- South: 37%
- Northeast: 18%

**LIVING SITUATION %**

- Living alone: 21%
- Living as a couple: 30%
- Living with friends/home shares: 3%
- Living as a family: 32%
- Living with parents/siblings: 12%
- Other: 1%

**INCOME %**

- Low income: 22%
- Middle income: 45%
- High income: 32%

**QUESTIONS**: What is your gender? What is your age? In which region do you currently live? Relationship Status? Income? **BASE**: (for all questions) - all respondents 1501 (US 2016/17)
Participants were segmented into three categories based on their broad attitudes towards refugees: Overtly Positive, Mixed Views and Overtly Negative. The segments were determined by participants’ combined responses to the following four questions:

1. Views in relation to their country’s level of responsibility to help refugees.
3. Perceived security risk posed by hosting refugees.
4. Attitudes towards providing financial assistance to refugees.

For more information on the four key opinion drivers see pages 28, 38, 53 and 54.

US participants were slightly more likely than those survey-wide to display “Mixed” or “Overtly Positive” views towards refugees (NET: 59% vs. 53%). US views have been relatively consistent between Year 1 and Year 2.

**QUESTION(S):** How frequently do you use each of the following as a means of keeping up with news/current affairs? (%) **BASES:** 1583 (US 2015/16), 12527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)
Influence of Political Discourse
Political Stance/Affiliation

In order to investigate the degree to which opinions about the refugee crisis are influenced by the stance of political parties, participants were asked whether they consider themselves Conservative, Neutral/Centrist or Progressive/Liberal. Overall, participants in the US were considerably more likely to identify themselves as Conservative than those in other countries (39% and 25% respectively). However, in Year 2 there was an increase in those saying Progressive/Liberal (35%). As such, this proportion, as well as that for Neutral/Centrist, was similar to other countries.

**Question(s):** Which of the following comes closest to describing you? (%) **Bases:** 1583 (US 2015/16), 12527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)
Traditional media outlets are amongst the most commonly used sources for information on news/current affairs. Across all countries surveyed and in the US, “TV programs” and “News sites on the Internet” are the top two sources by quite some way. Although, in the US, TV is somewhat more frequently used than Internet news sites (76% and 63% respectively). There has, however, been a slight decline in the proportion using these sources “Very” or “Fairly” frequently this year. The decline is most notable for “News sites on the Internet,” with US participants now considerably (10 percentage points) less likely to use them than those in other countries.

The views of peers and influencers appear to be valued highly, with approximately half of participants citing “Word of mouth” and/or “Social media” (respectively) as regularly used sources. However, the latter is generally less common in the US than in other countries.

Print and radio media sources are also (regularly) used by approximately half of participants. While radio has experienced a slight (year on year) decline in the US, this year’s rates are on par with the other countries surveyed.

QUESTION(S): How frequently do you use each of the following as a means of keeping up with news/current affairs? (%) BASES: 1583 (US 2015/16), 12527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)
Participants were asked specifically about the level of influence different types of information sources have on their opinions about news/current affairs topics.

While the views of “experts” were clearly valued, those of people they know were seen to have as much (if not more) influence. Survey-wide, “Talking with friends or family” was the most influential factor (70%). Though not quite as high in the US (63%), it still topped the list.

This was closely followed by listening to interviews on the radio/TV, or reading articles by journalists (59% each).

Interestingly, a high level of trust was placed on the arts, with approximately half of US respondents being influenced by relevant films or TV shows.

Importantly, the public do appear to be concerned about the credibility of the sources. Only 1 in 3 were influenced by reading “someone else’s opinion” (e.g. an op-ed), which is considerably less than in the rest of the world, and around 1 in 4 were influenced by “posts on social media.”

**QUESTION(S):** To what extent do you think the following can influence your opinions on a given topic? (%) **BASES:** 1583 (US 2015/16), 12527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)
SECTION 2

AWARENESS OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS

Length of awareness, perceived causes and global impact
CONTEXTUALIZING THE REFUGEE CRISIS
NATIONAL AND GLOBAL PUBLIC CONCERNS

To contextualize the level of concern about the refugee crisis, participants were asked to state the degree to which they are concerned about a range of national and global matters.

Overall, level of concern for each of the ten factors was relatively high, with each one being selected by at least 50% of participants. Interestingly, both national and global concerns ranked highly. Of the latter, the refugee crisis was selected by a sizeable proportion of participants. The US selection rate was slightly lower than the survey-wide average, with 7 in 10 US participants expressing their concern. Importantly, this level has been steady since Year 1, suggesting that the public remains engaged and informed as opposed to becoming indifferent to the crisis.

Note: Immigration and the rise of political extremism not included as an option in 2015/16

**QUESTION(S):** To what extent are you concerned about the following? (%) **BASES:** 1583 (2015/16), 12527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)
LENGTH OF AWARENESS OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS
TOTAL SAMPLE

Compared to other countries surveyed, US participants had become aware of the refugee crisis more recently. Although half had been aware for more than a year (vs. 71% survey-wide), a similar proportion (44%) had became aware only within the last year.

QUESTION(S): Approximately when did you become aware of the current refugee crisis? (%)
BASE: 1501 (US 2016/17)
LENGTH OF AWARENESS OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS
BY AGE

Length of awareness seems to be correlated somewhat with age. The youngest age group (Millennials) was the most likely to have become aware within the past year, with over half (57%) stating this. Older age groups have been aware for longer. This was especially pronounced for the 55+ group; 6 in 10 have known for more than a year.

QUESTION(S): Approximately when did you become aware of the current refugee crisis? (%) BASE: 1501 (US 2016/17)
When asked to select what they thought were the main causes of the refugee crisis, both survey-wide and in the US, “War” was by far the most commonly selected factor (88%). However, compared with other countries, US participants were more likely to also select other causes, with over half citing “Religious persecution” and “Lack of safe places closer to countries of origin.” Furthermore, there was a considerable increase in both of these causes between Year 1 and Year 2.

Importantly, although there was a slight increase in the proportion feeling that refugees were seeking “Better economic opportunities,” the US score was considerably lower than other countries.

Finally, “Droughts and natural disasters” was the least likely to be selected. However, this was more commonly cited by US participants, and had increased by 10 percentage points since Year 1.

**KEY FACTORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAUSES OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All countries 2016/17</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War in Syria and other countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious persecution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better economic opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of safe places closer to countries of origin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Droughts and natural disasters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**QUESTION(S):** What do you think has led to the refugee crisis? (%)

**BASES:** 1583 (US 2015/16), 12527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)
Participants were then asked more specifically about refugees’ motives for fleeing. Encouragingly, US participants felt their motives were primarily to achieve safety for themselves and their families. Fleeing “war” again emerged as the main factor (70%), followed by seeking “better opportunities for their children” (51%) and then avoiding “persecution” (46%). Significantly, US scores for each of these safety factors were higher than the survey-wide averages.

Other motives, which could arguably be deemed as opportunistic, were less commonly selected by US participants. Notably, while 45% of all countries surveyed selected “they seek better opportunities in wealthier countries,” just 35% did in the US.

Finally, US scores have remained consistent across Years 1 and 2, suggesting that participants’ fundamental attitudes and perceptions towards the plight of refugees are relatively fixed.

**REASONS FOR FLEEING**

**REFUGEES’ MOTIVES**

**QUESTION(S):** To what extent do you think that each of the following motives apply to those who are currently fleeing their homelands? (%) **BASES:** 1583 (US 2015/16), 12527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)
Overall, the vast majority of participants (approximately 9 in 10), across all countries surveyed and in the US, see the refugee crisis as a pressing global matter. In the US, a slightly higher proportion (6 in 10) saw it as comparable to “other recent crises,” but 2 in 10 felt it was “the most pressing crisis we have faced.” In all countries surveyed, the proportions on either side of this debate are more even.

One in ten US participants saw the crisis as “nothing out of the ordinary.”

**SCALE OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS RELATIVE TO OTHER WORLD EVENTS**

**QUESTION(S):** How would you describe the scale of the refugee crisis in relation to previous crises that the world/countries have faced? (%)

**BASE:** 1501 (US 2016/17)

Note: this question was not included 2015/16
SECTION 3

COMPASSION AND CONCERNS ABOUT THE REFUGEE CRISIS
Opinions about the impact of refugees on host countries’ economies are somewhat polarized. In the US, a relatively even proportion of participants felt that refugees can positively contribute and even benefit the economy (total 53%) vs. those who see them as a burden (46%). US opinions have remained consistent between Year 1 and 2.

Importantly, US participants were slightly more positive about the economic impact of refugees than those in other countries (53% vs. 47% respectively).

**ECONOMIC IMPACT**

**BENEFIT VS. BURDEN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement Best Representing Their Position</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Refugees are a burden on the economies of the countries that accept them</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees can positively contribute to the economies of countries that accept them</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New arrivals from other countries benefit our economy</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**All countries 2016/17**
- 53% agree
- 40% disagree
- 7% unsure

**US 2016/17**
- 46% agree
- 46% disagree
- 7% unsure

**US 2015/16**
- 46% agree
- 48% disagree
- 6% unsure

**QUESTION(S):** Which statement best represents your position? (%) **BASES:** 1583 (US 2015/16), 12,527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)
Participants’ level of concern about the refugee crisis has either increased or remained consistent over time. Approximately half of US participants have become more concerned, with a similar proportion remaining the same. Just a small minority (2%) have become less concerned.

US trends are similar to those survey-wide, although a slightly higher proportion across all countries surveyed had experienced an increase in concern.

**LEVEL OF CONCERN HAS... %**

- Increased
- Remained the same
- Decreased

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All countries 2016/17</th>
<th>US 2016/17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increased</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remained the same</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**QUESTION(S):** In the time that you have been aware of the refugee crisis, would you say your level of concern has: (%) **BASES:** 12,527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)
CHANGES OVER TIME
SYMPATHY

Alarmingly, just over half (55%) of participants across the surveyed countries have become less sympathetic towards the crisis over recent months. However, US participants appear to be more sympathetic than those across all countries surveyed, displaying the opposite trend (55% and 34% respectively).

There has, however, been a substantial change in sympathy over the years. In 2015/16, a larger majority had become more sympathetic (70%), and in 2016/17 the proportion saying “Less sympathetic” increased by 14 percentage points.

### QUESTION(S):
2015: Has your opinion on the refugee crisis changed in recent months? 2016: Has your opinion on the refugee crisis changed in the past year (%)  

### BASES:
All Respondents whose opinion has changed in last year/recent months: 2734 (2016/17), 308 (2016/17), 310 (2015/16)
CHANGES OVER TIME
REASONS FOR INCREASE IN SYMPATHY

Those who became more sympathetic were asked to identify the main reason(s) for the change in sentiment.

Information about the hardships refugees’ are suffering and empathizing with them were the top factors in the US and all other countries surveyed (selected by over half of participants). There was, however, a slight difference in order of influence. In the US, visual or written content (photos, videos and news) was more impactful than imagining being in their position.

The more objective factors, such as gathering information on economic/societal impact, were considered less powerful. However, notably, US participants were more swayed by the fact that failure to act now could lead to a more acute crisis, than those in other countries.

Although it is unclear as to how many participants had firsthand experience of meeting and interacting with refugees, there did appear to be a positive correlation with sympathy; 1 in 5 became more sympathetic as a result of personal experience.

QUESTION(S): As shown above (%) BASES (all respondents who are more sympathetic): 928 (All countries 2016/17) and 208 (US 2016/17)
Those who had become less sympathetic were asked to identify the main reason(s). In the US and across all countries surveyed, fear over “security/terrorism” was by far the primary reason (59% and 54% respectively).

None of the other factors were selected by more than 2 in 10 US participants. Importantly, as highlighted earlier, concerns over the economic impact of refugees were not particularly widespread. Just 17% said this was the cause of them becoming less sympathetic.

**WHAT HAS MADE YOU LESS SYMPATHETIC? %**

- **The risk of security/terrorism**
  - All countries 2016/17: 54%
  - US 2016/17: 59%

- **The economic cost of taking in refugees**
  - All countries 2016/17: 22%
  - US 2016/17: 17%

- **News reports**
  - All countries 2016/17: 8%
  - US 2016/17: 9%

- **The arrival of refugees in my country/city**
  - All countries 2016/17: 6%
  - US 2016/17: 6%

- **Other**
  - All countries 2016/17: 10%
  - US 2016/17: 10%

**QUESTION(S):** As shown above. **BASES** (all respondents who are less sympathetic): 1517 (All countries 2016/17) and 121 (US 2016/17)
Those who said they had become less sympathetic towards refugees were shown a range of statements and asked which (if any) would positively influence their opinion. These statements included data gathered from our earlier research amongst refugees (Refugee Voices 2016).

Given their opinion, it is perhaps unsurprising that no factor was selected by an overwhelmingly majority. However, some significant patterns did emerge. Factors with the most influence were the ones that assured participants of minimal negative impact on the host country. Knowing that refugees want to integrate and contribute to their host community proved to be the most compelling argument with this cohort.

**INCREASING SYMPATHY TESTING REACTIONS**

**WOULD THE FOLLOWING MAKE YOU MORE SYMPATHETIC? % YES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>All countries 2016/17</th>
<th>US 2016/17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90% of refugees surveyed (out of 1500) felt it was important to integrate</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>into their host country’s society</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees have come from similar countries in past decades and have</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>integrated well into society</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nearly all refugees want to work (besides those with young children)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other countries have agreed to take in more refugees</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees make a positive overall contribution to a country’s economy</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90% of refugees surveyed (out of 1500) felt confident that they would</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be able to integrate into their host country’s society</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People in other countries are doing a lot more to help refugees</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advice from terrorism experts that refugees do not pose any significant</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>security risk</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other countries have done more than your country</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**QUESTION(S):** Would you feel more sympathetic to refugees if you were told that...? (%) **BASE:** (All respondents who are less sympathetic) 1517 (All countries 2016/17), 121 (US 2016/17)
Across all countries surveyed and in the US, participants identified a number of concerns they had for refugees' wellbeing, while 1 in 10 did not state any.

Concerns were varied, but the stress of facing “conflict and violence” was most commonly cited (65%). The second and third most selected factors related to the impact on families, specifically children traveling alone (54%) and people being separated from their loved ones (53%).

The remaining concerns were more practical, covering the uncertainty around whether or not they would ever “return home” (43%), their “Perilous journeys” (41%) to reach safety and having left or “lost” many of their possessions (41%).

**CONCERNS FOR REFUGEES %**

- **Level of conflict and violence they have faced**: 65%
- **Children travelling alone**: 54%
- **The fact that families and friends are being separated**: 53%
- **Perilous journeys**: 41%
- **The thought that they may never return home**: 43%
- **The thought about what they have lost**: 41%
- **None of the above**: 11%

**QUESTION(S):** What, if any, are your main concerns in relation to refugees themselves? (%) **BASES** (all respondents who claim situation concerns them a great deal/to some extent): 1278 (US 2016/17), 11213 (All countries 2016/17)
CONCERNS FOR HOST COUNTRIES
ECONOMY, SECURITY AND CULTURE

Participants were asked if they had any concerns for host countries including their own.

Overall, no single concern was expressed by an overwhelming majority, but there were noteworthy concerns.

The most commonly selected concern related to impact on the national economy and security, “An increased risk of terrorism” (61%) and “The cost to my country” (60%) were the most cited concerns by a significant margin.

Concerns relating to cultural impact were less prominent in the US than survey-wide. US participants were considerably less likely to feel that refugees would struggle to integrate into society (e.g. following laws and customs).

Another notable point of departure was the level of concern US participants showed for other countries. They were more likely than those in other countries surveyed to be concerned about the cost (37%) and security risk (44%) posed to other host countries.

QUESTION(S): What, if any, are your main concerns in relation to the impact of the refugee crisis on the countries refugees are fleeing to (%) BASES: (all respondents who claim situation concerns them a great deal/to some extent) . 11213 (All countries 2016/17) 1278 (US 2016/17)
TOP SIX CONCERNS
BY VIEWPOINT

Unsurprisingly, there was a strong correlation between level of concern and viewpoint towards refugees. On almost all factors, “Overtly negative” participants expressed the most concern, followed by “Mixed views” and the “Overtly positive.”

The most pronounced differences in opinion related to national economic and security concerns. Notably, those who hold “Overtly negative” and “Mixed views” participants displayed a similar level of concern for other host countries.

Although overall concern about refugees accepting “local laws and customs” was not particularly high, it is important to note that views of all the groups were relatively similar here. This suggests that there may be an opportunity to sway opinion on cultural integration by highlighting positive examples.

QUESTION(S): What, if any, are your main concerns in relation to the impact of the refugee crisis on the countries refugees are fleeing to? (%)

BASE: 1501 (US 2016/17)
When asked more specifically about refugees working in their host nations, US participants were relatively optimistic. About half (49%) said that “Refugees are willing to work hard” to support themselves and fit into their new communities, compared with 38% of participants survey-wide.

However, there is work to be done to convince them of refugees’ intentions: 1 in 3 felt that “Refugees are just looking for handouts,” and the proportion holding the opinion that they are “willing to work hard” has decreased by 10 percentage points since Year 1.

**QUESTION(S):** Do you think the majority of refugees are... (%) **BASES:** 1583 (2015/16), 12527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)

**CONTRIBUTING VS. HANDOUTS**

When asked more specifically about refugees working in their host nations, US participants were relatively optimistic. About half (49%) said that “Refugees are willing to work hard” to support themselves and fit into their new communities, compared with 38% of participants survey-wide.

However, there is work to be done to convince them of refugees’ intentions: 1 in 3 felt that “Refugees are just looking for handouts,” and the proportion holding the opinion that they are “willing to work hard” has decreased by 10 percentage points since Year 1.

**QUESTION(S):** Do you think the majority of refugees are... (%) **BASES:** 1583 (2015/16), 12527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)

**CONTRIBUTING VS. HANDOUTS**

When asked more specifically about refugees working in their host nations, US participants were relatively optimistic. About half (49%) said that “Refugees are willing to work hard” to support themselves and fit into their new communities, compared with 38% of participants survey-wide.

However, there is work to be done to convince them of refugees’ intentions: 1 in 3 felt that “Refugees are just looking for handouts,” and the proportion holding the opinion that they are “willing to work hard” has decreased by 10 percentage points since Year 1.

**QUESTION(S):** Do you think the majority of refugees are... (%) **BASES:** 1583 (2015/16), 12527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)

**DO YOU THINK THE MAJORITY OF REFUGEES ARE... %**

- Refugees are willing to work hard and to try and fit into their new communities
- Refugees are just looking for handouts
- Don’t know/not sure

**All countries 2016/17**

- Refugees are willing to work hard: 38%
- Refugees are just looking for handouts: 44%
- Don’t know/not sure: 18%

**US 2016/17**

- Refugees are willing to work hard: 49%
- Refugees are just looking for handouts: 35%
- Don’t know/not sure: 16%

**US 2015/16**

- Refugees are willing to work hard: 59%
- Refugees are just looking for handouts: 20%
- Don’t know/not sure: 21%
SEXYCONCERNS
RISK VS. NO RISK

Across all countries surveyed and in the US, most participants were fearful that accepting refugees would increase security risks. However, of these, approximately half believed that these security risks can be effectively managed.

US scores are comparable to the overall averages, suggesting that they are no more or less concerned about security risks: 47% said there would be a greater risk, while 42% thought any risk could be “effectively managed.”

Although the proportion saying “Refugees pose no risk to my country’s security” is relatively low, it is important to note that 1 in 10 do feel this way. The US has seen a slight decline in the size of this group since Year 1 (by 5 percentage points).

STATEMENT BEST REPRESENTING THEIR POSITION %

- The more refugees my country accepts, the greater risk to our security
- Refugees pose no risk to my country’s security
- The risk from refugees is a legitimate concern but can be effectively managed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>All countries 2016/17</th>
<th>US 2016/17</th>
<th>US 2015/16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The more refugees my country accepts, the greater risk to our security</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees pose no risk to my country’s security</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The risk from refugees is a legitimate concern but can be effectively managed</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

QUESTION(S): Which statement best represents your position? (%) BASES: 1583 (2015/16), 12527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)
When asked their opinions on Islam, a somewhat nuanced picture emerged. Undeniably, there are anxieties around the religion, in the US and survey-wide. Approximately half of participants felt that compared to other religions, Islam is more likely to ‘Encourage extremism’ and/or “Display intolerance towards others.”

There was, however, some positive sentiment, which was slightly higher in the US than globally. Almost 3 in 10 said that compared to other religions, Islam is more likely to ‘Be peaceful’ (29%) and slightly more than 2 in 10 said Islam was more likely to “Display tolerance with others” and to “Integrate with [national] society” (22%).

**QUESTION(S):** To what extent do you agree that, compared with other religions, Islam is more likely to... (%) **BASES:** 1501 (US 2016/17), 12527 (All countries 2016/17)
EXPRESSING OPINIONS ABOUT THE REFUGEE CRISIS
STATEMENT AGREEMENT

Participants were asked to assess the nature of public discourse around the refugee crisis and the extent to which they felt discussions are open and honest.

Overall, in the US and survey-wide, respondents do not think that others share their real views and/or that the media discusses the issue fairly and honestly.

With regard to the public, almost 2 in 3 felt that people do not express their true opinions for fear of being judged. Of the remainder, around 1 in 3 were undecided; very few (8%) disagreed.

When speaking about themselves, results were more mixed. Just under half felt they could openly express their opinions “without fear of judgment.” Amongst the remainder, slightly more disagreed with the statement than felt indifferent.

In terms of the media reporting on the refugee crisis “fairly and honestly,” just 1 in 4 (27%) US respondents agreed (slightly higher than the survey-wide average of 21%). The highest proportion disagreed (39%), with the remainder undecided.

“Many people have opinions about the refugee crisis that they feel they will be judged for expressing.”

“All countries 2016/17 | US 2016/17

- NET disagree: 11 | 8
- Neither agree nor disagree: 26 | 30
- NET agree: 63 | 62

“I feel that I can express my opinions on the refugee crisis without fear of judgment.”

“All countries 2016/17 | US 2016/17

- NET disagree: 30 | 23
- Neither agree nor disagree: 32 | 47
- NET agree: 45 | 42

“The media discuss the refugee crisis fairly and honestly.”

“All countries 2016/17 | US 2016/17

- NET disagree: 42 | 21
- Neither agree nor disagree: 37 | 34
- NET agree: 39 | 27

QUESTION(S): To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (%). BASES: 12,527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)
Encouragingly, those with “Overtly positive” or “Mixed views” towards refugees felt more comfortable expressing their opinions publically (NET Agreement 58% and 52% respectively). Comparatively, almost half (46%) of the “Overtly negative” did not feel they could express their opinions “without fear of judgment.” However, 1 in 3 (32%) did feel able to.
EXPRESSING OPINIONS ABOUT THE REFUGEE CRISIS
STATEMENT AGREEMENT BY VIEW POINT (2)

Again, results here are broken down by participants’ views towards refugees (see page 4 for explanation on segmentation), this time to better understand which viewpoints they felt the media were sympathetic towards.

Results suggest that the media is seen as somewhat favorable/sympathetic towards refugees. “Overtly positive” or “Mixed views” participants were most likely to agree that the media reports on the crisis “fairly and honestly” (NET Agreement 36% and 34% respectively). However, “Mixed views” was also the most likely group to be undecided as to whether the media was sympathetic towards refugees (37%). Over half of those who were “Overtly negative” disagreed. Of the remainder of this group, while most were undecided (31%), 15% did agree.

**QUESTION(S):** To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (%) **BASE:** 1501 (US 2016/17)

**THE MEDIA DISCUSS THE REFUGEE CRISIS FAIRLY AND HONESTLY” %**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Overtly positive</th>
<th>Mixed views</th>
<th>Overtly negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither agree nor disagree</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overall, there appears to be some level of anxiety when discussing the refugee crisis. Across all countries surveyed and in the US, approximately 6 in 10 felt there was “pressure to think and speak a certain way about refugees.” Just 2 in 10 felt there was “an open and honest dialogue” (a slightly lower score in the US than survey-wide), while the remainder was unsure.

**STATEMENT BEST REPRESENTING THEIR POSITION %**

- There is an open and honest dialogue about refugees in my country
- There is pressure to think and speak a certain way about refugees
- Don’t know/not sure

**QUESTION(S)**: Which of the following do you agree with more? (%) **BASES**: 12,527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)
SECTION 4

REFUGEES’ NEEDS VS. PROVIDING SUPPORT
Participants were asked about the type of support they believe refugees are seeking, in terms of duration (long-term or short-term). It is important to note that the question wording did not imply any sort of judgment for either of the options.

There was a relatively even split between those who felt refugees are seeking “Temporary shelter” until it is safe to return, and those who said “A permanent new life.” Across all countries surveyed, participants were slightly more inclined to say “A permanent new life.”

**STATEMENT BEST REPRESENTING THEIR POSITION %**

- Temporary shelter until it’s safe to return to their homeland
- A permanent new life in a different country to their homeland
- Don’t know/not sure

### All countries 2016/17

- 33%
- 53%
- 15%

### US 2016/17

- 39%
- 40%
- 21%

### US 2015/16

- 39%
- 44%
- 17%

**QUESTION(S):** What do you think the majority of refugees caught up in today’s crisis are looking for? (%) **BASES:** 1583 (US 2015/16), 12527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)
ARE REFUGEES VIEWED EQUALLY?

AGE & GENDER

Participants were asked whether they thought their country should help all refugees equally, or if priority should be given to specific segments.

As to age and gender, participants were asked to select one option between helping all refugees, prioritizing both women and children, or just children. There was also an option for those who did not feel their country should help refugees.

Approximately 3 in 10 said that “All refugees should be helped equally”; the majority of the remainder identified priority groups. This broke down as 3 in 10 selecting “both women and children” and 2 in 10 saying “children.” A minority (1 in 10) felt their country should not be helping any refugees.

Between Year 1 and Year 2 there has been an 8 point decrease in the proportion of US participants saying ‘All refugees should be helped equally.’

STATEMENT BEST REPRESENTING THEIR POSITION %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>All countries 2016/17</th>
<th>US 2016/17</th>
<th>US 2015/16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All refugees should be helped equally</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority should be given to women and children</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority should be given to children</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My country should not help refugees</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

QUESTION(S): Which of the following statements comes closest to your views with regard to the level of help your country should offer refugees? (%) BASES: 1583 (US 2015/16), 12527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)
ARE REFUGEES VIEWED EQUALLY?

RELIGION

Participants were asked whether all refugees should be treated equally based on religion. Here the priority options included specific religious groups, as well, as those who have faced religious persecution in their county of origin more broadly.

US results were again comparable to the overall averages. Encouragingly, by far the highest proportion (6 in 10) said that “All refugees should be helped equally, regardless of religion.” Amongst the remainder, no single priority group emerged. The most commonly selected religious group was Christian (1 in 10). However, it is important to note that a similar proportion selected any groups that had “faced religious persecution.”

QUESTION(S): Which of the following statements comes closest to your views with regard to the level of help your country should offer refugees? (%) BASES: 1583 (US 2015/16), 12527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)
Participants were asked to evaluate their country’s approach to helping refugees.

US participants responded somewhat differently to those in other countries. 47% of US respondents were proud of their “country’s role in helping refugees throughout history,” however comparatively less reported this in relation to the current crisis. While 4 in 10 survey-wide felt proud of “the way my country has responded,” just 3 in 10 US participants said the same.

When asked to compare the US’s contribution to the current refugee crisis to that of other countries, participants seemed to think they had not done as much. Although more US participants than in Year 1 felt their country had “done more than most countries,” the proportion (4 in 10) was considerably lower than in all countries surveyed (6 in 10). Approximately twice as many US respondents said they felt that their country had “done less than most countries” (27% vs 14% survey-wide). A similar proportion (27%) did however feel that the US “has no responsibility to do anything about the crisis” (21% survey-wide).

**NET AGREE %**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>All countries 2016/17</th>
<th>US 2016/17</th>
<th>US 2015/16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My country has done more than most countries to address the refugee crisis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am proud of my country’s role in helping refugees throughout our history</td>
<td></td>
<td>47%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am proud of the way my country has responded to the refugee crisis</td>
<td></td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My country has no responsibility to do anything about the refugee crisis</td>
<td></td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My country has done less than most countries to address the refugee crisis</td>
<td></td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**QUESTION(S):** To what extent do you tend to agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your country’s response to the refugee crisis? (%)

**BASES:** 1583 (US 2015/16), 12527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)
# Type of Support Host Countries Should Provide Policies and Initiatives

## Level of Support %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>US 2015/16</th>
<th>All Countries 2016/17</th>
<th>US 2016/17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Temporary shelter</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance in finding work</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The opportunity to establish businesses and generate wealth for my country</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent homes</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't Know/Not Sure</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Question(s): What level of support do you think your country, along with the wider international community, should make available to refugees? (%)

**Bases:** 1583 (US 2015/16), 12527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)

**Note:** Some answer options changed between the two trackers.
In terms of policies and initiatives that should be provided for refugees (by the participants’ own country and the international community), views of US participants have generally remained the same from Year 1 to Year 2.

Overall, survey-wide and in the US, providing a safe place to reside was seen as the key priority, with 6 in 10 opting for “Temporary shelter.” Among other commonly selected factors, there was a common theme of social and economic integration and empowerment through ‘Language classes’ (50%), “Assistance in finding work” (43%) and “Job training” (38%).

One notable point of departure between the US and survey-wide results is that “Healthcare” was selected by considerably fewer US participants.

While the remaining factors did receive support, they were generally not selected by more than 3 in 10 participants. In the context of this question, it may well have been that these factors were seen as more long-term support (housing, recognising credentials and qualifications and facilitating entrepreneurialism) and therefore not “top of mind” as key priorities.
SECTION 5

PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY
RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP
GLOBAL

Participants were asked who they thought had the “greatest responsibility” to help deal with the refugee crisis. They were shown seven options and asked to rank the three entities they thought should be most responsible for refugees.

Looking at the three entities most frequently mentioned, it is clear that US participants firmly see the crisis as a global responsibility. “All countries” was the most frequently mentioned 1st option (30%). While the United Nations was ranked most responsible slightly less frequently, overall it received the highest number of mentions within the top three entities considered most responsible. In terms of specific countries, the onus was largely placed on those in geographic proximity to the refugees’ home countries, “even if they are poor,” with 1 in 3 selecting this as the first or second most responsible entities.

Other countries, including the United States, or non-profit organizations and the private sector were considerably less likely to be seen as having the “greatest responsibility” to deal with the crisis.

QUESTION(S): Who do you think has the greatest responsibility to deal with the refugee crisis? (%)
BASE: 1501 (US 2016/17)
Participants were asked about their country’s responsibility for resettling refugees. US scores have remained consistent between Year 1 and 2, with 1 in 3 feeling that their country does not have a responsibility to accept refugees and the remainder feeling that it does. Overall, having a quota for the number of refugees to be accepted was preferable, with 54% saying this, although 1 in 10 were open to “any number of refugees coming to the US.”

**STATEMENT BEST REPRESENTING THEIR POSITION %**

- My country has no responsibility to accept refugees
- I would be willing for my country to take in a quota of refugees
- I would be willing for my country to take in any number of refugees

**US 2015/16**

- 54%
- 12%
- 34%

**US 2016/17**

- 53%
- 14%
- 33%

**QUESTION(S):** Which statement best represents your position? (%) **BASES:** 1583 (US 2015/16), 12527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)
RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP

FINANCIAL

In order to better understand if/how participants’ financial support should be provided to refugees, they were shown four approaches and asked to select the statement that best reflected their stance.

Approximately 3 in 10 US participants (and a similar proportion survey-wide) said they were “Not willing” to financially support refugees, either directly (donations) or indirectly (taxes).

Of the remaining 7 in 10, preferences were relatively evenly split across the other three options. There were some slight variations in the US compared to the survey-wide averages. Most notably, US participants were more likely to select the approach that provided the most financial assistance: “Willing to donate to charities that help refugees in addition to what my government gives.” Furthermore, this was the most commonly selected of the three (giving) approaches (27%).

With regard to a tradeoff between the government providing assistance vs. citizens making donations directly, there were similar amounts of support for each. Survey-wide, greater emphasis was placed on government assistance.

QUESTION(S): Which statement best represents your position? (%) BASES: 1583 (US 2015/16), 12527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)
Participants’ actions have largely consisted of speaking to friends and family about the crisis. In many ways this is encouraging given earlier analysis identified that the views of friends and family are of fundamental importance in opinion formation. While the proportion is slightly lower amongst US participants than elsewhere, it is still high (48% and 64% respectively).

Incidence of other actions are comparatively lower, with 44% reporting they have not made any personal contributions. However, it is noteworthy that 1 in 10 have made financial donations and/or “signed a petition or joined a campaign,” which closely matches the survey-wide averages.

**ACTION TAKEN %**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION TAKEN</th>
<th>All countries 2016/17</th>
<th>US 2016/17</th>
<th>US 2015/16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have talked about the issue with friends or family</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have donated money to help refugees</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have signed a petition or joined a campaign</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have offered direct assistance to refugees (e.g. helping or hosting a refugee family)</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**QUESTION(S):** In response to the refugee crisis, which (if any) of the following have you done? (%) **BASES:** 1538 (2015/16), 12527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)
INTENTIONS AND ASPIRATIONS TO HELP
CURRENT & FUTURE

When asked if they felt they had contributed as much as they would have liked to, both survey-wide and in the US, a similar proportion said “Yes” and “No.” Looking at the responses of those who said “No,” it becomes clear that participants placed great emphasis on financial assistance; 3 in 4 felt they hadn’t done enough as they were unable to provide monetary support. This trend is more prominent in the US and has increased since Year 1. It is also notable that 1 in 3 didn't “know what to do to help.”

DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE AS MUCH AS YOU WOULD LIKE? %

- All countries 2016/17
- US 2016/17
- US 2015/16

Yes: 50, 52, 48

No: 50, 48, 52

IF NOT, WHY NOT? %

- All countries 2016/17
- US 2016/17
- US 2015/16

I don't have the money: 61, 72, 66

I don't have the ability to help: 33, 26, 28

I don't know what to do to help: 29, 36, 34

I haven't had enough time: 18, 15, 15

Other: 9, 7, 5

QUESTION(S): As shown above (%)

BASES (Total): 1538 (2015/16), 12527 (All countries 2016/17) and 1501 (US 2016/17)

BASES (all who said they felt they had not been able to do enough): 755 (US 2015/16), 6297 (All countries 2016/17) and 723 (All countries 2016/17)
Opinions about the financial impact of hosting refugees varied considerably based on political affiliation. Those who identified as “Liberal” were far more optimistic, with over 6 in 10 (66%) saying that “Refugees can positively contribute to the economies of countries that accept them.” This compares to 3 in 10 “Conservative” and 4 in 10 “Neutral/Centrist” participants. Furthermore, 7 in 10 “Liberal” participants said refugees “Are willing to work hard and to try and fit into their communities.” While around half (47%) of “Neutral/Centrist” participants felt the same way, this sentiment was considerably lower amongst those who identified as “Conservative” (34%).

**WHICH STATEMENT BEST REPRESENTS YOUR POSITION? %**

- Refugees are a burden on the economies of countries that accept them
- Refugees can positively contribute to the economies of countries that accept them
- New arrivals from other countries benefit our economy
- Are willing to work hard and to try to fit into their new communities
- Are given too many benefits and are taking advantage of other people’s generosity
- Don’t Know/Not Sure

**DO YOU THINK THE MAJORITY OF REFUGEES...%**

- Refugees are a burden on the economies of countries that accept them
- Refugees can positively contribute to the economies of countries that accept them
- New arrivals from other countries benefit our economy
- Are willing to work hard and to try to fit into their new communities
- Are given too many benefits and are taking advantage of other people’s generosity
- Don’t Know/Not Sure

**QUESTION(S):** As shown above (%)  
**BASES (Total):** 1501 (US 2016/17)
Overall, while the majority of all participants were fearful that accepting refugees would increase security risks, those with “Liberal” views were most pragmatic. Importantly, around 2 in 10 (18%) of this group said that “Refugees pose no risk to my country’s security” compared to 7% of “Conservative” and 6% of “Neutral/Centrist” participants.

Also, 6 in 10 (59%) “Liberal” participants were of the view that, although risks are legitimate, they “can be effectively managed.” A relatively similar proportion (49%) of “Neutral/Centrist” felt the same way, compared to just 25% of “Conservative” participants.

**STATEMENT BEST REPRESENTING THEIR POSITION %**

- The more refugees my country accepts, the greater risk to our security
- Refugees pose no risk to my country’s security
- The risk from refugees is a legitimate concern but can be effectively managed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>US Total 2016/17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral/Centrist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**QUESTION(S):** Which statement best represents your position? (%) **BASES (Total):** 1501 (US 2016/17)
ARE REFUGEES VIEWED EQUALLY?
RELIGION: BY POLITICAL AFFILIATION

“Liberal” participants were the most likely to say that “All refugees should be helped equally, regardless of religion,” with 8 in 10 doing so. This view was also relatively high amongst “Neutral/Centrist” participants (66%), but somewhat lower for the “Conservative” group (45%).

“Conservative” participants were the most inclined to think that priority should be given to specific segments, with an emphasis on Christian refugees (20%).

QUESTION(S): Which of the following statements comes closest to your views with regard to the level of help your country should offer refugees? (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATEMENT</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All refugees should be helped equally, regardless of religion</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority should be given to Christians</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority should be given to Muslims</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority should be given to other religious groups</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority should be given to groups that have faced religious persecution in their country of origin</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My country should not help refugees</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BASES (Total): 1501 (US 2016/17)
RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP
BY POLITICAL AFFILIATION

Almost all (87%) “Liberal” participants were “willing” for their country to accept refugees. While a “quota” approach was most popular (61%), around 3 in 10 (26%) said they would be “willing for my country to take in any number of refugees.”

Among the 65% of “Neutral/Centrist” participants who were were “willing” for their country to accept refugees, there was a clear preference for a “quota” approach.

The “Conservative” group had the highest proportion saying “My country has no responsibility to accept refugees” (49%). However, half were “willing” to accept refugees with the “quota” approach again being the most favorable.

**QUESTION(S):** Which statement best represents your position? (%)
**BASES (Total):** 1501 (US 2016/17)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NET AGREE</th>
<th>US Total 2016/17</th>
<th>Liberal</th>
<th>Neutral/Centrist</th>
<th>Conservative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My country has not responsibility to accept refugees</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would be willing for my country to take in a quota of refugees</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would be willing for my country to take in any number of refugees</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>