

## Afrobarometer Round 6

New data from  
across Africa



Maputo, Mozambique  
1 March 2016

## News release

### Africans tolerant on religion, ethnicity, nationality, and HIV, but not on homosexuality, Afrobarometer survey finds

Contrary to common portrayals, Africans express high degrees of tolerance for people from different ethnic groups, people of different religions, immigrants, and people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), newly released Afrobarometer survey findings show.

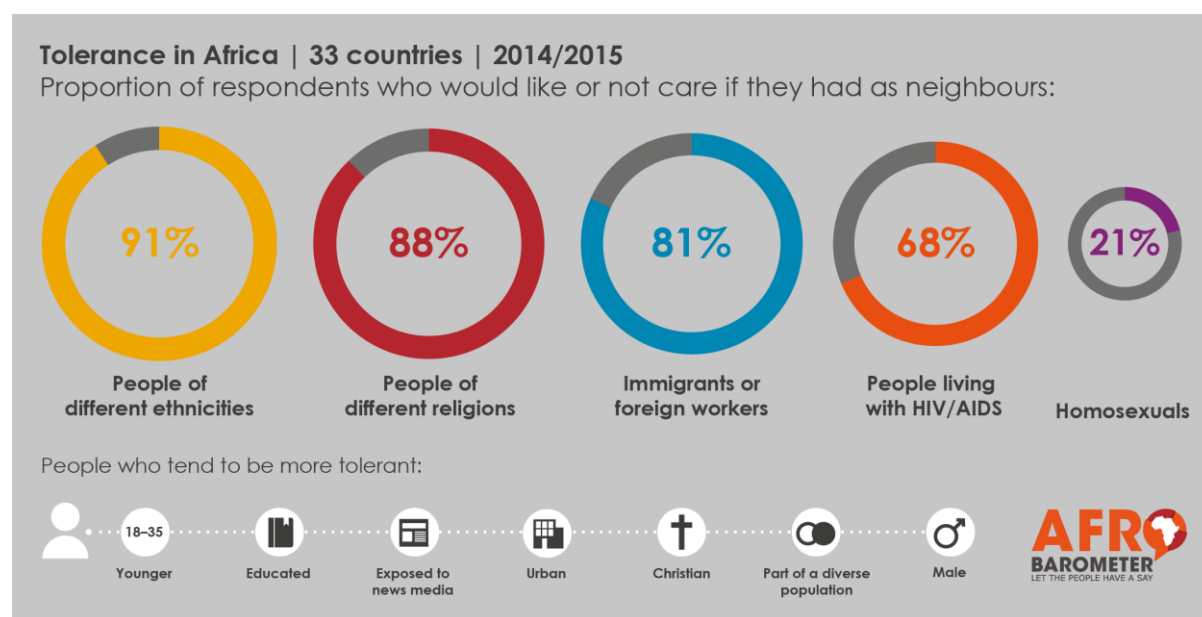
In results published on Zero Discrimination Day (1 March), Afrobarometer reports that survey respondents in 33 countries exhibit largely tolerant attitudes toward social differences, with the major exception of homosexuality. Even so, homophobia is not a universal phenomenon in Africa: At least half of all citizens in four African countries say they would not mind or would welcome having homosexual neighbours.

Tolerance scores vary widely by country/region, and analysis points to education, media consumption, and exposure to a diverse population as major drivers of increasing tolerance on the African continent.

The report, titled “**Good neighbours? Africans express high levels of tolerance for many, but not for all,**” is available in English, French, and Portuguese at [www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org).

### Key findings

- Across 33 countries, large majorities of African citizens exhibit high tolerance for people from different ethnic groups (91%), people of different religions (87%), immigrants (81%), and people living with HIV/AIDS (68%).



- Tolerance levels are particularly high in regions and countries that are ethnically and religiously diverse, suggesting that experience is an important factor in inculcating an attitude of tolerance among African citizens.
- Similarly, tolerance for people living with HIV/AIDS is highest in countries with high HIV/AIDS prevalence, providing further evidence that intolerance and stigmatization can be unlearned through personal encounters.
- A large majority of African citizens, however, are intolerant of homosexual citizens. Across the 33 countries, an average of 78% of respondents say they would “somewhat dislike” or “strongly dislike” having a homosexual neighbour.
- But not all of Africa is homophobic. Majorities in four countries (Cape Verde, Mozambique, Namibia, and South Africa), and more than four in 10 citizens in three other countries, would like or not mind having homosexual neighbours.

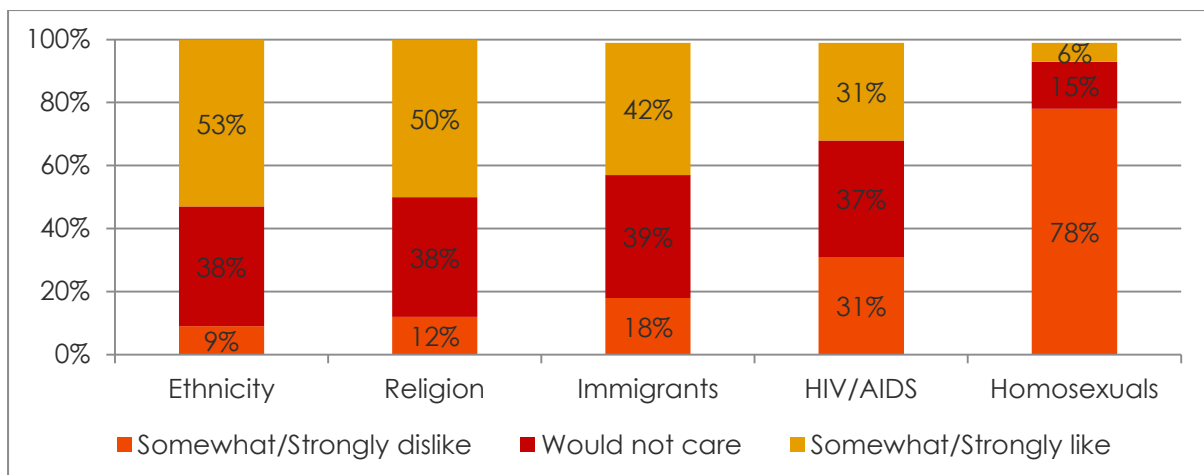
### Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across Africa. Five rounds of surveys were conducted between 1999 and 2013, and findings from Round 6 surveys (2014/2015) are currently being released. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples that yield country-level results with margins of error of +/-2% (for samples of 2,400) or +/-3% (for samples of 1,200) at a 95% confidence level.

Interested readers should watch for additional findings to be released over the coming months (see <http://afrobarometer.org/countries/results-round> and follow the conversation at #VoicesAfrica on Twitter).

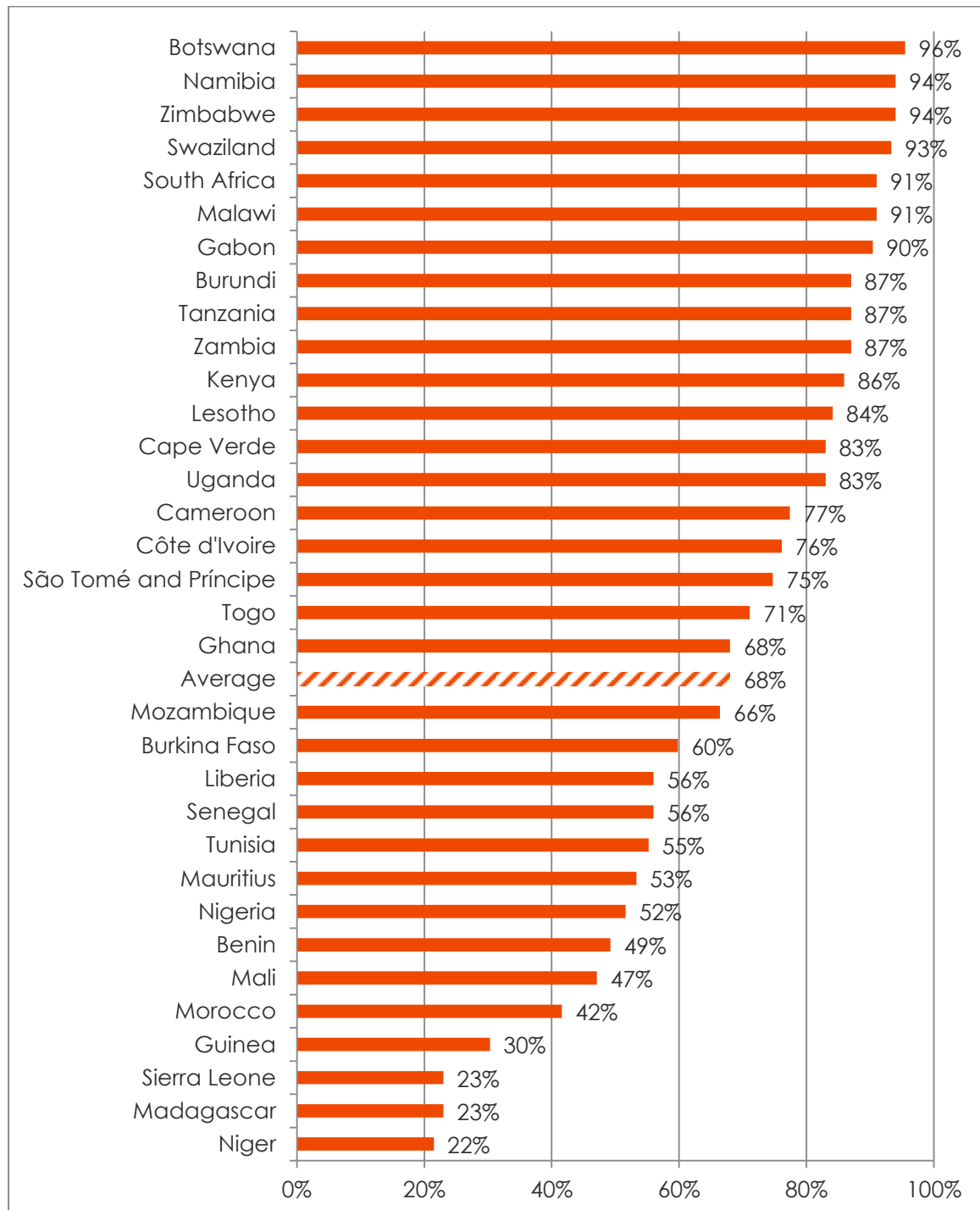
### Charts

**Figure 1: Tolerance in Africa | 33 countries | 2014/2015**



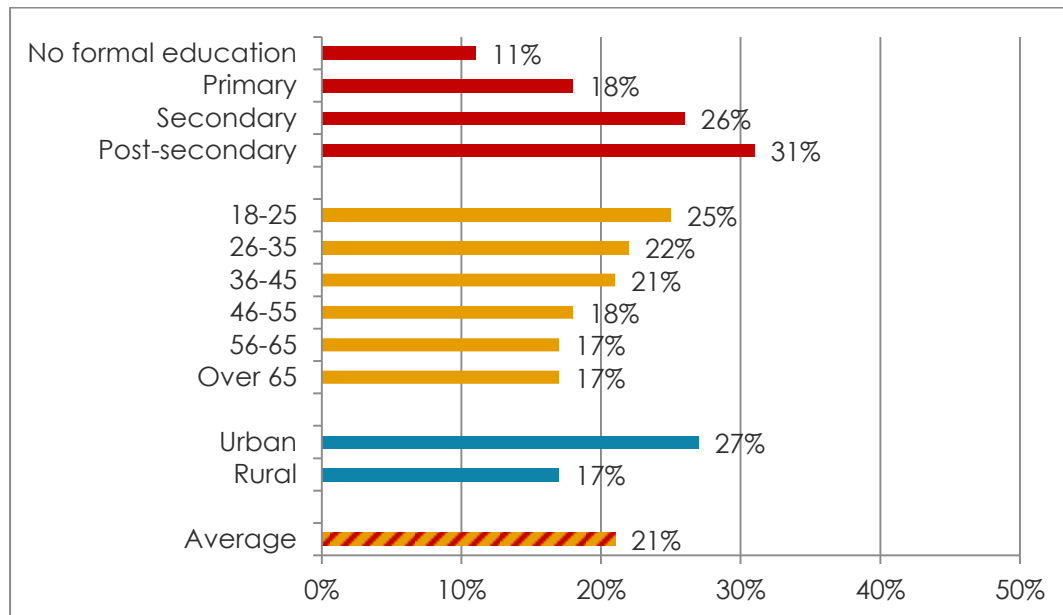
**Respondents were asked:** For each of the following types of people, please tell me whether you would like having people from this group as neighbours, dislike it, or not care: People of a different religion? People from other ethnic groups? Homosexuals? People who have HIV/AIDS? Immigrants or foreign workers? (Note: Due to rounding, categories may not always add up to 100%.)

**Figure 2: Tolerance for people living with HIV/AIDS** | by country | 33 countries  
 | 2014/2015



**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: People who have HIV/AIDS? (% who say they would “strongly like,” “somewhat like,” or “not care”)

**Figure 3: Tolerance for homosexuals in Africa** | by age, education level, and urban-rural residence | 33 countries | 2014/2015



**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: Homosexuals? (% who say they would "strongly like," "somewhat like," or "not care")

**For more information, please contact:**

Brian Howard  
 Afrobarometer  
 Telephone: 001-713-624-0373  
 Email: [bhoward@afrobarometer.org](mailto:bhoward@afrobarometer.org)

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Do your own analysis of Afrobarometer data – on any question, for any country and survey round. It's easy and free at [www.afrobarometer.org/online-data-analysis](http://www.afrobarometer.org/online-data-analysis).

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