

## **BACKGROUND & PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

# TENT TRACKER 2016/17

The Tent Foundation (Tent) 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, Tent 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 1,583 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 Germany. It comments on shifts in public opinion since Year 1 (2015/16), as well as benchmarking Germany 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
- Aspects of the questionnaire were refreshed (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.

German fieldwork took place between  $12/21/2016 - 01/10/17 \mid N=1,003$ 

**Note:** See individual country reports for sample break down and fieldwork dates.

## GERMANY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



SECTION 1

# PARTICIPANT PROFILE

### DEMOGRAPHICS, WORLDVIEWS AND KEY INFLUENCES ON OPINION FORMATION

- ▲ The survey encompassed a statistically representative sample of the German population in terms of gender, age, geographic location, life-stage and socio-economic status.
- Political stance/affiliation remained relatively consistent between Year 1 and Year 2. Of the three categories, German participants were most inclined to see themselves as Neutral/Centrist, and considerably more so than those in other countries (41% and 25% respectively). The remainder were relatively evenly split between Progressive/Liberal (29%) and Conservative (20%).
- The types and frequency of information sources used ("Fairly" or "Very frequently") to keep up with news and current affairs was generally similar in all countries surveyed:
  - The top two sources were both traditional media outlets (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." However, the latter is generally less common in Germany than in other countries.
  - Although other traditional sources (print newspapers/magazines and radio) are slightly less commonly used across all countries surveyed, in Germany, radio is one of the most selected sources (60% vs. 42% survey-wide).

- 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 emphasis was placed on the views of people they know. In both Germany (69%) and survey-wide (70%), "Talking with friends or family" received one of the highest rankings for being able to influence opinion.
- Listening to interviews on the radio/TV (72%) or reading articles by journalists (68% each) were also amongst the most influential factors.
- In terms of more curated sources, a high level of trust is placed on the
  arts. This was especially so in Germany, where 66% said they are
  influenced by relevant films or TV shows (55% survey-wide). There is
  also some appetite for "Reading someone else's opinion in the media"
  (e.g. an op-ed) (49%), although just 30% are influenced by "posts on
  social media."

## GERMANY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



**SECTION 2** 

## AWARENESS OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS

### LENGTH OF AWARENESS, PERCEIVED CAUSES AND GLOBAL IMPACT

- ▲ Level of concern about the refugee crisis is high and comparable to other national/global matters: This was especially so in Germany, where 85% of participants said they were concerned "A great deal" or "To some extent" (77% survey-wide). Furthermore, this proportion has remained relatively stable since Year 1.
- ▲ In Germany, length of awareness of the refugee crisis was similar to the survey-wide average: approximately 3 in 4 had known for over a year.
- There was a general consensus across all countries surveyed, and amongst German participants, that "War" was the primary cause of the crisis (9 in 10). However, German participants were more likely to select (some) other causes too. Over half (55%) said "Religious persecution" (49% survey-wide) and a similar proportion (57%) thought the crisis was owing to a "Lack of safe places closer to countries of origin" (42% survey-wide). Notably, a slightly higher proportion in Germany than survey-wide did feel that refugees were seeking "Better economic opportunities" (55% and 43% respectively).
- When asked about refugees' motives for fleeing, Germans mentioned a range of factors and responses generally reflected by the survey-wide results. The need to escape war was the most commonly mentioned (by 6 in 10). Other safety factors (i.e. avoiding persecution or fighting) were less commonly identified. However, a high proportion said that refugees are seeking better opportunities; 51% selected the statement "They seek better opportunities in wealthier countries."
- Overall, almost all participants felt the refugee crisis was a pressing global matter, with 59% of German participants saying it was "the most pressing crisis" the world has faced.

## GERMANY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



SECTION 3

## COMPASSION AND CONCERNS ABOUT THE REFUGEE CRISIS

### **CHANGES OVER TIME**

Opinions about the economic impact of resettling refugees were somewhat divided. An even proportion of participants thought that refugees can positively contribute and benefit the economy (total 46%) vs. those who saw them as a burden (46%). German participants were slightly more positive than those survey-wide, and their opinions have remained consistent between Year 1 and 2.

### **CONCERNS:**

- In the time that they had been aware of the refugee crisis, participants' level of concern had either increased (64%) or remained the same (35%); it has not decreased.
- In terms of sympathy towards the refugee crisis, results were somewhat more complex. The highest proportion (55%) on average across all countries surveyed had become "Less sympathetic" and this was even more pronounced in Germany (66%); only 16% of German participants had become "More sympathetic" (34% survey-wide).

#### **INCREASE IN SYMPATHY:**

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

#### **DECREASE IN SYMPATHY:**

- In both the Germany and survey-wide, fears over "security/terrorism" was (by far) the primary reason, with over half citing this.
- The participates were asked what (if anything) could make them more sympathetic. The most commonly mentioned factors related to assurance of minimal negative impact on host countries and facts and figures on refugees' intentions and ability to integrate.

## GERMANY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



### SECTION 3

#### **CONCERNS FOR REFUGEES:**

Almost all participants expressed concern for refugees' wellbeing as a result of the circumstances they had faced. These concerns 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:**

Overall, participants in Germany appeared to be slightly more concerned about their host country than those survey-wide:

- Level of concern was considerably higher for certain factors, and a broader range was identified.
- A primary concern was "An increased risk of terrorism" (76% vs. 65% survey-wide).
- Germans were notably more concerned than others about the impact on culture and society if refugees did not adhere to cultural norms.
- Economic impact was slightly less of a concern in Germany than surveywide (55% vs. 64% survey-wide).
- 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.

- In regards to refugees' intentions and ability to work, German participants generally reflected survey-wide views. There was a relatively even split between those saying "Refugees are just looking for handouts" (47%) vs. 'Refugees are willing to work hard' to earn for themselves and fit into their new communities (37%). There has been a striking increase (32%) in those saying "handouts" this year when compared to Year 1.
- When probed further on security issues, both in Germany and across all countries surveyed, most participants were fearful that accepting refugees could lead to an increase in security risks. However, it is important to note that approximately half of this group felt these risks could be effectively managed.
- When compared to other religions, there are undeniable anxieties relating to Islam, with around 50% of participants associating the words "extremism" and "intolerance" with the religion. But there was also some positive sentiment, with 23% believing Islam is conducive to integration in society.

## GERMANY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## **SECTION 3**

# 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.
- When asked specifically about themselves, just over half felt comfortable expressing their opinions. This sentiment was highest amongst those who our segmentation defined as "Overtly positive" (77%) or "Mixed views" (68%) comparative to the "Overtly negative" (39%).
- Another metric revealed that approximately 3 in 4 in Germany felt "pressure to think and speak a certain away about refugees" (59% surveywide).
- In terms of the media, just 1 in 4 felt reporting was fair and honest; 44% disagreed while 33% were undecided. Opinions varied somewhat based on sympathies towards refugees, with those with "Overtly negative" views considerably more likely to disagree.

## GERMANY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



SECTION 4

## REFUGEES' NEEDS VS. PROVIDING SUPPORT

Both in Germany and survey-wide, participants were slightly more likely to feel that refugees were seeking long-term support (approximately half) than short-term help (approximately 1 in 3). In Germany, there had been a notable (10 percentage points) decrease since Year 1 in the proportion believing that refugees were seeking long-term support.

# TREATING ALL REFUGEES EQUALLY VS. PRIORITISING: AGE & GENDER:

4 in 10 (44%) German participants felt that all refugees should be helped equally (34% survey-wide). Of those saying specific groups should be prioritised, women and children emerged as main priorities.

#### **RELIGION:**

Encouragingly, the highest proportion (7 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 Germany and survey-wide, "Temporary shelter" was the key priority (75% and 63% respectively).
- Other commonly selected factors related to social and economic integration and empowerment (language classes, assistance in finding work and job training).
- A number of policies and initiatives were selected by a higher proportion of participants in Germany than surveyed.

### **EVALUATION OF OWN COUNTRY'S CONTRIBUTION:**

A German participants were considerably more inclined than those surveywide to feel that their country had 'done more than most to address the refugee crisis' (76% vs. 57%). Nonetheless, they expressed a similar level of pride about their country's actions (4 in 10).

## GERMANY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



SECTION 5

## PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY

- Overall, participants saw the refugee crisis as requisite of global action, with "All countries," the "United Nations" and the "European Union" most often identified as having the "greatest responsibility."
- In, terms of the responsibility of Germany, just 2 in 10 (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, participants generally felt a quota system would be best.

# PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO REFUGEES RECEIVED VARIED RESPONSES:

- 3 in 10 German and survey-wide participants were not in favour of donations or taxes.
- Among those who were open to financial support, Germans generally showed a preference for government-led support (47%) rather than personal donations.

#### PERSONAL ACTIONS:

- The most common action was speaking to friends and family, which was especially high in Germany compared to survey-wide (80% and 64% respectively).
- More active involvement, such as interactions with refugees, donations or joining petitions, was relatively low. However, notably, just 14% of Germans had not done any of the listed activities, compared to 28% survey-wide.
- 6 in 10 German participants felt they had been able to contribute as much as they would have liked to. For those who had not, the main reasons were financial and time constraints, as well as feeling like they didn't "know what to do to help" (30%).

## 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:  $\triangle$ 

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 6: APPENDIX



**SECTION 1** 

# PARTICIPANT PROFILE

Demographics, worldviews and key influences on opinion formation



## INTERNATIONAL SAMPLE SIZES

## YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2

**TOTAL SAMPLE 2016/17: 12,527** 2015/16: 12,249



1,001

(1,019)







France

1,001

(1,070)

Germany **1,003** (1,037)















Sweden

1,006

(1,059)





1,003

(1,152)



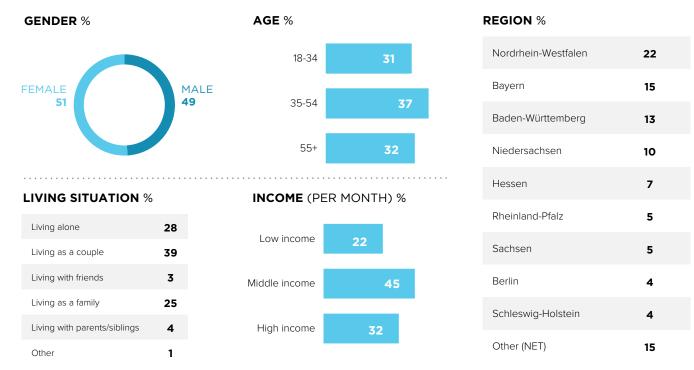
USA **1,501** (1,583)

## **DEMOGRAPHICS**

## WEIGHTED SAMPLE: 1,003

The sample of participants was demographically representative of the German population in relation to gender, age, geographic location, housing situation and socioeconomic status.

Importantly, given their influence on society, millennials were well represented, making up approximately 1 in 3 survey participants.



QUESTION(S): What is your gender? What is your age? In which region do you currently live? Which of the following best describes your current living situation? Into which of the following ranges does your gross annual household income approximately fall (i.e. total income before deductions)? BASE: 1,003 (Germany 2016/17)

## **SEGMENTATION**

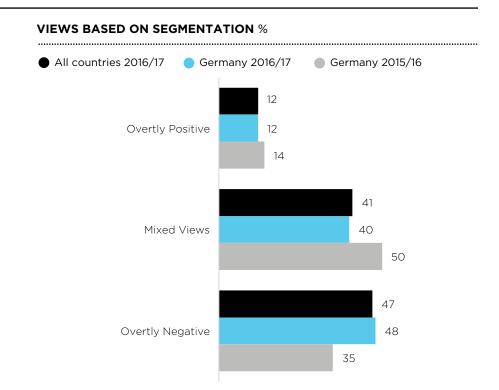
## BROAD ATTITUDES TOWARDS REFUGEES

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:

- Views in relation to their country's level of responsibility to help refugees.
- 2. Perceived economic impact of hosting refugees.
- 3. Perceived security risk posed by hosting refugees.
- Attitudes towards providing financial assistance to refugees.

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

German views closely reflected those survey-wide, with a majority displaying "Overtly Negative" or "Mixed" views towards refugees. Concerningly, there has been a significant increase from Year 1 to Year 2 of those displaying "Overtly Negative" views in Germany (from 35% to 48%).

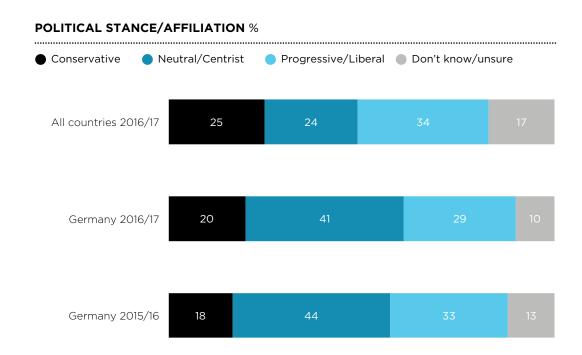


# INFLUENCE OF POLITICAL DISCOURSE

# 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.

Political stance/affiliation in Germany remained relatively consistent between Year 1 and 2. Overall, participants were most likely to consider themselves Neutral/Centrist, and considerably more so than those in other countries (41% and 24% respectively). Of the remainder, a slightly higher proportion identified as Progressive/Liberal (29%) than did Conservative (20%).



# **KEEPING INFORMED ABOUT NEWS/CURRENT AFFAIRS**

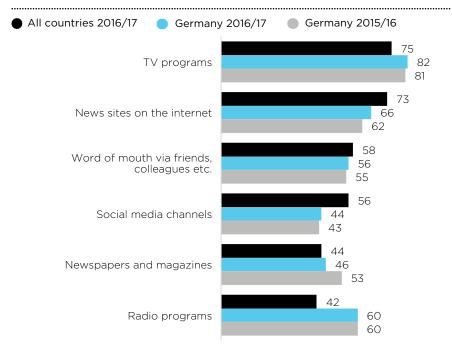
## INFORMATION SOURCES USED

Traditional media outlets were amongst the most commonly used sources for information on news/current affairs. In Germany and across all countries surveyed, "TV programs" and "News sites on the Internet" were the top two sources by quite some way.

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 Germany than in other countries.

Print and radio media sources are also (regularly) used by approximately half of participants. Radio is notably more regularly used in Germany than in other countries (60% and 42% respectively).

## USE 'VERY FREQUENTLY'/'FAIRLY FREQUENTLY' %



# **KEEPING INFORMED ABOUT NEWS/CURRENT AFFAIRS**

## INFLUENCE ON OPINION FORMATION

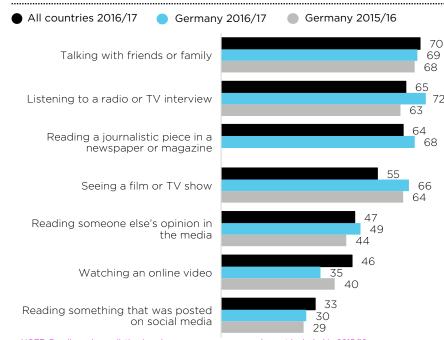
Participants were asked specifically about the level of influence different types of information sources have on their opinions about news/current affairs topics.

In both Germany and survey-wide, while the views of "experts" were clearly valued, those of people they know were seen to have as much influence. "Listening to a radio or TV interview" (72%), "Talking with friends or family" (69%), and "Reading a journalistic piece in a newspaper or magazine" (68%) were amongst the most commonly selected factors.

Interestingly, a high level of trust was placed on the arts, and even more so in Germany: 66% said they were influenced by relevant films or TV shows (55% survey-wide). Although the credibility of sources does appear to be important; watching an "online video" was less commonly selected by German participants than those survey-wide (35% and 46% respectively).

In terms of more opinion-driven content, there was some appetite for this. Approximately half said they were influenced by "Reading someone else's opinion in the media" (e.g. an op-ed), although just 30% claimed to be influenced by "posts on social media."

### CAN INFLUENCE 'A GREAT DEAL/TO SOME EXTENT' %



NOTE: Reading a journalistic piece in a newspaper or magazine not included in 2015/16

QUESTION(S): To what extent do you think the following can influence your opinions on a given topic? (%) BASES: 12,527 (All countries 2016/17), 1,003 (Germany 2016/17) and 1,000 (Germany 2015/16)



SECTION 2

# AWARENESS OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS

Length of awareness, perceived causes and global impact



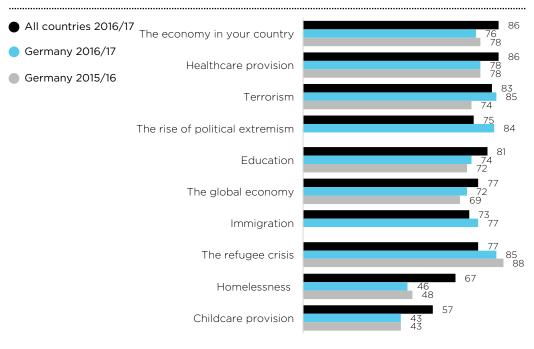
## CONTEXTUALIZING THE REFUGEE CRISIS

## 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 10 factors was relatively high, with almost all being selected by at least 50% of participants. Both national and global concerns ranked highly. Notably, the refugee crisis emerged as one of the factors participants were most concerned about. The proportion who were concerned about this "A great deal/To some extent" was slightly higher than the survey-wide average (85% and 77% respectively) and has remained relatively consistent since Year 1.

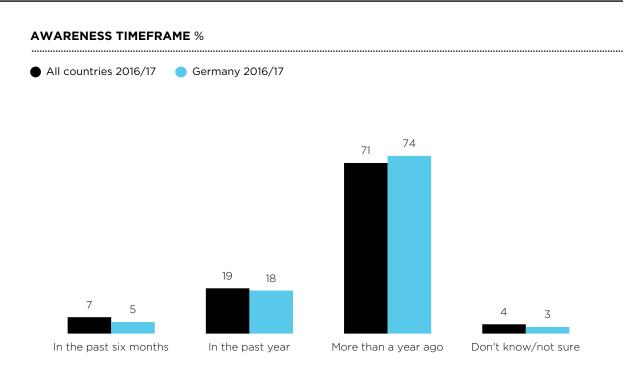
## 'A GREAT DEAL'/'TO SOME EXTENT' %



# LENGTH OF AWARENESS OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS

## TOTAL SAMPLE

Participants in Germany had generally known about the refugee crisis for quite some time. Approximately 3 in 4 had been aware about it for "More than a year," while the remainder became aware only within the last year. Proportions closely matched the survey-wide average.

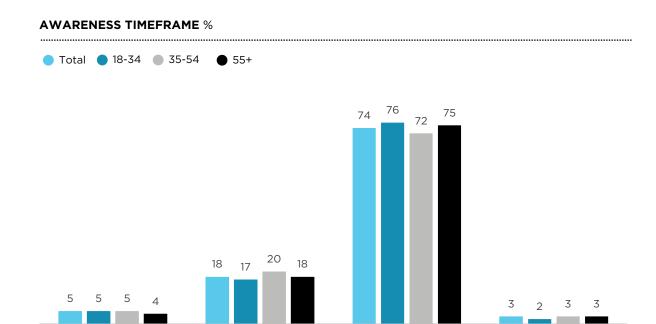


# LENGTH OF AWARENESS OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS

In the past six months

## BY AGE

In Germany there were no notable differences in length of awareness across different age groups. Amongst each, approximately 3 in 4 have been aware for more than a year.



More than a year ago

In the past year

Don't know/not sure

## CAUSES OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS

## **KEY FACTORS**

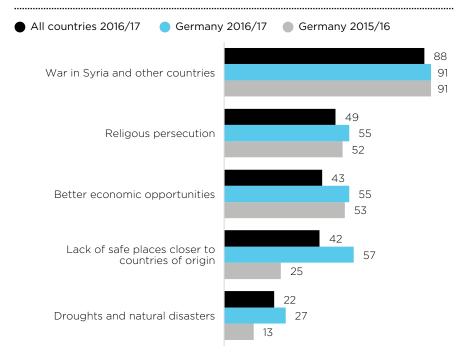
When asked to select what they thought were the main causes of the refugee crisis, across all countries surveyed and in Germany, "War" was by far the most commonly selected factor (91%).

However, compared with other countries, German participants were more likely to mention other causes. Just over half (55%) selected "Religious persecution" (49% survey-wide), with a similar proportion selecting a "Lack of safe places closer to countries of origin" (57%). Interestingly, considerably more German participants mentioned the latter than survey-wide (42%), and over twice as many selected this in Year 2 than Year 1.

It is notable, however, that over half (55%) did feel that refugees were seeking "Better economic opportunities." This proportion was slightly lower survey-wide (43%).

Finally, although "Droughts and natural disasters" was the least likely factor to be selected, there has been an increase of 14 percentage points in Germany since Year 1.

## CAUSES OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS %



## REASONS FOR FLEEING

## REFUGEES' MOTIVES

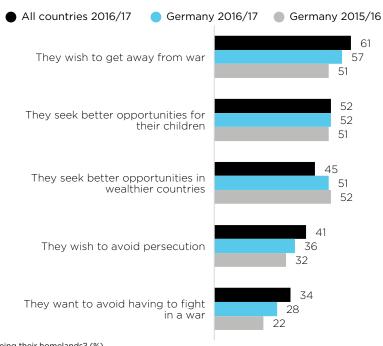
Participants were then asked more specifically about refugees' motives for fleeing. As with the causes of the crisis, German participants again identified a range of factors. Here responses were generally comparable to the survey-wide average.

Wishing to "get away from war" was the most commonly identified reason, with approximately 6 in 10 (57%) selecting this. Other safety factors were somewhat less likely to be mentioned: 36% said to "avoid persecution" and 28% "to avoid having to fight in a war"

Relatively high proportions (approximately half) felt refugees were seeking better opportunities than were perhaps possible in their home countries. Most notably, 51% of German participants said "They seek better opportunities in wealthier countries," suggesting that there may be some skepticism about refugees' motives or that they are being considered to be opportunistic.

German scores have remained relatively consistent across Years 1 and 2, suggesting that fundamental attitudes and perceptions towards the plight of refugees are (currently) relatively fixed.

## **APPLIES TO THE MAJORITY %**



QUESTION(S): To what extent do you think that each of the following motives apply to those who are currently fleeing their homelands? (%) BASES: 12,527 (All countries 2016/17), 1,003 (Germany 2016/17) and 1,000 (Germany 2015/16)

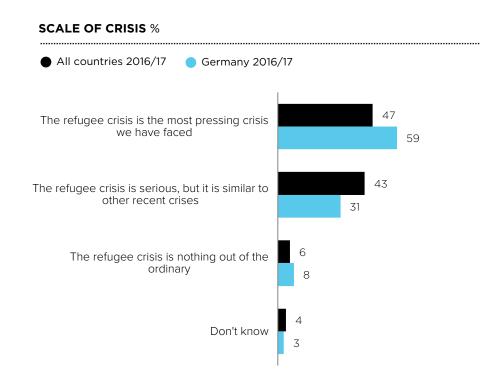
## SCALE OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS

## RELATIVE TO OTHER WORLD EVENTS

Overall, the vast majority of participants (approximately 9 in 10), both survey-wide and in Germany, saw the refugee crisis as a pressing global matter.

In Germany, participants appeared to be particularly concerned. Approximately 6 in 10 said that it 'is the most pressing crisis we have faced' (47% survey-wide), with 3 in 10 viewing it as "serious" but comparable to "other recent crises."

Eight percent of German participants considered that the crisis "is nothing out of the ordinary."





**SECTION 3** 

COMPASSION AND CONCERNS ABOUT THE REFUGEE CRISIS



## **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

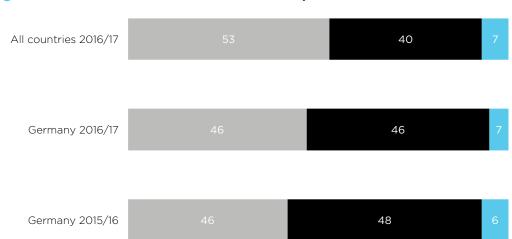
## BENEFIT VS. BURDEN

Opinions about the impact of refugees on host countries' economies are somewhat polarized. In Germany, an even proportion of participants felt that refugees can positively contribute and even benefit the economy (total 46%) vs. those who saw them as a burden (46%). Importantly, German participants were slightly more positive about the economic impact of refugees than those in other countries (40% survey-wide).

German opinions have remained consistent between Year 1 and 2

### STATEMENT BEST REPRESENTING THEIR POSITION %

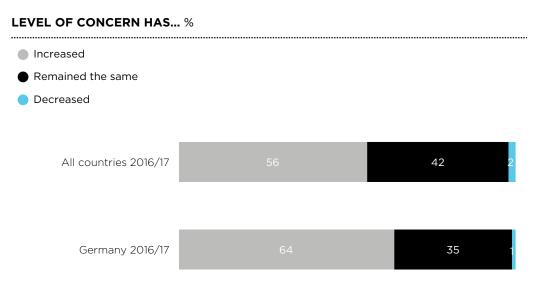
- Refugees are a burden on the economies of the countries that accept them
- Refugees can positively contribute to the economies of countries that accept them
- New arrivals from other countries benefit our economy



## **CONCERN**

Participants' level of concern about the refugee crisis has either increased or remained consistent over time.

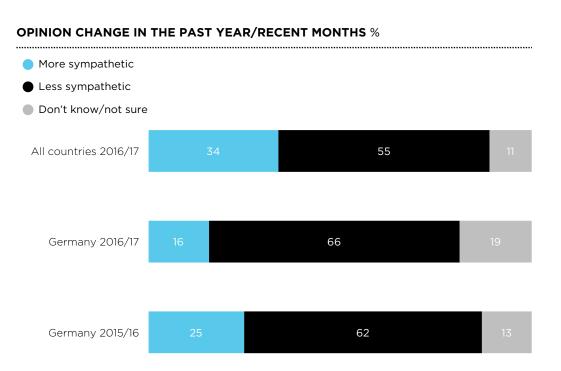
Overall, approximately 2 in 3 (64%) German participants had become more concerned (slightly higher than survey-wide, 56%). Concern amongst the remainder had mostly "Remained the same" (35%); just 1% said it had "Decreased."



## **SYMPATHY**

Alarmingly, just over half (55%) of participants across the globe have become less sympathetic towards the crisis over recent months. This trend was even more pronounced in Germany, with 2 in 3 reporting a decrease in sympathy.

Furthermore, of the remainder, while in Year 1 exactly a quarter of participants had become "More sympathetic," this year there was a more even spread between those whose sympathy had increased (16%) and those who were unsure (19%).



QUESTION(S): 2015: Has your opinion on the refugee crisis changed in recent months? (%) BASE: 1,000 (Germany 2015/16) 2016: Has your opinion on the refugee crisis changed in the past year? (%) BASES: 12527 (All countries 2016/17), 1,003 (Germany 2016/17)

## REASONS FOR INCREASE IN SYMPATHY

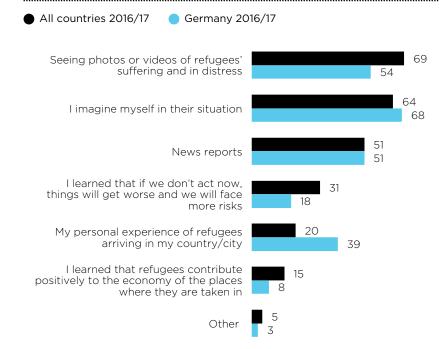
Those who had become more sympathetic were asked to identify the main reason(s) for the change in sentiment.

Information about the hardships refugees' are suffering and empathizing with them were key factors across all countries surveyed and in Germany. There was, however, a slight difference in order of influence. In Germany, imagining being in their position was the most impactful factor by quite some way (68%), followed by visual or written content (photos, videos and news).

Empathy and fostering a connection appear to be particularly effective in Germany. While it is unclear as to how many participants had first hand experience of meeting and interacting with refugees, a considerably higher proportion (double) of German participants said this had made them more sympathetic than those survey-wide (39% and 20% respectively).

Although more objective factors, such as gathering information on economic and societal impact, were generally less influential, this was even more so the case in Germany.

## WHAT HAS MADE YOU MORE SYMPATHETIC? %

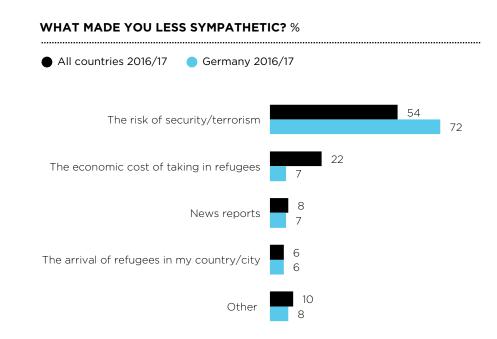


QUESTION(S): As shown above (%) BASES: 928 (All countries 2016/17) and 51 (Germany 2016/17) - all respondents who are more sympathetic

## REASONS FOR DECREASE IN SYMPATHY

Those who became less sympathetic were asked to identify the main reason(s). Fears over "security/terrorism" were by far the primary reason survey-wide (54%), and even more pronounced in Germany (72%). It should be noted that this survey began in Germany in the aftermath of the Berlin Christmas market attack on December 21, 2016, which may have greatly influenced these responses.

While the remaining factors were generally less commonly mentioned, this was especially so amongst German participants; none were selected by more than 1 in 10. Most notably, just 7% identified "The economic cost of taking in refugees" as the reason for their decrease in sympathy, compared to 22% survey-wide.



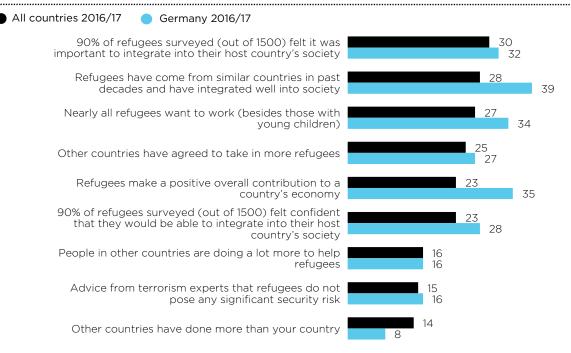
## INCREASING SYMPATHY

## TESTING REACTIONS

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 conducted among refugees in 2015 (Refugee Voices 2016).

Given their opinion, it is perhaps unsurprising that no factor was selected by an overwhelmingly majority. Nonetheless, 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 wanted to integrate and contribute to their host community proved to be the most compelling argument with this cohort (and that historical trends were a testament to this), especially in Germany when compared to the survey-wide average (39% and 28% respectively).

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



QUESTION(S): Would you feel more sympathetic to refugees if you were told that...? (%) BASES: 1,517 (All countries 2016/17) and 216 (Germany 2016/17) - all respondents who are less sympathetic

## **CONCERNS ABOUT REFUGEES' WELLBEING**

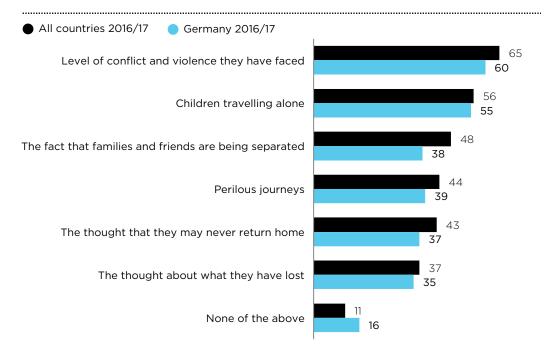
## EMOTIONAL AND PRACTICAL

Overall, in both Germany and survey-wide, participants identified a number of concerns they had for refugees' wellbeing.

Concerns were varied, but the stress of facing "conflict and violence" was most commonly cited (60%). In Germany, this was closely followed by concern for children traveling alone (55%).

Other concerns were less commonly stated by German participants compared to those survey-wide. However, approximately 1 in 3 were concerned about refugees being separated from their loved ones (38%), their 'Perilous journeys' to reach safety (39%), the uncertainty around whether or not they would ever "return home" (37%) and the thought about what they may have lost (35%).

### **CONCERNS FOR REFUGEES %**



## **CONCERNS FOR HOST COUNTRIES**

# ECONOMY, SECURITY AND CULTURE

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

In Germany, concerns were considerably higher and somewhat more diverse than survey-wide.

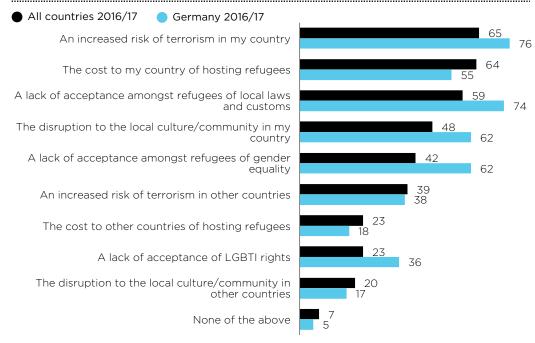
A primary concern was "An increased risk of terrorism," with 3 in 4 (76%) stating this compared to 65% survey-wide.

While the "cost" of resettling refugees was a concern, it was slightly less so for German participants (55%) compared to those survey-wide (64%).

Germans were notably more concerned about the impact on culture and society. Approximately 3 in 4 were concerned about a lack of acceptance of "local laws and customs" (59% surveywide). Furthermore, 6 in 10 were worried about "disruption to local culture/community" (48% survey-wide) and/or a lack of acceptance of "gender equality" (42% survey-wide), with 1 in 3 also concerned about "LGBTI rights" (23% survey-wide).

Germans tended to focus more on concerns for their own country, which was consistent with the survey-wide results.

### **CONCERNS FOR 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: 11,213 (All countries 2016/17), 854 (Germany 2016/17) - all respondents who claim situation concerns them a great deal/to some extent

## TOP SIX CONCERNS

## BY VIEWPOINT

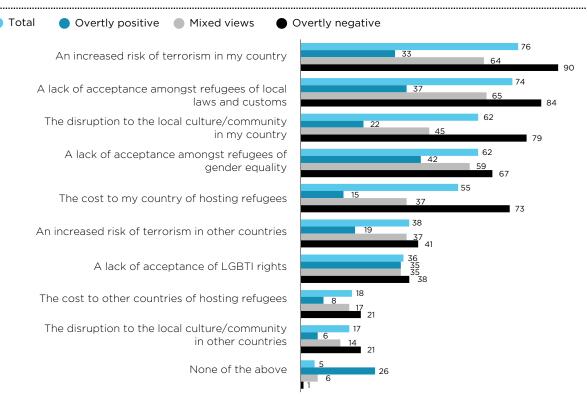
Unsurprisingly, there was a strong correlation between level of concern and viewpoint towards refugees. On almost all factors, "Overtly negative" participants expressed the most concern, followed by "Mixed views" and the "Overtly positive."

Broadly, factors where "Overtly negative" participants were considerably more concerned related to national social, economic, and security concerns.

Notably, factors where levels of concern were relatively similar across the three segments related to equality based on gender and sexuality.

Encouragingly, approximately 1 in 4 "Overtly positive" participants did not express any concerns.

## **CONCERNS FOR 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? (%) BASE: 854 (Germany 2016/17) - all respondents who claim situation concerns them a great deal/to some extent

# REFUGEES' WILL TO WORK

# CONTRIBUTING VS. HANDOUTS

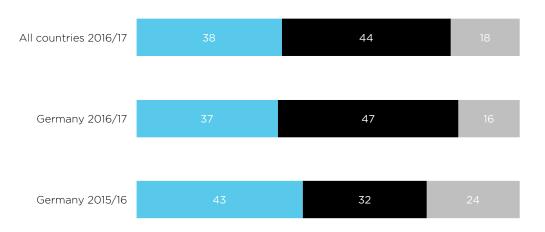
When asked more specifically about refugees working in their host nations, German views closely reflected those of participants across all countries surveyed.

There was a relatively even split between those who said "Refugees are willing to work hard" to support themselves and fit into their new communities (37%) vs. those who felt that "Refugees are just looking for handouts" (47%).

There has however been an alarming shift in German views between Year 1 and Year 2. While the proportion who are optimistic have only changed marginally, those saying "Refugees are just looking for handouts" have increased considerably - an increase of 15 percentage points since Year 1.

#### 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



## SECURITY CONCERNS

### RISK VS. NO RISK

Overall, both in Germany and survey-wide, most participants were fearful that accepting refugees would increase security risks. However, of these, approximately half believed that these security risks could be effectively managed.

German scores are comparable to the survey-wide average, suggesting that they are no more or less concerned about security risks: 46% 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. Germany has seen a slight decline in the size of this group since Year 1 (by 5 percentage points).

- 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

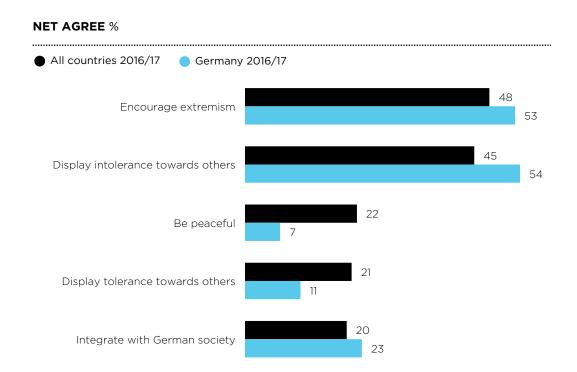


# ATTITUDES TOWARDS ISLAM

### PEACE VS. EXTREMISM

When asked their opinions on Islam, it was undeniable that there are anxieties about the religion. Participants in Germany were slightly more likely than those survey-wide to express these. Just over half felt that Islam is more likely to "Encourage extremism" and/or "Display intolerance towards others."

However, although it was less common than in other countries, between 7% and 23% did display some positive sentiment. Most notably, 23% said that, compared to other religions, Islam is more conducive to integration in German society.



# **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.

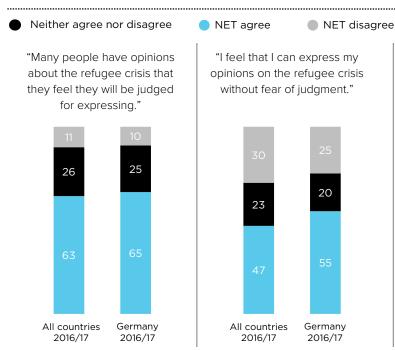
Overall, in Germany and survey-wide, there was a sense that views and reporting, on the topic were somewhat censored

In regards to the public, around 2 in 3 felt that people do not express their true opinions for fear of being judged. Of the remainder, most were undecided; few (10%) disagreed.

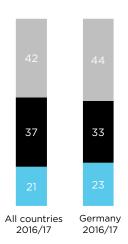
When speaking about themselves, results were more mixed. Just over half felt they could openly express their opinions "without fear of judgment." Amongst the remainder, slightly more disagreed with the statement than felt indifferently.

In terms of the media reporting on the refugee crisis "fairly and honestly," only 23% German participants agreed. The highest proportion disagreed (44%), with the remainder (33%) undecided.

#### STATEMENT BEST REPRESENTING THEIR POSITION %



"The media discuss the refugee crisis fairly and honestly."



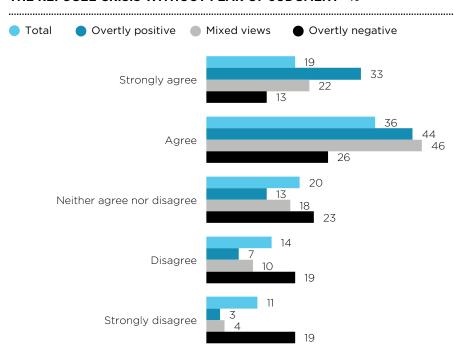
QUESTION(S): To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (%) BASES: 12,527 (All countries 2016/17), 1,003 (Germany 2016/17)

# **EXPRESSING OPINIONS ABOUT THE REFUGEE CRISIS**

# STATEMENT AGREEMENT BY VIEW POINT (1)

Encouragingly, those with "Overtly positive" or "Mixed views" towards refugees felt more comfortable expressing their opinions publically (NET Agreement 77% and 68% respectively). Among the "Overtly negative," similar proportions felt they could express their opinions without fear (39%) compared to those who did not (38%).

#### "I FEEL THAT I CAN EXPRESS MY OPINIONS ON THE REFUGEE CRISIS WITHOUT FEAR OF JUDGMENT" %

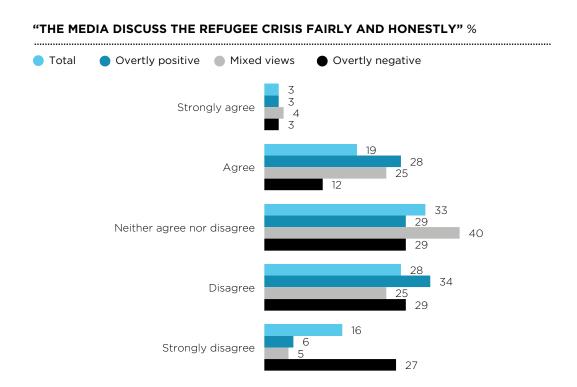


# **EXPRESSING OPINIONS ABOUT THE REFUGEE CRISIS**

# 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 or sympathetic toward refugees. "Overtly positive" participants were the most likely to agree (31%) (NET strongly agree and agree), while 56% of the "Overtly negative" disagreed (NET strongly disagree and disagree). Those with "Mixed views" were relatively evenly split in terms of agreement and disagreement, with the highest proportion undecided (40%).



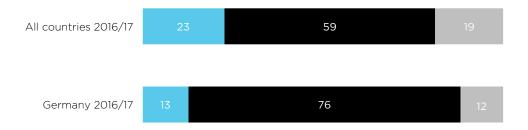
# PARTICIPATING IN PUBLIC DISCOURSE ABOUT REFUGEES

### OPEN VS. CLOSED

Overall, there appears to be some level of anxiety when discussing the refugee crisis. This is especially so in Germany, with 3 in 4 feeling "pressure to think and speak a certain way about refugees." Just 13% said there is "an open and honest dialogue," compared to 23% survey-wide. The remainder (12%) were unsure.



- 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





**SECTION 4** 

REFUGEES' NEEDS VS. PROVIDING SUPPORT



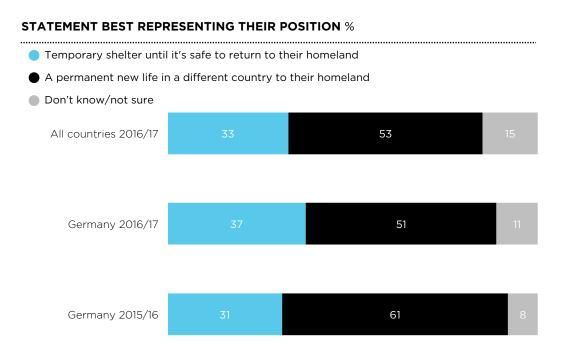
# REFUGEE SETTLEMENT

# LONG-TERM VS. SHORT-TERM 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.

Both survey-wide and in Germany, a slightly higher proportion (over half) felt refugees are seeking "A permanent new life," with 37% believing they are looking for "Temporary shelter" (33% survey-wide).

A notable change between Year 1 and 2 was a 10 percentage point decrease in the proportion of those with the opinion that refugees are seeking "A permanent new life."



# ARE REFUGEES VIEWED EQUALLY?

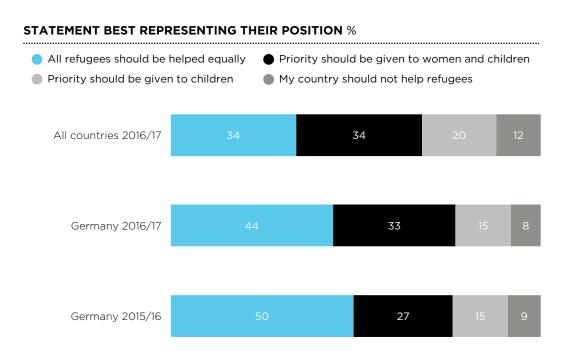
### AGE & GENDER

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

With regard 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 that their country should help any refugees.

German participants were more inclined than those surveywide to believe that that "All refugees should be helped equally" (44% and 34% respectively). There was, however, a slight decline of 6 percentage points this year compared to Year 1.

The majority of remaining participants identified priority groups. This broke down as 3 in 10 saying "both women and children" and just under 2 in 10 selecting "children." A minority (1 in 10) felt their country should not be helping.



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: 12,527 (All countries 2016/17), 1,003 (Germany 2016/17) and 1,000 (Germany 2015/16)

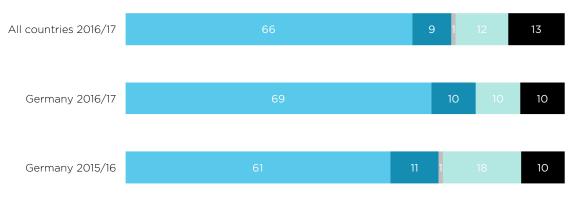
## ARE REFUGEES VIEWED EQUALLY?

## 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.

German results were comparable to the survey-wide average. Encouragingly, by far the highest proportion (7 in 10) said that "All refugees should be helped equally, regardless of religion." Among 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."

- All refugees should be helped equally, regardless of religion
- Priority should be given to Christians
- Priority should be given to Muslims
- Priority should be given to other religious groups
- Priority should be given to groups that have faced religious persecution in their country of origin
- My country should not help refugees



## PERCEPTION OF OWN COUNTRY'S INVOLVEMENT

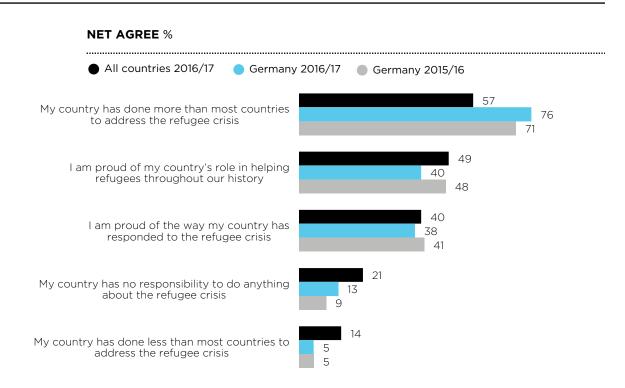
### COULD MORE BE DONE?

Participants were asked to evaluate their country's approach to helping refugees.

German participants were considerably more inclined to feel that their country had "done more than most" to address the current refugee crisis, with almost 8 in 10 saying this compared to 6 in 10 survey-wide. Just 5% felt Germany had "done less than most" (14% survey-wide).

Despite this, when asked about pride in their country's actions, German participants displayed a relatively similar level to the survey-wide average. Four in ten were proud of their country's role in helping refugees 'throughout our history' and the same proportion expressed this sentiment about the current crisis.

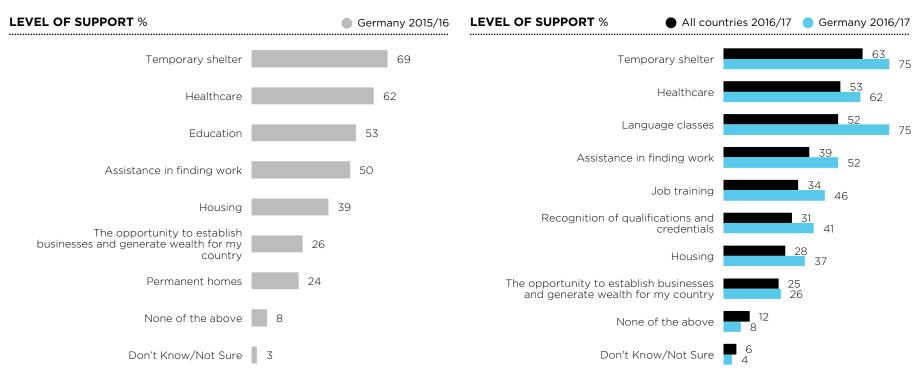
Just 13% said Germany "has no responsibility to do anything about the refugee crisis," compared to 21% survey-wide.



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: 12527 (All countries), 1003 (Germany 2016/17), 1000 (Germany 2015/16)

# TYPE OF SUPPORT HOST COUNTRIES SHOULD PROVIDE

## POLICIES AND INITIATIVES



QUESTION(S): What level of support do you think your country, along with the wider international community, should make available to refugees? (%) BASES: 12,527 (All countries 2016/17), 1,003 (Germany 2016/17) and 1,000 (Germany 2015/16) NOTE: Some answer options changed between the two trackers

# TYPE OF SUPPORT HOST COUNTRIES SHOULD PROVIDE

## POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

In terms of policies and initiatives that should be provided for refugees by the participants' own country and the international community, views of German participants have generally remained the same from Year 1 to Year 2.

Overall, across all countries surveyed and in Germany, providing a safe place to reside in the form of "Temporary shelter" was seen as a key priority. Even more mentioned this in Germany than surveywide (75% and 63% respectively). In terms of basic needs, healthcare was also seen as important (62%).

Among other commonly selected factors, there was a common theme of social and economic integration and empowerment which was particularly prevalent in Germany. Policies and initiatives received a high level of support including "Language classes" (75%), "Assistance in finding work" (52%), "Job training" (46%) and "Recognition of qualifications and credentials" (41%). For each, scores in Germany were at least 10 percentage points higher than the survey-wide average.

Another notable difference in Germany was that almost 4 in 10 said "Housing," compared to 3 in 10 survey-wide.



**SECTION 5** 

**PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY** 

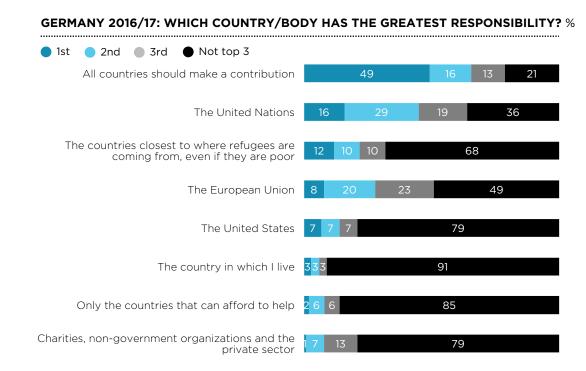


### **GLOBAL**

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 selected, it is clear that German participants firmly see the crisis as a global responsibility. "All countries" was the most frequently mentioned first option by quite some way (49%). This was followed by the United Nations and then the European Union.

Other countries, non-profit organizations and the private sector were considerably less likely to be selected within the top three entities considered most responsible to deal with the crisis.



### NATIONAL

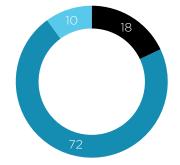
Participants were asked about their country's responsibility for resettling refugees. German scores have remained relatively consistent between Year 1 and 2, with approximately 23% feeling that their country does not have a responsibility to accept refugees and the remainder feeling that it does. Overall, having a quota for the number of refugees to be accepted was preferable, with 67% saying this, although 1 in 10 were open to "any number of refugees" coming to Germany.

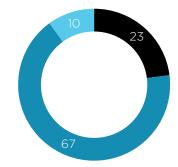
#### STATEMENT BEST REPRESENTING THEIR POSITION %

- 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

#### **GERMANY 2015/16**







### FINANCIAL

In order to better understand if and 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 German 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, Germans generally had a preference for government-led financial assistance. Approximately half (47%) would be happy for the government to provide assistance but did not want to donate themselves. This score was substantially higher than the survey-wide average (34%). A further 18% would give to charities "in addition" to government financing, while a minority (8%) would prefer to just give to charities.

- Happy for government to provide financial assistance to refugees, but not donate directly to charities
- Willing to donate to charities that help refugees in addition to what my government gives
- Willing to donate to charities that help refugees, but not for taxes to be used by my government to help refugees
- Not willing to provide financial support to refugees



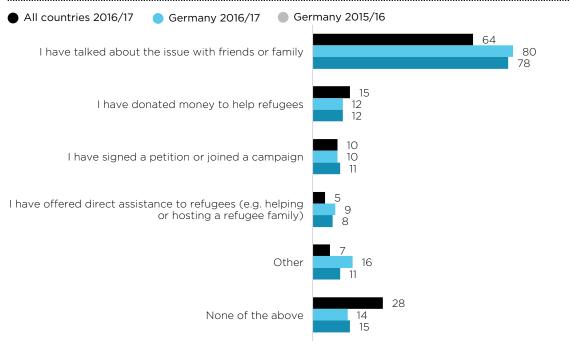
# PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION SO FAR

### **ACTIONS**

Participants' actions have largely consisted of speaking to friends and family about the crisis. In many ways this is encouraging given that earlier analysis identified that the views of friends and family are of fundamental importance in opinion formation. The proportion reporting this in Germany was considerably higher than the survey-wide average (80% and 64% respectively).

Incidence of other actions are comparatively lower, however, encouragingly, just 14% reported that they have not made any personal contributions. It is also noteworthy that 1 in 10 had financially "donated" and/or "signed a petition or joined a campaign."





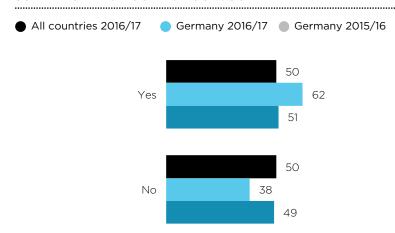
QUESTION(S): In response to the refugee crisis, which (if any) of the following have you done? (%) BASES: 12,527 (All countries 2016/17), 1,003 (Germany 2016/17) and 1,000 (Germany 2015/16)

# INTENTIONS AND ASPIRATIONS TO HELP

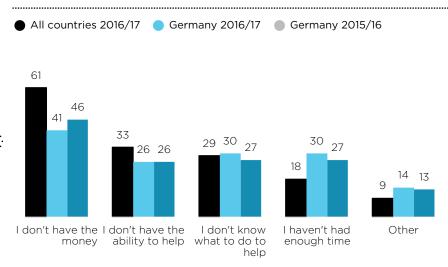
## **CURRENT & FUTURE**

When asked if they felt they had contributed as much as they would have like to, German participants were more inclined to say that they had not compared to those survey-wide (62% vs. 50% respectively). Looking at the responses of those who said "No," while considerable emphasis was placed on financial assistance, Germans were less likely to mention this than others survey-wide (41% and 61% respectively). Not having the "time," "ability" or knowing what to do were all mentioned by around 3 in 10.

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



#### IF NOT, WHY NOT? %



**QUESTION:** As shown above (%) **BASES: All those who said no.** 6297 (All countries 2016/17), 379 (Germany 2016/17) and 506 (Germany 2015/16)

**QUESTIONS:** As shown above (%) **BASES:** 12,527 (All countries 2016/17), 1,003 (Germany 2016/17) and 1,000 (Germany 2015/16)



SECTION 6

**APPENDIX** 



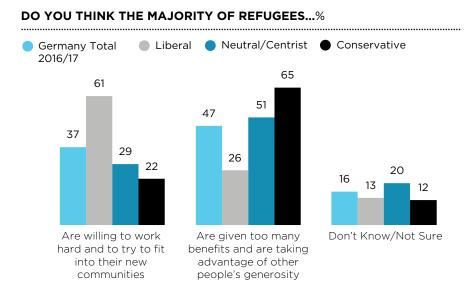
## FINANCIAL IMPACT

## BY POLITICAL AFFILIATION

Opinions about the financial impact of hosting refugees varied considerably based on political affiliation. Those who identified as "Liberal" were far more optimistic, with almost 7 in 10 (67%) saying that "Refugees can positively contribute to the economies of countries that accept them." This compared to 35% of "Conservative" and 4 in 10 (42%) "Neutral/Centrist" participants. Furthermore, 6 in 10 (61%) "Liberal" participants said refugees "Are willing to work hard and to try and fit into their communities." This was notably lower among both "Neutral/Centrist" (29%) and "Conservative" (22%) participants...

#### WHICH STATEMENT BEST REPRESENTS YOUR POSITION? % Neutral/Centrist Conservative Germany Total Liberal 2016/17 67 61 48 47 42 42 Refugees are a burden Refugees can positively New arrivals from on the economies of contribute to the other countries countries that accept economies of countries benefit our economy

that accept them



QUESTION(S): As shown above (%) BASES (Total): 1003 (Germany 2016/17)

them

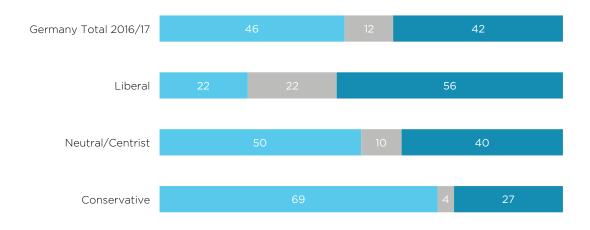
# **SECURITY RISK**

### BY POLITICAL AFFILIATION

Overall, while the majority of all participants were fearful that accepting refugees would increase security risks, those with "Liberal" views were most pragmatic. Importantly, 2 in 10 (22%) "Liberal" participants said that "Refugees pose no risk to my country's security" compared to just 4% of "Conservative" and 10% of "Neutral/Centrist" participants.

Also, almost 6 in 10 (56%) "Liberal" participants were of the view that, although risks are legitimate, they "can be effectively managed." A relatively high proportion (40%) of "Neutral/Centrist" said the same, compared to just 27% of "Conservative" participants.

- 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



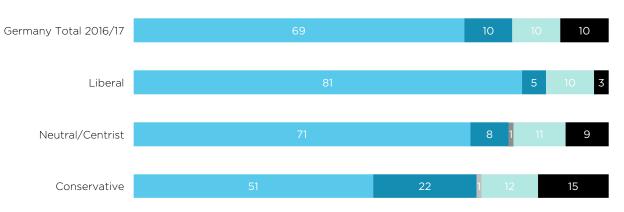
# ARE REFUGEES VIEWED EQUALLY?

### 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 (81%) doing so. This view was also relatively high among "Neutral/Centrist" participants (71%), but somewhat lower for the "Conservative" group (51%).

"Conservative" participants were the most inclined to think that priority should be given to specific segments, with an emphasis on Christian refugees (22%).

- All refugees should be helped equally, regardless of religion
- Priority should be given to Christians
- Priority should be given to Muslims
- Priority should be given to other religious groups
- Priority should be given to groups that have faced religious persecution in their country of origin
- My country should not help refugees

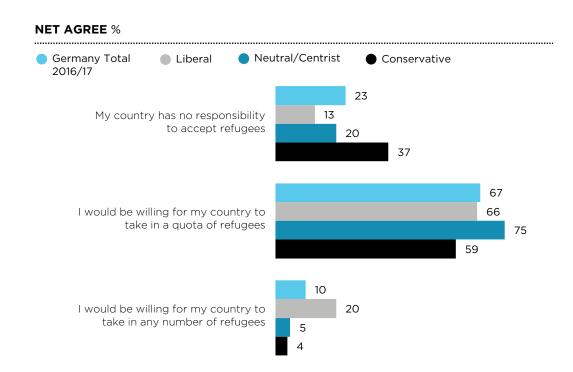


### BY POLITICAL AFFILIATION

Almost all (86%) "Liberal" participants were "willing" for their country to accept refugees. While a "quota" approach was most popular (66%), 2 in 10 said they would be willing for their country "to take in any number of refugees."

Encouragingly a similar proportion (80%) of "Neutral/Centrist" participants were "willing" for their country to accept refugees. There was however a strong preference for a "quota" approach (75%).

The "Conservative" group had a slightly higher proportion saying "My country has no responsibility to accept refugees" (37%). However, 6 in 10 (63%) were "willing" to accept refugees, with the "quota" approach being most favorable.



**QUESTION(S):** Which statement best represents your position? (%) **BASES (Total):** 1003 (Germany 2016/17)

