



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI



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## News release

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### **Kenyans want police and courts to do more to protect women and girls against harassment and discrimination**

The vast majority of Kenyans say the police and courts ought to do more to protect women and girls from discrimination and harassment in public spaces, a recent Afrobarometer survey reveals.

Survey findings show that one in six Kenyans say girls are frequently discriminated against, harassed, or approached for sexual favours by their teachers. A similar proportion report that women are “often” or “always” sexually harassed in public places like streets or markets.

Nearly two-thirds of Kenyans think women and girls are likely to be believed if they complain about discrimination or harassment.

#### **Key findings**

- One-sixth (16%) of Kenyans say girls “often” or “always” face discrimination, harassment, or requests for sexual favours at school, and a similar proportion (15%) say women are frequently harassed in public places (Figure 1).
- Two-thirds of Kenyans say others are “somewhat likely” (35%) or “very likely” (31%) to believe women or girls if they complain about discrimination or harassment (Figure 2).
- Eight in 10 respondents (79%) say the police and courts need to do “somewhat more” or “much more” to protect women and girls from discrimination and harassment in schools, workplaces, and public spaces (Figure 3).
  - Women (82%) and urban residents (81%) are more likely than men and rural residents (both 76%) to say the police and courts are failing to protect women and girls (Figure 4).
  - Support for the view that institutions’ efforts to protect women and girls are insufficient increases with respondents’ education level.

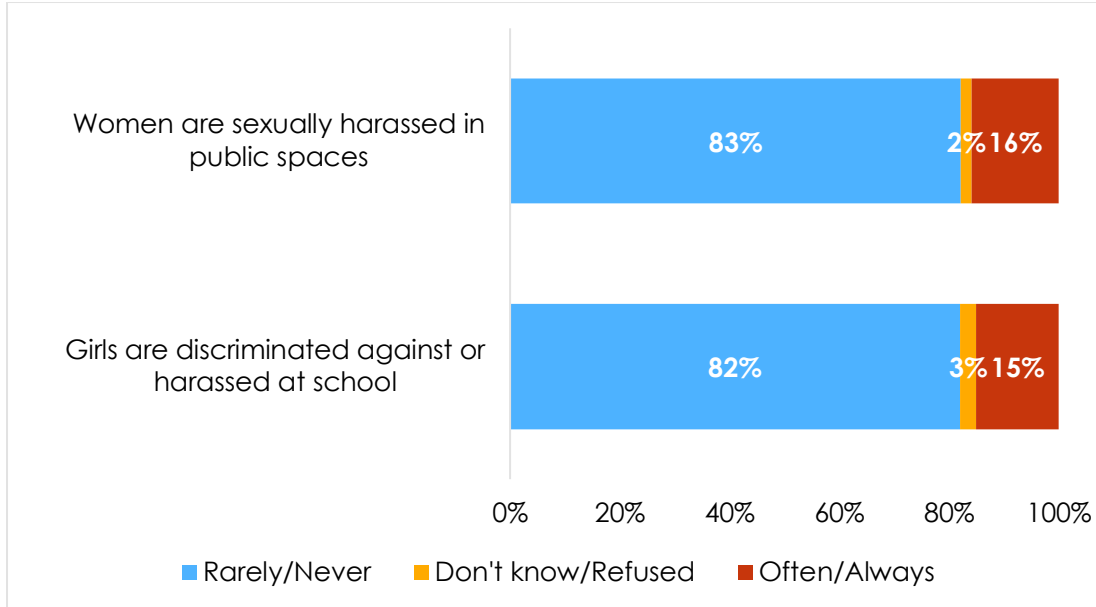
#### **Afrobarometer surveys**

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 42 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 10 surveys were launched in January 2024. Afrobarometer’s national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent’s choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Kenya, led by the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Nairobi, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 2,400 adult Kenyans in April-May 2024. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous standard Afrobarometer surveys were conducted in Kenya in 2003, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2016, 2019, and 2021.

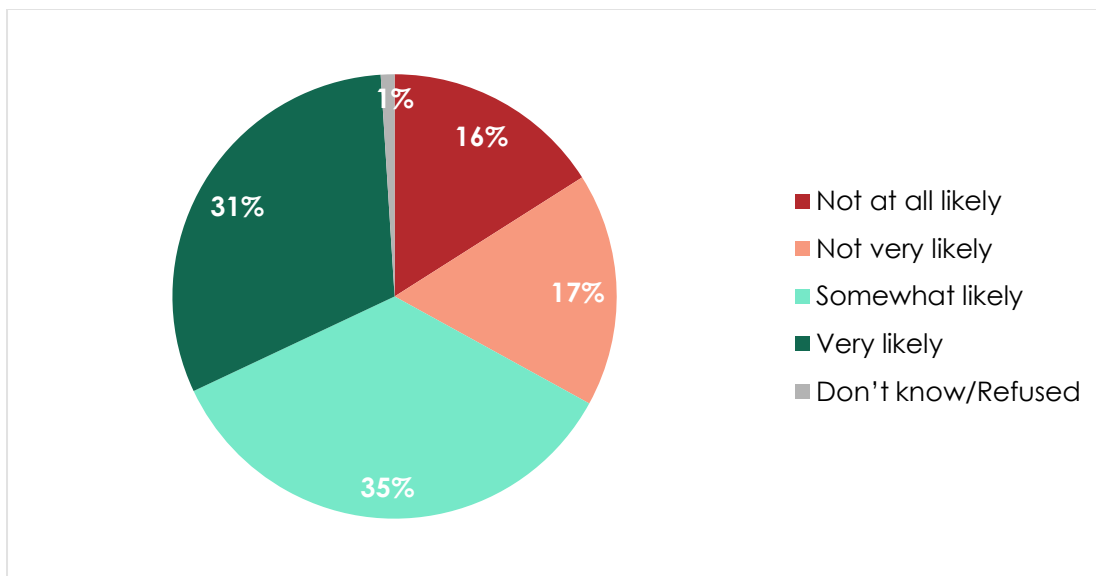
**Charts**

**Figure 1: Frequency of gender discrimination and sexual harassment | Kenya | 2024**



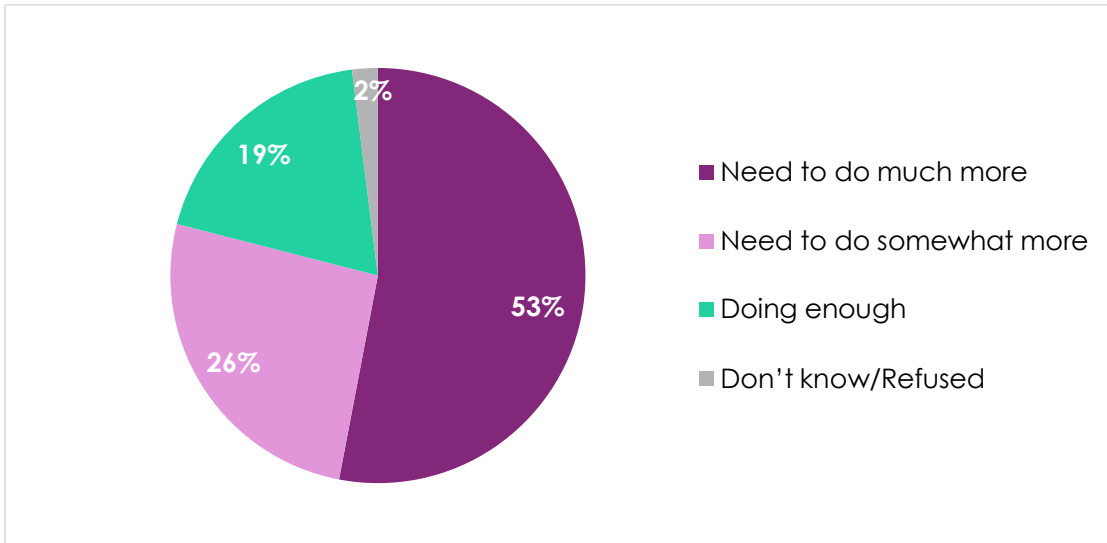
**Respondents were asked:** How frequently do the following things occur in your community:  
 Girl students face discrimination, harassment, or requests for sexual favours from their teachers?  
 Women are sexually harassed in public places such as in markets, on the streets, or in public transport?

**Figure 2: Likelihood of women and girls being believed if they complain of discrimination or harassment | Kenya | 2024**



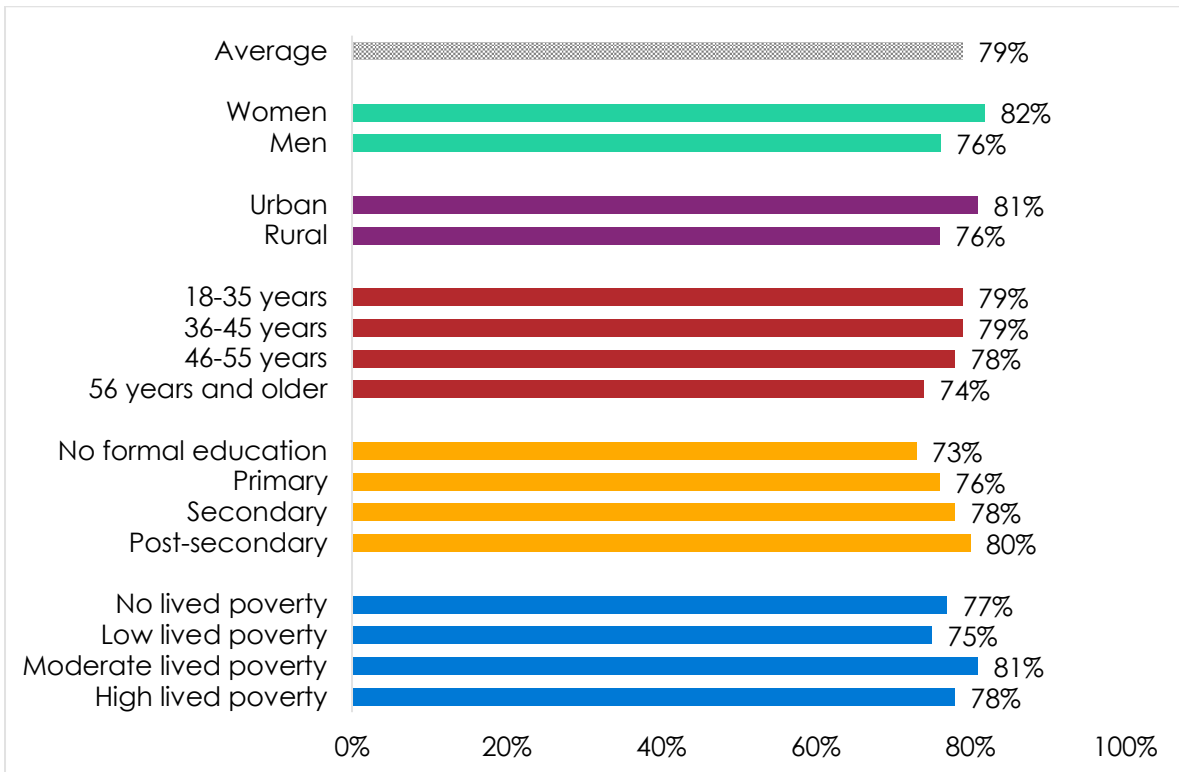
**Respondents were asked:** In your community, how likely is it that people will believe women or girls if they complain about being discriminated against or harassed in schools, workplaces, or other public spaces?

**Figure 3: Are the police and courts doing enough to protect women and girls from discrimination and harassment? | Kenya | 2024**



**Respondents were asked:** Do you think the police and courts in this country are doing enough to protect women and girls from discrimination and harassment in schools, workplaces, and public spaces, or do they need to do more?

**Figure 4: The police and courts need to do more to protect women and girls from discrimination and harassment | by demographic group | Kenya | 2024**



**Respondents were asked:** Do you think the police and courts in this country are doing enough to protect women and girls from discrimination and harassment in schools, workplaces, and public spaces, or do they need to do more? (% who say "need to do much more" or "need to do somewhat more")

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