

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
5 May 2023

News release

Tanzanians oppose the use of physical force against women, see gender-based violence as a criminal matter

An overwhelming majority of Tanzanians say it is never justified for a man to use physical force to discipline his wife, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

While most Tanzanians say violence against women and girls is not a common occurrence in their community, they see gender-based violence (GBV) as the most important women's-rights issue that the government and society must address. A majority consider GBV a criminal matter requiring the involvement of law enforcement rather than a private matter to be handled within the family.

While a large majority of citizens say the police are likely to take GBV cases seriously, many also consider it likely that a woman who reports such violence to the police will be criticised, harassed, or shamed by others in the community.

Key findings

- Tanzanians see gender-based violence (GBV) as the most important women's-rights issue that the government and society must address (Figure 1).
- Eight out of 10 citizens (80%) say violence against women and girls is "not very common" or "not at all common" in their community (Figure 2).
- Most Tanzanians (83%) say it is "never" justified for a man to use physical force to discipline his wife (Figure 3).
- Four in 10 respondents consider it "somewhat likely" (23%) or "very likely" (17%) that a woman will be criticised or harassed if she reports gender-based violence to the authorities. Nearly half of citizens (48%) say this is "very unlikely" (Figure 4).
- More than nine in 10 Tanzanians (92%) believe that the police are likely to take cases of GBV seriously (Figure 5).
- About two-thirds (64%) of Tanzanians say domestic violence should be treated as a criminal matter rather than as a private matter to be resolved within the family (Figure 6).

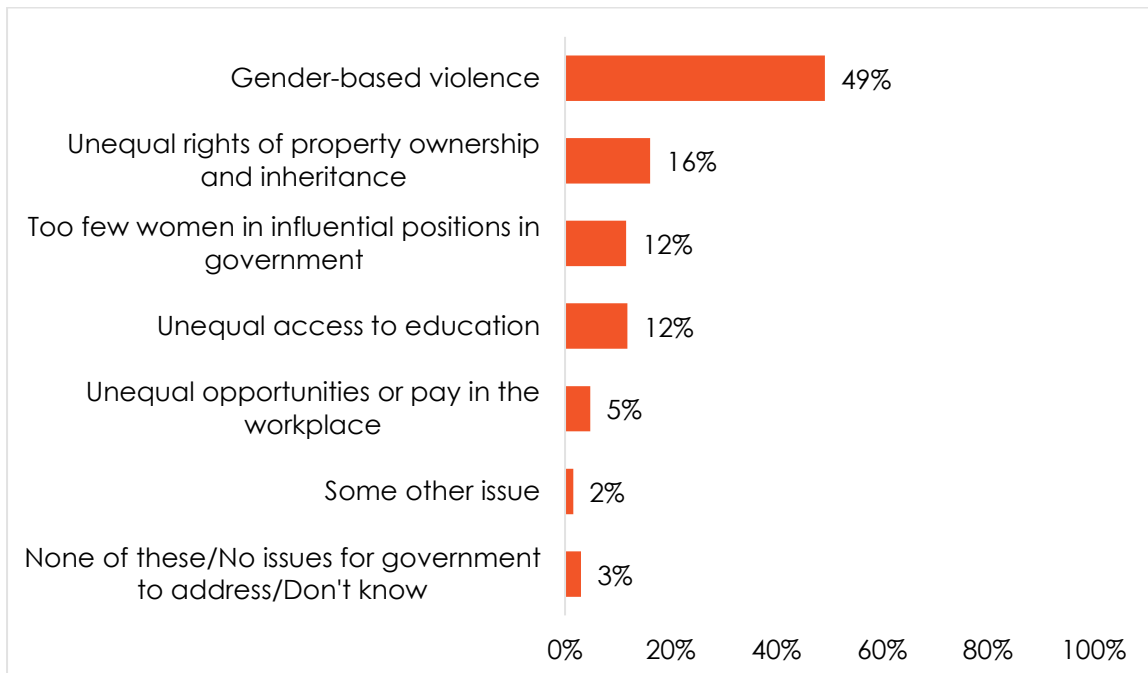
Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight rounds of surveys have been conducted in up to 39 countries since 1999. Round 9 surveys are being completed in early 2023. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Tanzania, led by REPOA, interviewed a nationally representative, random, stratified probability sample of 2,400 Tanzanian adults in September-October 2022. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Tanzania in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017, and 2021.

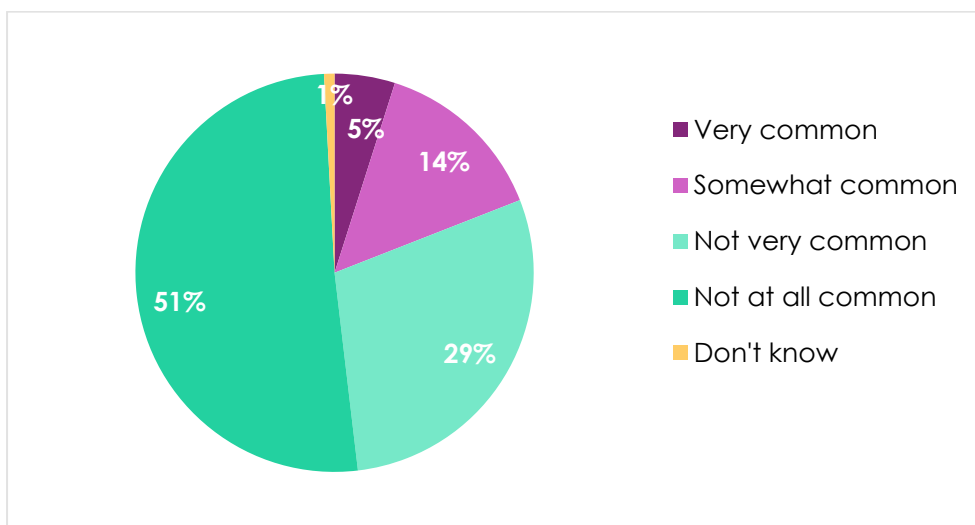
Charts

Figure 1: Most important women’s-rights issue | Tanzania | 2022



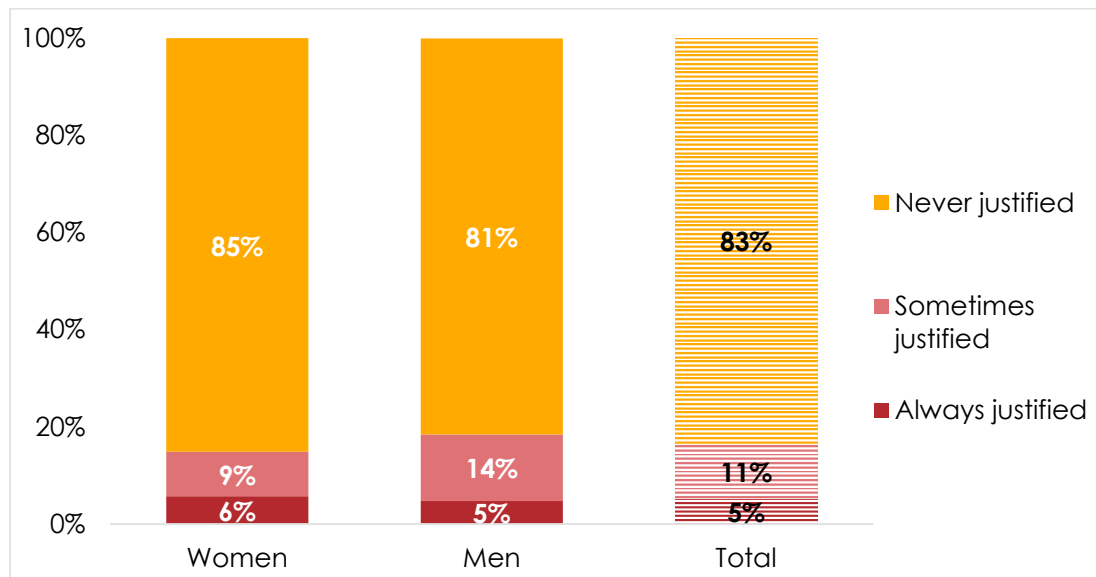
Respondents were asked: In your opinion, which of the following issues related to women's rights and equality do you think is the most important for our government and society to address?

Figure 2: Frequency of GBV | Tanzania | 2022



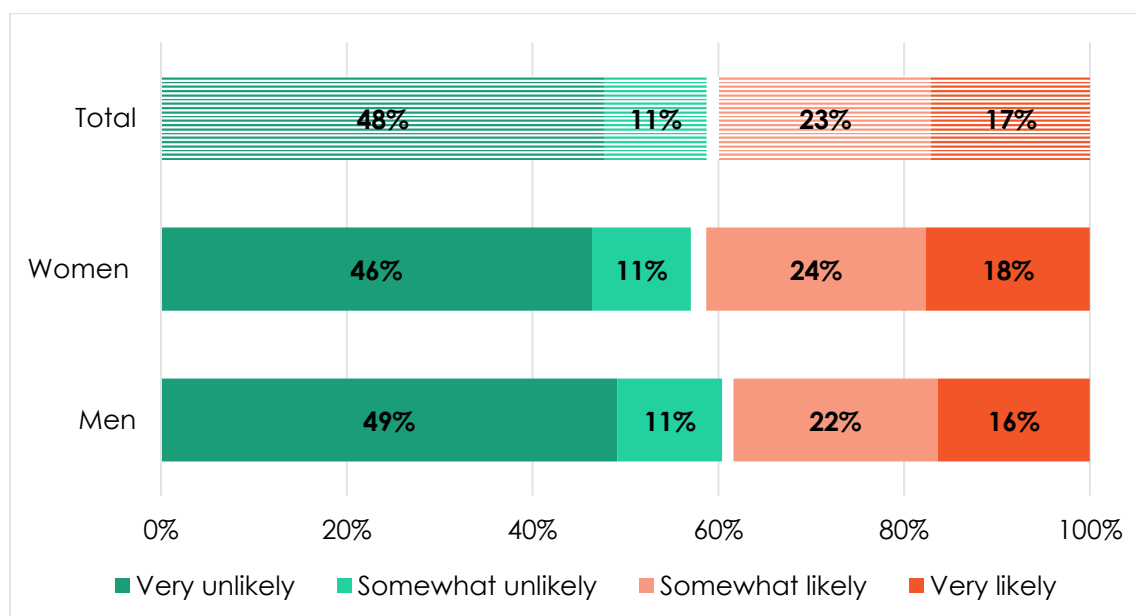
Respondents were asked: In this area, how common do you think it is for men to use violence against women and girls in the home or the community?

Figure 3: Is it justified for men to physically discipline their wives? | by gender
 | Tanzania | 2022



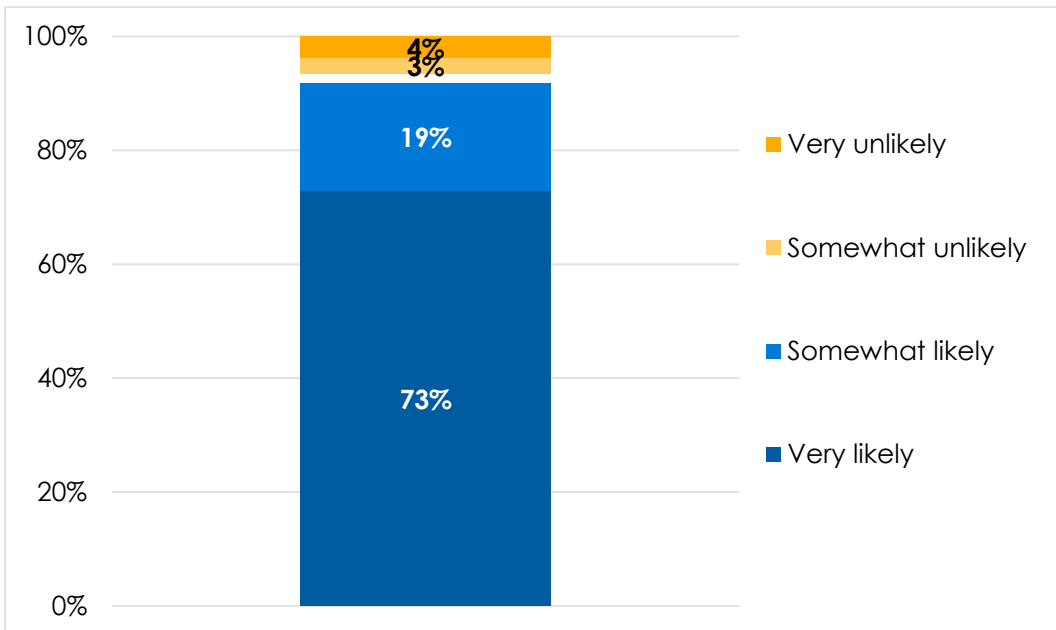
Respondents were asked: For each of the following actions, please tell me whether you think it can always be justified, sometimes be justified, or never be justified: For a man to use physical discipline on his wife if she has done something he doesn't like or thinks is wrong?

Figure 4: Will a woman be criticised, harassed, or shamed for reporting GBV?
 | by gender | Tanzania | 2022



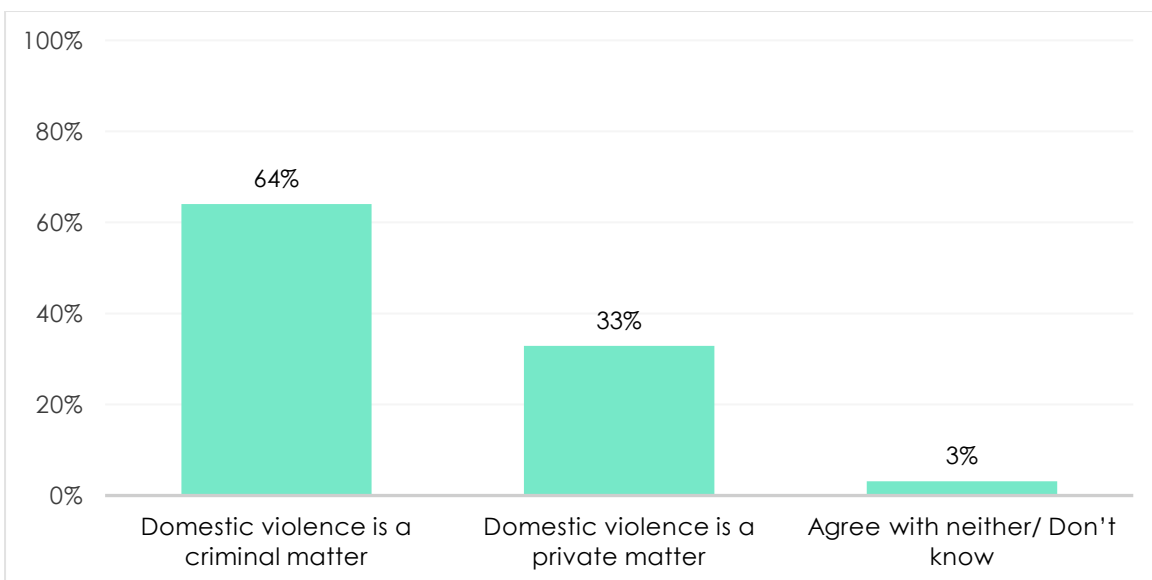
Respondents were asked: If a woman in your community goes to the police to report being a victim of gender-based violence, for example, to report a rape or report being physically abused by her husband, how likely or unlikely is it that the following things might occur: She will be criticised, harassed, or shamed by others in the community?

Figure 5: Do the police take GBV cases seriously? | Tanzania | 2022



Respondents were asked: *If a woman in your community goes to the police to report being a victim of gender-based violence, for example, to report a rape or report being physically abused by her husband, how likely or unlikely is it that the following things might occur: Her case will be taken seriously by the police?*

Figure 6: Is domestic violence a criminal or private matter? | Tanzania | 2022



Respondents were asked: *Which of the following statements is closest to your view?*
 Statement 1: *Domestic violence is a private matter that needs to be handled and resolved within the family.*
 Statement 2: *Domestic violence is a criminal matter whose full resolution requires the involvement of law enforcement agencies.*
 (% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement)

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