



# Number of Americans Who Support the ICC Grows

## Ipsos Poll on behalf of the American Bar Association

**Washington, DC, April 11, 2018** — Ipsos latest survey of Americans conducted for the American Bar Association's International Criminal Court (ICC) Project shows that knowledge of the ICC has risen since Ipsos began tracking in 2014. The online survey of 1,004 adults also reveals that many Americans are in favor of the ICC investigating atrocities committed in Afghanistan by members of Taliban, but are split on the idea of the ICC investigating members of the US Armed Forces and the CIA for similar crimes.

### Knowledge and Awareness of the ICC

Just under half of Americans (45%) are now aware of the International Criminal Court, up from 40% when this tracking began in 2014. Despite this growing awareness, 62% of those who are aware of the ICC incorrectly believe that the United States is currently a member of the ICC.

- Among all Americans, awareness is much higher among men, with a quarter (27%) reporting they know a great deal or fair amount about the ICC, compared to just 8% of women.
- Millennials are also much more likely to report they know at least something about the ICC (57%), compared to 36% of adults age 55 or older.

### Perceptions of the Court's Objectives

A majority of Americans agree it is important for the United States to participate in international organizations that support human rights and that hold individuals accountable for mass atrocities (73%). The belief it is important to help these organizations is especially strong among those aware of the ICC (81%).

- This number has grown consistently over the tracking period, beginning in February 2014 (60%).
- Support for international organizations that support human rights and hold individuals accountable for mass atrocities is strongest among those who believe the US should become more involved or fully join the ICC (90%).

The number of Americans who believe we should dedicate US resources, including financial, military and intelligence, to international organizations that support human rights and that hold individuals accountable for mass atrocities continues to grow.

- Since February 2014, support for dedicating US resources has grown by 16 percentage points from 47% to 63%.
- Similar to other International Criminal Court objectives, this belief is strongest among those who believe the US should become more involved or fully join the ICC (86%).

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## Perception of the Court and US Membership

Half of Americans (50%) believe the US should become more involved in or fully join the ICC, this number is up 16 percentage points from February 2014 (34%).

- One fifth of Americans (20%) believe the US should not join the ICC.
- Men (58%) are significantly more likely to agree that US should be more involved in or fully join the ICC than women (43%).
  - Women are more likely to say they do not know (38%) compared to men (20%). Men (21%) and women (19%) agree at the same rate that the US should not join the ICC.
- One-third of Americans (36%) believe that US should be become a full member of the ICC and robustly support all of its work. This perception has grown from 14 percentage points from February 2014 (22%).
  - This number is particularly high among adults who are aware of the court, with 54% reporting they believe the US should robustly support the ICC and become a full member.
- Men (46%) are more likely to support the United States' strong support of the ICC and full membership than women (27%).
- A quarter of Americans (28%) believe that joining the ICC would compromise America's sovereignty as a nation.

## Support of ICC potentially investigating members of the Taliban, United States Armed Forces and the CIA

Americans were asked to consider their support of the Office of the Prosecutor at the ICC applying to open a formal investigation into war crimes and crimes against humanity that may have occurred in Afghanistan by the United States Armed Forces and the members of the CIA, which may lead to criminal charges against members of the US military and members of the CIA. Just under half (45%) of Americans report that they support this investigation, with one-fifth (20%) reporting they strongly support it. One-fifth (21%) report they do not support this investigation, and 13% report they do not know.

Separately, Americans were also asked to evaluate their support of the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court (ICC) applying to open a formal investigation into war crimes and crimes against humanity that may have occurred in Afghanistan by the Taliban and so-called Islamic State (IS/ISIS/ISIL), which may lead to criminal charges against members of the Taliban and the so-called Islamic State. A strong majority of Americans (68%) support this investigation, with 42% reporting they strongly support it.

Overall perceptions of the ICC are largely unimpacted with half of Americans (50%) reporting that knowledge of ICC's application for investigation of members of the US Armed Forces, CIA, and the Taliban made them neither more or less favorable toward the ICC. One-third of Americans (31%) report they feel more positive about the ICC after learning about the application to open a formal investigation, while 19% report they are feel less favorable. Among those who believe that US should join the ICC, 47% feel more favorable, and 13% feel less favorable.

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## About the Study

*These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted April 4-6, 2018 on behalf of the American Bar Association. For the survey, a sample of roughly 1,004 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 489 adults at least aware of the International Criminal Court.*

*The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos's online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2013 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Post-hoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.*

*Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following ( $n=1,017$ ,  $DEFF=1.5$ , adjusted Confidence Interval=5).*

*The poll also has a credibility interval plus or minus 5.1 percentage points for adults who are at least aware of the International Criminal Court.*

*For more information about conducting research intended for public release or Ipsos' online polling methodology, please visit our [Public Opinion Polling and Communication](#) page where you can download our brochure, see our public release protocol, or contact us.*

### For more information on this news release, please contact:

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