



United Nations Population Fund

GENERAL AWARENESS ON FAMILY VIOLENCE IN LEBANON: PERCEPTIONS AND BEHAVIORS OF THE LEBANESE PUBLIC

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RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Research Objectives as requested by KAFA

1. **Identify the awareness** of the general public regarding family violence.
2. **Evaluate the public perception and behavior** towards family violence.
3. **Assess the public trust** in religious and legal courts, and in the police.
4. **Evaluate the public awareness about organizations** that support victims of family violence.
5. **Assess the public awareness of Law 293*** and victims' rights.



METHODOLOGY AND SAMPLE STRUCTURE

Research Methodology

- The study was carried out using a **quantitative approach**.
- The interviews were conducted by specialized interviewers chosen and trained by Ipsos.



- The study was carried out in the form of **Face-to-Face** interviews.

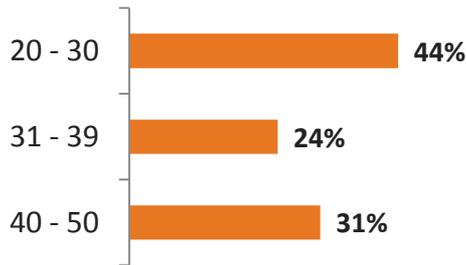
Sample Structure

1000 interviews (representative of the Lebanese population)

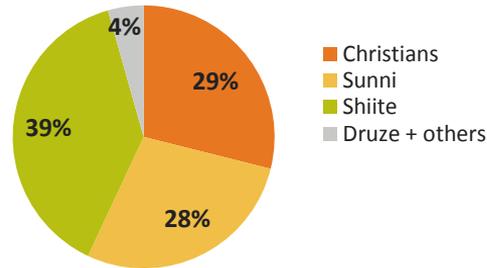
Gender



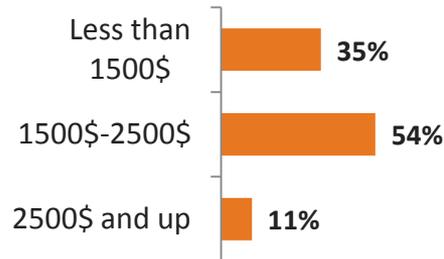
Age



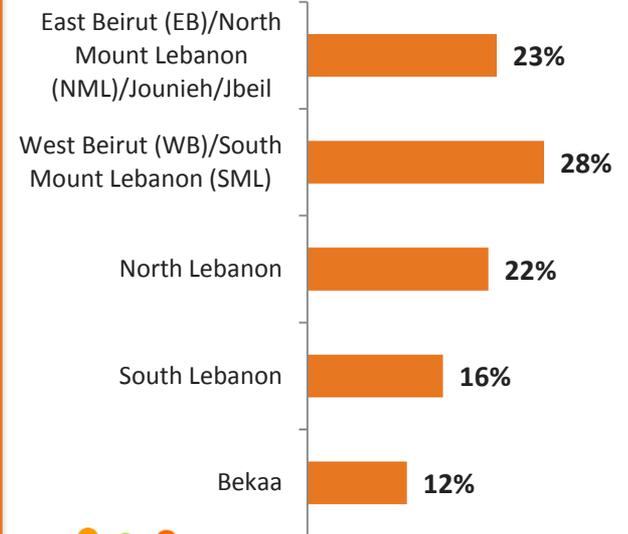
Religion



Household Income



Place of Living



GAME CHANGERS





MANAGERIAL SUMMARY

Managerial Summary

The current prominence of Family Violence (FV) is mainly attributed to the continuous dedication and engagement of active NGOs and awareness and influential campaigns; with KAFA being the most renowned organization in this domain.

KAFA will have to keep and maintain its efforts in raising FV awareness among citizens with a special focus on rural areas (like Bekaa and North where victims rate is high), aiming to diminish FV in Lebanon, and consequently crimes rates.

KAFA can also benefit from the progressing perception towards the Internal Security Forces (ISF) and the progress registered lately when it comes to FV support, and should encourage people to turn to the authorized parties whenever violence takes place at their homes. This is particularly more needed in the South and Bekaa areas.

Last but not least, KAFA can reinforce the public awareness on Law 293/2014 by putting more efforts to reduce the existing loopholes and making the law more effective and appropriate to victims.

Managerial Summary

Family Violence in Lebanon: Exposure, Perception and Behavior (1/2)

Almost all Lebanese people have been exposed to **Family Violence stories** through the media in the past 2 years, mostly via TV news and talk shows, and to some extent via social media (especially the young population).

On the other hand, many Lebanese citizens claim to personally know victims who are subject to family violence; **On average, each person knows 1.7 FV victims**. This number is at its peak in the Bekaa and North regions.

It is important to note that a considerable part of the population, **mainly women**, have heard about institutions or organizations that offer services to women and girls victims of violence; with KAFA receiving above 90% of the votes.

However, public awareness of laws related to FV in Lebanon is generally low (only 1/3 of the population claim to know about them).

Managerial Summary

Family Violence in Lebanon: Exposure, Perception and Behavior (2/2)

Generally speaking, people tend to advise victims of FV to **file a complaint**.

Still, around 1/3 of the population think that **turning to family** is a better option (especially among the Shiites, and residents of the South and Bekaa areas).

Overall, it has been noticed that people's trust in the ISF conduct towards FV has increased lately.

Many people are being more encouraged than before to call the police and turn to an authorised party whenever personally witnessing a FV case.

Those who refrain from turning to the police consider the situation as a private family matter and none of their business.

Managerial Summary

Perception of Religious and Legal Courts:

The level of trust in **religious courts** remains somehow controversial among the Lebanese people; Southerners are the least encouraged to turn to religious courts. They believe that the patriarchal mentality of religious leaders do not help to reach fair results.

As for the **legal courts**, the public's opinions are also divided.

Southerners are significantly more prone to distrust them than others.

The main reasons for this attitude are attributed to the belief that these courts are corrupted, and religious & sectarian laws are unjust.

KEY FINDINGS



Family Violence Media Exposure

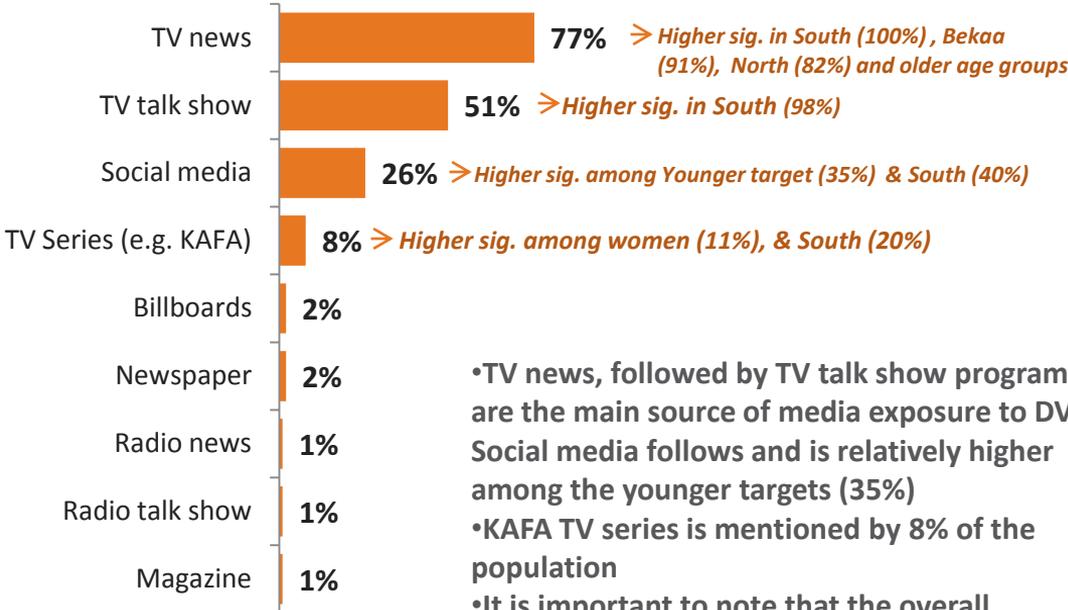
Heard of Family
Violence through the
Media



- Overall, the exposure level to family violence scores high in Lebanon.
- A relatively lower exposure is noticed among Christians (91%), and East Beirut (EB), North Mount Lebanon (ML), and Jounieh & Jbeil (J&J) residents (89%).

Family Violence Media Exposure

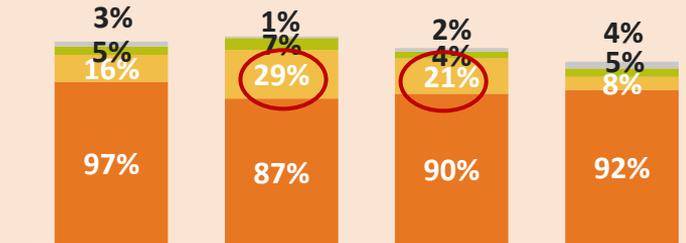
Where?



- TV news, followed by TV talk show programs are the main source of media exposure to DV. Social media follows and is relatively higher among the younger targets (35%)
- KAFA TV series is mentioned by 8% of the population
- It is important to note that the overall exposure of Southern residents to FV is significantly higher than other regions on top 4 media

“Law of protection from FV” was more mentioned by those who have been exposed to FV, via **talk shows** and **social media**

What was it about?



- Domestic violence case/ victim
- Law for protection from DV
- NGO describing their activities against DV
- Cartoon character talking about protection from DV / Zalfa Serial (on LBC)

Family Violence Personal Exposure

Personally know
someone subjected to
family violence

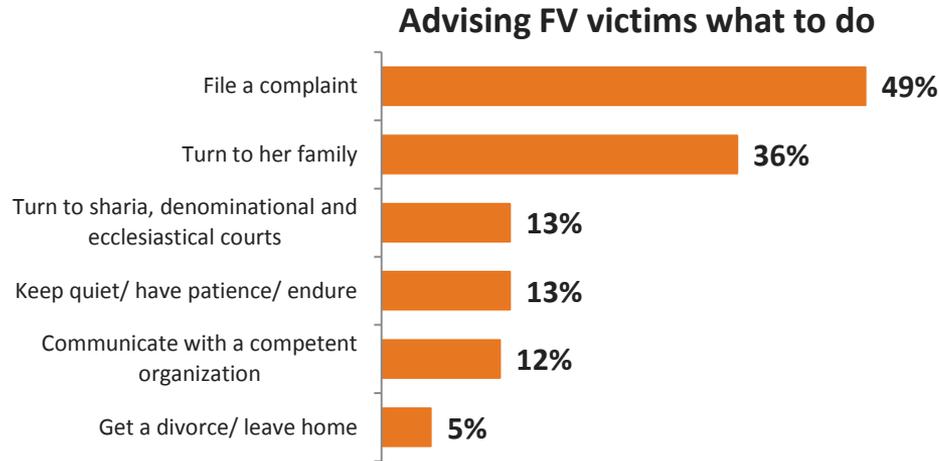


44%

Overall, every Lebanese aged 20 to 50 knows on average 1.7 victim of family violence

- *Around 44% of the population personally know someone subject to DV. Higher significance is noticed among Bekaa (66%) and North (52%) residents*
- *Among those who personally know someone subjected to FV, the average number of victims known per person is 3.9. The average number increases in the North (5.1) and Bekaa (4.6).*
- *Lebanese individuals aged between 26 and 50 know on average 1.8 person subjected to FV.*

Public Perception and Behavior



- Almost half of the population would advise FV victims to file a complaint. This is especially popular among the youngest age group (52%), Christians (60%), and EB/NML/Jounieh/Jbeil and Bekaa residents (~60%).
- However, a significant percentage of people (Males 41%, 63% in the South, 43% in the Bekaa) would advise FV victims to turn to family. This trend is quite higher among Shiite and Druze (~45%) compared to Christians and Sunni.

Public Perception and Behavior

Help/ Interfere when witnessing a FV case



320 individuals claim not to interfere/help a FV victim during the incident

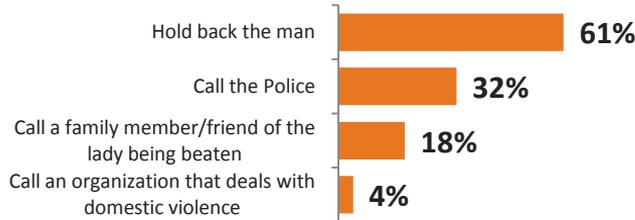


*Lowest among the North residents and Sunnites

68%

How do they help/ Interfere?

N=675



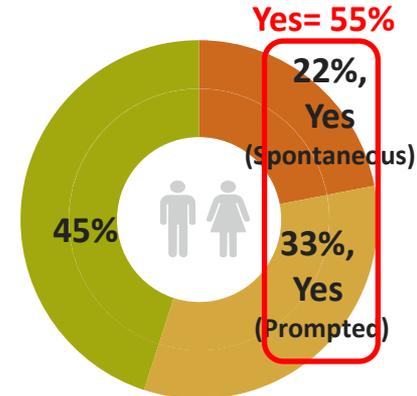
- Males (71%), older age group (30-50) (66%) as well as respondents from South & North (99% and 72% respectively) claim to hold back the man
- East Beirut, North Mount Lebanon and J&J residents, as well as West Beirut and Southern Mount Lebanon and Christians (43%; 47% and 49% respectively) have spontaneously mentioned calling the police more than others

In total, 55% have claimed to report a FV case to the police (after prompting directly the question).

The majority of those who don't report think that it is a private matter and none of their business

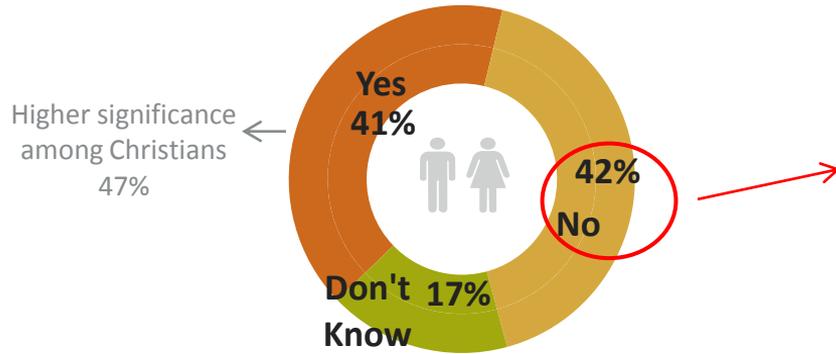
It is important to note that almost half of the respondents (44%) do believe that the conduct of the police towards FV has improved in the past 2 years. Higher significance is noticed among South residents (73%)

Report the Incidence to the Police (n=1000)



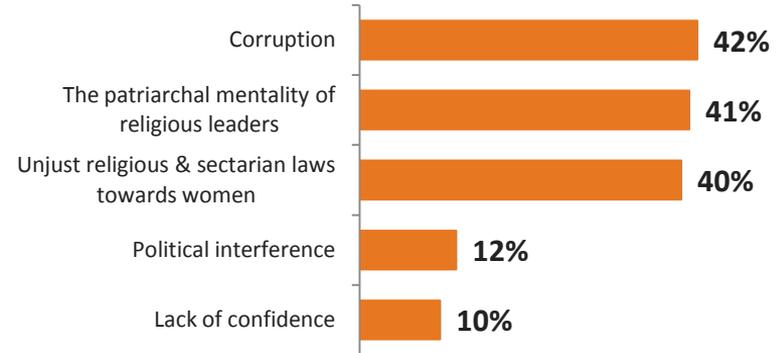
Public Trust in Religious Courts

Fair results if turning to Sharia
and ecclesiastical courts?



Why not?

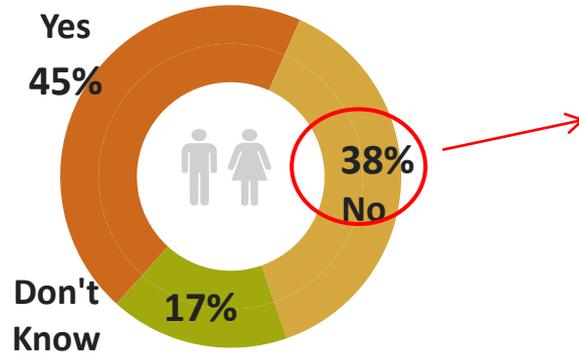
N= 415



- Especially in the South, residents (68%) do not consider that turning to religious courts would lead to fair results, mainly because of the patriarchal mentality of religious leaders (83%) as well as unjust religions & sectarians laws towards women (53%)
- Muslims (51%) more than Christians (18%), especially Shiite (62%), deem that the patriarchal mentality of religious leaders would not lead to fair results

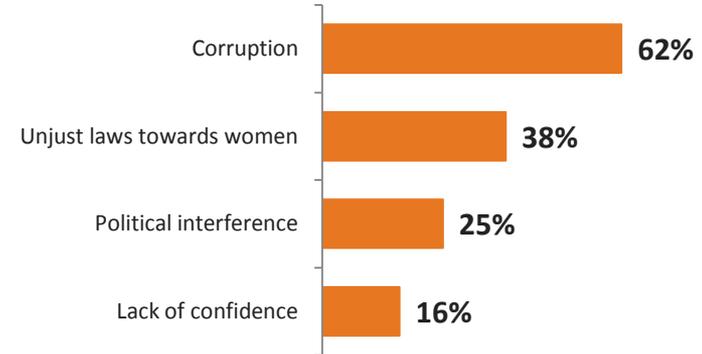
Public Trust in Legal Courts

Fair results if turning to court?



Why not?

N= 382



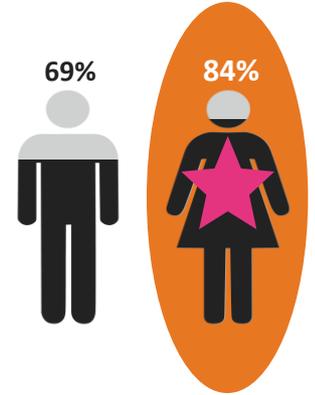
- Especially in the South, residents (65%) do not consider that turning to court would lead to fair results, and most of them (90%) believe this is due to corruption.
- Muslims (70%) more than Christians (45%), especially Shiite (77%), deem that corruption if turning to court would not lead to fair results.

Public Awareness of NGOs

Aware of institutions that offer services to victims of family violence

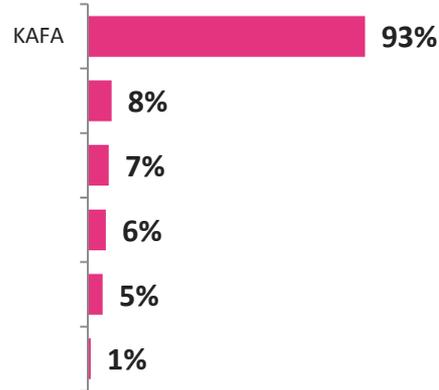


77%



Which one?

N= 771



Public Awareness of Laws

Aware of a law on family violence in Lebanon

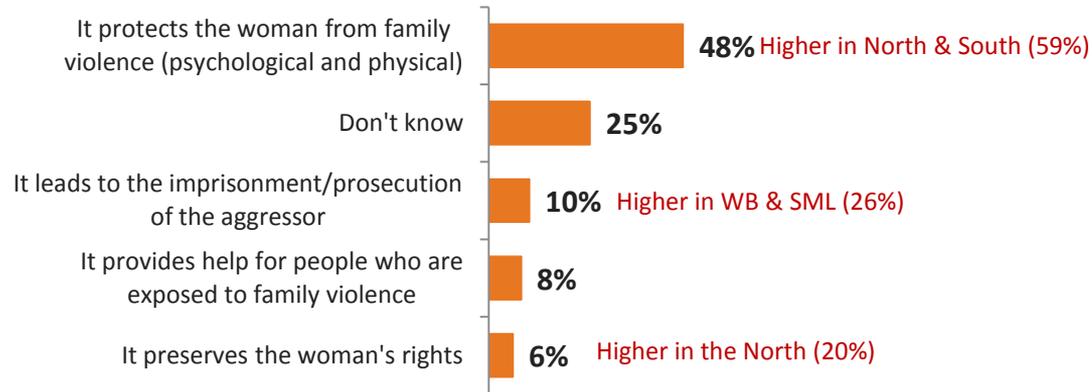


32%

Higher significance is noticed in the South area (52%)

What does it do?

N= 317



- Only 1/3 of the total population claim they know about the law related to family violence in Lebanon. For them the law protects women from FV and would lead to imprisonments of the aggressor.

- 14% of the people who are aware of the existence of a law claim to know what the protection orders for victims are about.

Public Awareness of Zalfa Character, as an example

Seen Zalfa character on
TV



17%

13%



20%



More females than males

- *Zalfa is more known among women and people above 40 years old (20%)*
- *It is also more recalled in East Beirut/ NML/ J&J, West Beirut/ SML and the North areas, with a relatively lower awareness (~7%) in South and Bekaa regions.*

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