



Casablanca, Morocco  
1 September 2023

## News release

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### Moroccans see gender-based violence as priority issue to address

Moroccans see gender-based violence (GBV) as the second-most-important women's-rights issue that their government and society must address, after unequal pay or opportunities in the workplace, according to the latest Afrobarometer survey.

Majorities of citizens say that GBV does not occur often in their communities and that it is never justified for a man to use physical force to discipline his wife. But they are split on whether GBV should be treated as a criminal or a private matter.

Morocco's approach to addressing GBV incorporates institutional, legal, and advocacy efforts. A pivotal step was the inception of a national strategy to counter violence against women in 2002. Subsequent milestones include the 2014 repeal of Penal Code Article 475(2), which permitted marriage between a rapist and his victim; the 2016 enactment of Law 27-14 against human trafficking; and Law 103.13 on violence against women in 2018.

#### Key findings

- Moroccans cite gender-based violence (GBV) as the second-most-important women's-rights issue that the government and society must address (Figure 1).
- More than two-thirds (68%) of citizens say GBV is "not very common" or "not at all common" in their community. About three in 10 (31%) disagree (Figure 2).
- Three-quarters (76%) of citizens say it is "never" justified for a man to use physical force to discipline his wife (Figure 3).
- Moroccans are divided on whether gender-based violence should be treated as a criminal matter (48%) or a private matter (51%) to be resolved within the family (Figure 4).

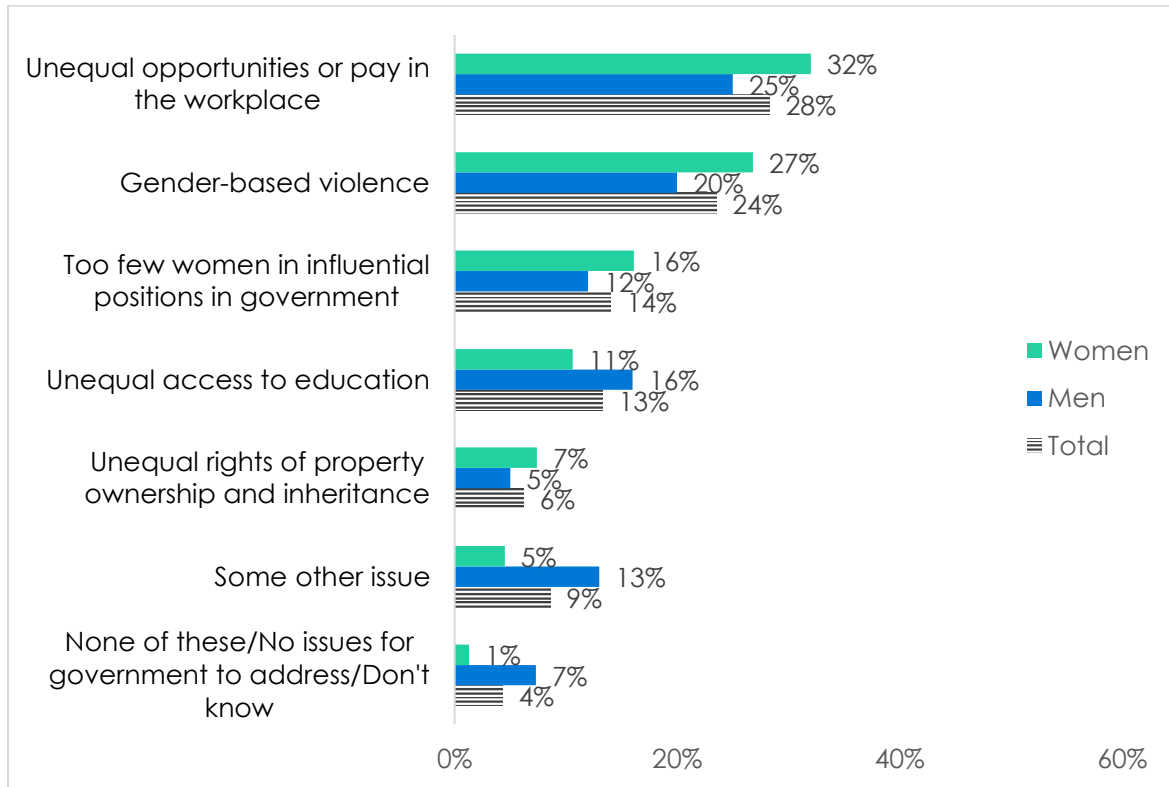
#### Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Nine survey rounds in up to 42 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2023) cover 39 countries. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Morocco, led by Global for Survey and Consulting (GSC), interviewed 1,200 adult Moroccans between 31 August and 19 September 2022. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous Afrobarometer surveys were conducted in Morocco in 2013, 2015, 2018, and 2021.

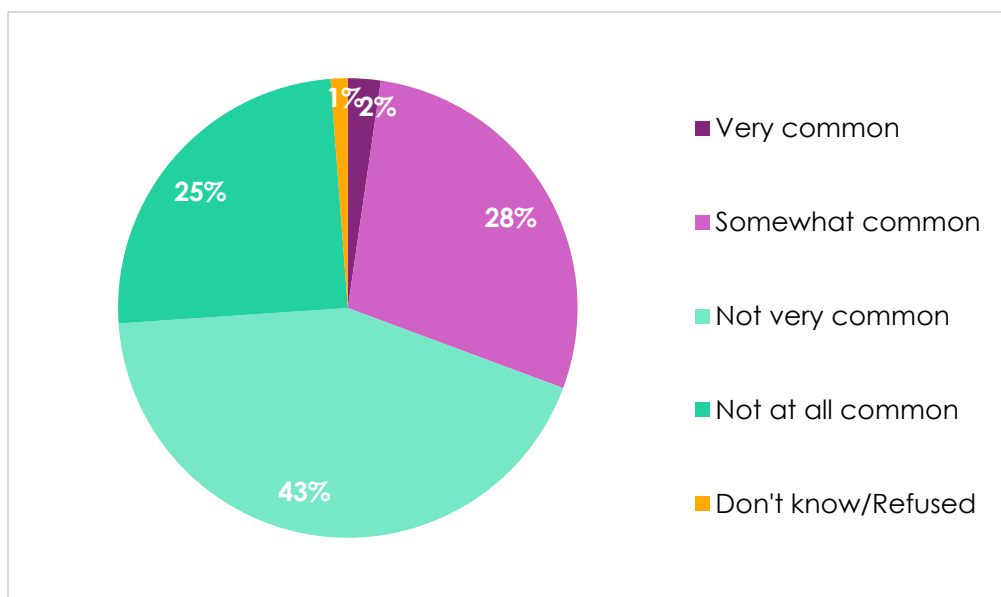
**Charts**

**Figure 1: Most important women's-rights issue | by gender | Morocco | 2022**



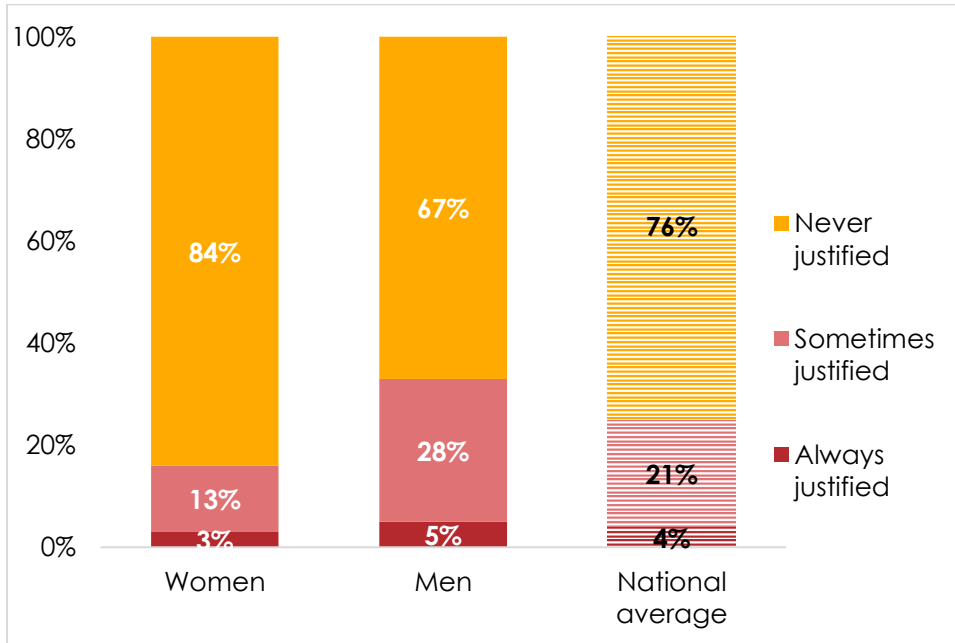
**Respondents were asked:** In your opinion, which of the following issues related to women's rights and equality do you think is the most important for our government and society to address?

**Figure 2: Is gender-based violence a common occurrence? | Morocco | 2022**



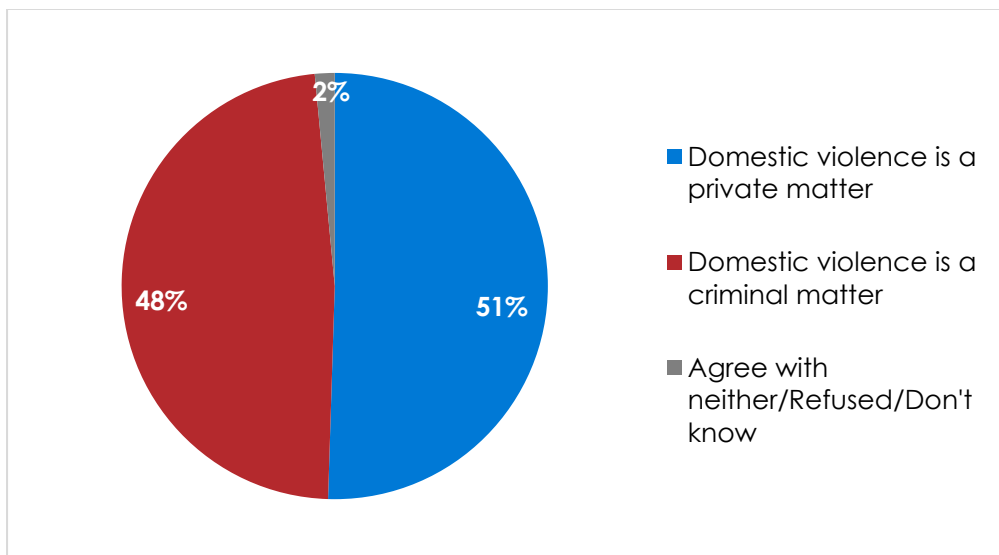
**Respondents were asked:** In this area, how common do you think it is for men to use violence against women and girls in the home or the community?

**Figure 3: Is it justified for men to physically discipline their wives? | by gender**  
 | Morocco | 2022



**Respondents were asked:** For each of the following actions, please tell me whether you think it can always be justified, sometimes be justified, or never be justified: For a man to use physical discipline on his wife if she has done something he doesn't like or thinks is wrong?

**Figure 4: Is domestic violence a criminal or private matter? | Morocco | 2022**



**Respondents were asked:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: Domestic violence is a private matter that needs to be handled and resolved within the family.

Statement 2: Domestic violence is a criminal matter whose full resolution requires the involvement of law enforcement agencies.

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

**For more information, please contact:**

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