Survey of Attitudes on Jewish-Arab Coexistence and a Shared Society in the Context of the Current Crisis
Fieldwork: 2/1/2024 — 27/12/2023

The survey has a sample size of 612 respondents, constituting a representative sample of the adult Jewish population of Israel Maximum Margin of Error +4.0%

and 401 respondents who constitute a representative sample of the adult Arab population of Israel Maximum Margin of Error +4.9%

The survey was a combination of online responses through the iPanel survey panel and telephone interviews by the Midgam call center
Do you accept or reject the definition of Israel as “a Jewish and democratic state that provides full equality to all its Jewish and Arab citizens”?

A majority of Jews (61%) accept the definition of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state that provides full equality to all its citizens, primarily on the center-left (74%). Arab society is divided between those who accept and reject the definition (40%) the percentage of “don't knows” is also noteworthy.
Among Jews - Do you trust or mistrust most Arab citizens of Israel?
Among Arabs - Do you trust or mistrust most Jewish Israelis?

The degree of trust among Arab Israelis in Jews is significantly higher than the degree of trust among Jews in Arabs. Of particular note is the disparity in absolute trust ("trust completely") among Arabs toward Jews compared to the reverse. Here too, the percentage of "don't knows" is significantly higher than among the Jewish respondents.
(Jewish respondents only) Which of the following best reflects your views?

- 16% No opinion
- 42% The state should invest however much is necessary in the Arab community in Israel to reduce gaps between Jews and Arab citizens of Israel
- 19% The government should **not** invest in Arab citizens of Israel at all
- 23% The state should invest in Arab citizens of Israel **less** than in Jews

On this subject, the Jewish public is divided equally between those who believe it is important to invest as much as necessary in the Arab community to reduce gaps (42%) and those who believe there should be less or no investment in reducing gaps between Jews and Arab citizens of Israel (42%)
(Jewish respondents only) In your opinion, most Arab citizens of Israel...?

- 56% See themselves as part of the Palestinian people, but prefer to integrate as equal citizens in Israel
- 23% See themselves as part of the Palestinian people and are uninterested in integrating in the State of Israel
- 14% See themselves as part of the State of Israel and wish to integrate as equal citizens
- 7% Don't Know

The majority of the Jewish population believes that most Arab citizens of Israel see themselves as part of the Palestinian people, but prefer to integrate as equal citizens in Israel (no difference between right and center-left). Furthermore, a not-insignificant 25% of the respondents believe that Arab Israelis see themselves as part of the Palestinian people and are not interested in integrating in Israel.
Have the events of October 7 impacted or not impacted your sense of personal safety?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change for the Better</th>
<th>No Change</th>
<th>Change for the Worse</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jews</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab Society</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

88% of women

72% of those aged 65+

Both the Jewish and Arab communities feel a sense of deterioration in their personal safety. This feeling is much stronger among Jews than among Arab Israelis. The percentage of those with no opinion among Arab Israelis was also significantly higher than among Jews (with almost no respondents with no opinion).
In the wake of the events of October 7, are you optimistic or pessimistic about the prospects for coexistence between Jews and Arab citizens of Israel?

**Jewish Society**
- Highly Pessimistic: 35.2%
- Somewhat Pessimistic: 37.5%
- Somewhat Optimistic: 18.9%
- Highly Optimistic: 7.1%
- Don't Know: 6.6%

**Total pessimistic 80% of those on the right 58% of those on the center-left**

**Total pessimistic 94% of ultra-Orthodox Jews**

**Arab Society**
- Somewhat Optimistic: 34.1%
- Highly Pessimistic: 16.3%
- Somewhat Pessimistic: 37.5%
- Highly Optimistic: 20.1%
- Don't Know: 7.1%

**Total optimistic of Druze 50%**

Of particular note is the high degree of pessimism regarding coexistence with Arab Israelis among the Jewish population. There is slightly more optimism regarding coexistence among Arab Israelis. Among Arab Israelis, there is a higher percentage of those with no opinion.
Jews - Have the events of October 7 impacted or not impacted your attitude toward Arab citizens of Israel?
Arabs - Have the events of October 7 impacted or not impacted your attitude toward Jews?

More than half of the Jewish respondents stated that their attitudes towards Arab citizens of Israel have changed for the worse (primarily on the right). In the Arab community, half stated no change in their attitude towards Jews.

64% of those on the right
41% of those on the center-left

62% of women
76% of those aged 18-24
78% of ultra-Orthodox Jews

69% of Druze
Jews - Did the events of October 7 impact or not impact the frequency of your visits to shopping centers or recreational activities in Arab towns in Israel?
Arabs - Did the events of October 7 impact or not impact the frequency of your visits to shopping centers or recreational activities in Jewish towns

Among both Jews and Arabs, more than 30% have decreased the frequency of their visits. For about half of the Jewish public, this question was not relevant.
Jews - Since the events of October 7, do you feel a difference or not feel a difference regarding manifestations of hostility from Arabs?
Arabs - Since the events of October 7, do you feel a difference or not feel a difference regarding manifestations of hostility from Jews?

Some 40% of Jews stated that manifestations of hostility have increased (particularly on the right), among Arabs approximately a third of respondents stated the same, with a high percentage expressing no opinion on the subject.
Jews - in your opinion, over time, will manifestations of violence by Arab citizens of Israel towards Jews...?

Arabs - in your opinion, over time, will manifestations of violence by Jews towards Arab citizens of Israel...?

(among respondents who stated manifestations of violence had increased)

- Strengthen: 12% (Jewish Society) vs. 24% (Arab Society)
- Weaken: 6% (Jewish Society) vs. 6% (Arab Society)
- Don't Know: 81% (Jewish Society) vs. 70% (Arab Society)

Those who feel there has been a change for the worse in manifestations of hostility among both groups also expect the situation to deteriorate over time. The percentage of those with no opinion among Arab Israelis was twice as high as it was among Jews.
To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following sentences?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Messages Being Shared in Hebrew on Social Media</th>
<th>The Messages Being Shared in Arabic on Social Media</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hate primarily against Arab citizens of Israel</td>
<td>Hate primarily against Jews in Israel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In each of these groups, the majority believes that the messages of their own side do not spread hate. The criticism of one side towards the other, Arab Israelis ascribe less spreading of hatred in the messages coming from Jews.
So far, there have not been clashes between Arab citizens of Israel and Jews on Israeli soil during the course of the war. In your opinion, which of the following best explains the reason why?

Among Jewish respondents, half (mostly on the right) believe that concerns over the police response explain the lack of clashes, among Arab respondents, 40% (mostly on the center-left) believe it is a result of a desire to live in peace.
For each of the following points of interaction between Jews and Arabs, state whether in your opinion these points of interaction improve or weaken the relationship between Jews and Arabs.

- **In the Workplace**
  - Jewish Society: 11% Strongly Improve, 12% Somewhat Improve, 15% Somewhat Weaken, 47% Strongly Weaken, 15% Don't Know
  - Arab Society: 17% Strongly Improve, 38% Somewhat Improve, 22% Somewhat Weaken, 33% Strongly Weaken, 11% Don't Know

- **Further Education Institutions**
  - Jewish Society: 12% Strongly Improve, 24% Somewhat Improve, 37% Somewhat Weaken, 11% Strongly Weaken, 4% Don't Know
  - Arab Society: 21% Strongly Improve, 4% Somewhat Improve, 27% Somewhat Weaken, 19% Strongly Weaken, 14% Don't Know

- **Politics**
  - Jewish Society: 9% Strongly Improve, 49% Somewhat Improve, 12% Somewhat Weaken, 11% Strongly Weaken, 14% Don't Know
  - Arab Society: 21% Strongly Improve, 34% Somewhat Improve, 12% Somewhat Weaken, 19% Strongly Weaken, 36% Don't Know

- **Social Gatherings**
  - Jewish Society: 18% Strongly Improve, 16% Somewhat Improve, 11% Somewhat Weaken, 36% Strongly Weaken, 11% Don't Know
  - Arab Society: 22% Strongly Improve, 19% Somewhat Improve, 7% Somewhat Weaken, 32% Strongly Weaken, 5% Don't Know

In general, Arabs believe that every one of the points of interaction improves the relationship, compared to Jews. The most significant among these is the workplace. Politics has the most detrimental impact on the relationship.
Would you be willing or unwilling for you or a member of your close family to have a friendly relationship with Arab citizens of Israel / Jews in each of the following areas?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Willing Now</th>
<th>Maybe Willing in Future</th>
<th>Unwilling</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friendships</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Society</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab Society</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Shared Workplace</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Society</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab Society</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studying Together in University</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Society</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab Society</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared Children's Activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Society</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab Society</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In general, in Arab society, there are significantly higher rates willing to have a friendly relationship with Jews in all of the areas, compared to the reverse. This is especially notable in the workplace and university.
Jews: In the wake of the events of October 7, are you concerned or unconcerned about working with Arab citizens of Israel?

Arabs: In the wake of the events of October 7, are you concerned or unconcerned about working with Jews?

More than 60% of Jews are not concerned about working with Arab citizens of Israel. Among Arabs, 80% are not concerned about working with Jews.
40% of Jews strongly oppose the inclusion of an Arab party in the governing coalition, and in total over 60% are opposed. Among Arabs, over half support it and only 15% are opposed, a third don't know, a significantly higher rate than among Jews.
Points for improvement

- **Trust levels** — the level of trust in Arab Israelis among most Jews is significantly lower than the level of trust in Jews among Arab Israelis

- **Feeling of personal safety** — there is a sense of a decline in personal safety. This feeling was much stronger among Jews than among Arab Israelis

- **Coexistence in the wake of the events of October 7** — High degree of pessimism regarding coexistence with Arab Israelis among the Jewish community. Slightly higher optimism and significantly less pessimism among Arab Israelis, high percentage of those with no opinion

- **Change of attitudes in the wake of the events of October 7** — Among the Jewish public there is a notable change for the worse towards Arab Israelis (majority of 56%). Among the Arab public, the notable finding is

- **Frequency of visits and recreation** — Among both Jews and Arabs, more than 30% have decreased the frequency of their visits to towns, shopping centers, and recreational activities of the other. For about half of the Jewish public and a quarter of the Arab Israeli public, this question is not relevant

- **Manifestations of hostility** — There is an increase in manifestations of hostility. A huge majority of those who feel there has been a change for the worse in manifestations of hostility among both groups expect the situation to deteriorate over time
### Summary

**Positives**

- **Preventing clashes** — Jews believe they have been prevented as a result of concerns over the police response, in the Arab community the primary belief is that the reason is a desire to live in peace.
- **Interactions** — both Jews and Arab Israelis believe that points of interaction improve relations, primarily in the workplace. Politics weakens them.

**Findings/Recommendations**

On the one hand, the events of October 7 negatively impacted relations between Jews and Arabs. On the other hand, the reality is one in which almost all points of interaction that we looked at between Jews and Arabs are positive and improve relations (especially in the workplace and academia). Politics weakens relations.

At the present time, there is a need to encourage and build on those shared interactions that were found to have the greatest positive impact on relations between Jews and Arabs (employment and further education institutions) and other actions that create interactions.

At the same time, to reinforce and expand the desire of Arab Israelis to live in the State of Israel in peace (their stated reason for why there were no clashes).
Thank you

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