

Anti-Terrorism Bill Survey Results

JUNE 2020

An online survey conducted by Equal Access International-Philippines
and the OURmindaNOW Messaging Hub



Overview

METHODOLOGY & APPROACH

Quantitative data collection
Online (via social media and email blasts only)
Voluntary sampling
Exponential non-discriminative snowball sampling
Public opinion survey

RESPONDENTS & COVERAGE

Filipinos only
From Mindanao only

SUMMARY

Seven (7) background questions
Twelve (12) main questions
Total respondents: 430
Margin of error: 5%
Collection period: 7 days

PARTNERS AND PLATFORMS (Facebook, Email)

OURmindanOW (OMN) Messaging Hub regional nodes
and host organizations
OURmindanOW and UP2Youth Tech Camp Alumni
Honest Conversations of Peace Partners

POLICIES OBSERVED

Data Privacy Act of 2012
Equal Access International Data Safeguarding Policies
Do No Harm Policy

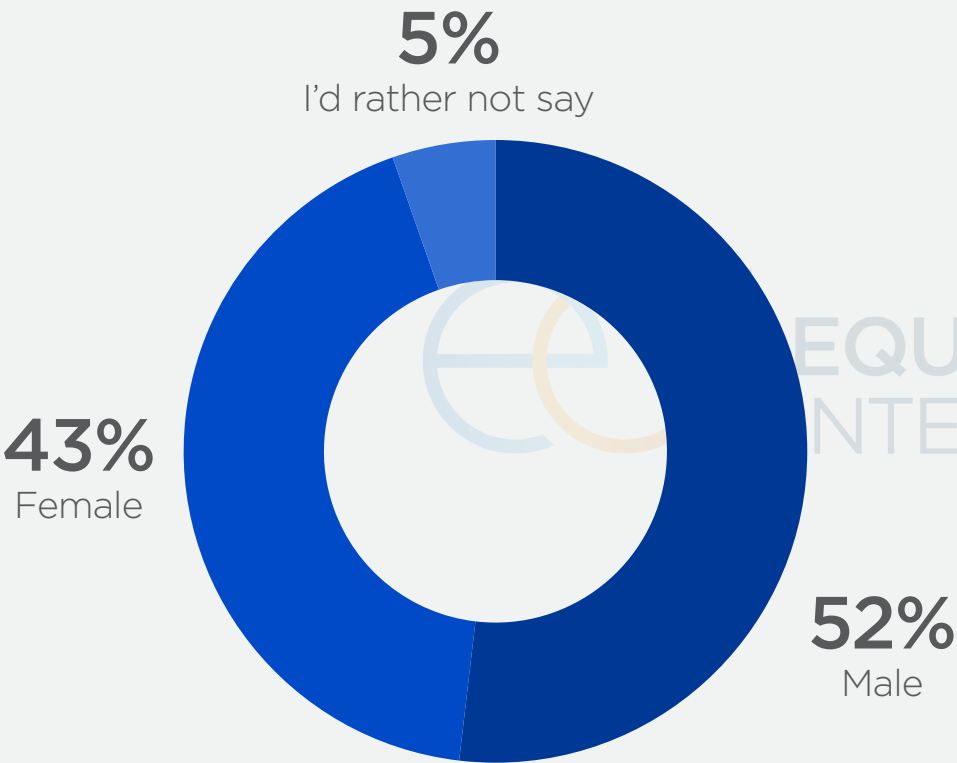
CHALLENGES TO DATA COLLECTION

Primary data collection constraints due to COVID-19
pandemic (no face-to-face interaction)
Dissemination constraints due to social media community
standards against spam/unsolicited messages
Unstable internet connection in certain areas causing
difficulty in taking the survey

RESULTS

Demographics

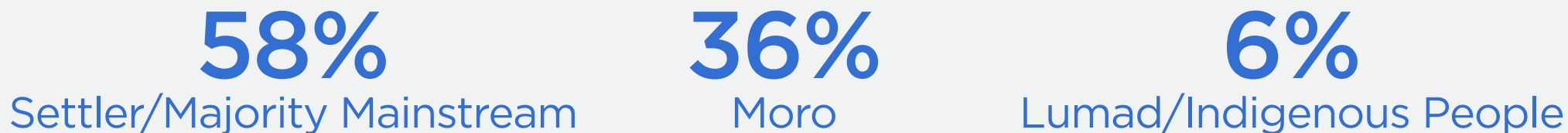
GENDER



A little more than half of the respondents (52%) were male while 43% were female. The rest of the respondents preferred not to tell their gender orientation.

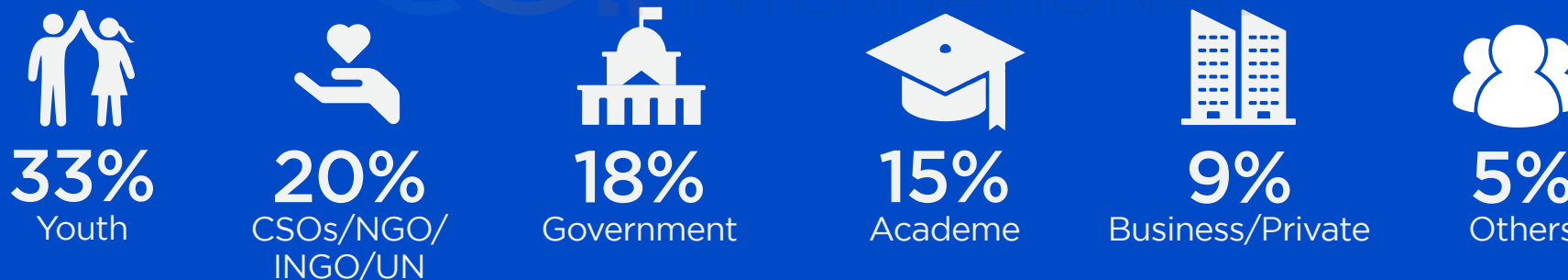
Demographics

SOCIO-CULTURAL GROUPING



More than half (58%) of the respondents identified themselves as from the majority mainstream or as Mindanao settlers, while 36% of the respondents were from the Moro people. Only 6% came from the Indigenous People or Lumad.

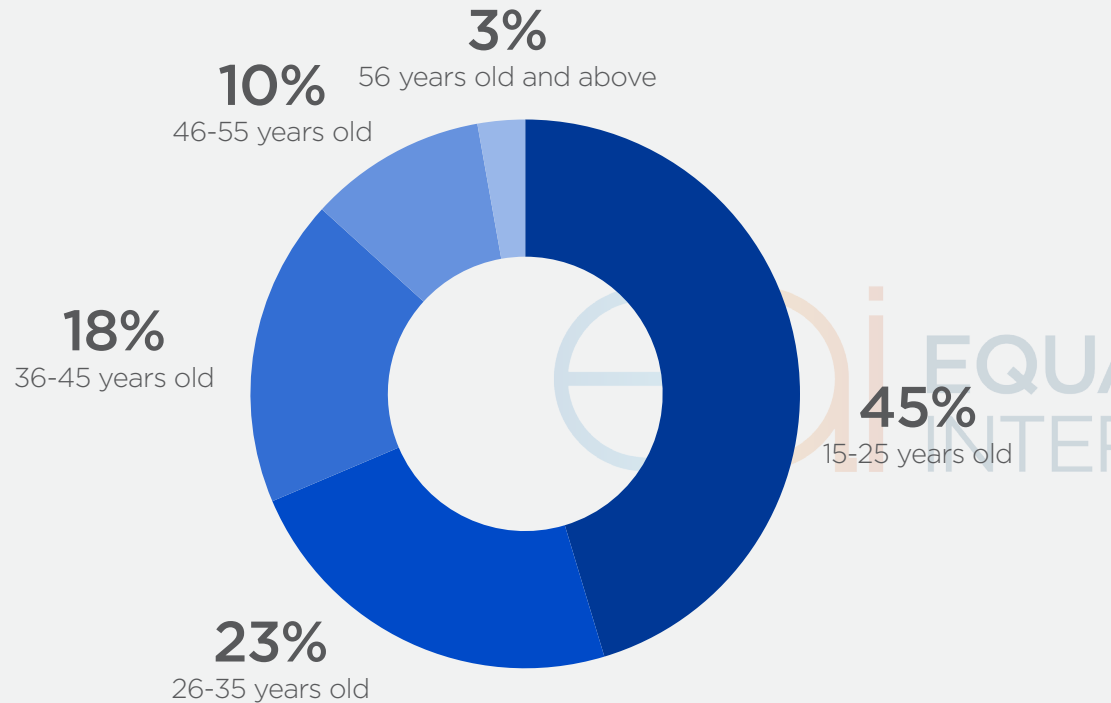
SECTOR



Most of the respondents constituted the youth sector at 33%. Respondents from CSOs or non-profit organizations came in second at 20%. Only 18% were from the government sector, 15% from the academe while 9% were from the business or private sector. The rest of the respondents came from other sectors including: women, healthcare, religious sectors, etc.

Demographics

AGE BRACKET



Almost half (45%) of the respondents were from the 15-25 age bracket, while respondents with ages 26-35 and 36-45 came in second and third, respectively. The rest were 46 years old and above.

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

45% Catholic Christian

35% Muslim

17% Christian

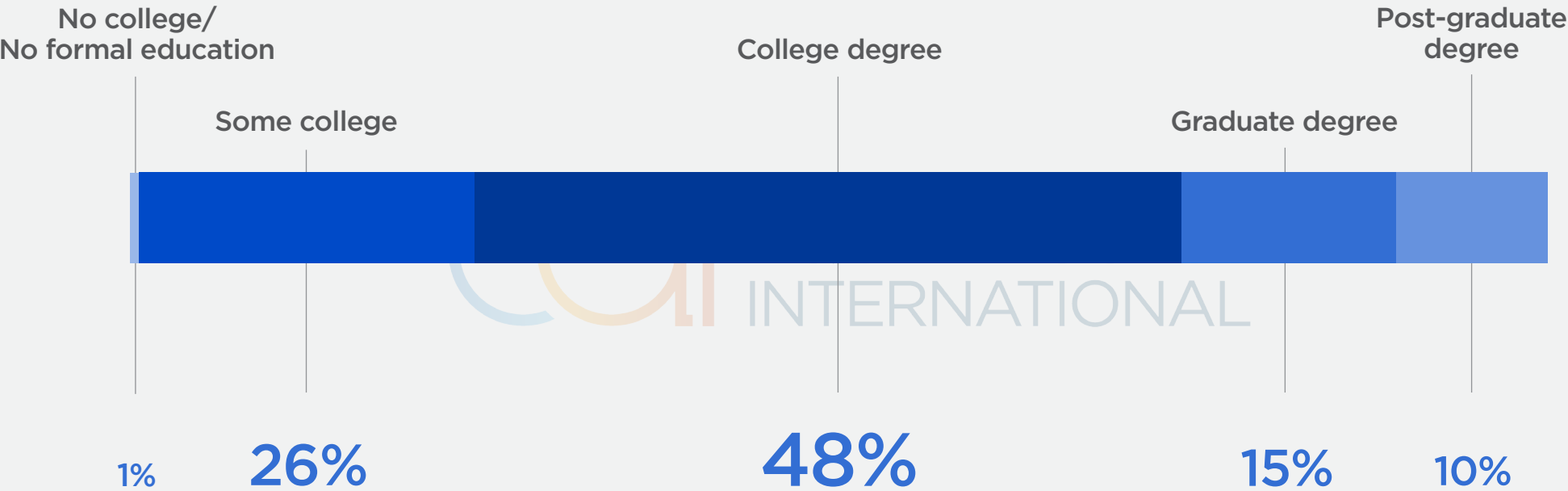
2% No religion/Non-sectarian

1% Others (Buddhism, Judaism, Indigenous Belief)

Almost half (45%) of the respondents were Catholic Christians and 35% were Muslims. About a fifth (17%) of the respondents identified themselves as non-Catholic Christians.

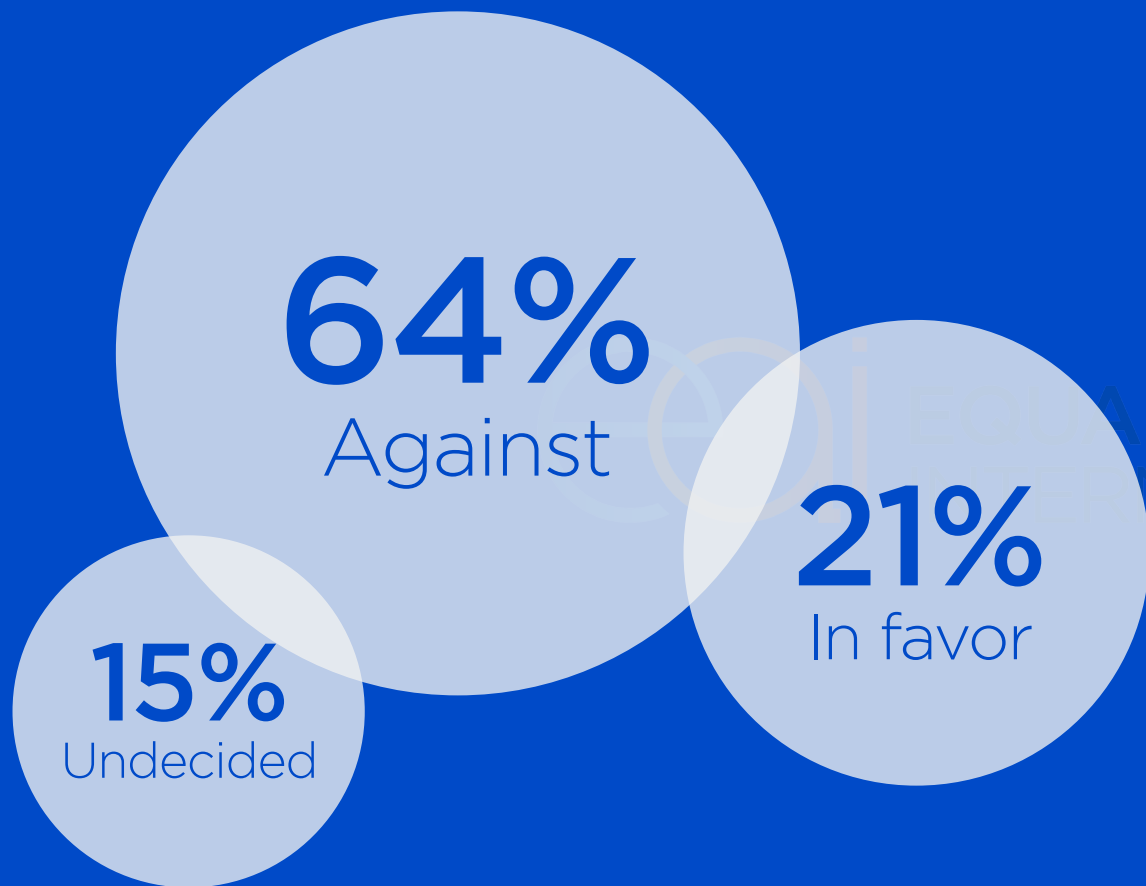
Demographics

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



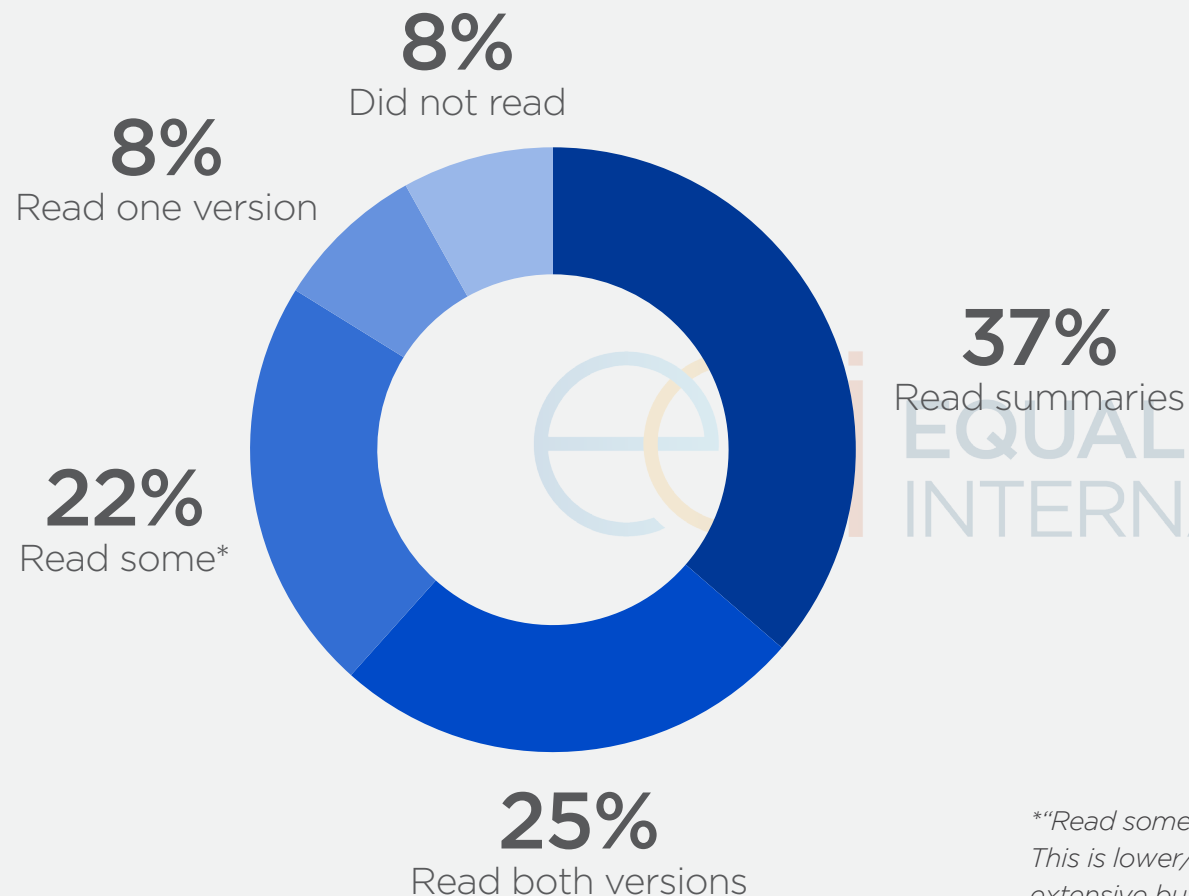
As for the respondents' educational attainment, nearly half (48%) have a college degree. A little more than a quarter (26%) have taken a college degree but are yet to complete it and 15% of the respondents have a Master's Degree or its equivalent.

In Favor or Against the Anti-Terrorism Bill (ATB)



When asked whether they are in favor or against the proposed Anti-Terrorism Bill in its present form, more than half (64%) of the respondents expressed that they are against the said bill, while 21% were in favor. Some respondents (15%) were undecided.

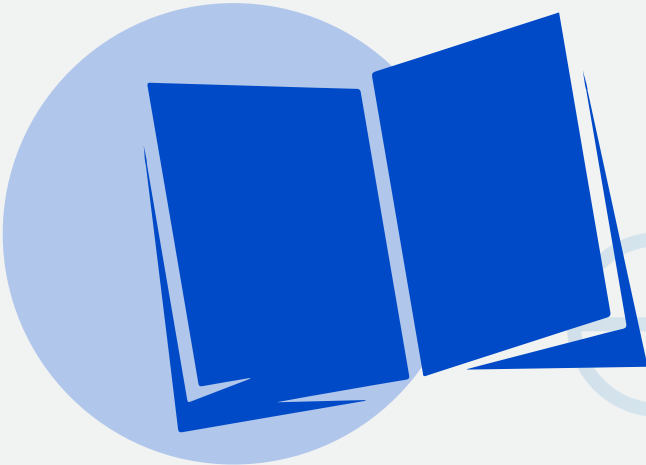
Knowledge on the Anti-Terrorism Bill



More than a third (37%) of the respondents answered that they only have read the summaries of HB 6875 and/or SB 1083 only prior to taking the survey. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the respondents have read both versions of the ATB prior to taking the survey, while 22% have read some on (social media). A few of the respondents have just read one version only, and also those who have not read any document regarding the bill.

**“Read some” means having read random excerpts of the bill on media/social media. This is lower/lesser than reading summaries of the bill, which are in turn more extensive but not as in-depth as reading one or both versions of the bill..*

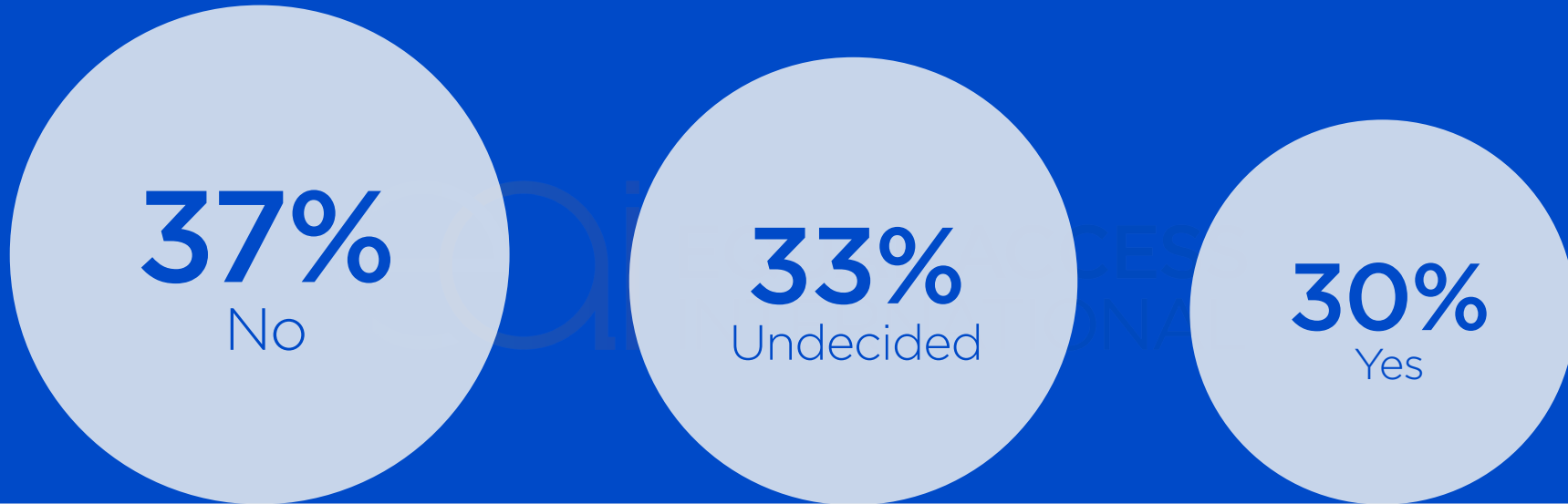
Aspect of the ATB that influenced position taken



Implementation and enforcement after passage	15%
Scope of the provisions	13%
Consistency/inconsistency to the Constitution	10%
The consultation process prior to committee hearings	8%
All of the above	48%
None of the above	6%

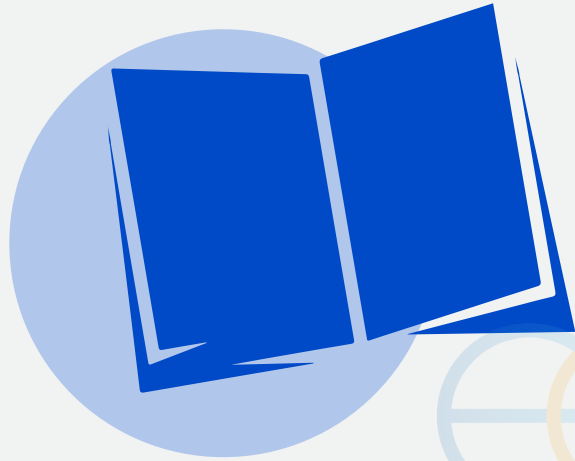
Respondents were presented with four aspects of the Anti-Terrorism Bill that could have possibly influenced their position on the bill. Fifteen percent (15%) of the respondents geared their influence towards the implementation and enforcement after the passage, while 13% were influenced on the scope of the provisions. Ten percent (10%) of the respondents chose consistency or inconsistency of the bill to the Constitution, and 7% with regard to consultation process prior to committee hearings. Majority (48%) of the respondents said that all the aspects of the ATB presented have influenced their position (whether in favor, against or undecided).

Among those against the ATB, would position change if concern(s) is/are addressed?



Among the 339 respondents who were against and undecided about the Anti-Terrorism Bill, 127 respondents (37%) will not change their position even if their concerns about the bill are addressed. One hundred and twelve (112) respondents (33%) remain undecided even if their concerns about the bill are addressed. One hundred and three (103) respondents (30%) answered that they will change their position about the bill if their concerns are addressed.

Among those supportive of the ATB, main reason for supporting



For the 91 respondents who are in favor of the Anti-Terrorism Bill, 38 respondents (42%) supported it mainly because they believe the provisions are satisfactory in addressing terrorism in the country. Twenty-four (24) respondents (26%) supported it because they believe that the current bill will suffice for now. However, there is a need to be vigilant in the crafting of the IRR when it becomes a law. Twenty-one 21 respondents (23%) supported it because they believe that the bill will help bring peace to the Philippines.

The provisions of the bill are satisfactory in addressing terrorism in the Philippines.

42%

The current bill will suffice for now, however there is a need to be vigilant in the crafting of its IRR when it becomes a law.

26%

The bill will help bring peace to the Philippines.

23%

I trust the lawmakers are making a law not against the constitution.

8%

No human right is violated. Media is just making propaganda.

1%

Perceived effects on human rights once ATB is passed

66%

More human rights violations

21%

Less human rights violations

13%

Undecided

If the bill is passed, 66% of the respondents believed that more human rights violations will occur in the future, while 21% believed otherwise.

Perceived effects on social cohesion once ATB is passed

64%

Will further divide people

19%

Undecided

17%

Will unite the people

If the bill is passed, more than half (64%) of the respondents believed that its effect to social cohesion will further divide the people, while 17% believed that it will instead unite the people.

Perceived effects on law enforcement once ATB is passed

63%

Law enforcers will enforce
the law NOT respecting
human rights

24%

Law enforcers will enforce
the law RESPECTING
human rights

12%

Undecided
(Cannot say)

Once the bill is passed, majority (63%) of the respondents believed that law enforcers will enforce the law disregarding human rights, while 24% thought otherwise.

Perceived sufficiency of “safeguard measures” to protect innocents

65%

No (Not sufficient)

21%

Yes (Sufficient)

14%

Undecided
(Cannot say)

When it comes to the sufficiency of safeguard measures of the bill, 65% of the respondents thought of it as not being sufficient, while 21% thought of it as already sufficient.

Perceived ability of the Anti Terrorism Council to be responsible and careful in identifying suspected terrorists



60%

No (Cannot be responsible and careful)

25%

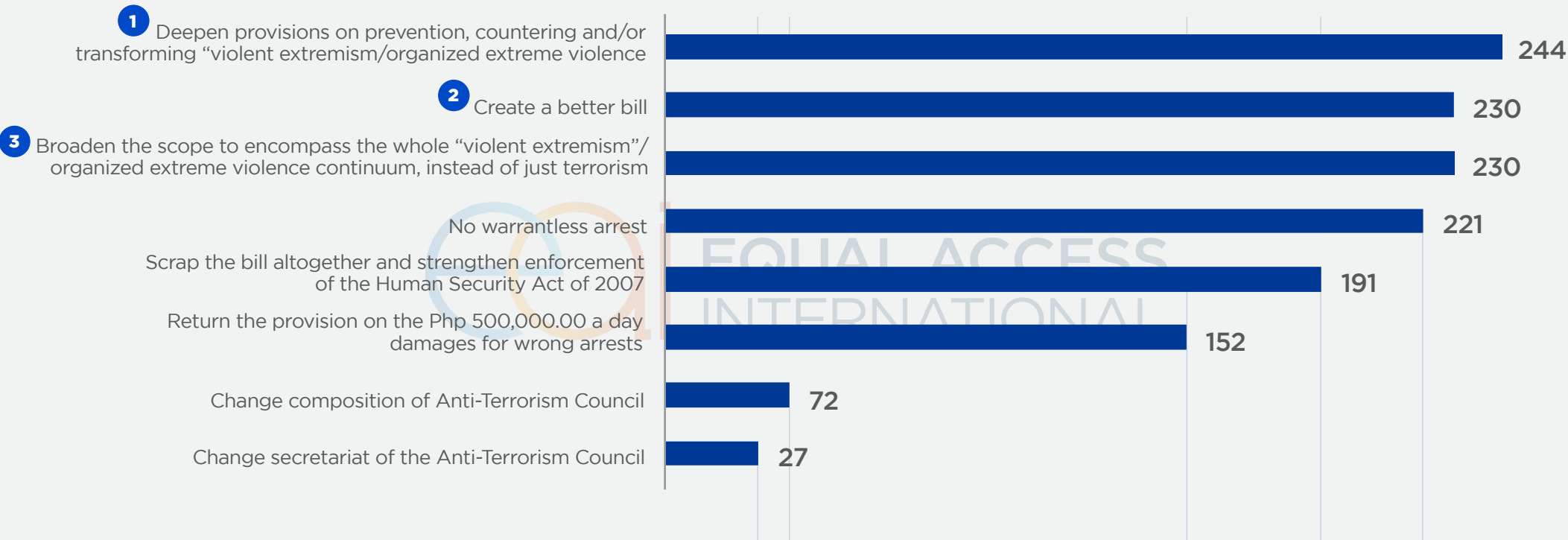
Yes (Can be responsible and careful)

15%

Undecided (Cannot say)

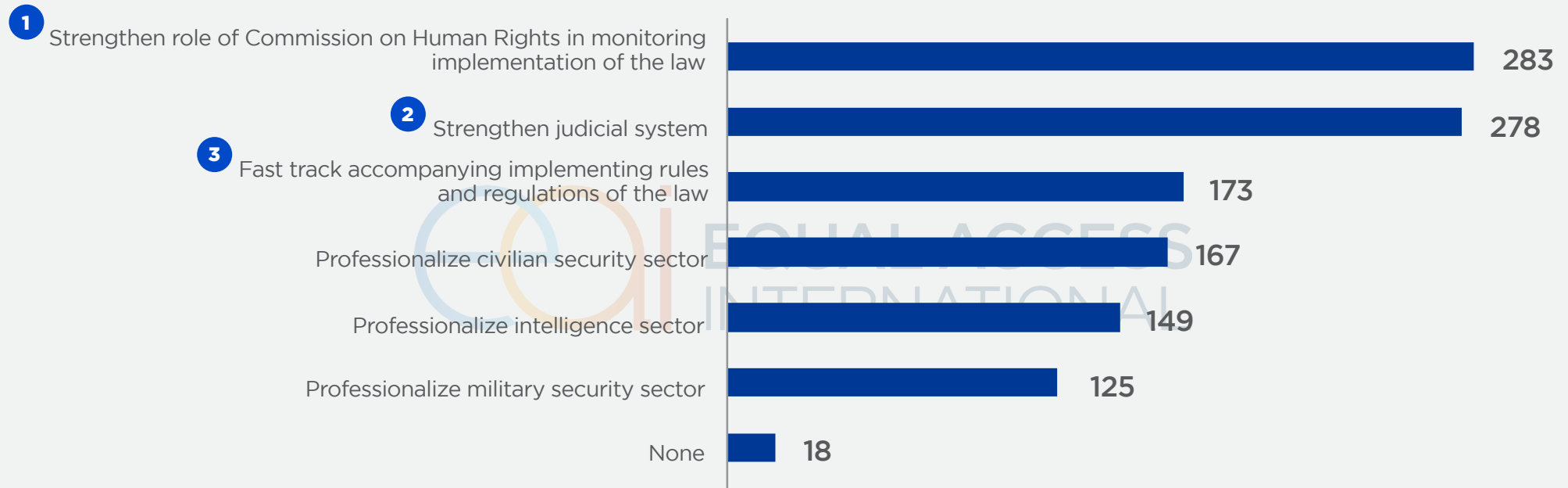
With regard to the perceived ability of the Anti-Terrorism Council on being responsible and careful in identifying suspected terrorists, more than half (60%) of the respondents did not believe their capacity, while a quarter (25%) of the respondents believed the council to be careful and responsible. The rest of the respondents (15%) were undecided.

Top 3 recommendations to enhance the ATB



More respondents recommended that the government should: deepen provisions on preventing, countering and/or transforming "VE"/organized extreme violence; create a better bill, and; broaden the scope to encompass the whole "violent extremism"/organized extreme violence continuum, instead of just terrorism, to enhance the bill.

Top 3 factors external to the ATB that should also be strengthened for it to be effective once passed



More respondents recommended that the government should: Strengthen role of Commission on Human Rights in monitoring implementation of the law; Strengthen judicial system, and; Fast track accompanying implementing rules and regulations of the law, for the bill to be effective once passed.



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