

## News release

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### **Mauritians are tolerant of ethnic and religious diversity but less of people living with HIV/AIDS and homosexuals**

Afrobarometer's latest survey shows that Mauritians seem to accept the multi-ethnic and multicultural character of their society and have strong feeling of belonging to the Mauritian nation.

Moreover, the majority of Mauritians do not have any resentment with regards to living in an ethnically and religiously heterogeneous neighbourhood. Most Mauritians did not exhibit xenophobic attitudes and stated that they would live next to immigrants or foreign workers easily and without fear.

However, although not the majority, a sizeable proportion of Mauritians would not like to have a person living with HIV/AIDS as neighbour, nor would they like to have homosexuals in their neighbourhood

#### **Key Findings**

- A majority of Mauritians (56%) feel equally tied to their ethnic and national identity. Almost quarters (23%) feel only Mauritian and do not feel tied to their ethnic belonging.
- Three quarters of Creoles and more than six out of 10 (66%) Muslims feel the government threatens their ethnic group unfairly.
- Almost seven in 10 Mauritians (68%) would not care to have people of different religions or ethnic groups as neighbours. Almost six in 10 (58%) would also not care to have immigrants or foreign workers as neighbours.
- Almost half (46%) of respondents would not like to have people with HIV/AIDS as neighbours. More than half (51%) would not like to have homosexuals as neighbours.

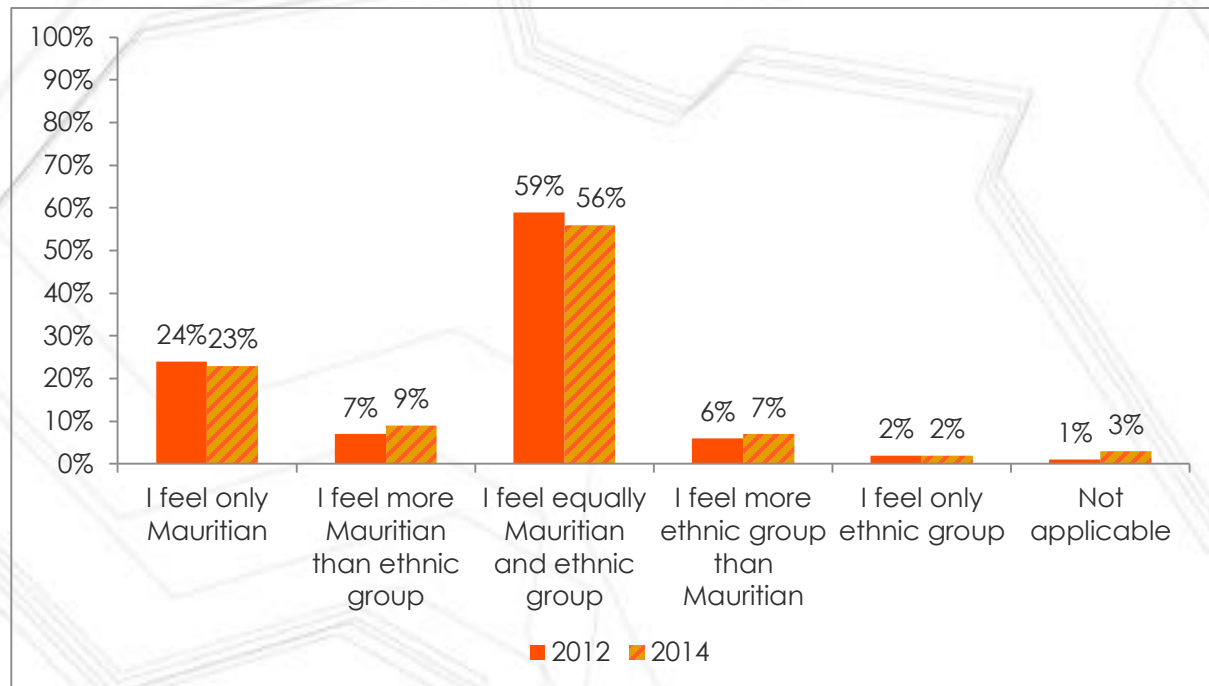
## Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is an African-led, non-partisan research project that has measured countries' social, political, and economic atmosphere since 1999. In its sixth survey round (2014-15), it is covering 35 countries. In Mauritius, the face-to-face interviews of 1,200 adults were conducted by StraConsult. Afrobarometer is funded by the UK Department of International Development (DFID), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Mo Ibrahim Foundation and the World Bank.

The Afrobarometer team in Mauritius, led by StraConsult, interviewed 1,200 adult Mauritians in June and July 2014. A sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level. A previous survey was conducted in Mauritius in 2012.

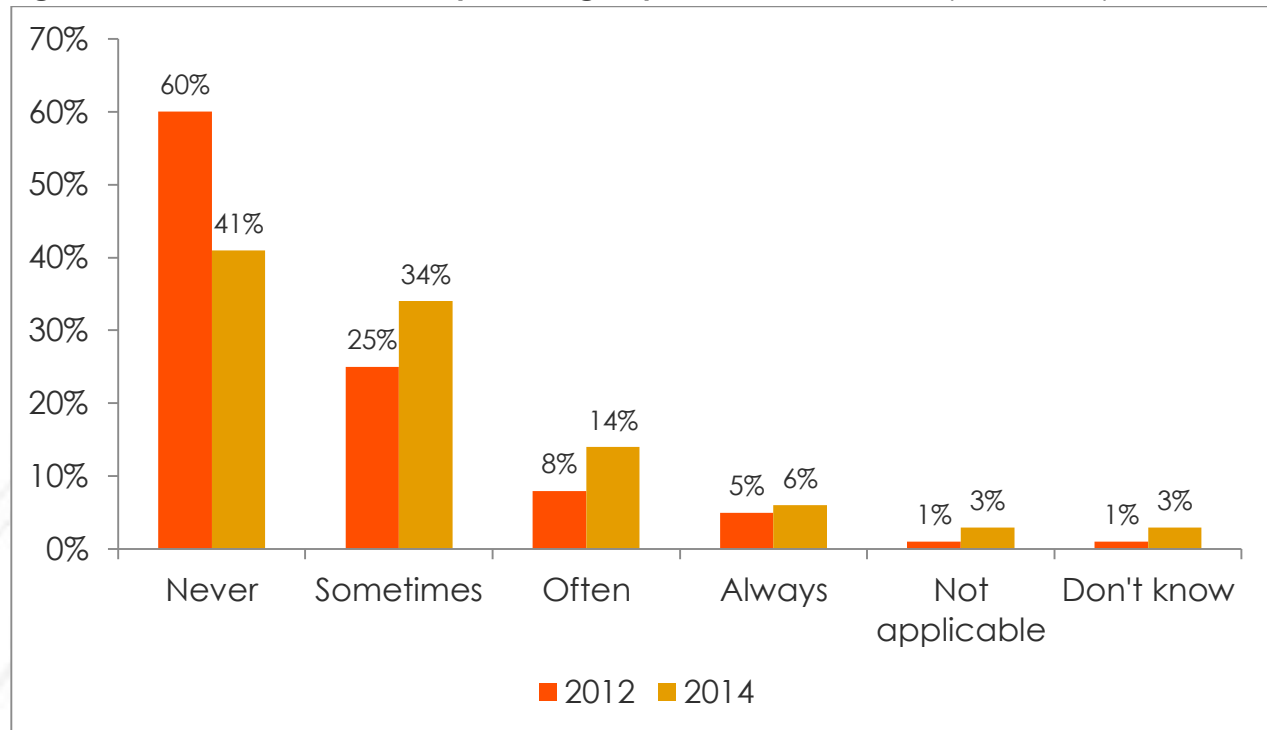
## Charts

**Figure 1: Sense of Belonging: Mauritian or Ethnic Group?** | Mauritius | 2012-2014



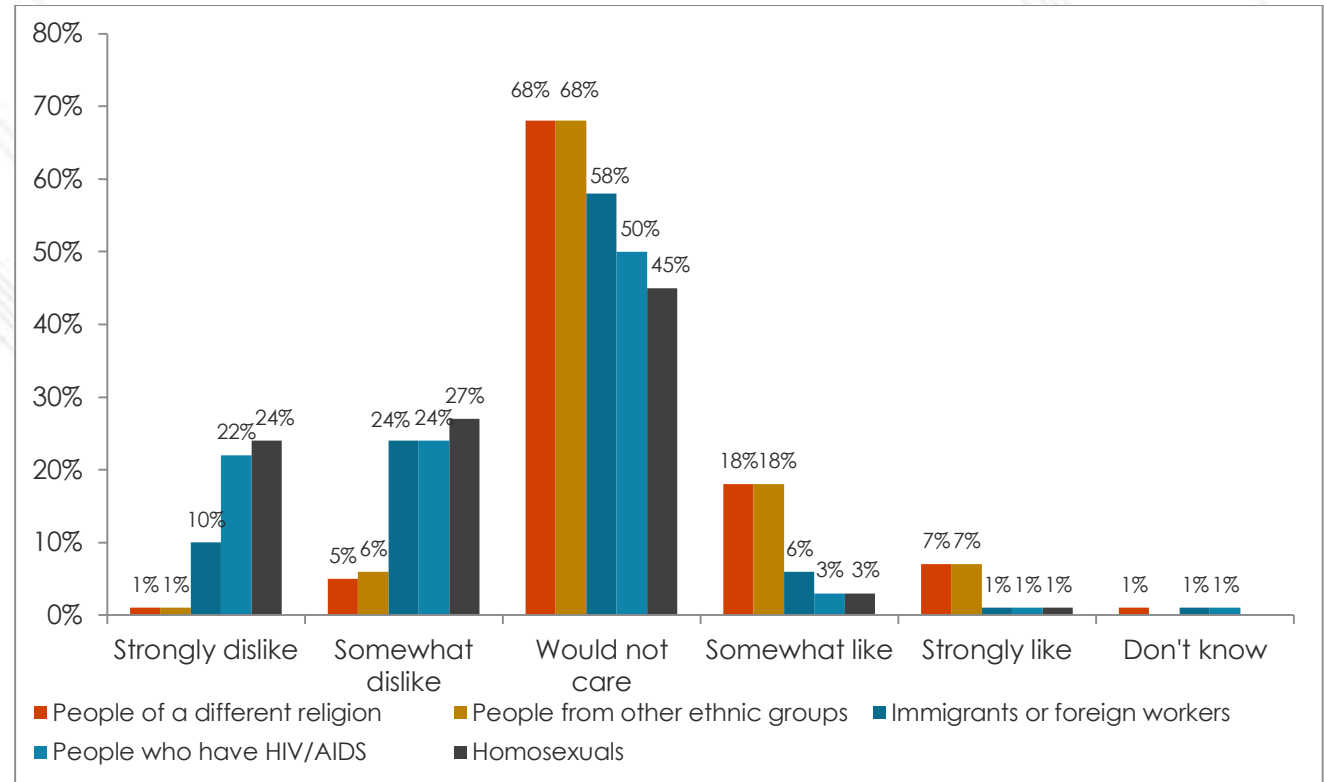
**Respondents were asked:** Let us suppose that you had to choose between being a Mauritian and being a \_\_\_\_\_ [R's ETHNIC GROUP]. Which of the following statements best expresses your feelings?

**Figure 2: Unfair treatment met by ethnic groups from Government | Mauritius | 2012-2014**



**Respondents were asked:** How often, if ever, are \_\_\_\_\_s [R's Ethnic Group] treated unfairly by the government?

**Figure 3: Level of Tolerance | Mauritius | 2014**



**Respondents were asked:** For each of the following types of people, please tell me whether you would like having people from this group as neighbours, dislike it, or not care?

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