



Star Awards Pty Ltd  
Gaborone, Botswana  
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## News release

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### **Intolerance of same-sex relationships may be on the decline in Botswana, Afrobarometer survey suggests**

More than half of Botswana would object to working or worshipping with someone who is in a same-sex relationship, but such intolerance is significantly less pronounced among younger and more-educated citizens and appears to be declining, according to a new Afrobarometer survey.

Botswana made international headlines last year when its High Court struck down a colonial-era law that criminalized same-sex relations.

#### **Key findings**

- A slim majority of Botswana say they would mind having someone in a same-sex relationship as a co-worker (52%), a supervisor (52%), or a member of their religious community (56%) (Figure 1).
- Similarly, half (51%) of respondents say they would “somewhat” or “strongly” dislike having a neighbour who is in a same-sex relationship. But nearly as many (48%) say they would like it or would not care – a view that has gained 10 percentage points since the previous survey in 2017 (Figure 2). Across 34 African countries surveyed in 2016/2018, only 20% of respondents expressed such tolerance.
- Tolerance of same-sex relationships is the majority view among young respondents: 56% of those aged 18-35 say they would not mind working with someone in a same-sex relationship. A majority of urban residents (57%) and respondents with post-secondary education (71%) agree (Figure 3).

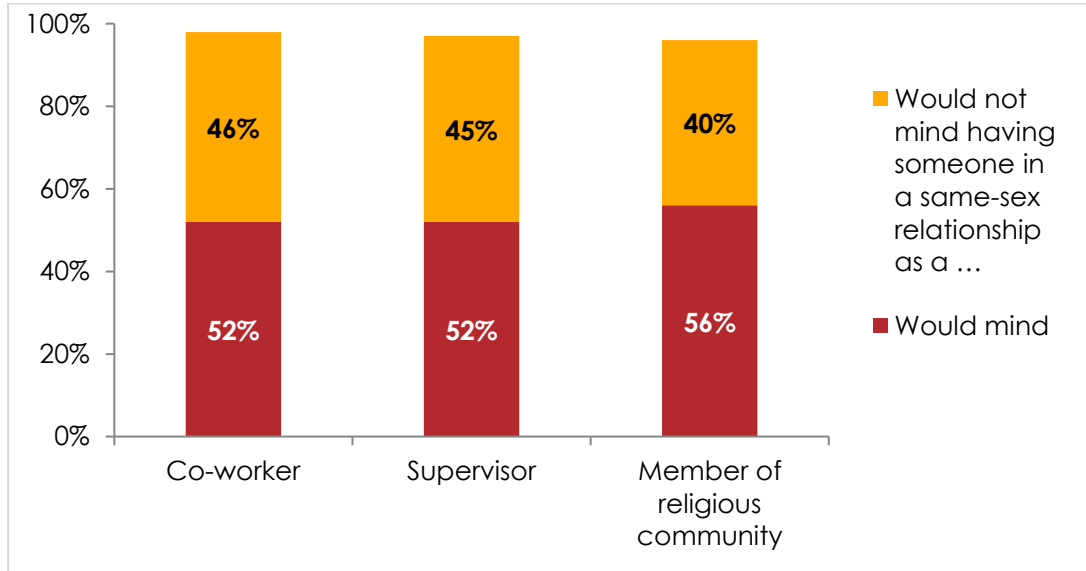
#### **Afrobarometer surveys**

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on Africans' experiences and evaluations of quality of life, governance, and democracy. Seven rounds of surveys were completed in up to 38 countries between 1999 and 2018. Round 8 surveys in 2019/2020 are planned in at least 35 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Botswana, led by Star Awards Pty LTD, interviewed 1,200 adult Botswana in July-August 2019. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Botswana in 1999, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2014, and 2017.

**Charts**

**Figure 1: Tolerance of same-sex relationships | Botswana | 2019**

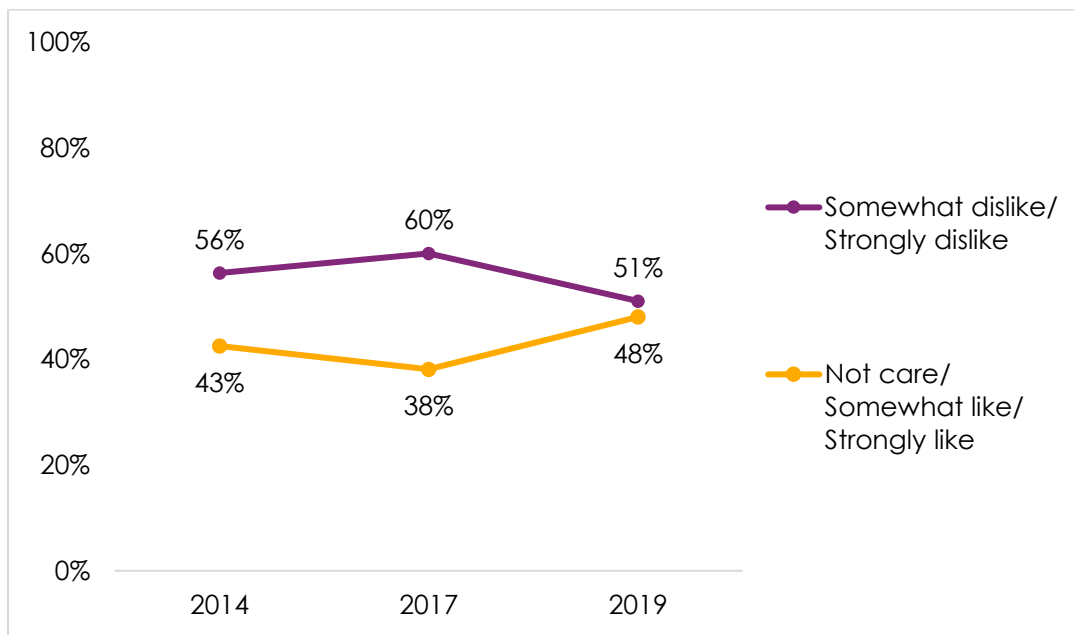


**Respondents were asked:** For each of the statements below, please tell me whether you disagree or agree.

*I would not mind having someone in a same-sex relationship as a co-worker in my workplace.  
 I would not mind having someone in a same-sex relationship as my supervisor in my workplace.  
 I would not mind having someone in a same-sex relationship as a member in my religious community.*

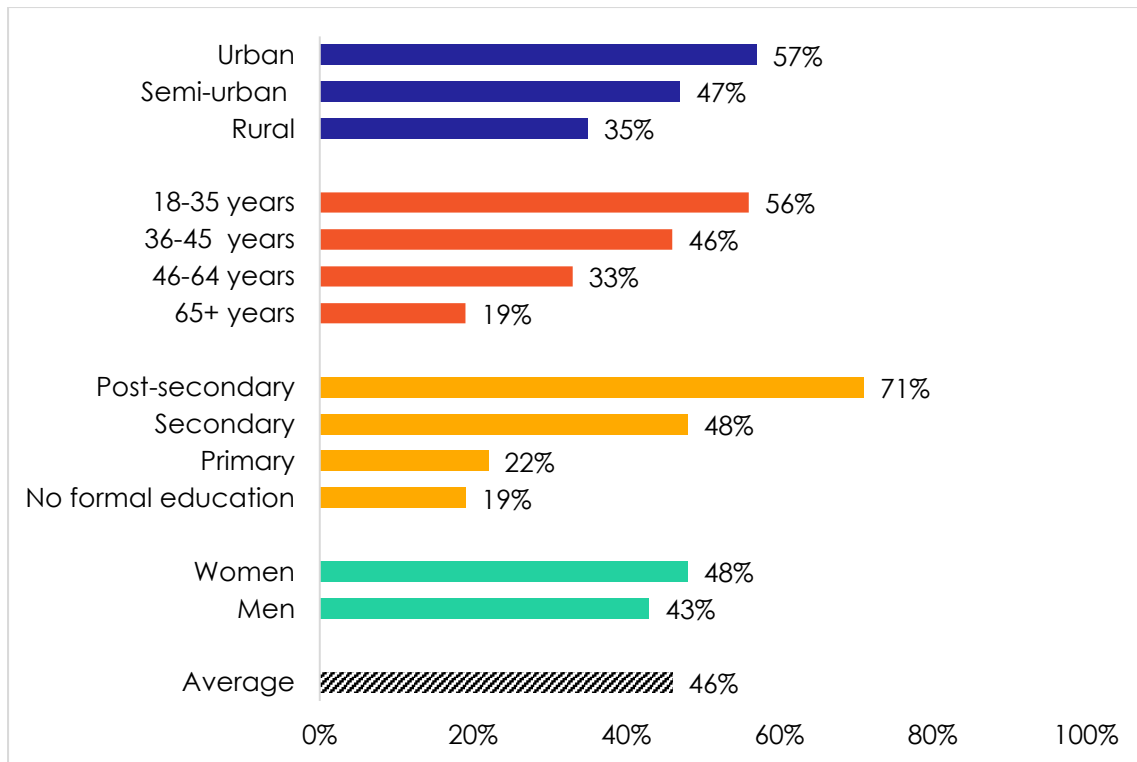
(% who "agree/disagree" or "strongly agree/disagree" with each statement)

**Figure 2: Tolerance of people in same-sex relationships as neighbours | Botswana | 2014-2019**



**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?

**Figure 3: Tolerance of co-worker in same-sex relationship** | by socio-demographic group | Botswana | 2019



**Respondents were asked:** Please tell me whether you disagree or agree with the following statement: I would not mind having someone in a same-sex relationship as a co-worker in my workplace. (% who “agree” or “strongly agree”)

**For more information, please contact:**

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