



HUMAN RIGHTS INDEX

ZULAT'S HUMAN RIGHTS INDEX REPORT

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The following is a summary of the findings of a human rights survey conducted online on 11-15 February 2021 among 647 Jews and 176 Arabs, who constitute a representative sample of Israel's adult population (aged 18 and above). The data was collected by the firm Ipanel, while Lotem Bassan-Nygate and Chagai Weiss analyzed the findings and wrote its conclusions.

The purpose of the survey is to map out the Israeli public's positions on the subject of human rights. The questionnaire is designed to assess which human rights are important to Israelis, and which rights they feel the State of Israel is violating. Respondents were also asked about their personal experiences, including during the corona crisis and the attendant restrictions placed on their rights. Finally, they were asked questions aimed at assessing the importance of the human rights issue in the upcoming elections.

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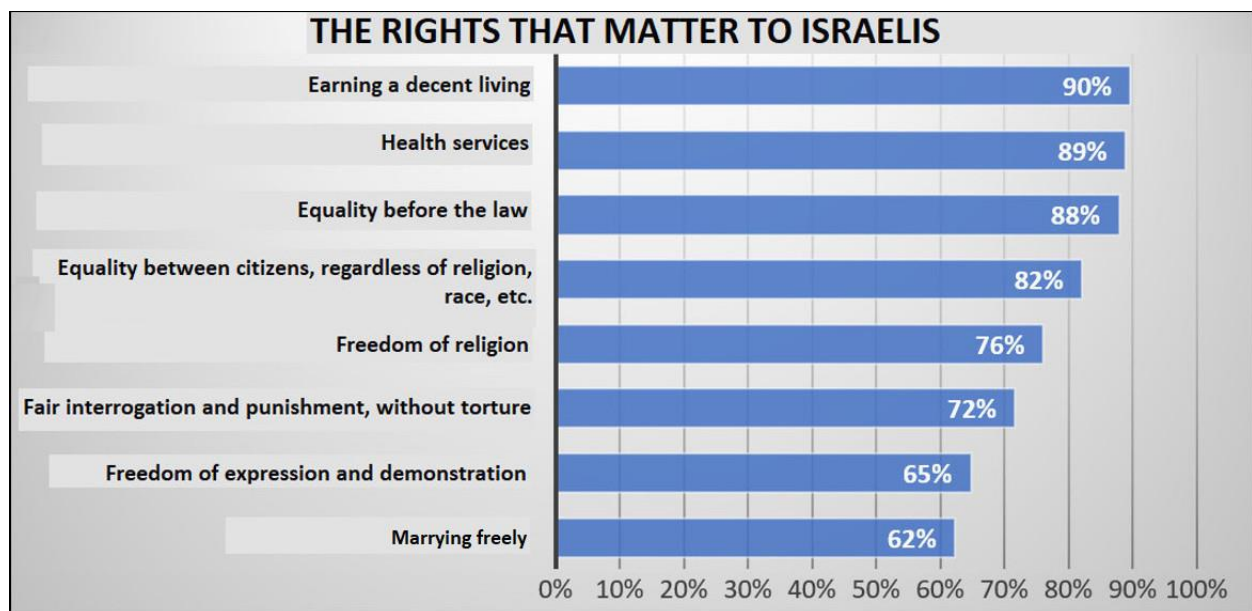
² University of Wisconsin-Madison and Harvard University

Main Findings

- The right to earn a decent living is the most important right for respondents.
- More than half of them support equal rights for Israel's Arab citizens.
- Having said that, only 41% believe the Israeli government grants equal rights to its Arab citizens. As for Arab respondents, 61% think Israel does not grant equal rights to its Arab citizens, and 53% assert that they, or one of their relatives, experienced racial discrimination in the past year.
- More than half of all respondents support equal rights for same-sex couples, while 37% believe Israel does not **at all** uphold the right to marry freely.
- 31% of all respondents feel that theirs, or one of their relatives' right to freedom of expression was violated in the past year. This figure is even higher among center-left voters (41%) and Arab respondents (46%).
- As for the violation of rights during the corona crisis, 65% of respondents assert that their right to freedom of movement was violated, 51% say their right to earn a decent living, 42% say their right to equality before the law, and 31% affirm that their right to demonstrate was violated.
- 46% of the respondents opine that the State of Israel should provide vaccines to the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories and Gaza.
- While 86% of respondents believe the human rights issue does not top the agenda of Knesset parties, most of them affirm that the parties' commitment to human rights will influence their choice, with an emphasis on the right to health services and the right to equality before the law.

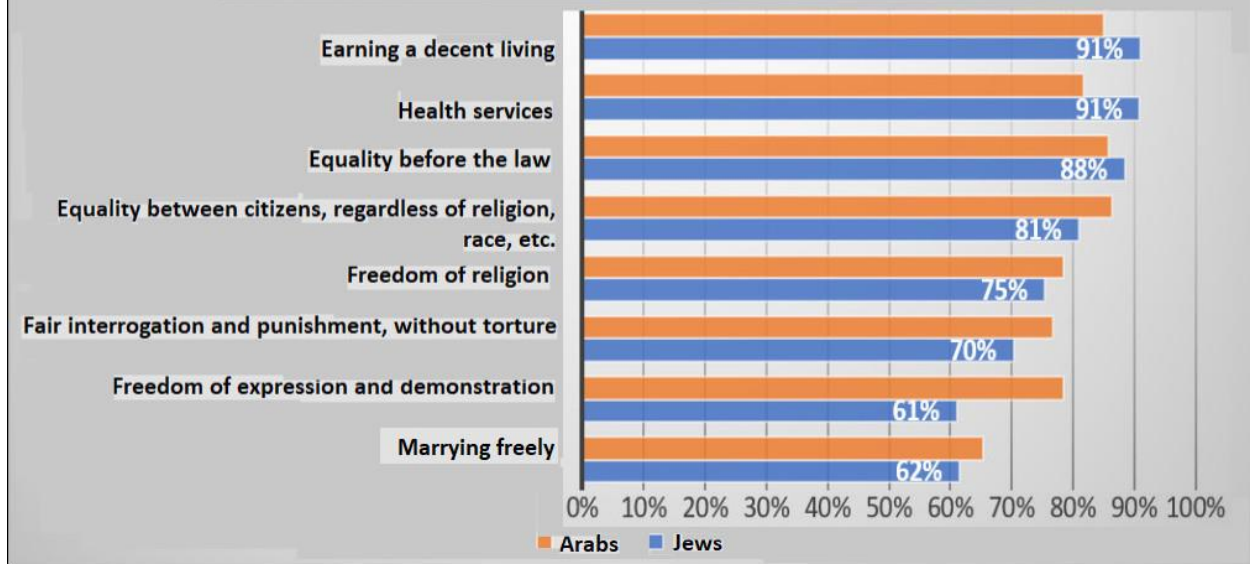
The Rights That Most Matter to Israelis

We first asked survey participants to indicate how important various human rights are to them (not important at all/partially important/very important). In general, **respondents asserted that human rights are important to them**, with over half of them saying that all of the listed rights were very important to them. The findings show that the right to earn a decent living, the right to health services, and the right to equality before the law are the most important rights for respondents, with over 88% of them affirming as much. The right to marry freely and the right to freedom of demonstration and expression were rated relatively lower, with approximately 62-65% citing them as important rights. Segmentation of the data into Jewish and Arab respondents paints a similar picture, but while Arab respondents tended to attach greater importance to the right to freedom of expression and demonstration than Jewish respondents, the latter attached greater importance to the right to health services and the right to earn a decent living.³

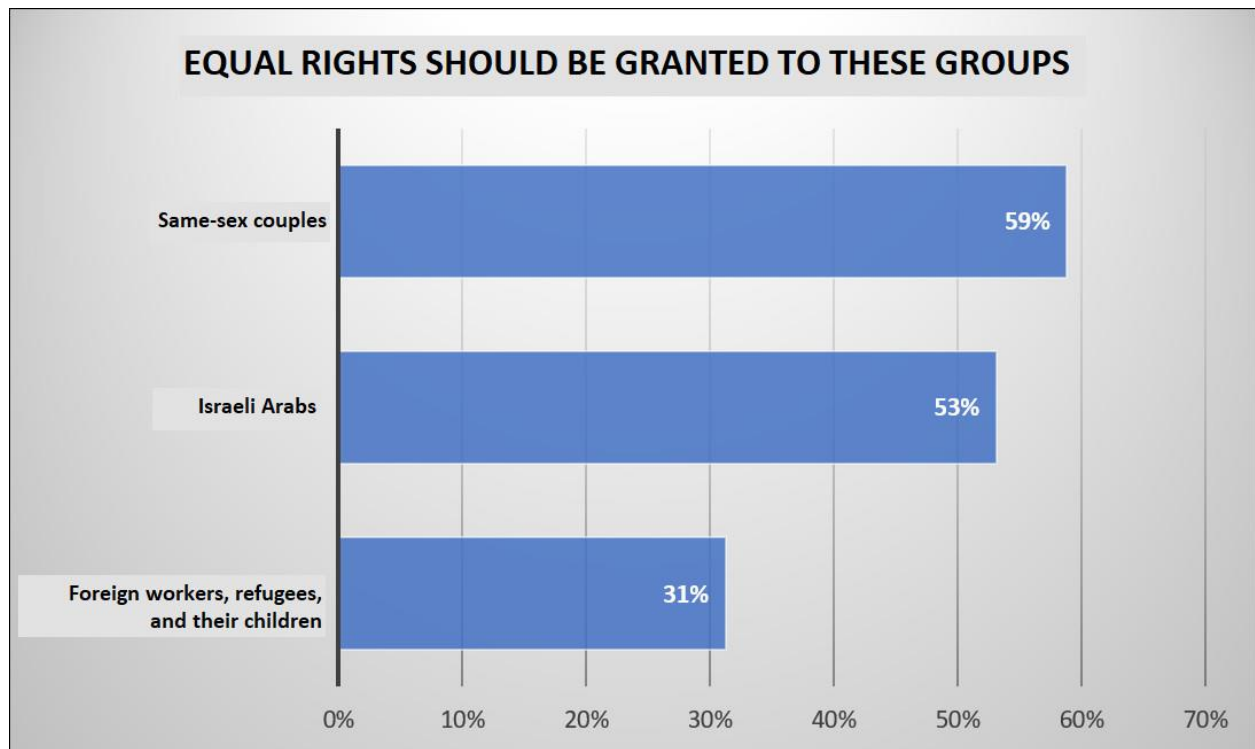


³ The differences are statistically clear-cut.

THE RIGHTS THAT MATTER TO JEWS AND ARABS



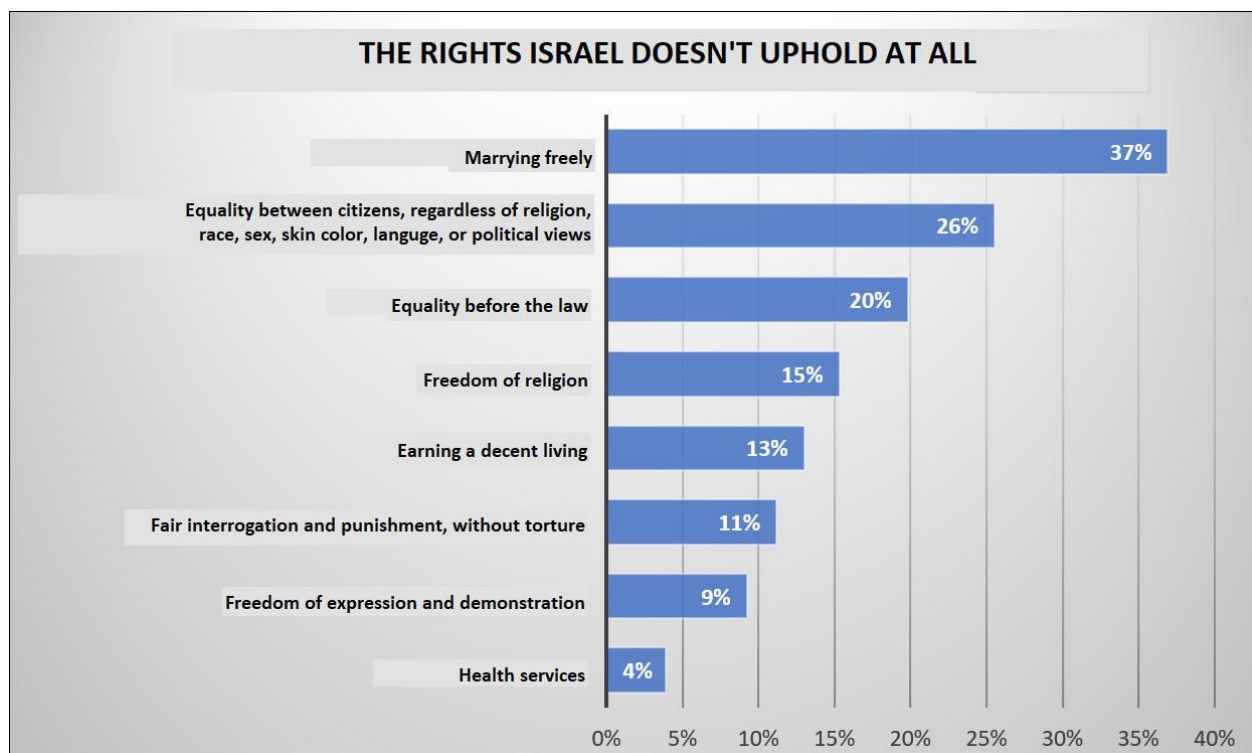
When asked about granting human rights to various groups in Israeli society, a moderate majority of 59% indicated that equal rights should be granted to same-sex couples, and 53% agreed that the State of Israel should do more to grant equal rights to its Arab citizens. At the same time, only 31% of the respondents agreed that Israel should grant equal rights to foreign workers, refugees and their children.



Violated Rights

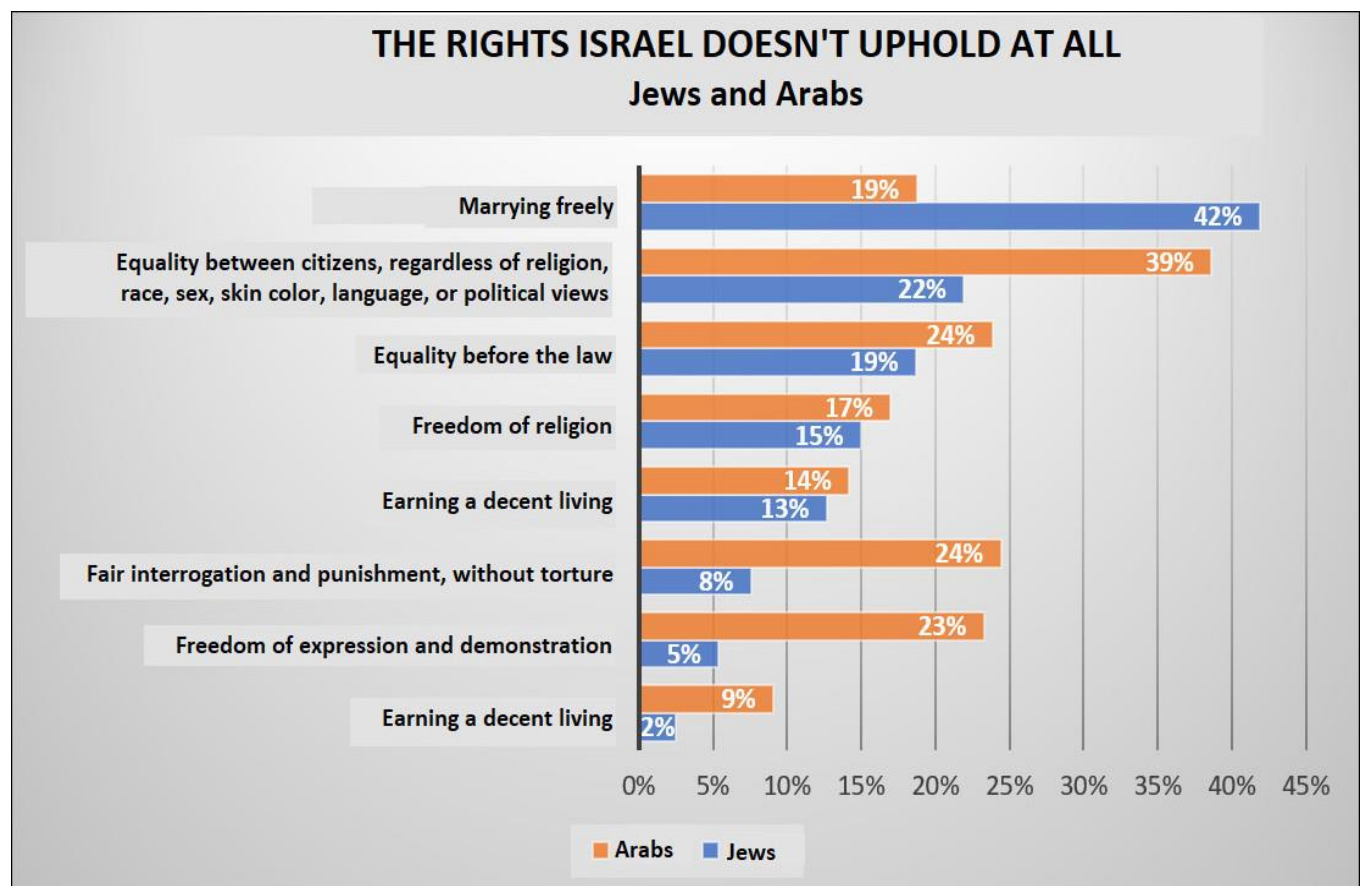
Survey participants were asked to assess which human rights Israel tends to violate. It should be noted that, in general, participants replied that Israel upholds human rights only partially. The graph below shows the percentage of respondents who said that Israel **does not at all uphold any of the rights**.

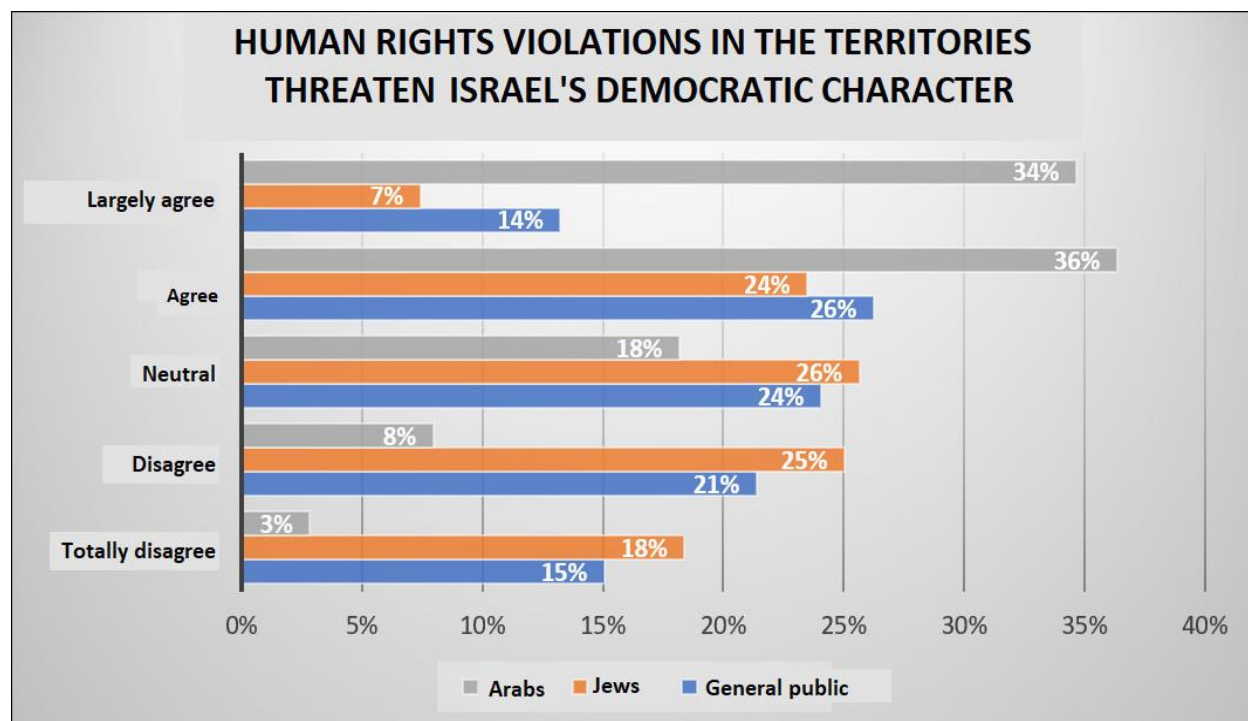
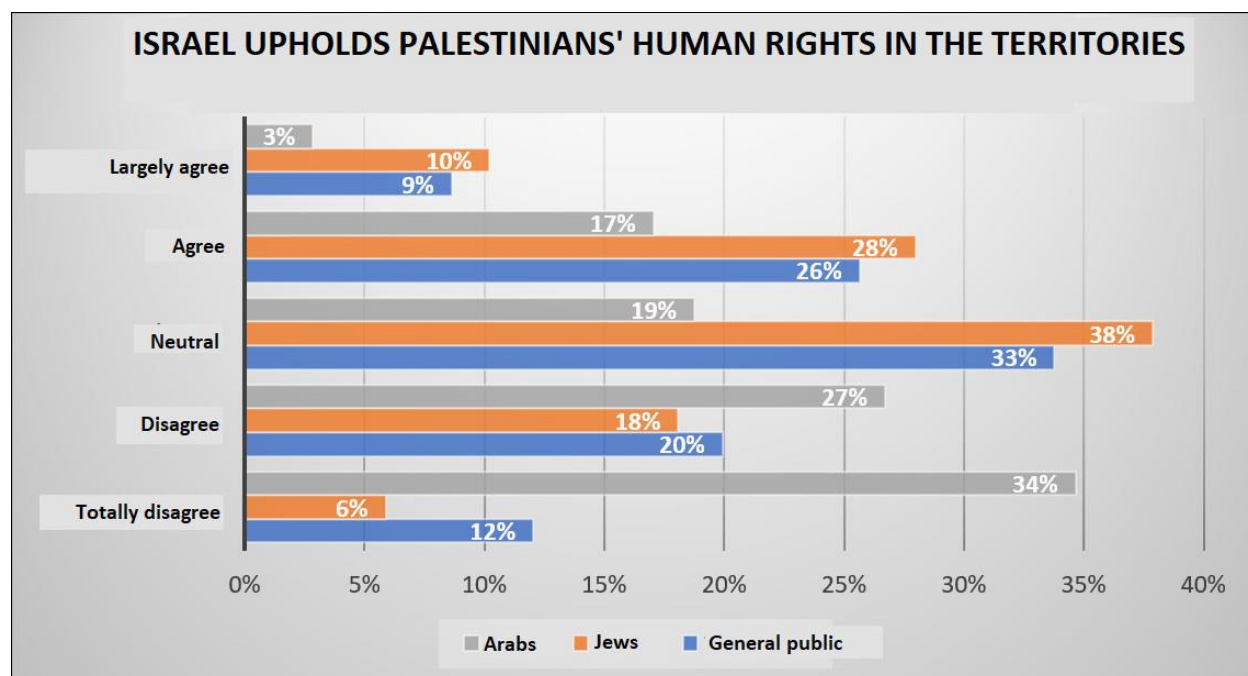
According to the survey, 37% believe that Israel does not at all uphold the right to marry freely. This figure is particularly interesting when taken in conjunction with the previous finding regarding support for equal rights for same-sex couples, given that the issue of marriage is at the forefront of the LGBT community's struggle in Israeli society.



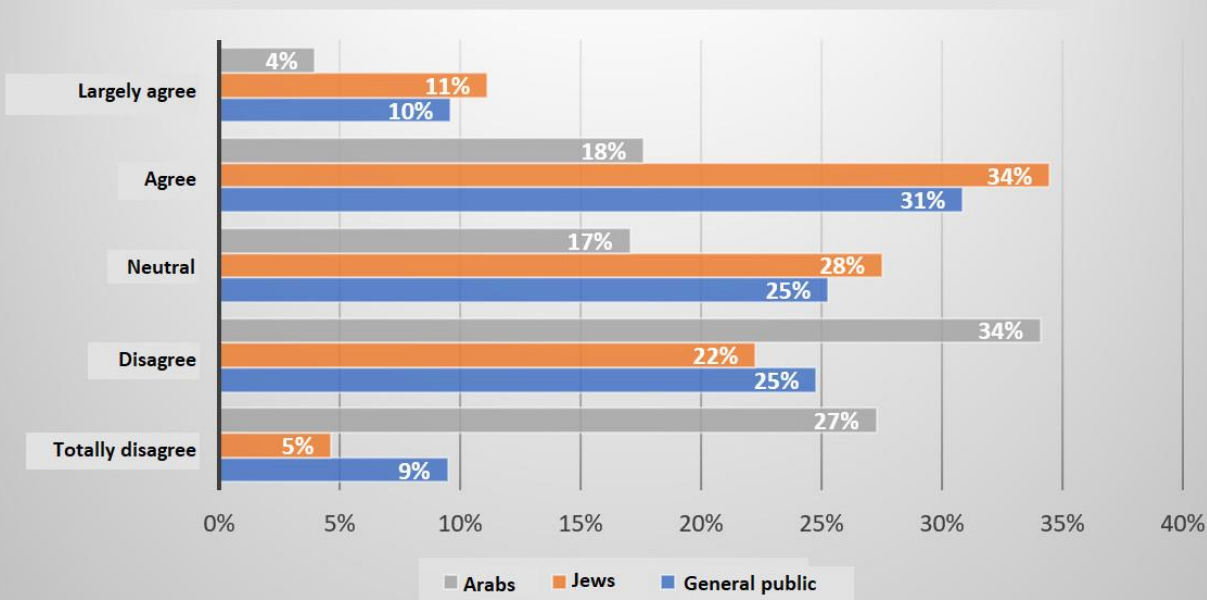
When comparing the answers of Arab and Jewish respondents with regards to the violation of rights, the findings show that a higher percentage of Arab respondents believe that Israel does not at all uphold the right to equality between citizens, the right to fair interrogation and punishment without torture, and the right to freedom of expression and demonstration. Indeed, while 24% of Arab respondents affirm that Israel does not at all uphold the right to fair interrogation and punishment, only 8% of Jewish respondents share this view.

As expected, the most glaring differences between Jewish and Arab respondents are evident around questions concerning the rights of Palestinians in the territories and the rights of Israel's Arab citizens. Some 61% of Arab respondents did not agree with the statement "The State of Israel protects the human rights of Palestinians in the territories," as opposed to 24% of Jewish respondents. In addition, while 71% of Arab respondents agreed that the violation of human rights in the territories posed a threat to the democratic nature of the State of Israel, only 30% of Jewish respondents agreed with this statement. The findings further show that while 61% of Arab respondents feel that the State of Israel does not grant equal rights to its Arab citizens, only 26% of Jewish respondents share this notion.





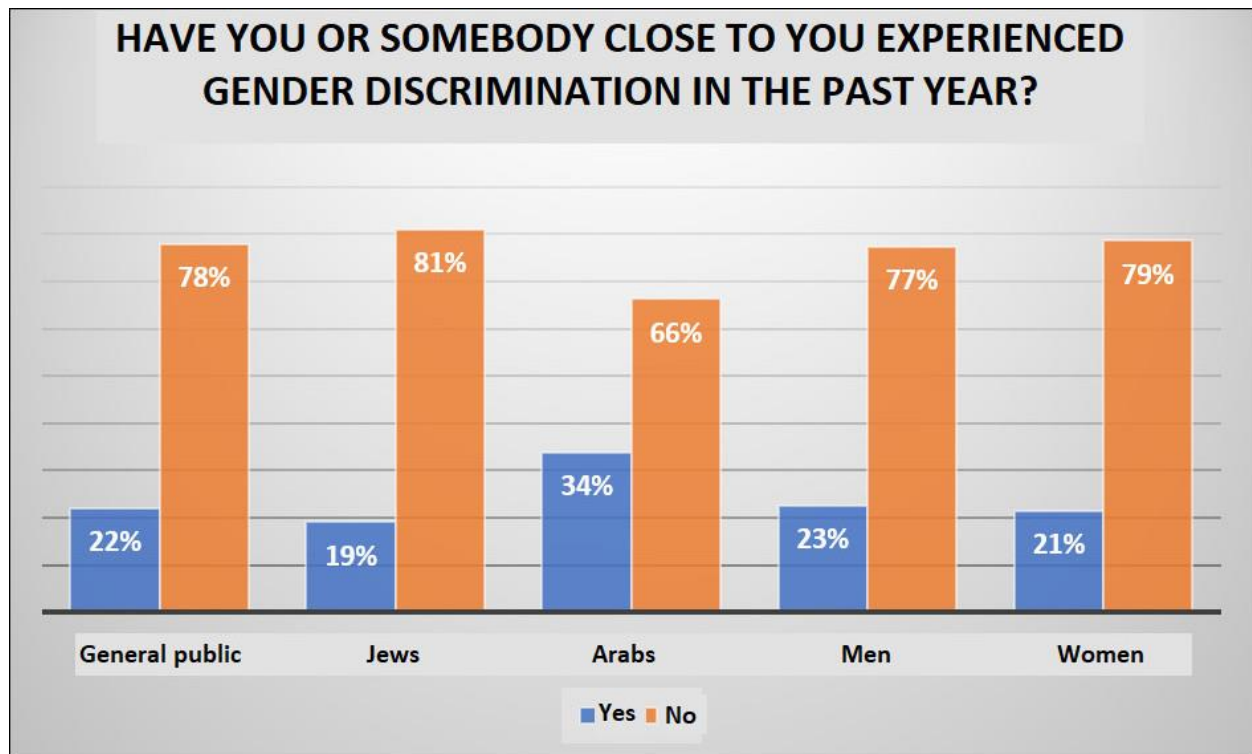
ISRAEL'S GOVERNMENT GRANTS EQUAL RIGHTS TO ITS ARAB CITIZENS

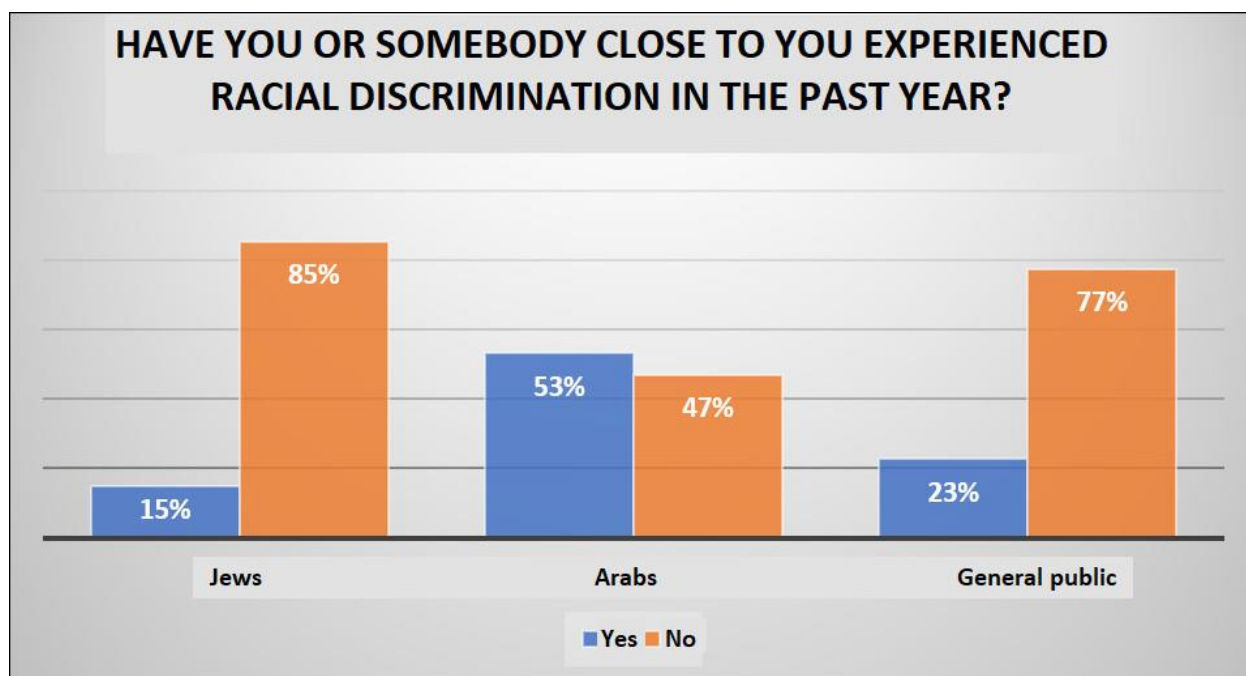


Which Human Rights Were Violated in the Past Year?

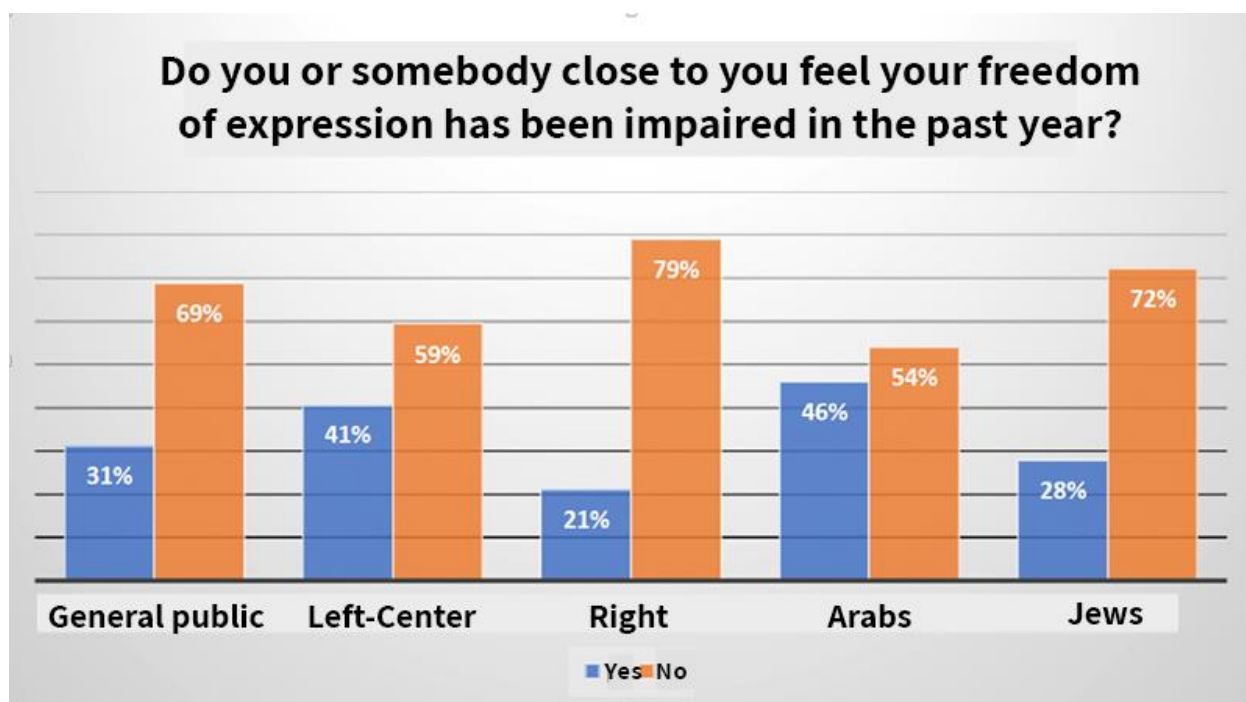
Respondents were asked about their personal experiences with human rights violations in the past year, and their answers yielded a number of interesting findings. First, it is evident that, overall, respondents experienced very little gender discrimination in the past year (on average, 22% indicate as much). These figures remained unchanged even when segmented into males and females.

However, the picture changes when it comes to racial and religious discrimination. While an absolute majority of 85% of Jewish respondents indicate that they did not experience racial discrimination in the past year, a moderate majority of 53% of Arab respondents indicate that they, or one of their relatives, did so.



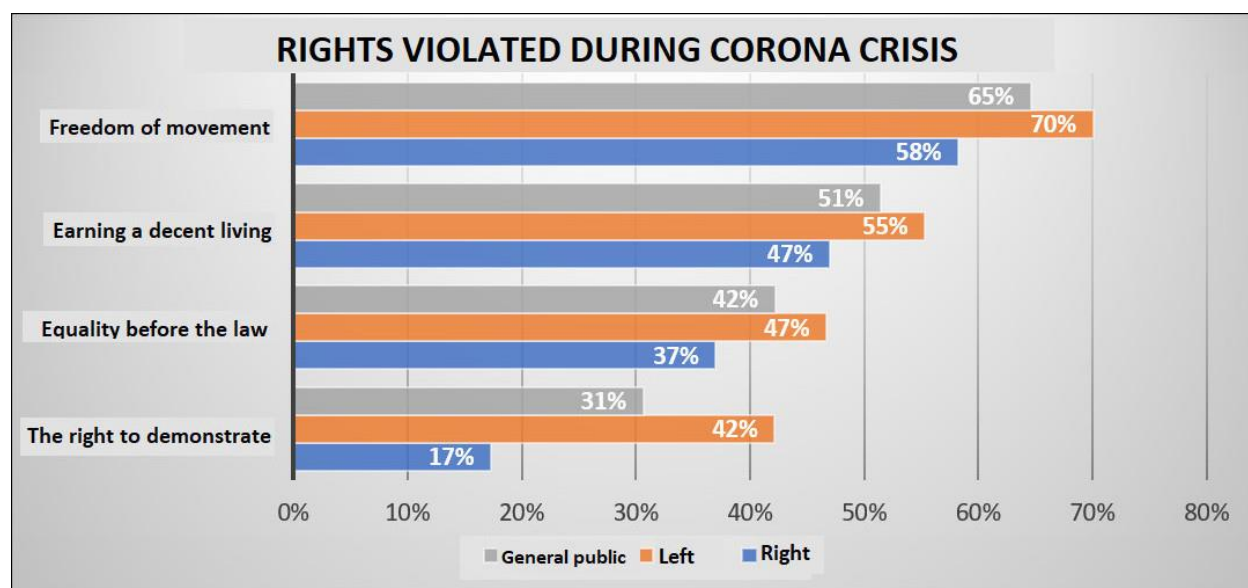


When asked about the right to freedom of expression and demonstration, 31% of all respondents felt their right had been violated in the past year. This feeling is more common among center-left respondents, with 41% indicating as much. The proportion of respondents in the right-wing camp who felt their right to freedom of expression had been violated stands at 21%.

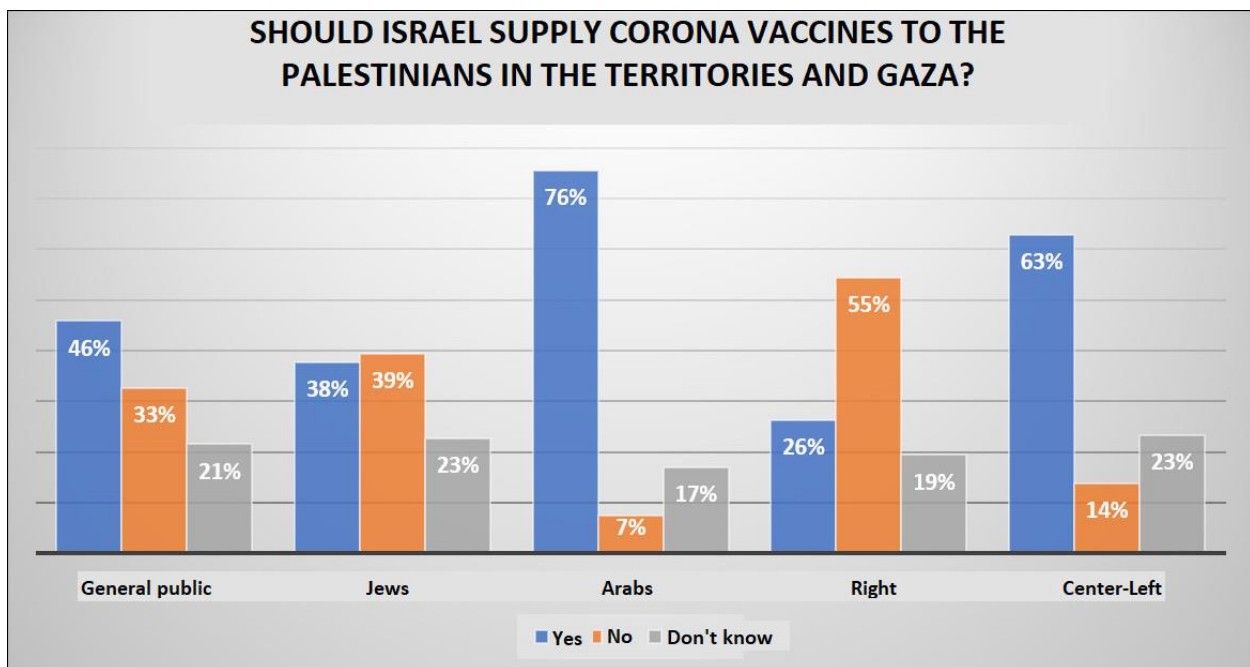
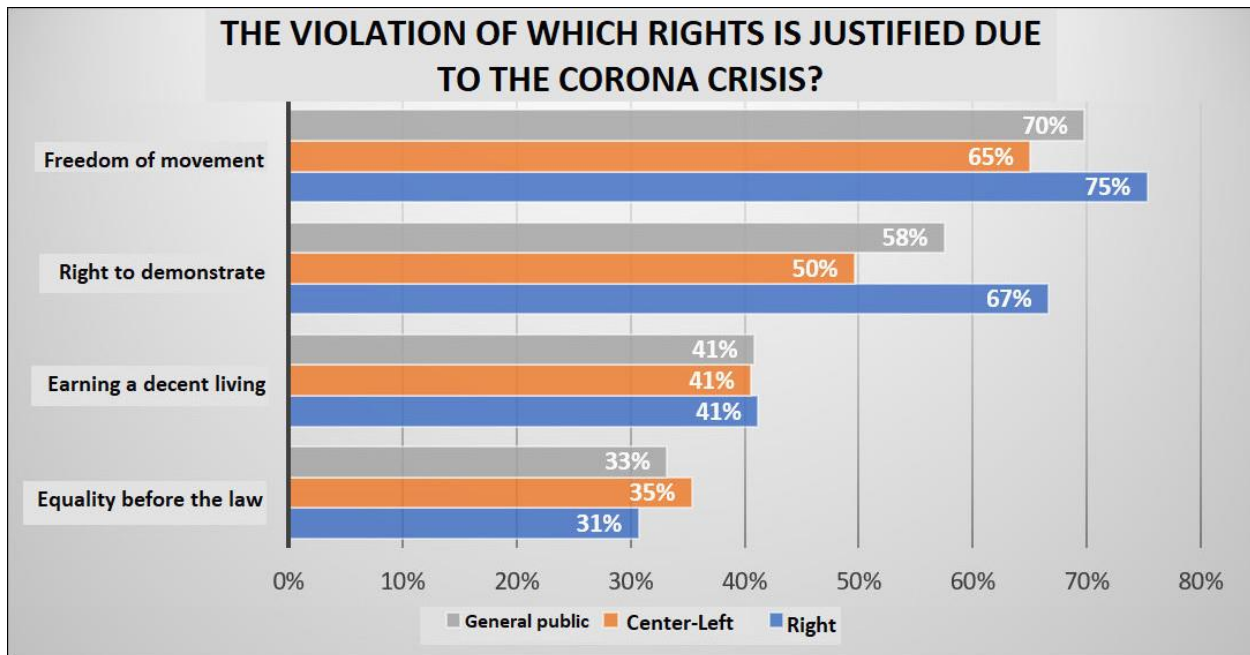


Human Rights During the Corona Crisis

Regarding human rights violations during the corona crisis, 65% of all respondents felt their right to freedom of movement had been violated, 51% said their right to earn a decent living, 42% said their right to equality before the law, and 31% said their right to demonstrate. While the majority (70%) thought it was justified to infringe on the right to freedom of movement during a crisis, most of them did not believe the corona crisis justified infringing on the right to earn a decent living.



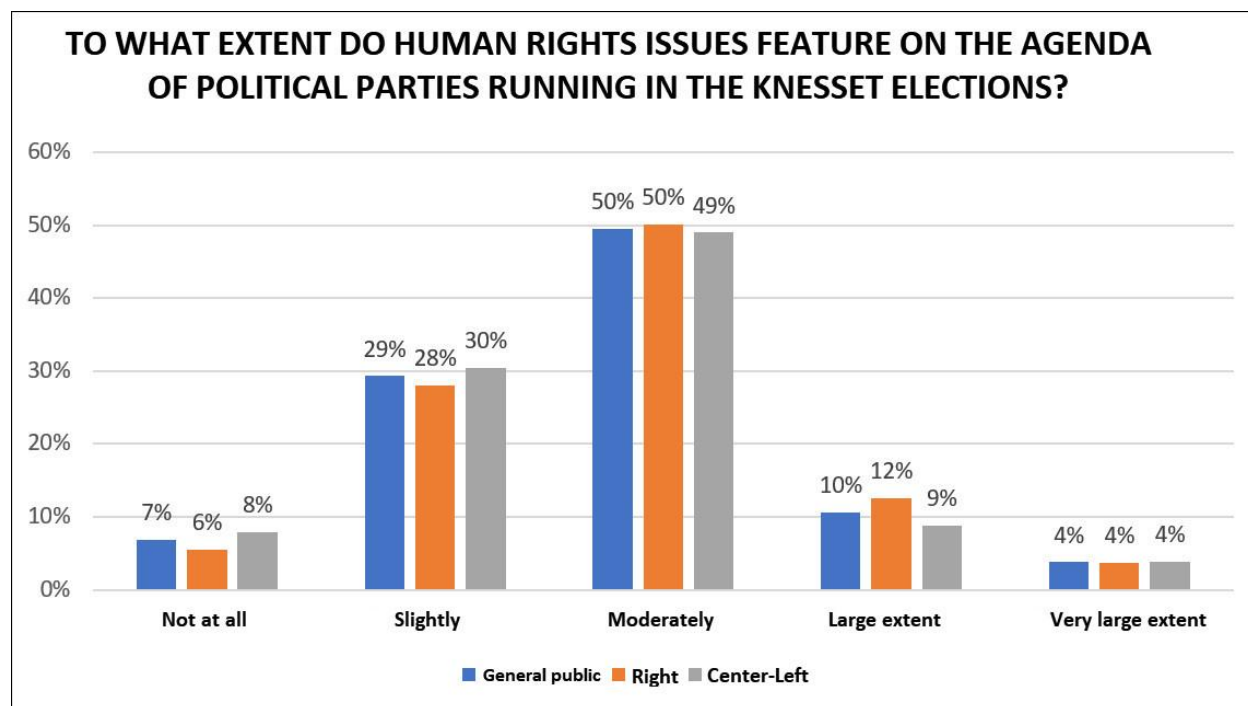
Some 46% of respondents were of the opinion that corona vaccines should be supplied to the Palestinians in the territories and Gaza. As expected, most of the support for vaccinations came from Arab respondents and center-left supporters. In contrast, only 26% of respondents belonging to the right-wing bloc expressed support for such a move.



Human Rights in Light of the Upcoming Elections

Only a small minority of respondents believe the human rights issue features on the agenda of the political parties running in the upcoming Knesset elections. To wit, 86% said the issue features moderately or less on the agenda of parties. There appears to be consensus on the issue, as the results remain unchanged when comparing the response of right-wing and center-left voters.

At the same time, when asked to what extent the commitment of parties and politicians to a variety of human rights will affect their vote, the response indicates that such a commitment, specifically to the right to health services and the right to equality before the law, is important to a significant portion of Israelis. Indeed, 78% of all respondents indicated that commitment to the right to health services would affect their vote, 75% said that commitment to equality before the law would affect their vote, and 67% affirmed that a general commitment to equality regardless of religion, race, and gender would affect their vote.



RIGHTS IMPORTANT TO ISRAELIS IN UPCOMING ELECTIONS

