

Lobito-Benguela, Angola
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News release

About half of Angolans feel unfree to speak their minds, Afrobarometer survey shows

Fewer than half of Angolans say they feel free to say what they think, according to Afrobarometer's first survey in the country.

While a majority of citizens report feeling at least "somewhat free" to join political organizations and vote for the candidate of their choice, more than half also say people must be cautious when they talk about politics.

Freedom House rates Angola as "not free" and notes that self-censorship persists despite an easing of restrictions on the media and civil society since President João Lourenço came to power in 2017 following José Eduardo dos Santos' 38-year rule.

Key findings

- Fewer than half (46%) of Angolans say they feel "somewhat free" or "completely free" to speak their minds (Figure 1). Across key socio-demographic groups, only among elders in the 56- to 65-year-old range does a majority feel free to say what they think (56%) (Figure 2).
- However, a majority of Angolans say they feel "somewhat free" or "completely free" to join any political organization they want (58%) and to vote for the candidate of their choice without feeling pressured (64%) (Figure 3).
- More than half (52%) of citizens say people "often" or "always" have to be cautious when talking about politics (Figure 4).

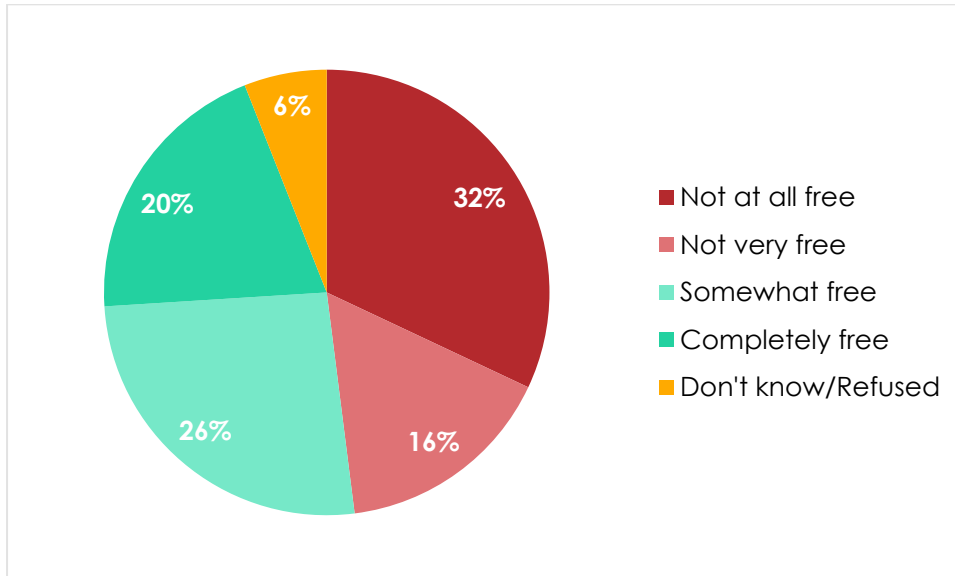
Afrobarometer surveys

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

In its first survey in Angola, the Afrobarometer team, led by OvilonGwa – Estudos de Opinião Pública, interviewed 2,400 adult Angolans between 27 November and 27 December 2019. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level.

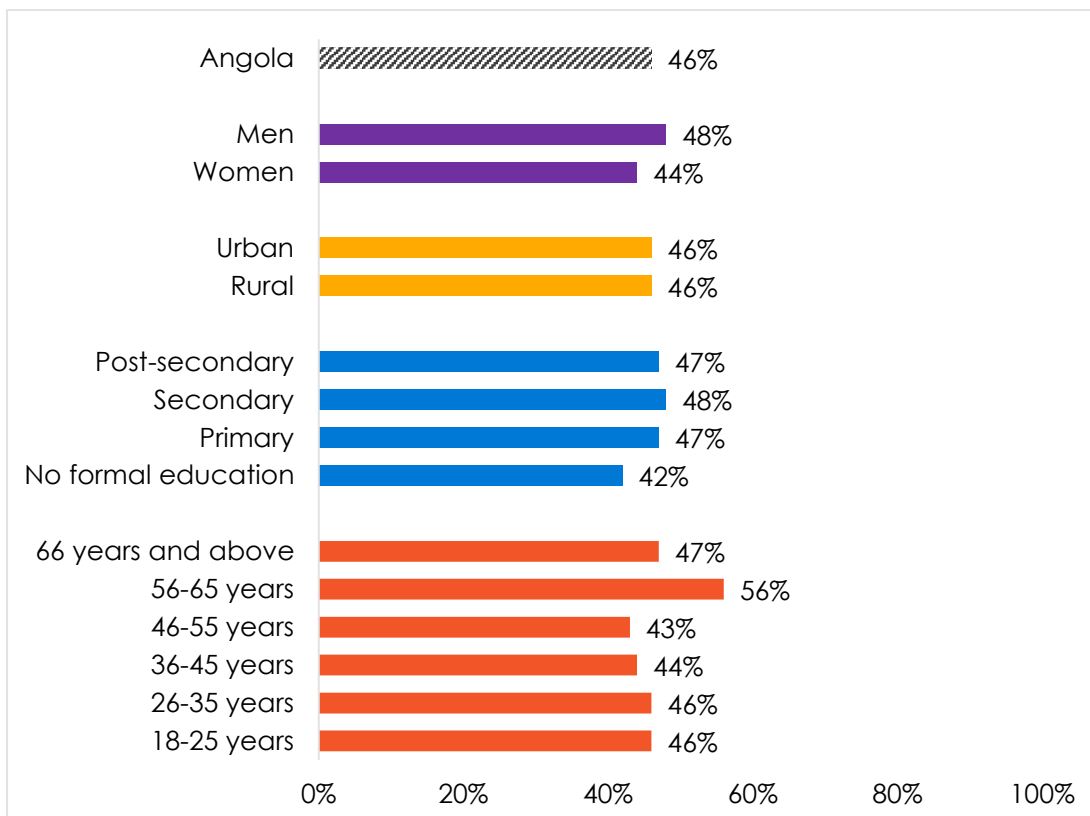
Charts

Figure 1: Freedom to say what you think | Angola | 2019



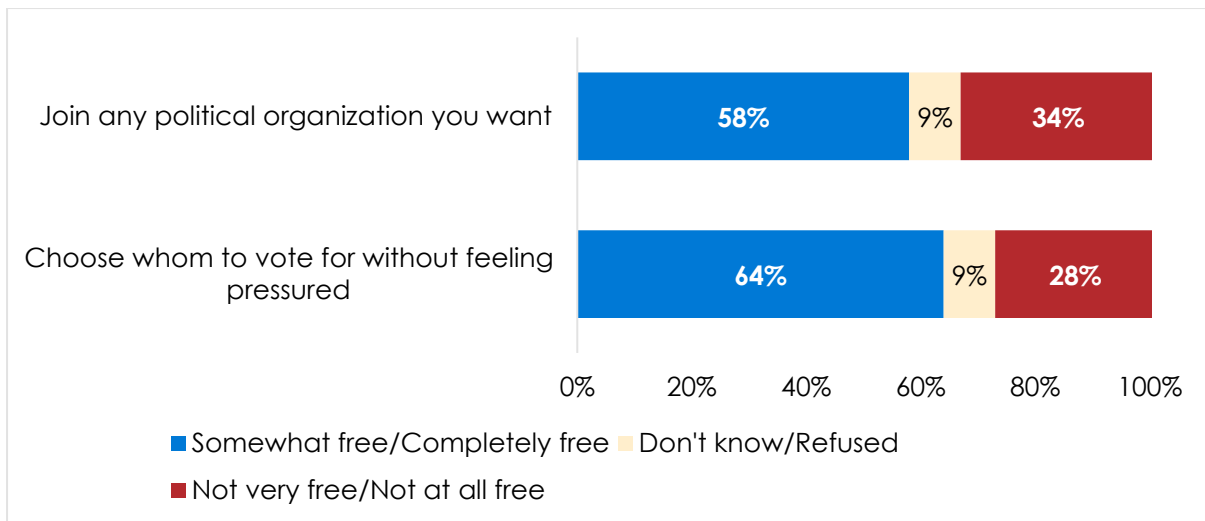
Respondents were asked: In this country, how free are you to say what you think?

Figure 2: Free to say what you think | by socio-demographic group | Angola | 2019



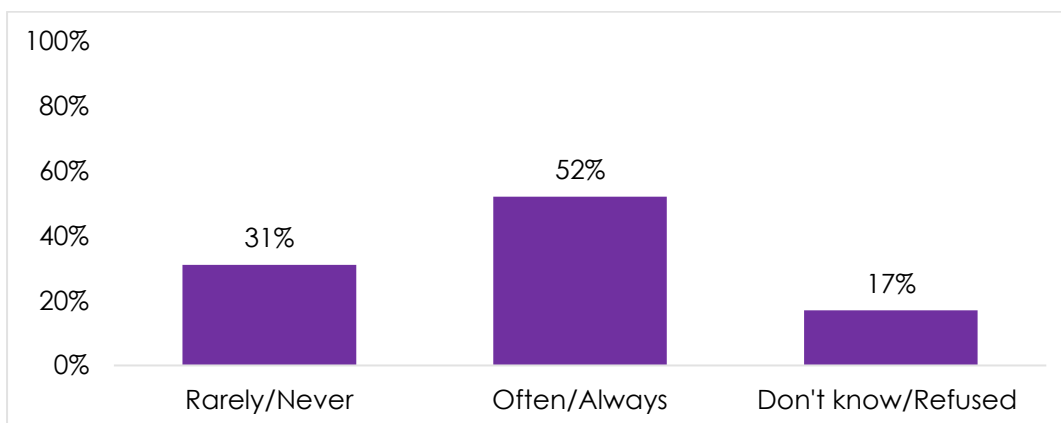
Respondents were asked: In this country, how free are you say what you think? (% who say "somewhat free or «completely free"")

Figure 3: Political freedoms | Angola | 2019



Respondents were asked: *In this country, how free are you to ...?*

Figure 4: Caution when talking about politics | Angola | 2019



Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, how often, in this country, do people have to be careful of what they say about politics?*

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