

OPINIONS

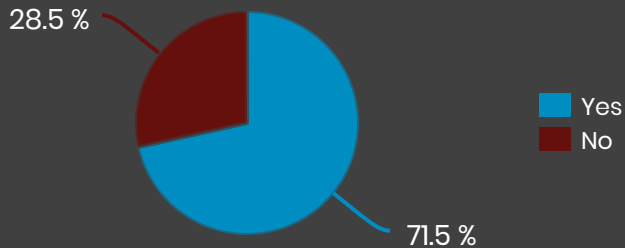
in Washington D.C.

August 2018

- an evaluation and visualization of a street survey that focuses on how people in Washington D.C.'s downtown area feel about important issues -

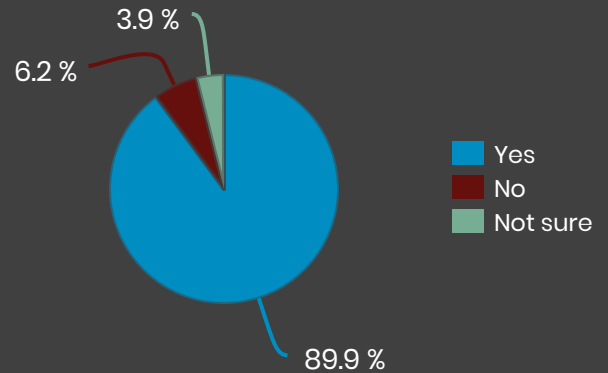
HAVE YOU EVER MET A REFUGEE?

(Survey conducted at Farragut Square)



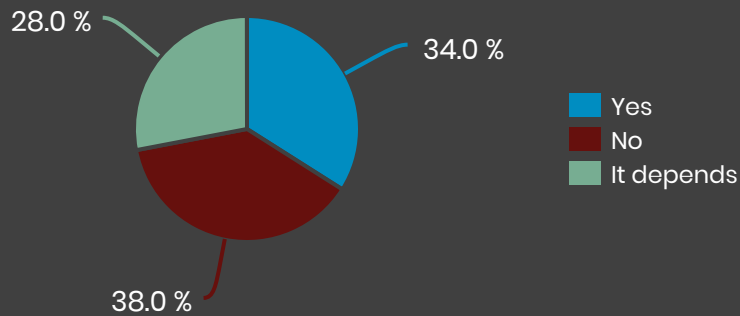
SHOULD THE U.S. ACCEPT MORE REFUGEES?

(Survey conducted at Lafayette Square)



SHOULD FORMER TERRORISTS BE GRANTED AMNESTY?

(Survey conducted at DuPont Circle)



Freemuslim Association strives to raise awareness about oppression, marginalization, and the violation of human rights, which often leads to radicalization. Advocacy for the inclusion of all people supports the prevention of radicalization and extremism. With this in mind Freemuslim conducted a three-question street survey in an attempt to find out more about how people in the nation's capital feel about certain topics and issues that move the world. The survey was conducted over the course of three days, with each question asked on a separate day and in a different location in the D.C. downtown area.

Survey Question - Have You Ever Met A Refugee? (@Farragut Square)

The result of this survey question shows that of the 123 participants that answered the question of whether they have ever met a refugee, 72% answered with yes and 28% answered with no. A large majority of our survey participants have met refugees in one way or another. Some of the participants were refugees themselves and some have helped save refugees. Interaction with refugees does not seem to be as uncommon in this highly diverse area of the U.S and some people were even surprised to be asked a question with such an "obvious" answer - it was surprising that someone may have never met a refugee. This result could be an indicator for great integration possibilities.

Survey Question - Should The U.S. Accept More Refugees? (@Lafayette Square)

The result of this survey question shows that of the 129 participants that answered the question of whether they believe that the U.S. should accept more refugees, 90% answered with yes, 6% answered with no, and 4% stated that they were not sure. The vote for this question was almost unanimous compared to the other survey questions. The positivity and consensus of people who answered this question was overwhelming and showed that helping refugees is a common goal. When comparing the answers to the question "have you ever met a refugee?" to the answers to the question "should the U.S. accept more refugees?" one can see that 72% of the participants of the first survey question have met refugees while 90% (almost 20% more) of the participants of the second survey question believe that the U.S. should accept more refugees. This could be interpreted to mean that a huge majority of the people in D.C. believe in our responsibility toward refugees although not all of them have ever met a refugee. It seems, therefore, that compassion toward a certain group of people does not necessarily require direct contact with that group. People have empathy toward refugees although they may not know any.

Survey Question - Should Former Terrorists Be Granted Amnesty? (@DuPont Circle)

The result of this survey question shows that of the 100 participants that answered the question of whether former terrorists should be granted amnesty, 34% answered with yes, 38% answered with no, and 28% stated that the answer depends on certain factors. This question was by far the most divisive and controversial one. It was much harder to encourage people to answer this question and many replied that the question was too difficult to answer or that they needed to think about the question for a while before giving an answer, and therefore, many people chose not to participate. The general sentiment among people, who answered that former terrorists should indeed be granted amnesty, was that everyone deserves a second chance and redemption. Among people who answered with no, most agreed that some things cannot and should not be forgiven, one of which is terrorism. Among the individuals who stated that the answer depends on certain factors, several questions were raised, such as: "To which degree was the terrorist involved in the terrorist group's activities? What kinds of crimes were committed? What were the terrorist's reasons for joining the group? Were they religious or ideological, or was it because of a lack of opportunity?" While this question was the most complicated and difficult one to answer, and people were very hesitant to answer it, it also sparked a tremendous amount of conversation and thoughts among people.

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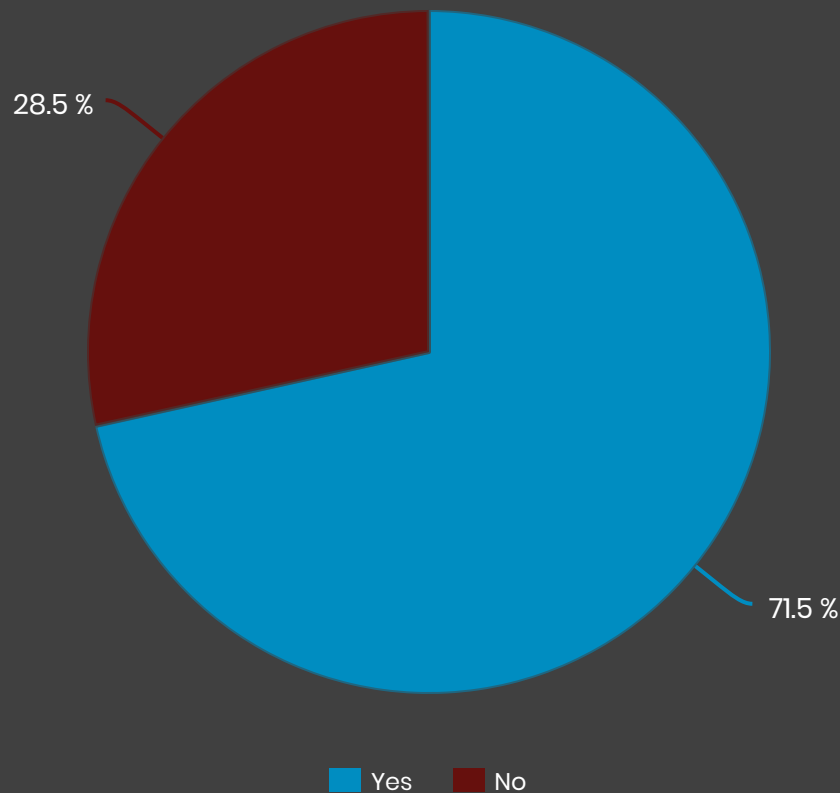
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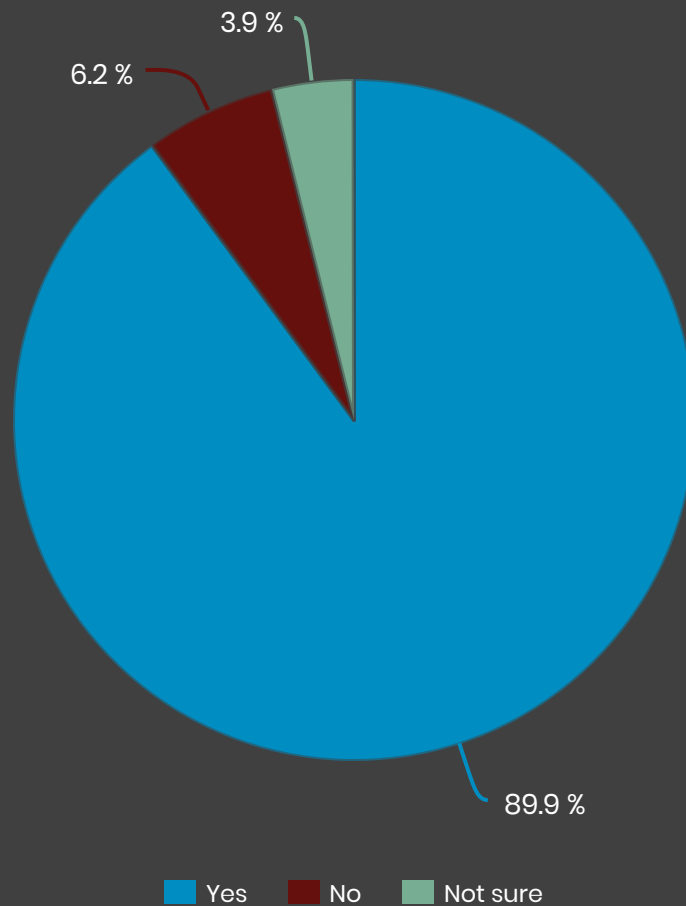
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Surveys were conducted by Ms. Mahawa Koroma & Ms. Marika Williams as part of their internship with Freemuslim Association Inc.

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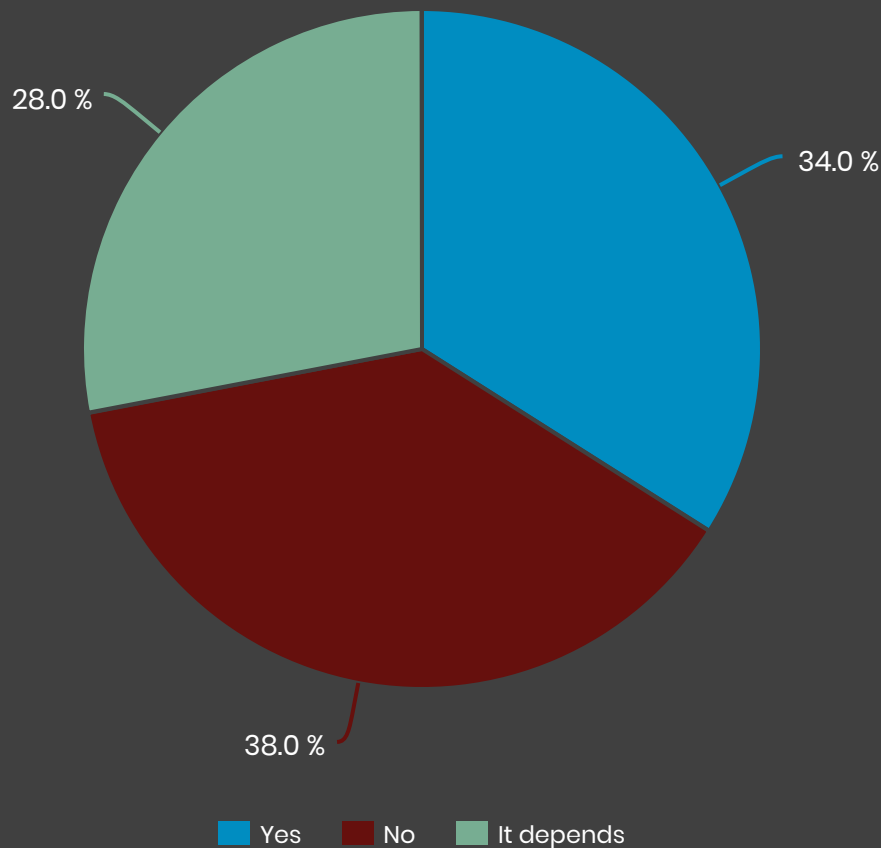
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