

---

# MILLENNIALS ON WAR

---

## FIRST FINDINGS

Ipsos Public Affairs October 2019



# CONTENT

---

- **Methodology**
- **Main concerns**
- **Personal experience**
- **Civilian casualties**
- **Treatment of enemy combatants**
- **Weapons**
- **Future of wars**
- **Awareness of rules of war**



# BACKGROUND

Ipsos Public Affairs October 2019



**Millennials on War** focuses on Millennials as a generation which will soon become key decision makers and opinion leaders in their countries



The **aim of the research** is to investigate Millennials' awareness and respect for IHL and their views on the rules of war, nuclear weapons and technological advances in warfare

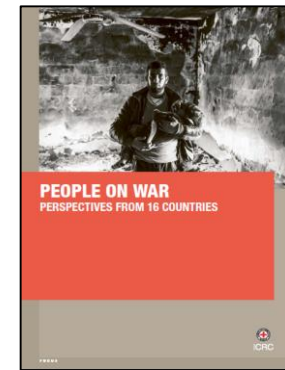
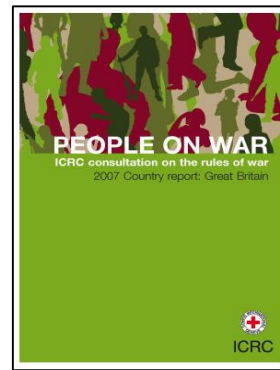
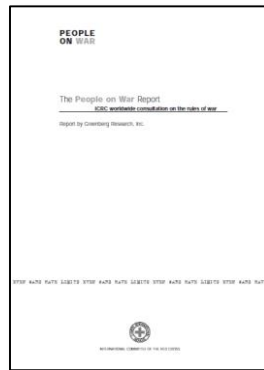


The **study was conducted** in countries in peacetime and conflict-affected countries showing the similarities and differences of attitudes



**Work products** include a brief, concise, executive summary with excel tables and infographics. ICRC would like to have the results ready for the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions (GC70) in 2019.

Millennials on War is a continuation of *People on War* initiatives:



# METHODOLOGY



# APPROACH IN A NUTSHELL

Location	16 countries: conflict-affected as well as peacetime countries
Target group	Millennials (those currently between 20-35 years old)
Sampling frame	National statistics based on the most recent Censuses
Sample type	Random or quota sample by age, gender, region and type of settlement Deviations from these general requirements given for specific countries
Sample size	1000 respondents per country
Data collection method	Mixed mode data-collection based on feasibility and country specificities
Questionnaire	Developed in collaboration with ICRC Questionnaire was piloted in 10 countries 28 questions + demography, no open ended questions

# MIXED-METHOD APPROACH

No.	Country	Internet GenPop	Internet Millennials	Share of rural pop.	Method	Type of sample	Coverage limitations
<b>Countries in conflict</b>							
1	Afghanistan	11%		72%	Face-to-face (PAPI)	Random sampling	Nationally representative
2	Ukraine	49%	94%	31%	Telephone (CATI)	Quota sampling	All quota (AGRT) (Crimea excluded)
3	Colombia	59%	96%	23%	Online (CAWI)	Quota sampling	All quota (AGRT)
4	Nigeria	52%	74%	51%	Face-to-face (CAPI)	Random sampling	Nationally representative
5	Israel	73%	90%	8%	Online (CAWI)	Quota sampling	All quota (AGRT)
6	Palestine				Face-to-face (PAPI)	Random sampling	Nationally representative
7	Syria	32%		42%	Telephone (PAPI)	Quota sampling	All quota (AGRT) (Idleb excluded)
<b>Countries in peacetime</b>							
1	Indonesia	52%	74%	45%	Face-to-face (CAPI)	Quota sampling	All quota (AGRT)
2	Malaysia	67%	91%	24%	Online (CAWI)	Quota sampling	All quota (AGRT)
3	France	85%	99%	20%	Online (CAWI)	Quota sampling	All quota (AGRT)
4	Russia	70%	98%	26%	Online (CAWI)	Quota sampling	All quota (AGRT)
5	Switzerland	90%	98%	26%	Online (CAWI)	Quota sampling	All quota (AGRT)
6	UK	92%	96%	17%	Online (CAWI)	Quota sampling	All quota (AGRT)
7	US	88%		18%	Online (CAWI)	Quota sampling	All quota (AGRT)
8	Mexico	64%	87%	20%	Online (CAWI)	Quota sampling	All quota (AGRT)
9	South Africa	53%	78%	34%	Face-to-face (CAPI)	Quota sampling	Quota AGR, major cities with semi-urban areas

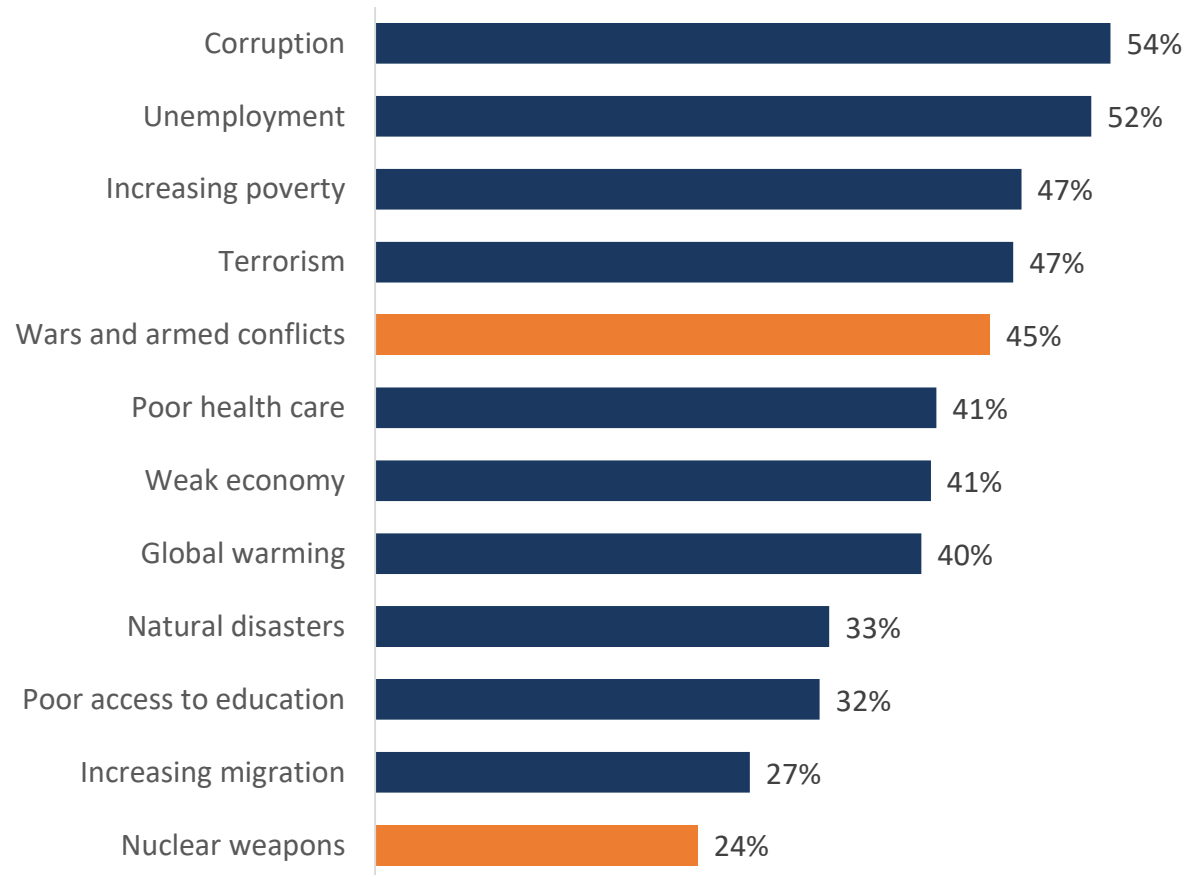
# MILLENNIALS' MAIN CONCERNS



# Millennials' main concerns

**Wars and armed conflict are seen by the Millennial's generation as one of the top five important issues affecting people around the world today, cited by almost half from a prompted list of 12 global issues.**

*Q1. Now, thinking about some issues around the world...Which of the following do you see as the most important issues affecting people around the world today? Please select all that apply.*



Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288



# Millennials' main concerns

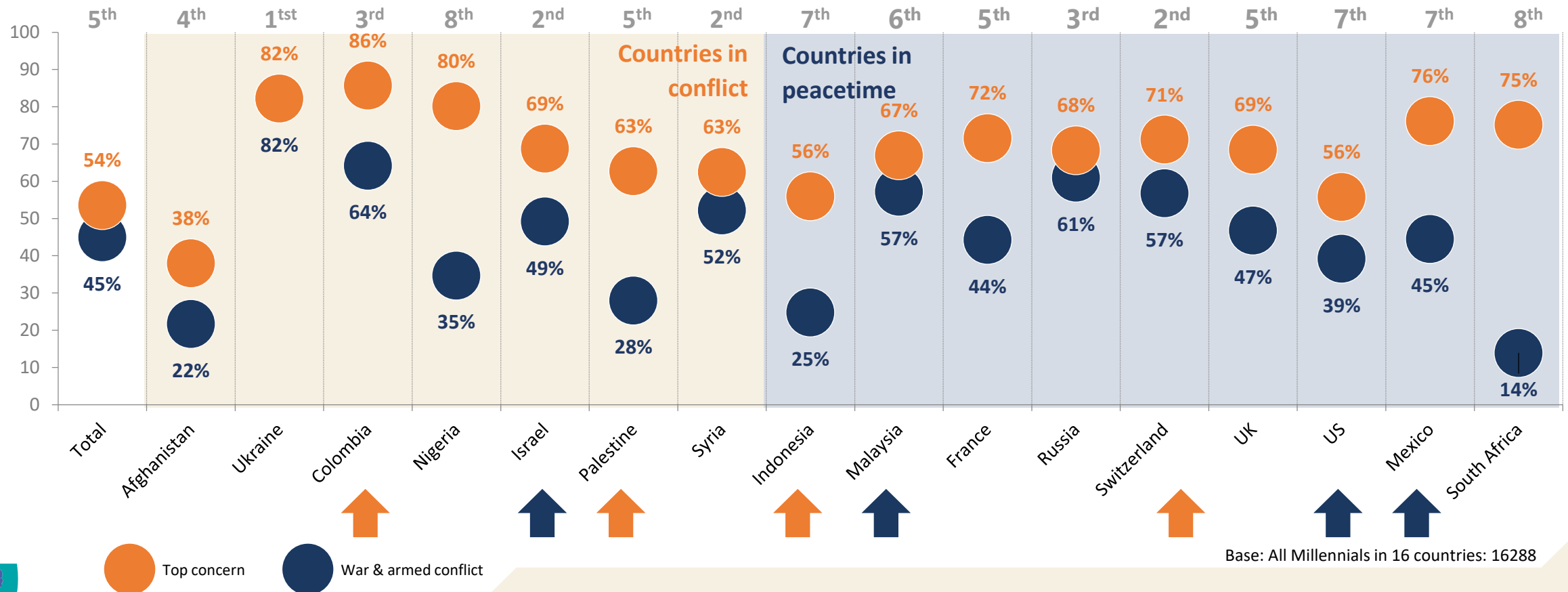
**Wars and armed conflict are seen by the Millennial's generation as one of the top five important issues affecting people around the world today, cited by almost half from a prompted list of 12 global issues.**

Q1. Now, thinking about some issues around the world...Which of the following do you see as the most important issues affecting people around the world today? Please select all that apply.

Top concern:

Corr. Unemp. Wars Corr. Unemp. Terr. Unemp. Terr. Corr. Terr. Gl. W. Corr. Gl. W. Gl. W. Health Corr. Unemp.

Show "War & armed conflict" position in a list of 12 issues



Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

# PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH WARS

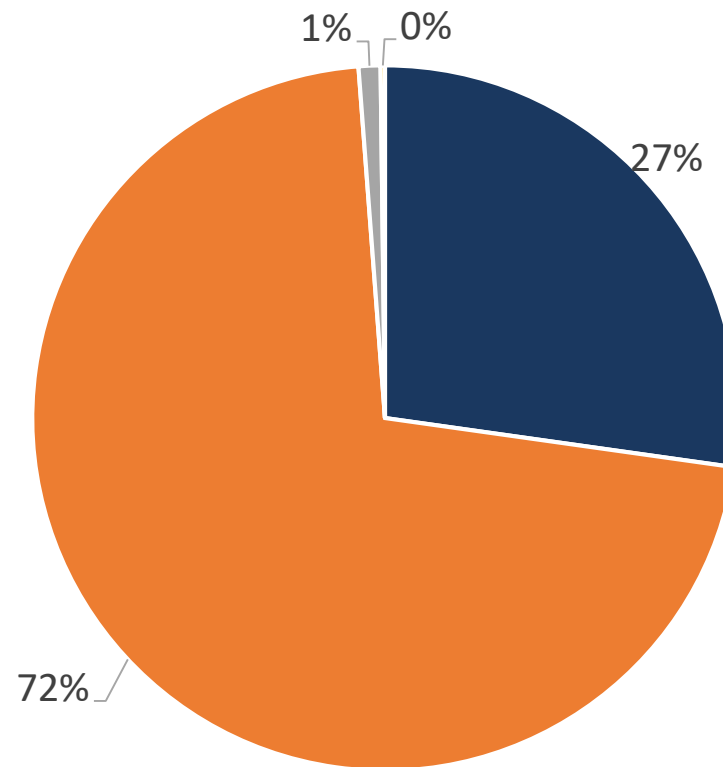


# Personal experience with war and armed conflict

Looking at the 16 countries together, over one in four Millennials say they have had direct experience with war and armed conflict.

Q3 Have you directly experienced war or armed conflict, or not?

- Yes, I have personally experienced it
- No, I have not personally experienced it
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer



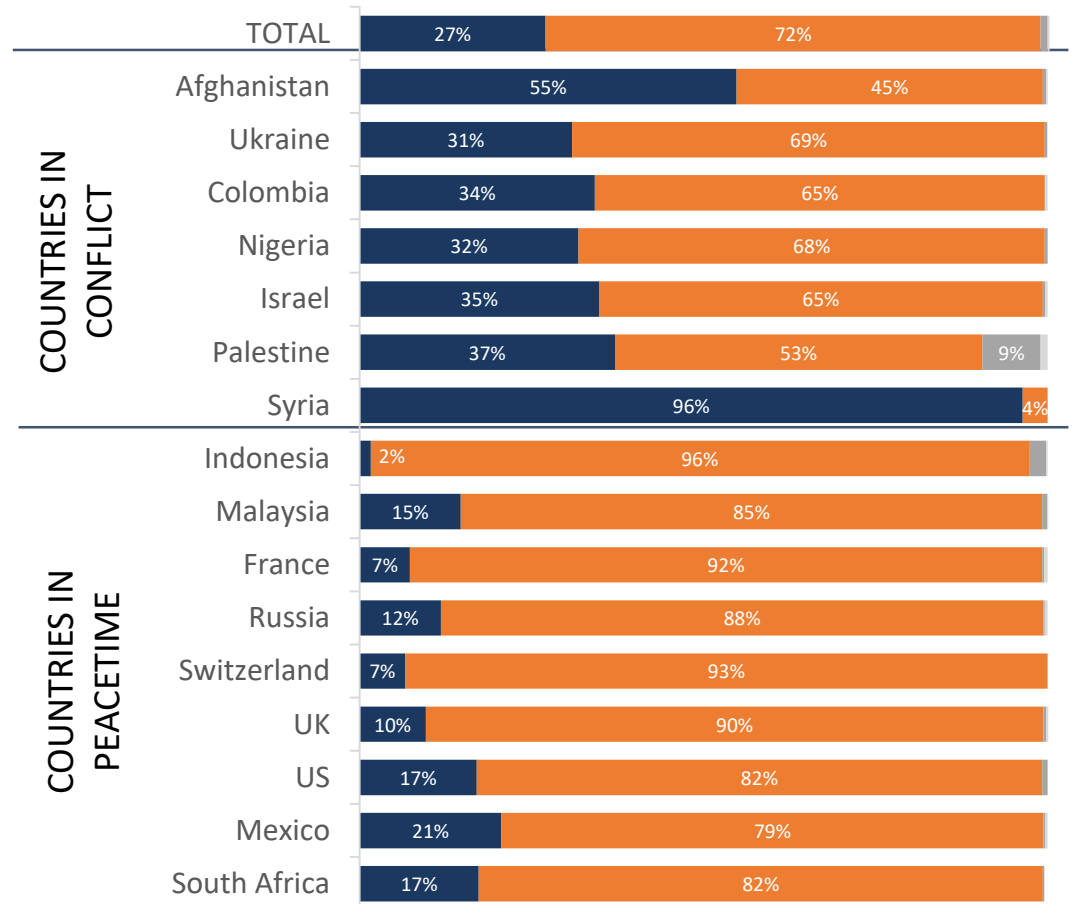
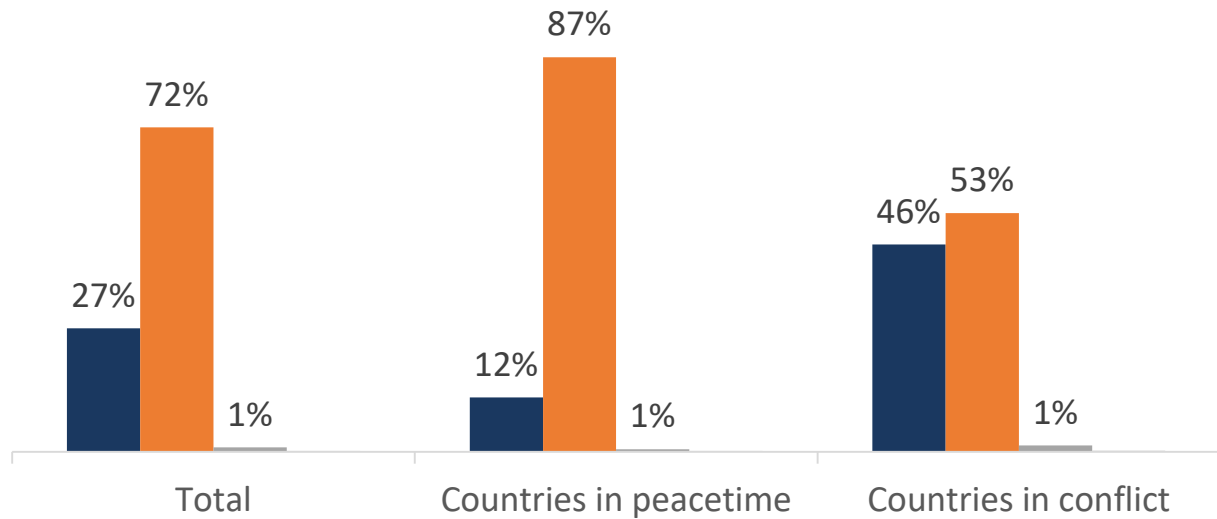
Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

# Personal experience with war and armed conflict

Looking at the 16 countries together, over one in four Millennials say they have had direct experience with war and armed conflict.

Q3 Have you directly experienced war or armed conflict, or not?

- Yes, I have personally experienced it
- No, I have not personally experienced it
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer



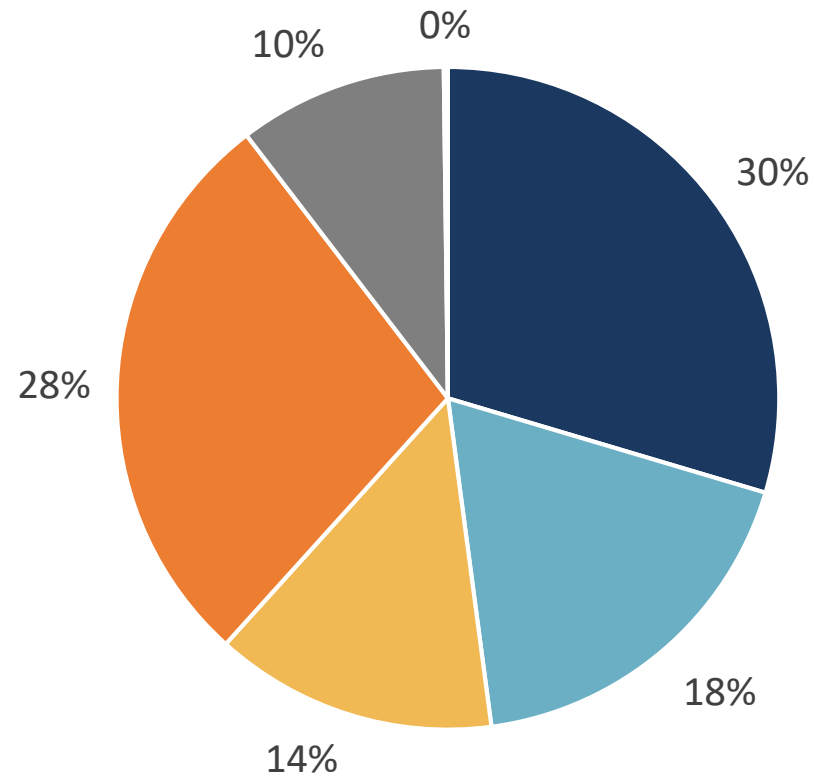
Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

# When will fighting end?

Three in 10 Millennials in conflict-affected countries believe the current fighting will end soon, in next 5 years. However, almost the same number think the current fighting will never end.

Q4 When do you think the current fighting in COUNTRY is most likely to end?

- In the next 5 years
- In the next 20 years
- In my lifetime
- Never
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer



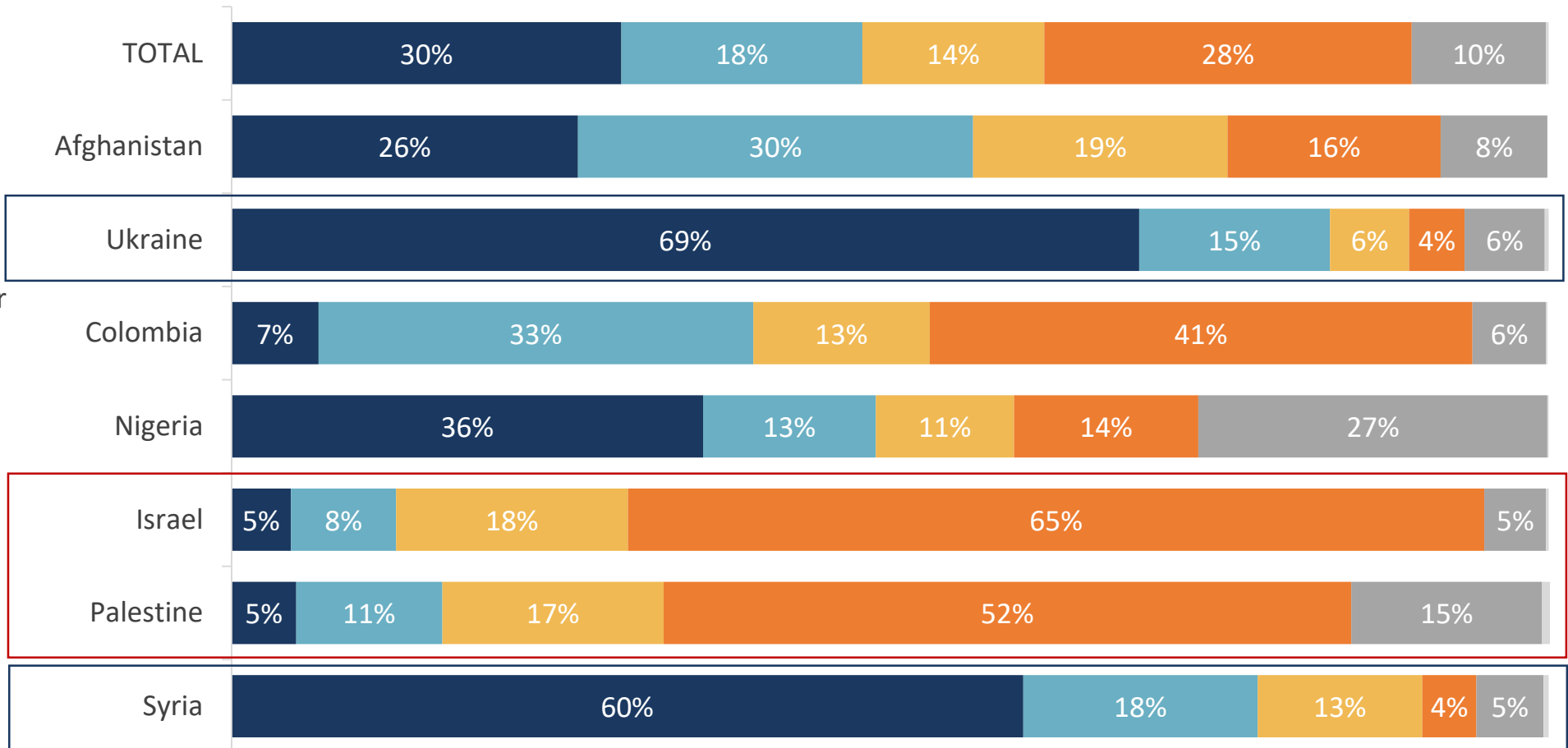
Base: Millennials from countries in conflict (7 countries): 7118

# When will fighting end?

The most optimistic in Ukraine and Syria and the most pessimistic in Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Q4 When do you think the current fighting in COUNTRY is most likely to end?

- In the next 5 years
- In the next 20 years
- In my lifetime
- Never
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer



Base: Millennials from countries in conflict (7 countries): 7118

# CIVILIAN VICTIMS

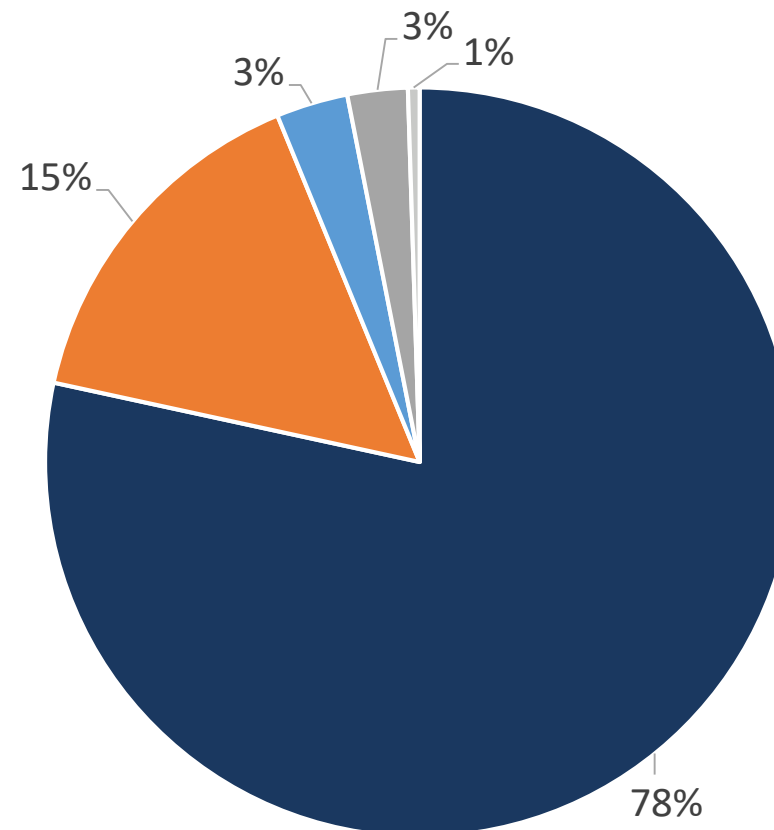


# Civilian casualties

**A clear majority of Millennials think that during war or armed conflict, combatants should avoid civilian casualties as much as possible, even if it makes it more difficult to achieve their military objectives.**

Q5 Which of the following statements, if any, do you agree with the most? During war or armed conflict, combatants should:

- Avoid civilian casualties as much as possible, even if it makes it more difficult to achieve their military objectives
- Do whatever is necessary to achieve their military objectives, no matter how many civilian casualties it results in
- Neither
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer



Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

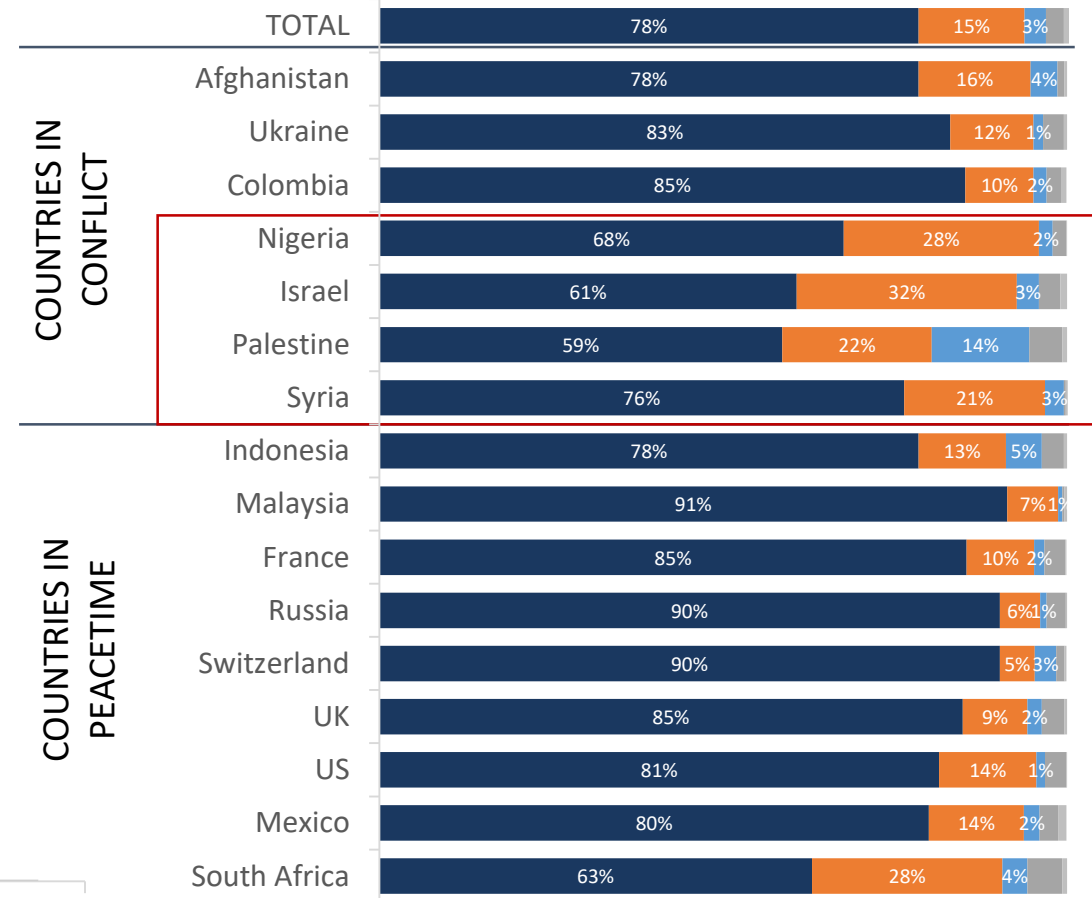
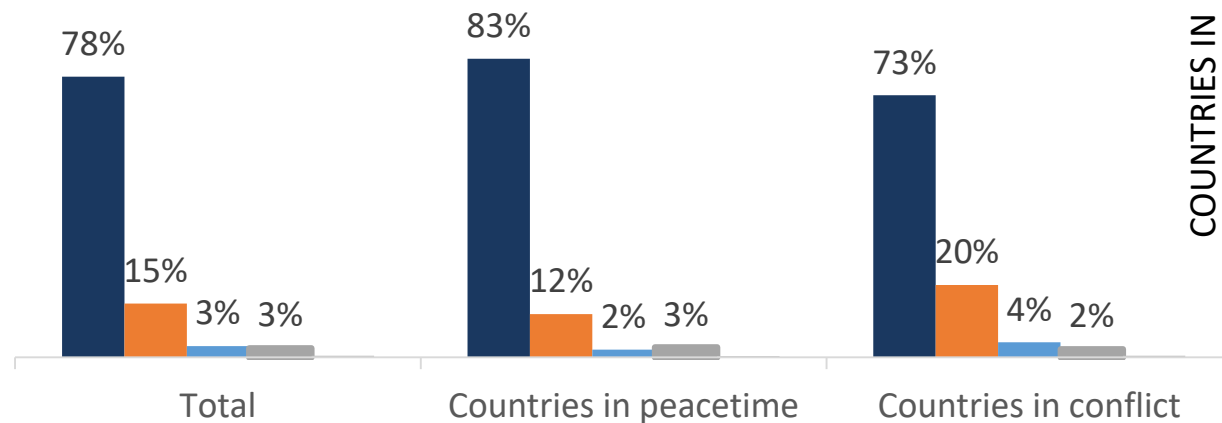


# Civilian casualties

**A clear majority of Millennials think that during war or armed conflict, combatants should avoid civilian casualties as much as possible, even if it makes it more difficult to achieve their military objectives.**

Q5 Which of the following statements, if any, do you agree with the most? During war or armed conflict, combatants should:

- Avoid civilian casualties as much as possible, even if it makes it more difficult to achieve their military objectives
- Do whatever is necessary to achieve their military objectives, no matter how many civilian casualties it results in
- Neither
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer

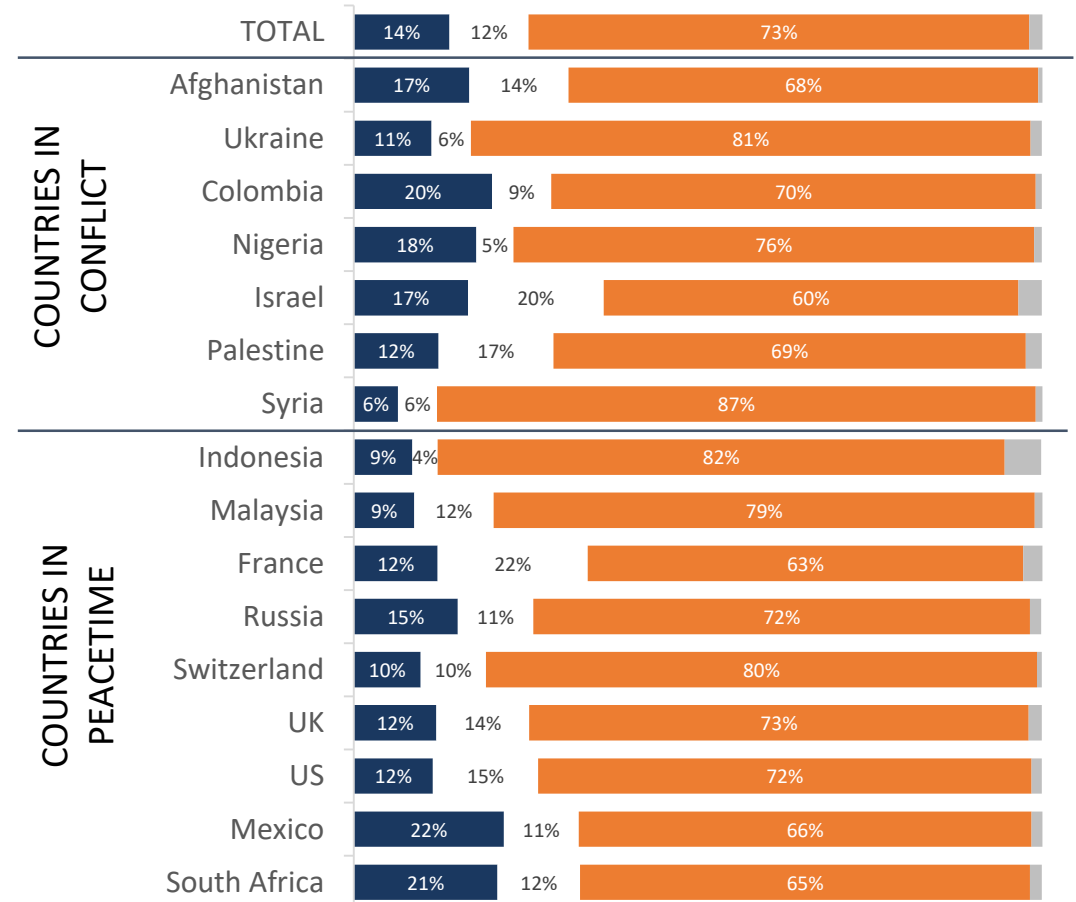
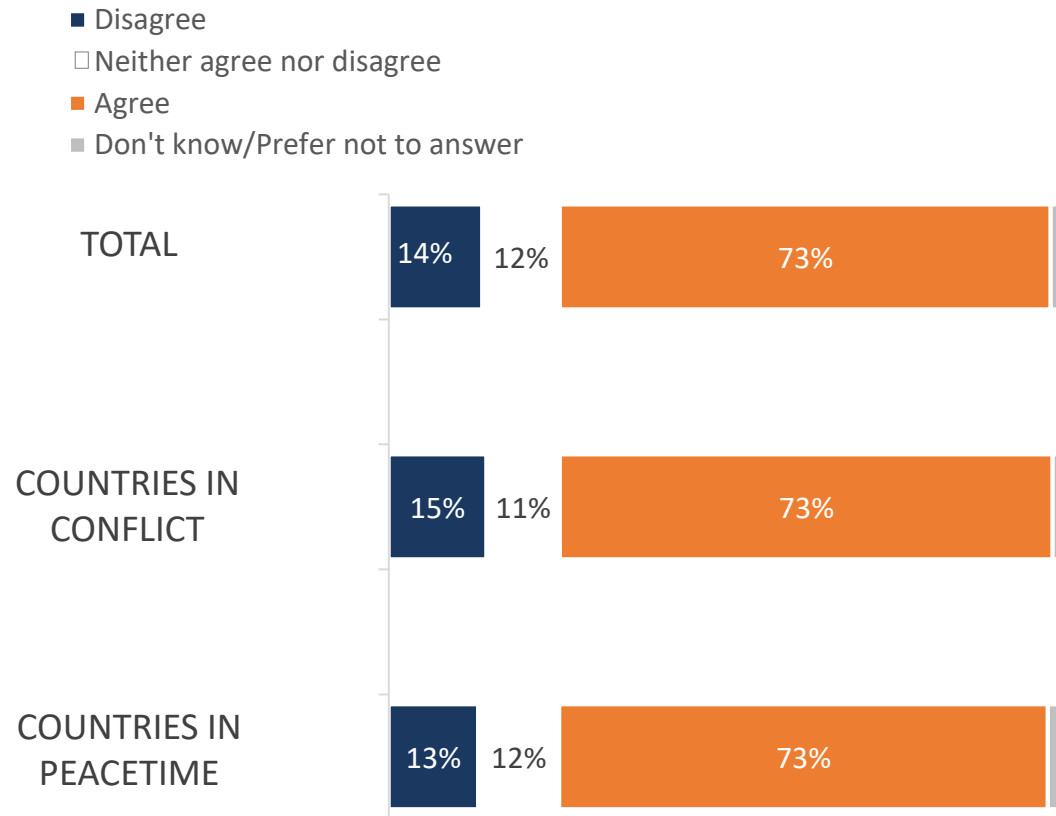


Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

# Addressing mental health of victims

**Over seven in 10 Millennials believe that in supporting victims of wars or armed conflicts, the emotional or mental health-related needs of victims are as important as water, food and shelter.**

*Q6 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? In supporting victims of wars or armed conflicts, the emotional or mental health needs of victims is as important as water, food and shelter.*



Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

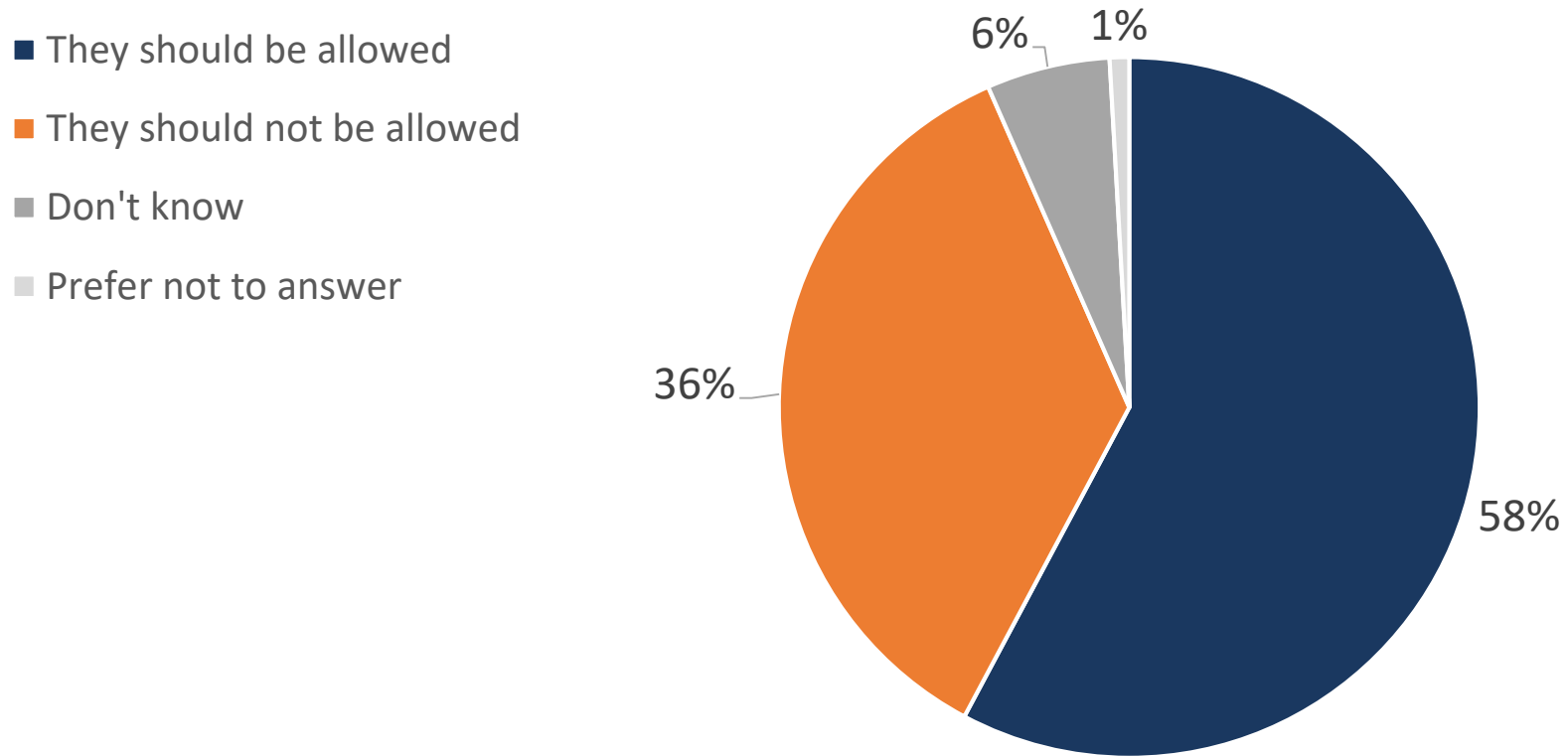
# TREATMENT OF ENEMY COMBATANTS



# Contacting relatives by enemy combatants

**Almost three in five Millennials think that captured enemy combatants should be allowed to contact relatives.**

*Q7 Should captured enemy combatants be allowed to contact relatives, or should they not be allowed?*



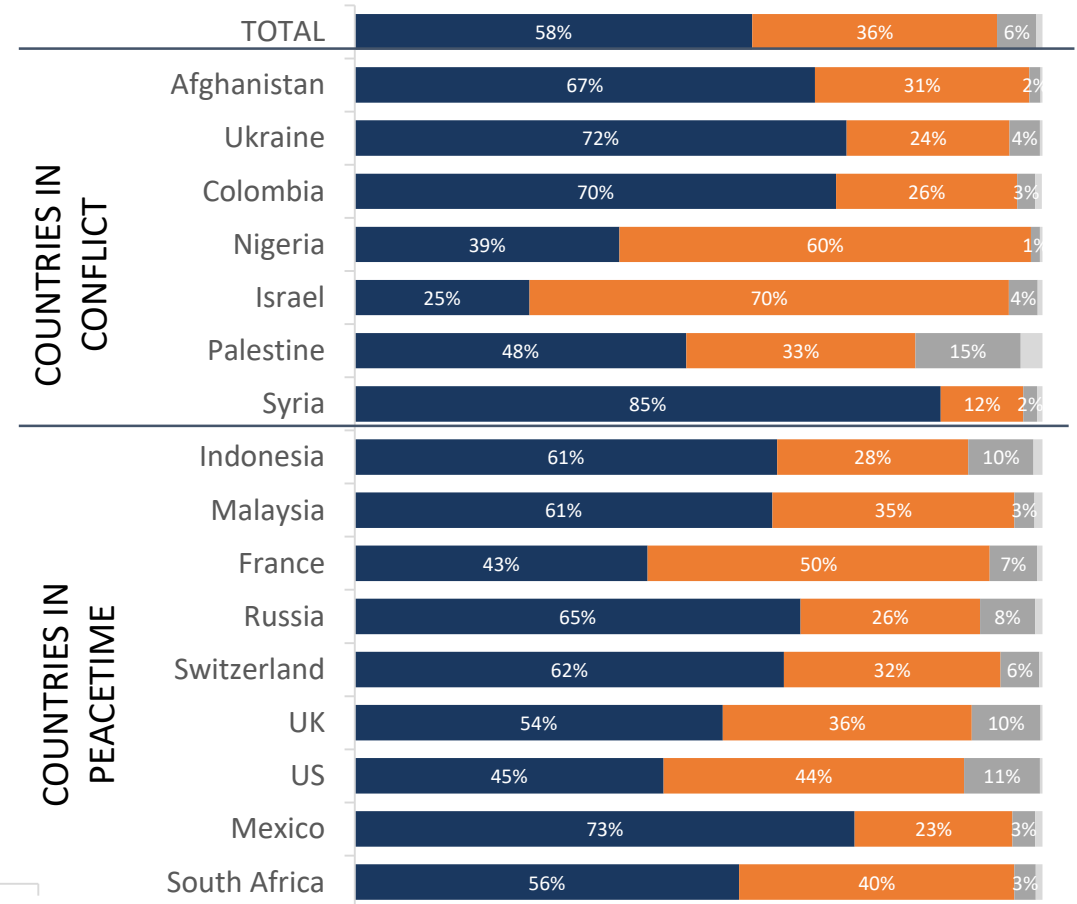
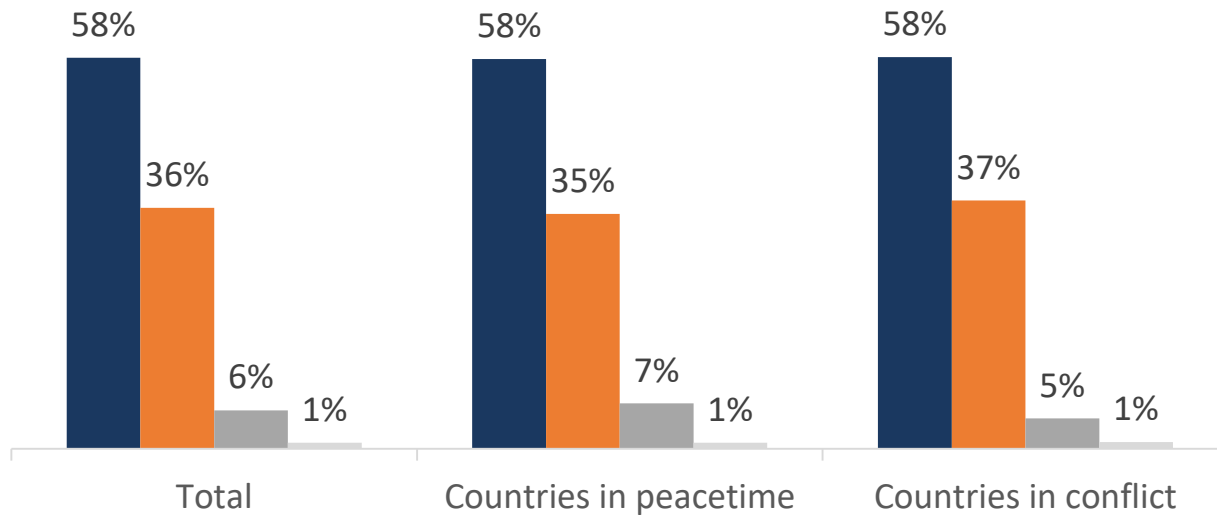
Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

# Contacting relatives by enemy combatants

**Almost three in five Millennials think that captured enemy combatants should be allowed to contact relatives.**

Q7 Should captured enemy combatants be allowed to contact relatives, or should they not be allowed?

- They should be allowed
- They should not be allowed
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer



Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

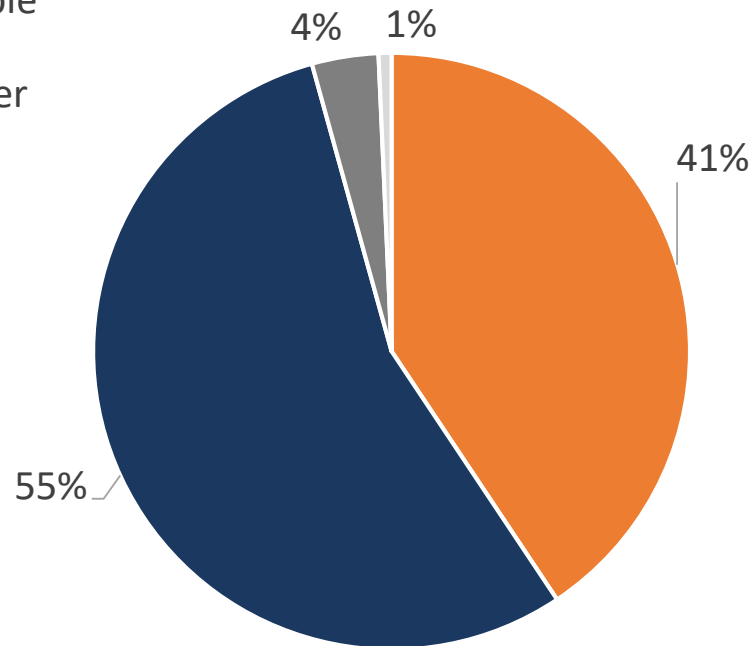
# Torture

Half the sample was informed that various international agreements such as the UN Convention against Torture, which has been joined by 165 countries, bans torture under any circumstances. Among those exposed to this information.

Opinion shifts slightly further in the direction of torture not being acceptable under any circumstances.

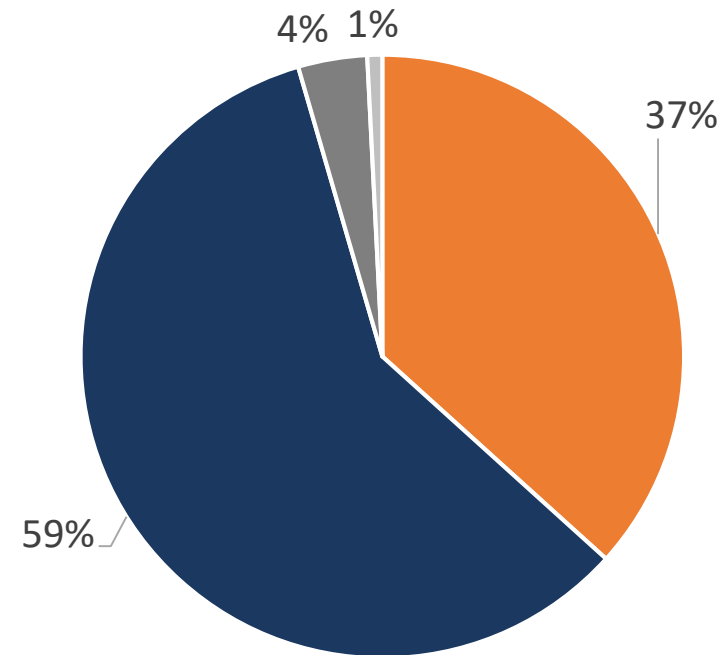
Q8 In your opinion, is torturing captured enemy combatants acceptable under some circumstances, or is it never acceptable?

- It is acceptable under some circumstances
- It is never acceptable
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer



Base: Half of Millennials in each of 16 countries (split sample): 8135

Q8 As you may know, various international agreements, such as the UN Convention against Torture, which has been joined by 165 countries, ban torture under any circumstances. In your opinion, is torturing captured enemy combatants acceptable under some circumstances, or is it never acceptable?



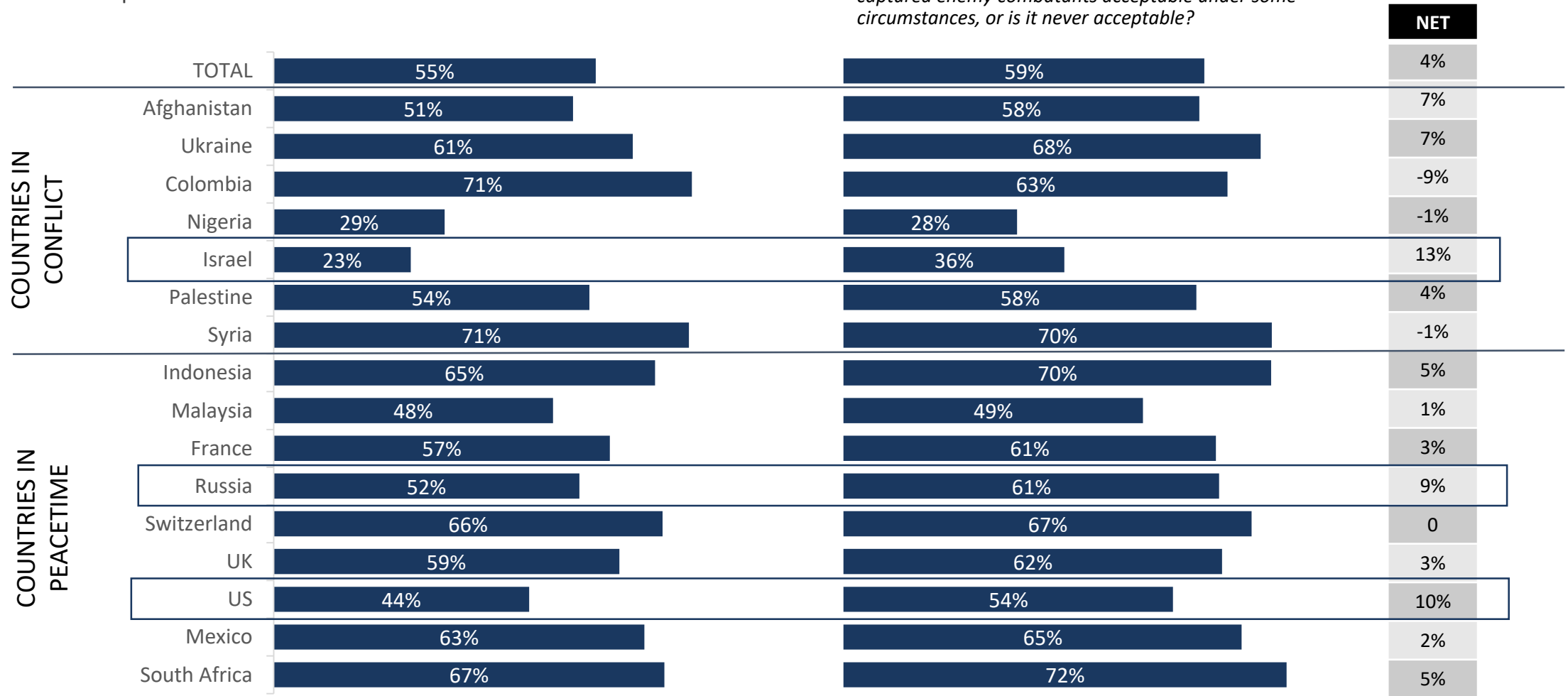
Base: Half of Millennials in each of 16 countries (split sample): 8135

# Torture

Q8 In your opinion, is torturing captured enemy combatants acceptable under some circumstances, or is it never acceptable?

Q8a As you may know, various international agreements, such as the UN Convention against Torture, which has been joined by 165 countries, ban torture under any circumstances. In your opinion, is torturing captured enemy combatants acceptable under some circumstances, or is it never acceptable?

■ It is never acceptable



Base: Half of Millennials in each of 16 countries (split sample): 8135

Base: Half of Millennials in each of 16 countries (split sample): 8135

# WEAPONS



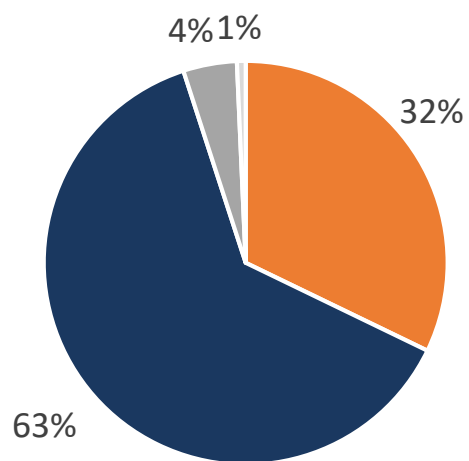


# Weapons

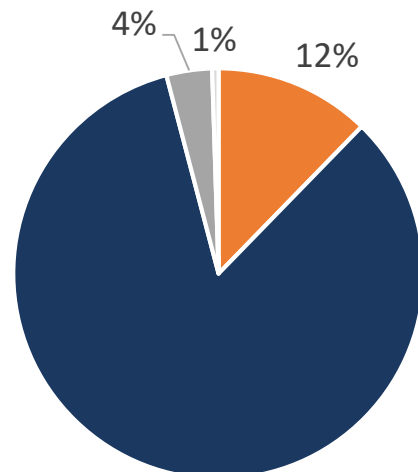
**Millennials are strongly opposed to the use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as landmines and cluster bombs, though to a slightly lesser degree, in any circumstance.**

Q9. For each of the following weapons, in your opinion, do you think their use in wars or armed conflict is acceptable under some circumstances or is it never acceptable?

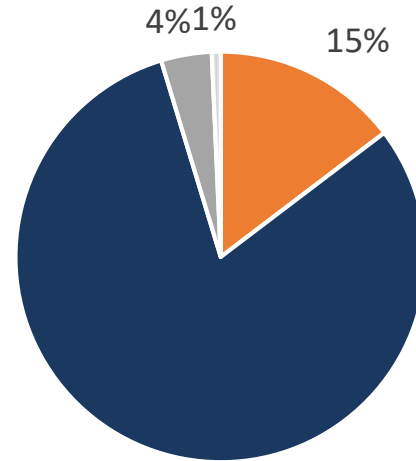
- It is acceptable under some circumstances
- It is never acceptable
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer



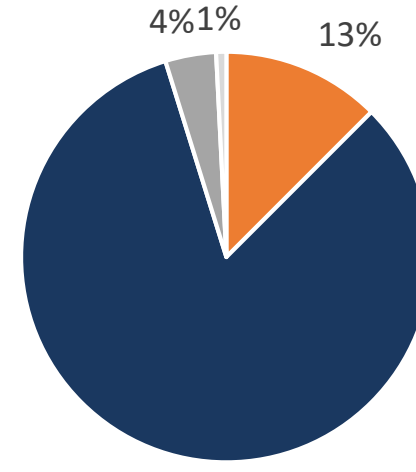
ANTI-PERSONAL  
LANDMINES



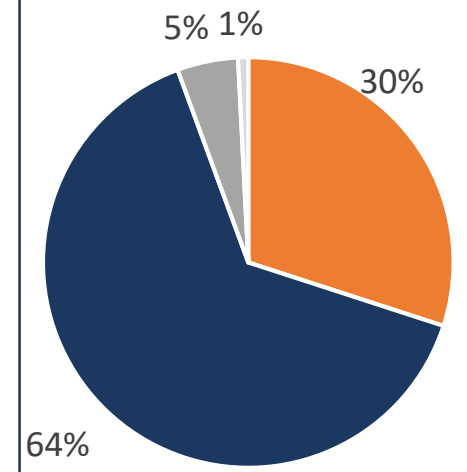
NUCLEAR  
WEAPONS



CHEMICAL  
WEAPONS



BIOLOGICAL  
WEAPONS



CLUSTER BOMBS

Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

# Anti-personal landmines

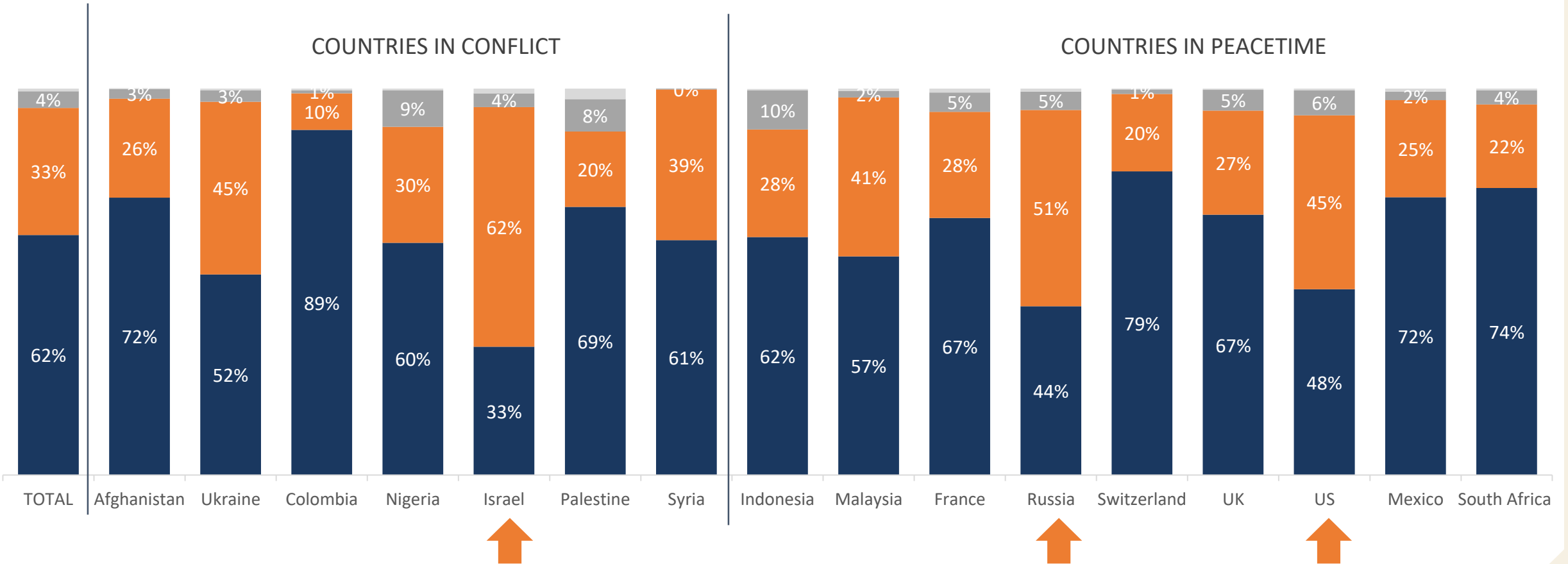
**In Israel, Russia and USA fewer than half would agree that landmines are unacceptable without exceptions.**

Q9. For each of the following weapons, in your opinion, do you think their use in wars or armed conflict is acceptable under some circumstances or is it never acceptable?

■ It is never acceptable    
 ■ It is acceptable under some circumstances    
 ■ Don't know    
 ■ Prefer not to answer

COUNTRIES IN CONFLICT

COUNTRIES IN PEACETIME



Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

# Nuclear weapons

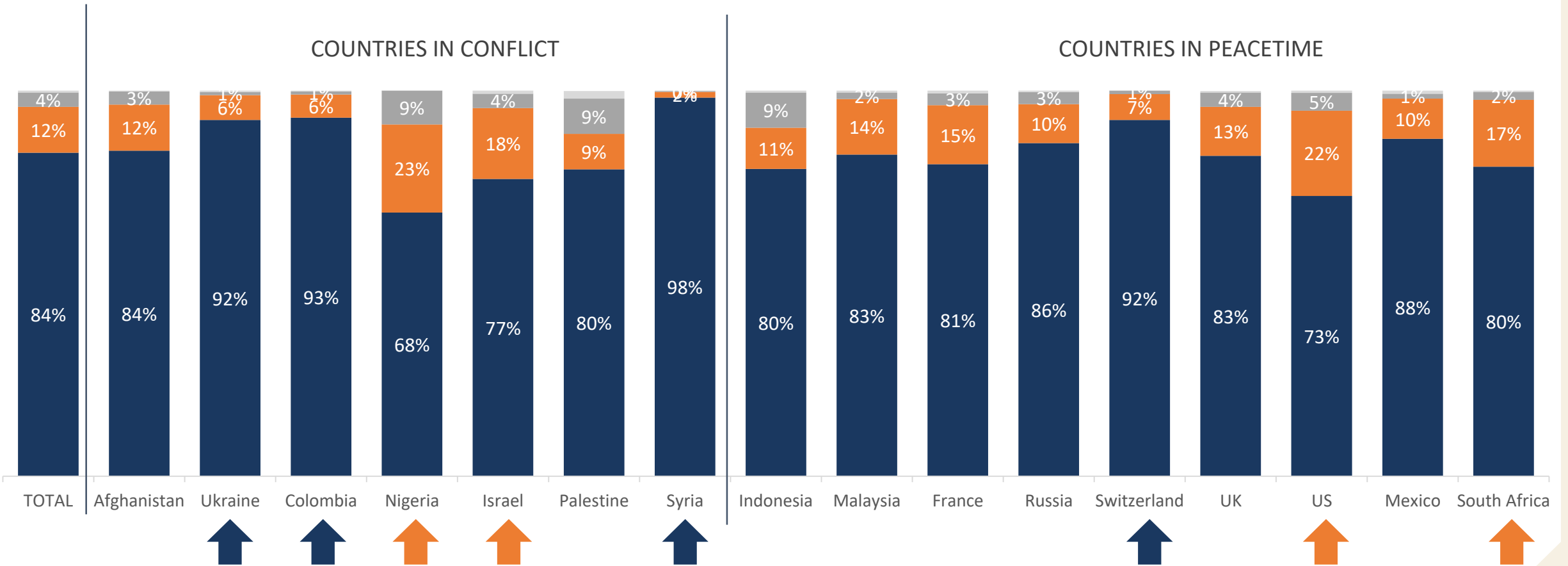
**Especially strong in their attitudes that nuclear weapons are never acceptable are Millennials in Ukraine, Colombia, Syria and Switzerland with more than nine in 10 Millennials expressing this opinion.**

Q9. For each of the following weapons, in your opinion, do you think their use in wars or armed conflict is acceptable under some circumstances or is it never acceptable?

■ It is never acceptable   ■ It is acceptable under some circumstances   ■ Don't know   ■ Prefer not to answer

## COUNTRIES IN CONFLICT

## COUNTRIES IN PEACETIME

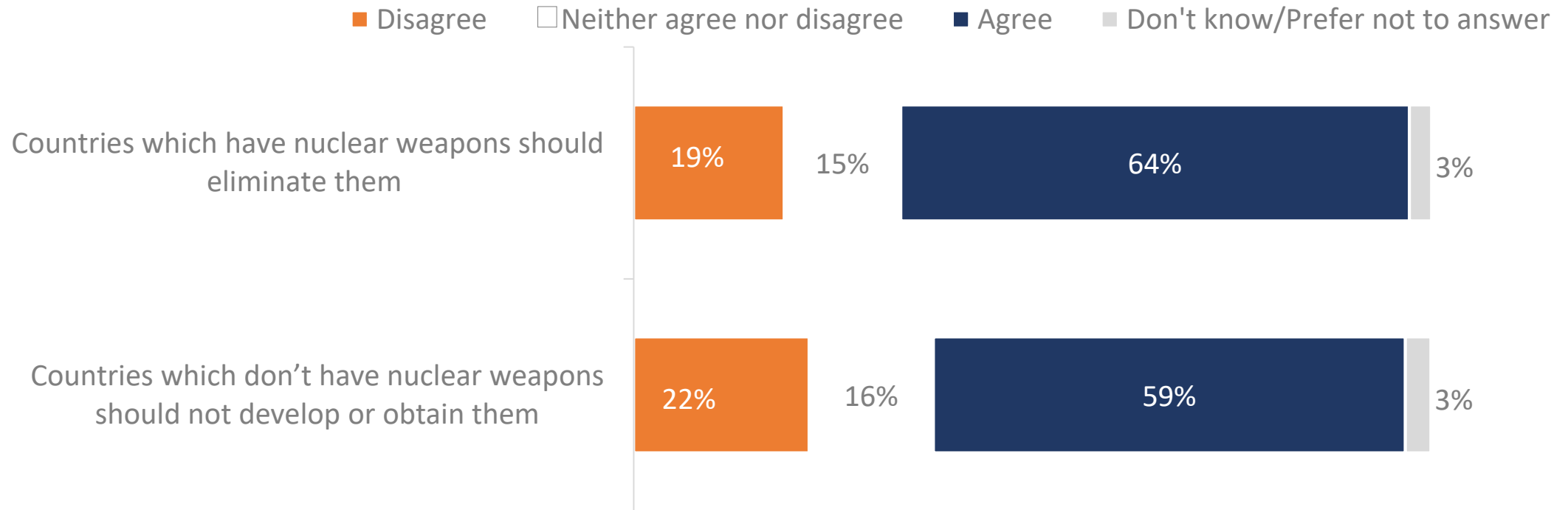


Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

# Possession and development of nuclear weapon

**There is a general agreement among Millennials on the need to eliminate and not develop or obtain nuclear weapons.**

Q10. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

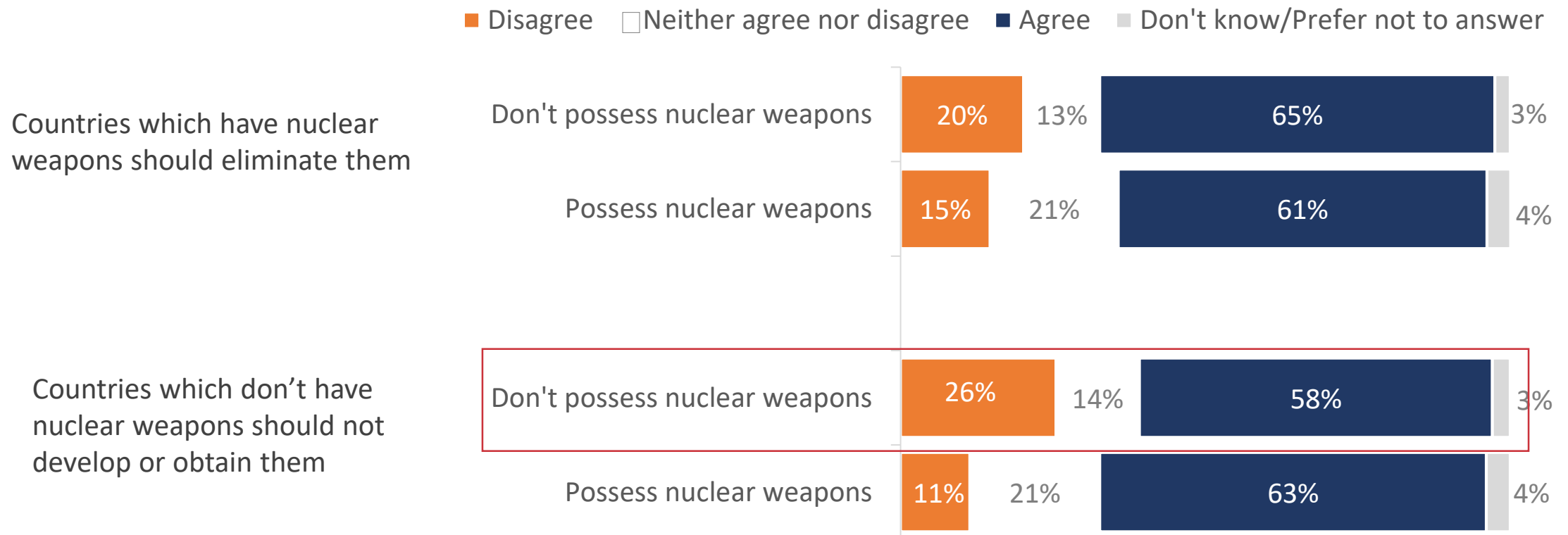


Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

# Possession and development of nuclear weapon

**Millennials in countries which don't possess nuclear weapons are more slightly inclined to support developing /obtaining these kind of weapons.**

Q10. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

# Nuclear weapons – threat to humanity vs. effective deterrence

Although there is a widespread consensus among Millennials that nuclear weapons are a threat to humanity, at the same time, almost half of Millennials believe they are an effective instrument of deterrence.

Q11 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

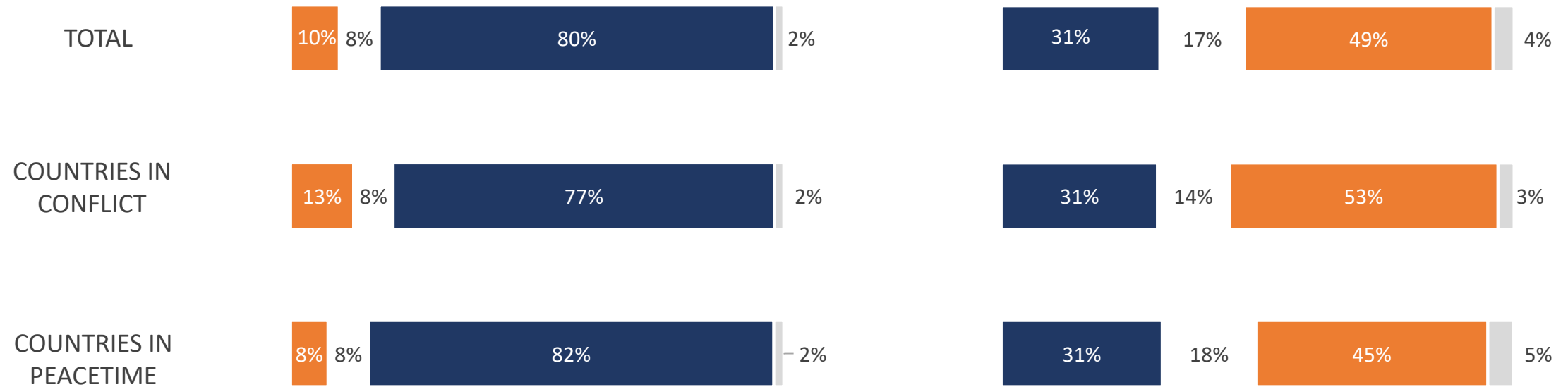
**The existence of nuclear weapons is a threat to humanity**

Q11 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**Nuclear weapons are an effective instrument of deterrence**

Disagree Neither agree nor disagree Agree Don't know/Prefer not to answer

Disagree Neither agree nor disagree Agree Don't know/Prefer not to answer



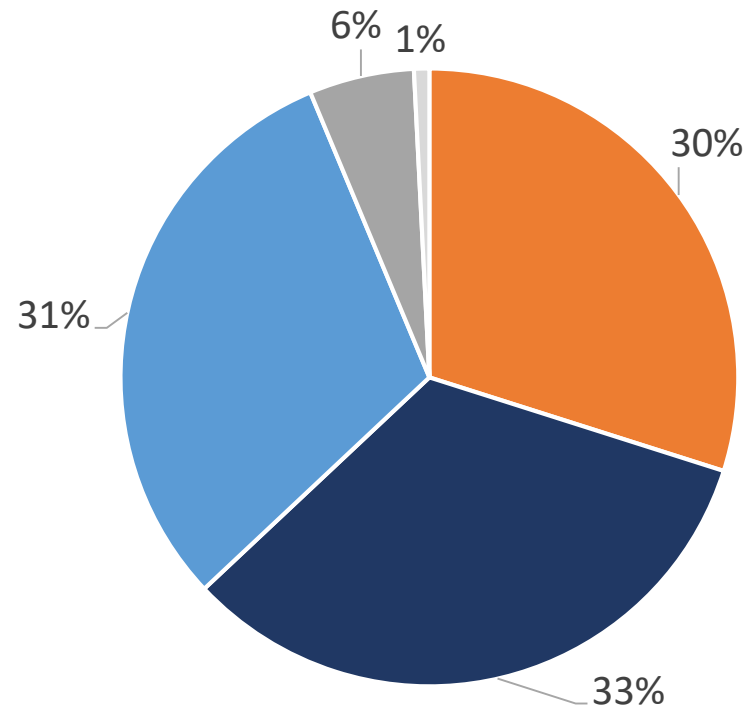
Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

# Nuclear weapons – make their country safer?

**Their opinions are divided on whether the possession of nuclear weapons would make THEIR country safer or less safe.**

Q12 Which of the following statements, if any, do you agree with most? Possession of nuclear weapons by my country:

- Would make/Make my country safer
- Would make/Make my country less safe
- Would not make/Make no difference
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer



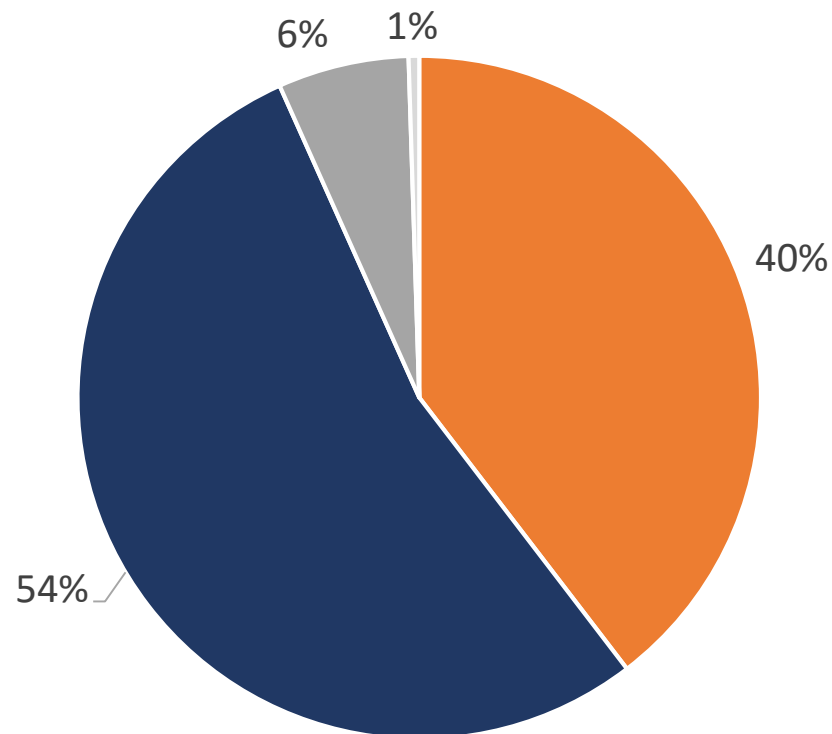
Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

# Nuclear weapons - likelihood of use of in next 10 years

**The majority of Millennials see the threat of usage of nuclear weapons somewhere in the world in next 10 years as more likely than not.**

Q13 In your opinion, how likely or unlikely is it that nuclear weapons will be used in wars or armed conflicts anywhere in the world within the next 10 years?

- Unlikely (T2B)
- Likely (T2B)
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer



Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288



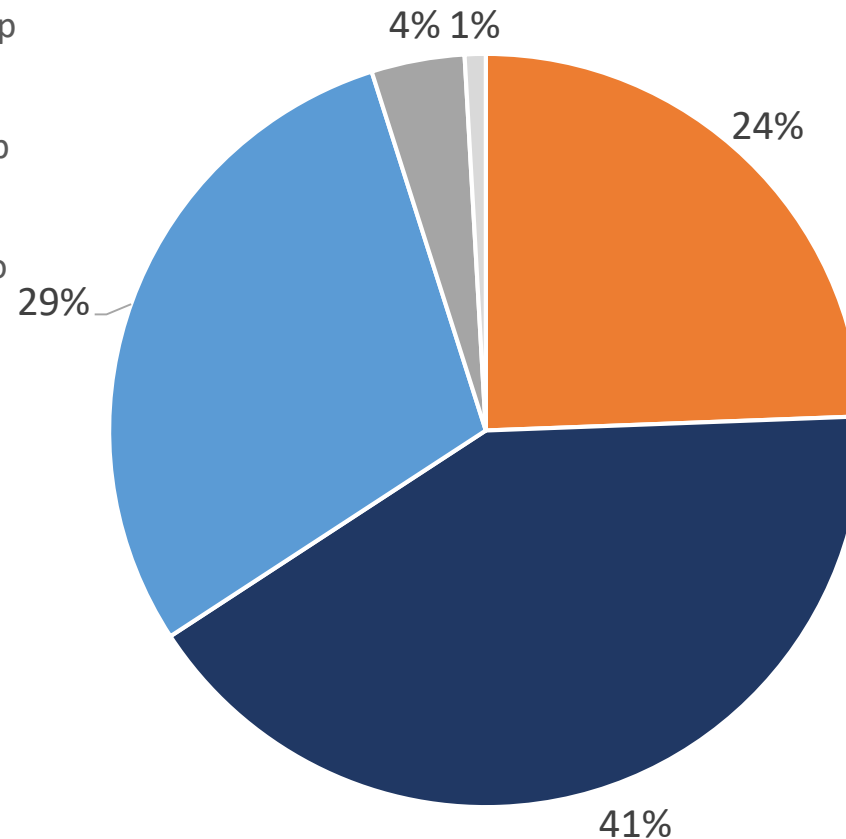
# Nuclear weapons – support for development/keeping

**On balance, more Millennials would oppose than support their country in developing or keeping nuclear weapons.**

Q14 Would you support or oppose [COUNTRY] in developing nuclear weapons?

Q14a [COUNTRY] possesses nuclear weapons. Would you support or oppose [COUNTRY] to keep their nuclear weapons?

- I would support my country in developing/ to keep nuclear weapons
- I would oppose my country in developing/ to keep nuclear weapons
- I would neither support nor oppose my country to develop/ to keep nuclear weapons
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer



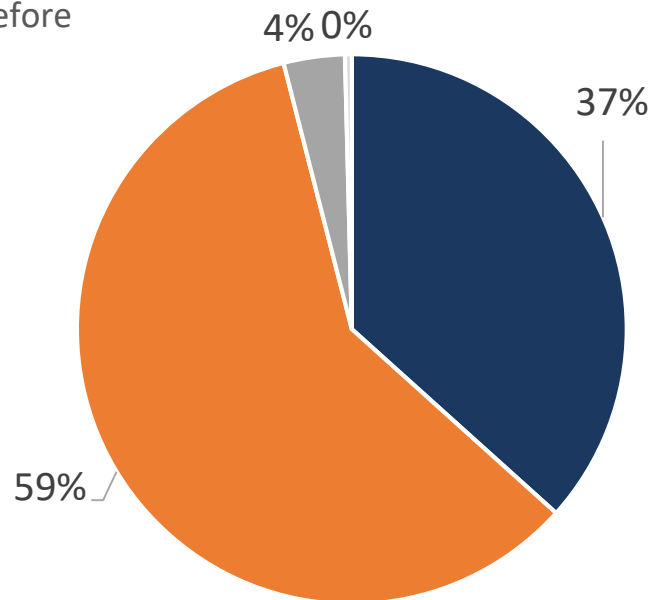
Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

# Nuclear weapons ban

**Two thirds of Millennials have not heard of the Nuclear Weapon Ban. After giving an explanation three times as many would support their country joining this kind of agreement than would oppose it.**

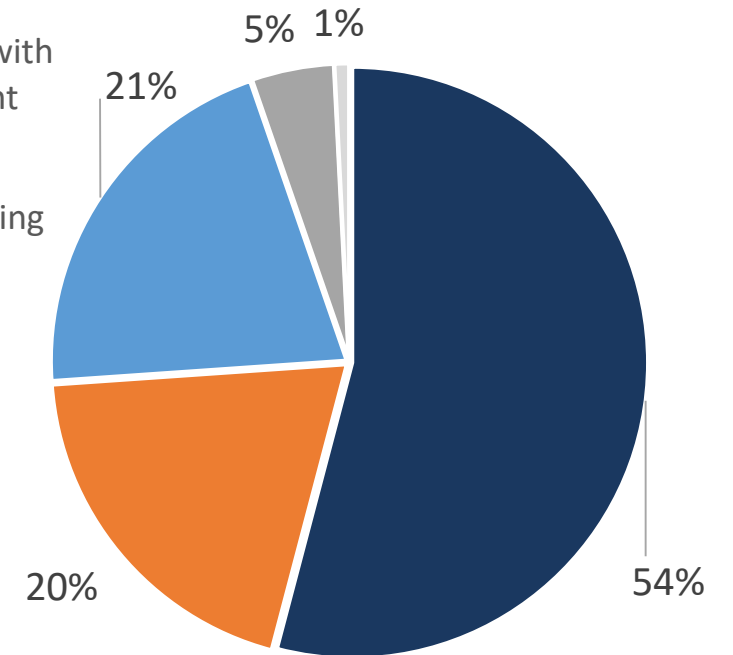
Q15 The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, also known as the Nuclear Weapon Ban, is an international agreement to globally prohibit nuclear weapons with the goal of leading towards their total elimination. Have you heard about this international agreement before or not?

- Yes, I have heard of it before
- No, I have not heard of it before
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer



Q16 Countries that join this kind of international agreement commit to not using, possessing or developing nuclear weapons. Would you support or oppose [COUNTRY] in joining this kind of agreement?

- I would support my country with joining this kind of agreement
- I would oppose my country with joining this kind of agreement
- I would neither support nor oppose my country with joining this kind of agreement
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer



Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

# FUTURE OF WARS

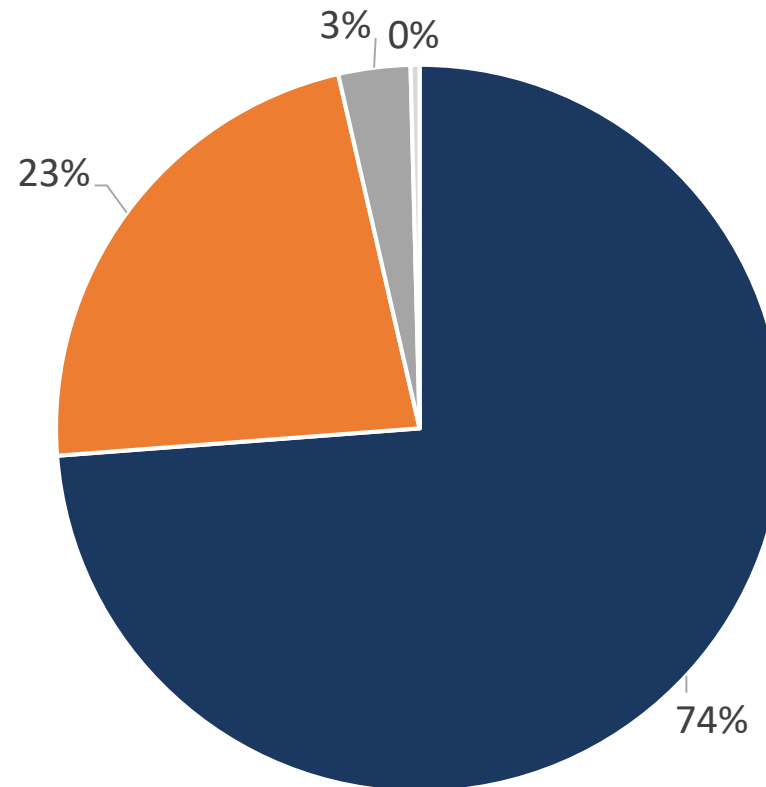


# War & Armed Conflict

**Three quarters of Millennials believe most wars and armed conflicts could be avoided.**

Q2. Could you please tell me which one of these statements, if either, you agree with the most:

- Most wars and armed conflicts could be avoided
- Most wars and armed conflicts are unavoidable
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer



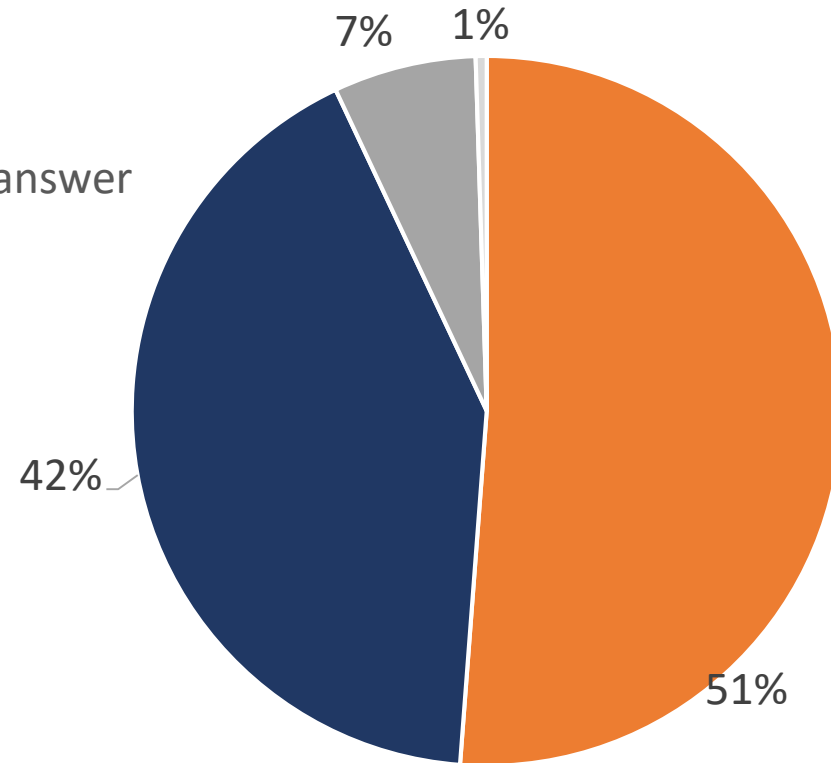
Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

# Likelihood to be personally affected in the future

As many as two in five Millennials living in peacetime countries consider it 'somewhat' or 'very' likely that they will be affected by war or armed conflict in the future (42%). Only just over a half (51%) don't think they will be affected.

Q17 In your opinion, how likely or unlikely is it that you, personally, will be directly affected by war or an armed conflict in the future?

- Unlikely (T2B)
- Likely (T2B)
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer



ONLY COUNTRIES IN PEACETIME

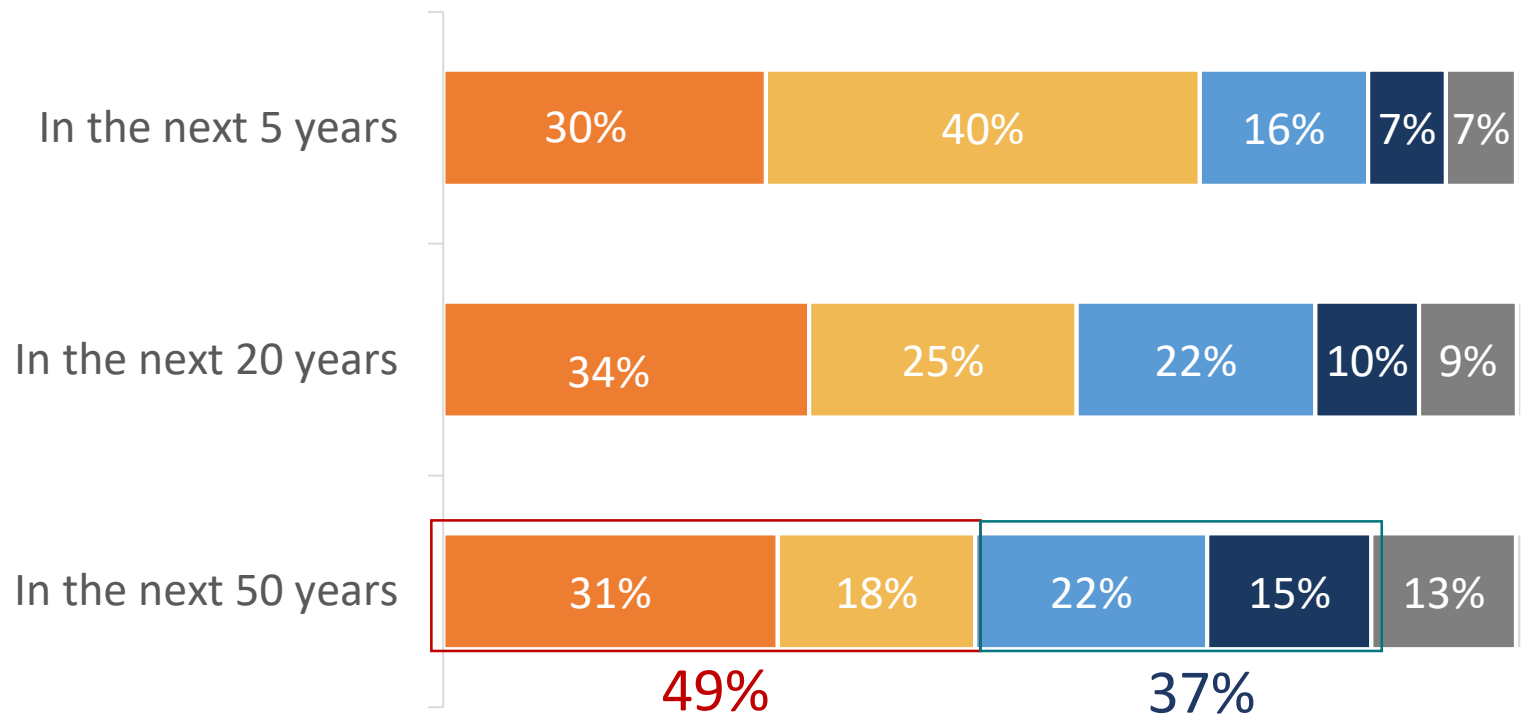
Base: Millennials from countries in peacetime (9 countries): 9170

# Wars and armed conflicts in the future

**In the short-term most think there will be at least as many wars and conflicts as seen today. Opinion polarises more when thinking about the next 20 or 50 years.**

Q18. In your opinion, will there be more or fewer wars and armed conflicts, across the world, over each of the future periods compared to now, or will there be about the same?

More wars or armed conflicts   About the same   Fewer wars or armed conflicts   No wars or armed conflicts   Don't know   Prefer not to answer



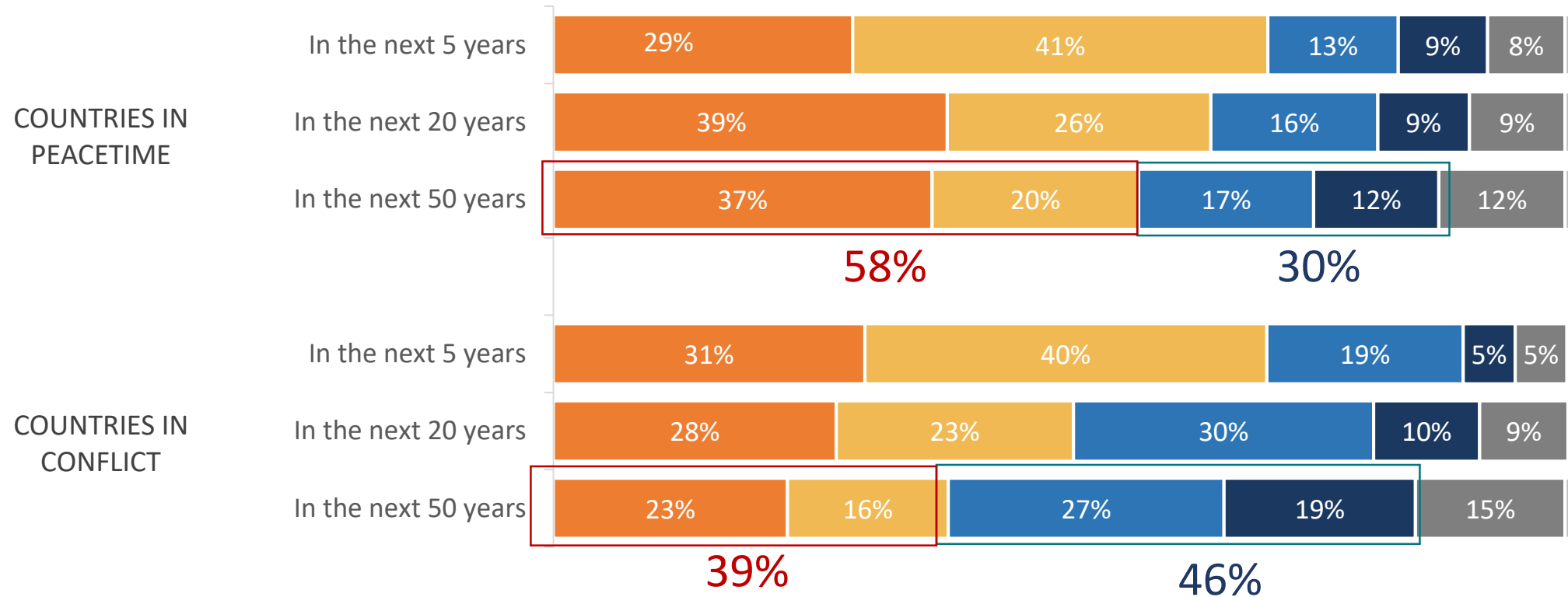
Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

# Wars and armed conflicts in the future

**Real differences in expectations for the future can be seen when comparing Millennials in conflict-affected countries with those in peacetime countries.**

Q18. In your opinion, will there be more or fewer wars and armed conflicts, across the world, over each of the future periods compared to now, or will there be about the same?

More wars or armed conflicts   About the same   Fewer wars or armed conflicts   No wars or armed conflicts   Don't know   Prefer not to answer

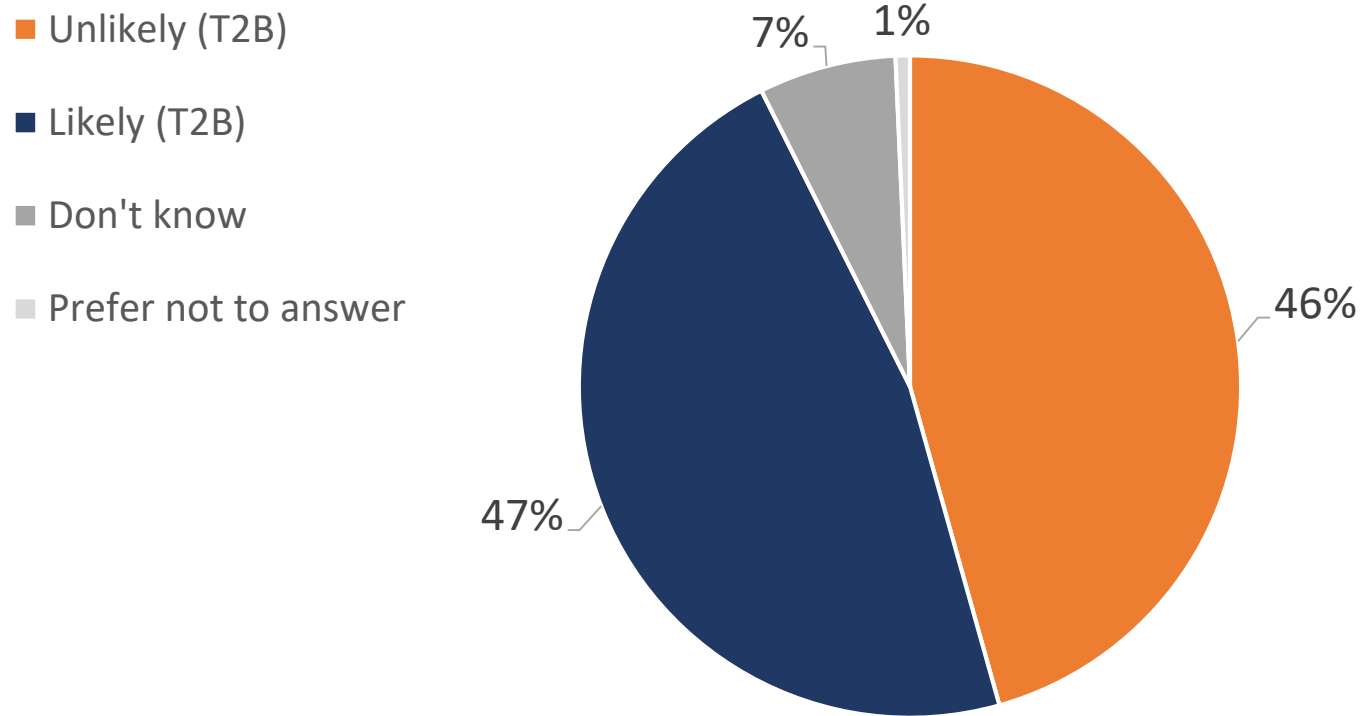


Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

# Prospect of Third World War

**Opinions are almost evenly split on the prospect of a Third World War in Millennials' lifetime.**

*Q19 In your opinion, how likely or unlikely is it that there will be a Third World War in your lifetime?*



Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

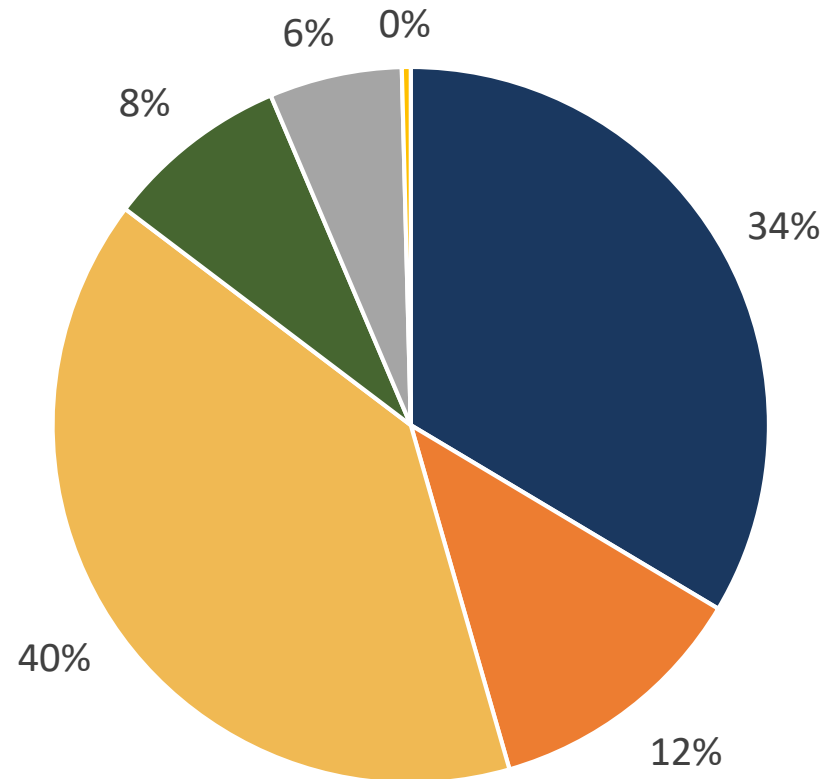


# Climate change and conflict

Although very few doubt climate change is taking place (8%), opinions of Millennials are divided between those who think that climate change makes no difference and those who think it makes wars more likely.

Q20 Do you think climate change is making wars and armed conflicts in the world more likely or less likely to happen, or is it making no difference?

- Climate change is making wars and armed conflicts more likely
- Climate change is making wars and armed conflicts less likely
- Climate change is making no difference
- I don't think there is any climate change
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer



Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

# Digital technology and future conflict

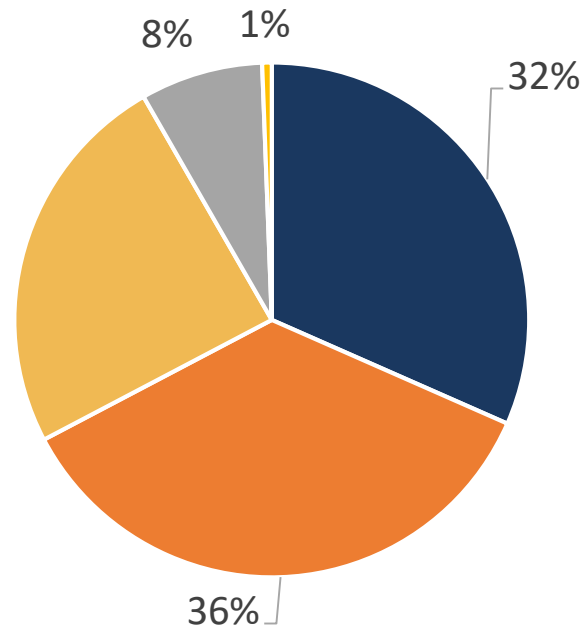
**Marginally more think that the replacement of human combatants by robots and drones in future wars and armed conflicts will increase the number of civilian casualties than those who think it will reduce them (36% vs 32%).**

**However, four times as many Millennials think that digital technology can help respond to the various needs of victims**

Q21 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

*If fully autonomous, robots and drones, not controlled by humans, replace human combatants in the future:*

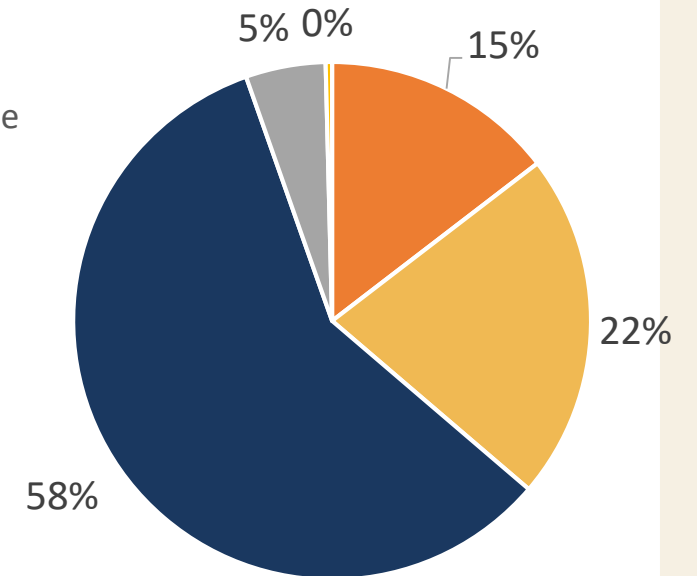
- It will reduce the number of civilian casualties in wars and armed conflicts
- It will increase the number of civilian casualties in wars and armed conflicts
- It will make no difference to the number of civilian casualties in wars and armed conflicts
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer



Q22 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

*The use of digital technology like the internet and smart phones can help to respond to the various needs of victims of wars and armed conflicts.*

- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer

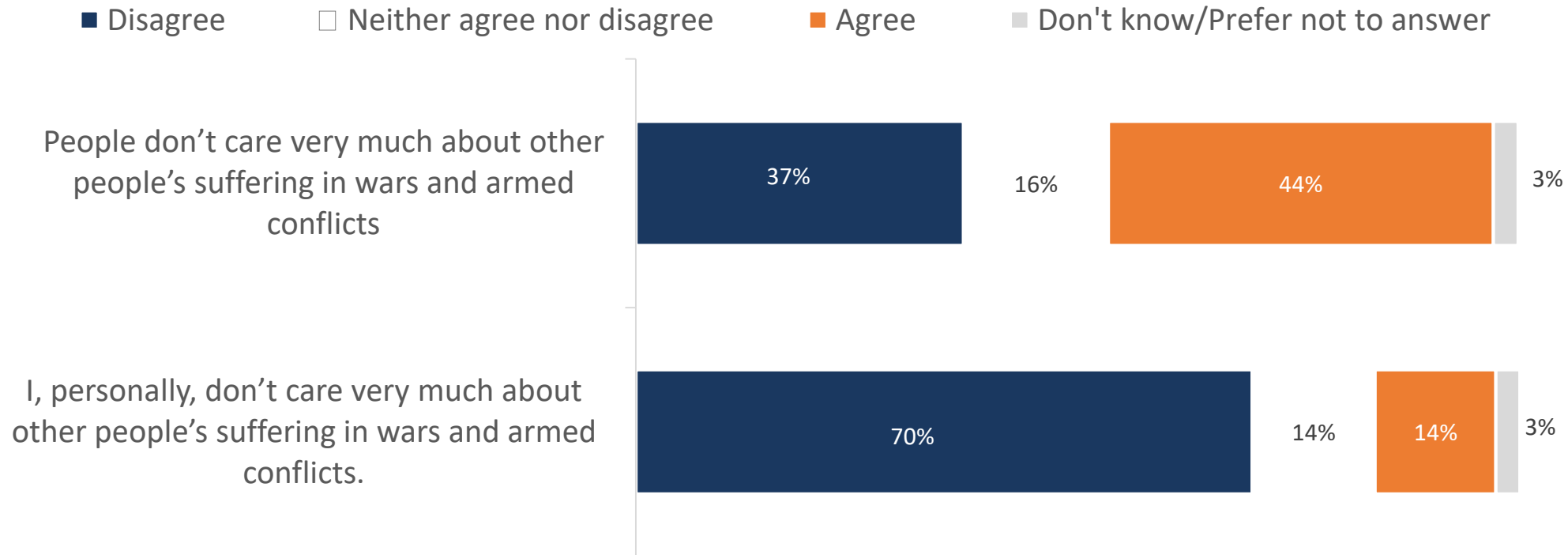


Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

# How numb we perceive ourselves?

**Millennials perceive themselves much more thoughtful about other people's suffering in wars and armed conflicts than they perceive in general.**

Q23. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

# AWARENESS OF RULES OF WAR

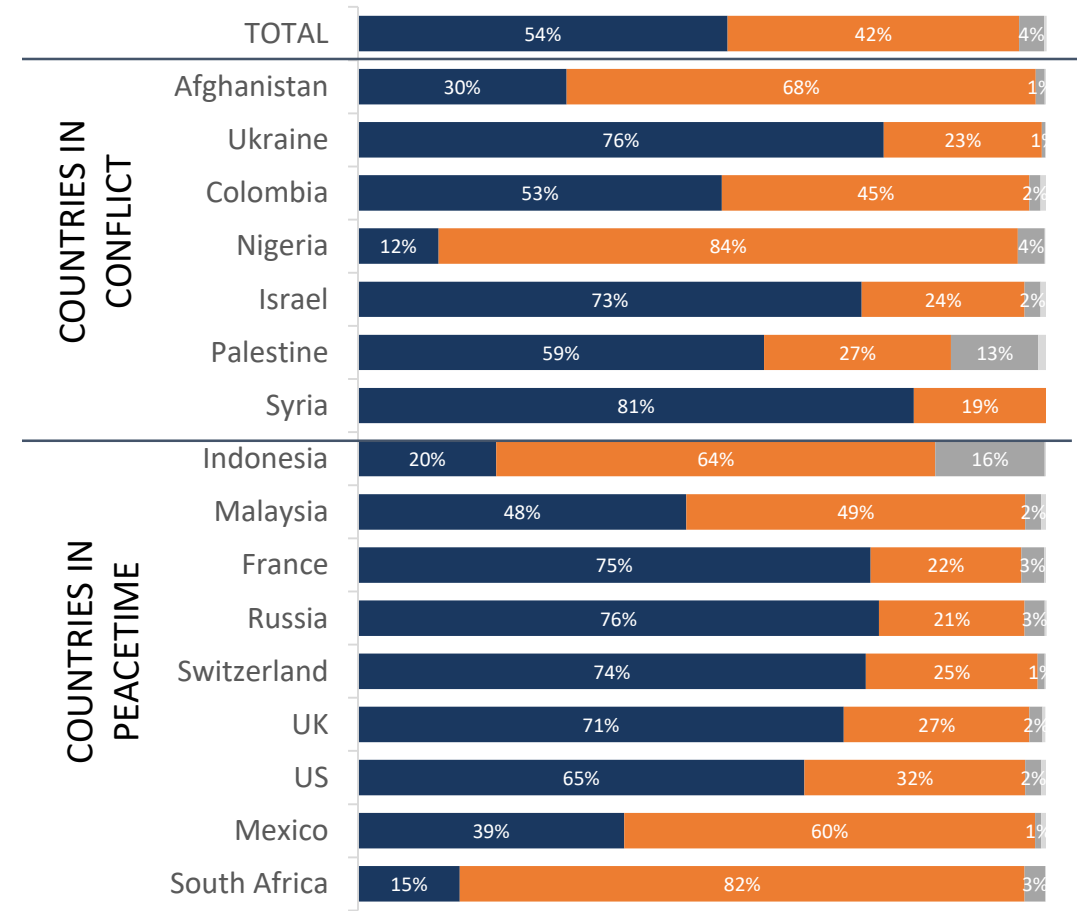
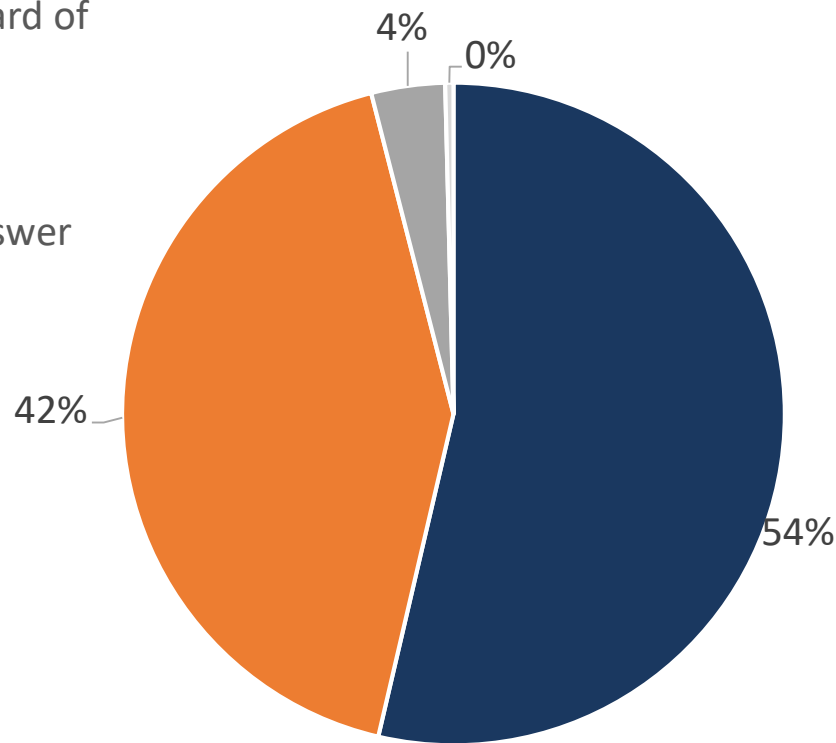


# 24. Awareness of Geneva Conventions

**Almost six in 10 Millennials have heard of the Geneva Conventions before.**

Q24. Let me ask you something different. Have you ever heard of the Geneva Conventions before or not?

- Yes, I have heard of them before
- No, I haven't heard of them before
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer



Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

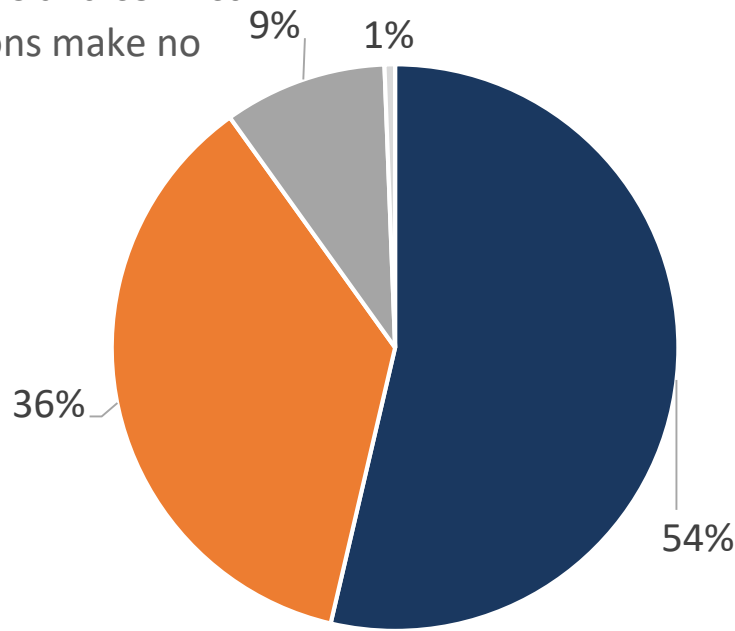
# Impact and relevance of Geneva Conventions

**Although just more than half of Millennials agree that the Geneva Conventions currently help reduce suffering, a clear majority think there is a need to impose limits on the way wars and armed conflicts may be fought.**

*The Geneva Conventions are a series of international agreements that impose limits on the way wars and armed conflicts can be fought (for example, avoiding civilian casualties as much as possible and forbidding torture). The Geneva Conventions were adopted after World War II, nearly 70 years ago. All countries in the world have joined these treaties.*

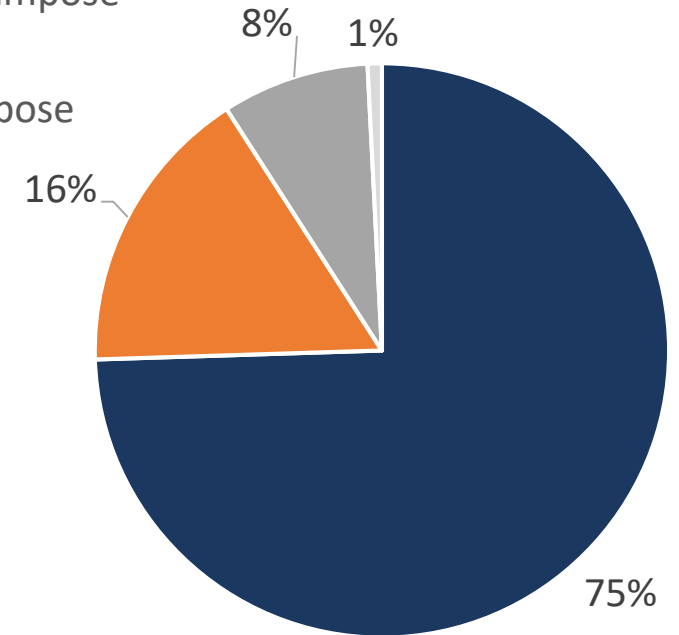
Q25. Do you think the existence of the Geneva conventions can help reduce the suffering in wars and armed conflicts or do they make no real difference?

- The Geneva Conventions help to reduce suffering in wars and conflict
- The Geneva Conventions make no real difference
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer



Q26. 70 years after the adoption of the Geneva Conventions, in your opinion, is there still a need, or is there no need, to impose limits on the way wars and armed conflicts may be fought?

- There is still a need to impose limits
- There is no need to impose limits anymore
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer



Base: All Millennials in 16 countries: 16288

# CONTACT

**Hana BARONIJAN**

Public Affairs Service Line Leader

[hana.baronijan@ipsos.com](mailto:hana.baronijan@ipsos.com)

**Rhys CLEMENTS**

Senior Research Executive

[rhys.clements@ipsos.com](mailto:rhys.clements@ipsos.com)

**Viraj RAJDEV**

Research Executive

[Viraj.rajdev@ipsos.com](mailto:Viraj.rajdev@ipsos.com)