

'UK attitudes toward the Arab world' – an Arab News/YouGov poll

As part of an ongoing deal between Arab News and YouGov, where YouGov provides research support to Arab News through opinion polling, Arab News found it of great interest to gauge views of residents from the UK to provide their views and level of understanding of issues related to the Arab world.

The survey was conducted using an online interview administered among members of the YouGov Plc GB panel of close to 1.02 million individuals who have agreed to take part in surveys. An email was sent to panelists selected at random from the base sample, inviting them to take part in the survey and providing a link to the survey. All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all adults aged 18+ in Great Britain.

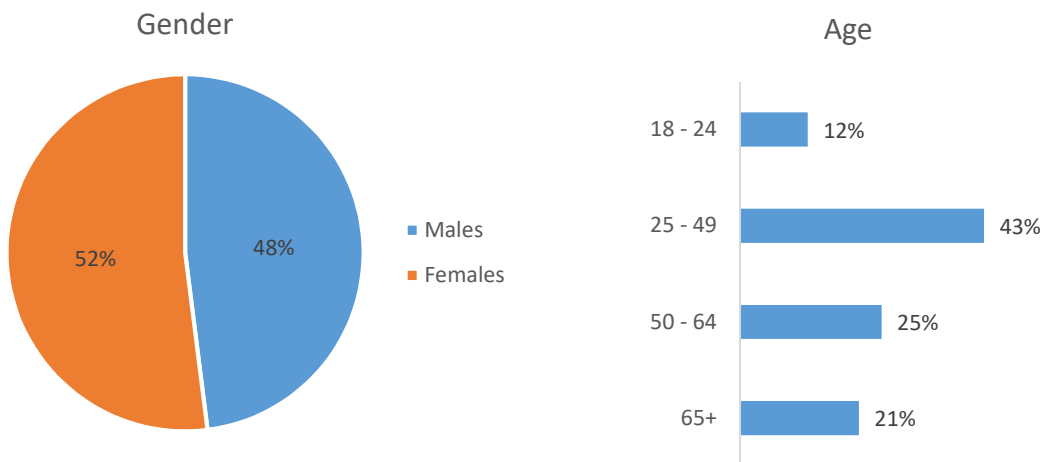
The total sample size was 2,142 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 16th – 17th August 2017.

YouGov is one of the world's leading market research companies with offices throughout Europe, the US, the Middle East, North Africa and Asia. With our global online panel, suite of syndicated products, and full spectrum of custom research solutions, we offer businesses a more accurate, more actionable portrait of what the world thinks.

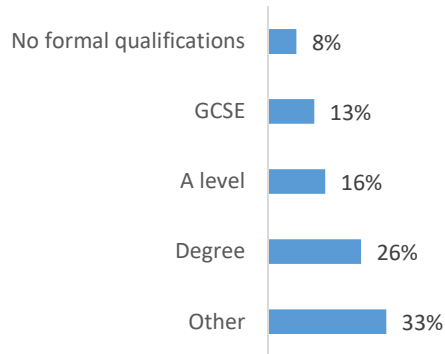
In the Middle East & North Africa YouGov has the largest pure research online panel where thousands of residents participate in surveys across 19 countries, offering unparalleled insight across the Arab world.

Below is a detailed breakdown of the sample by demographics.

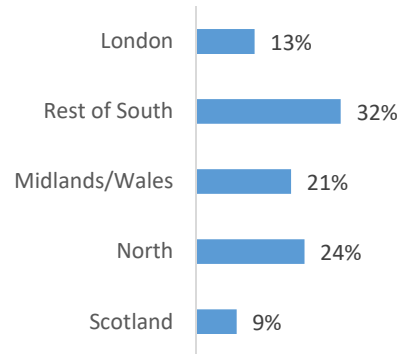
Sample Demographics:



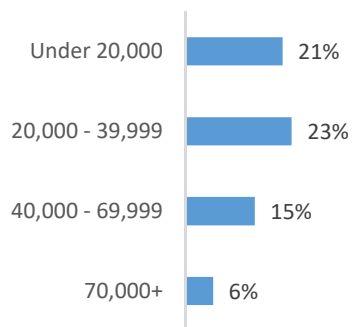
Educational Level



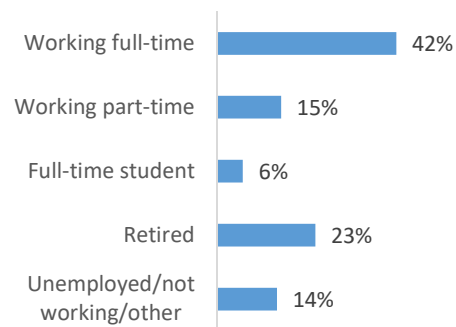
Region



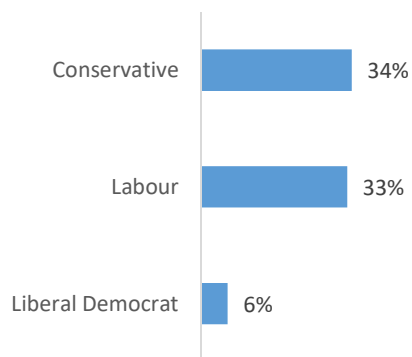
Household income



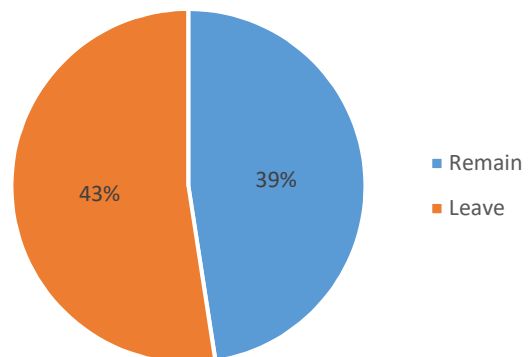
Work status



Vote in 2017 elections



Vote in EU Referendum 2016

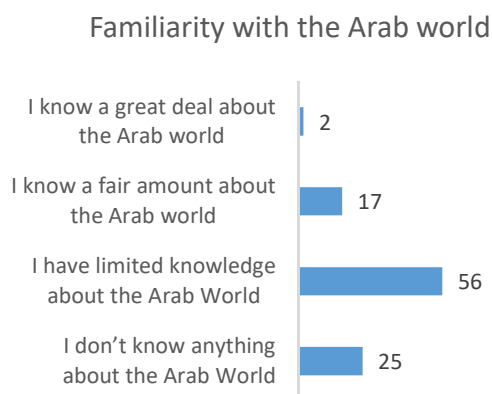


Main Findings:

Familiarity with the Arab world

1. When it comes to familiarity with the Arab world, 56% report having limited knowledge.

- The trend appears to improve steadily with the level of education; it ranges from 5% among those with no formal qualification to 28% of UK residents with a degree who report knowing at least a fair amount about the Arab world. A similar trend is observed for household income as well.



By education	No formal education	GCSE	A level	Degree
I know a great deal about the Arab world	0	1	2	4
I know a fair amount about the Arab world	5	14	15	24
I have limited knowledge about the Arab World	44	57	58	59
I don't know anything about the Arab World	50	28	24	14

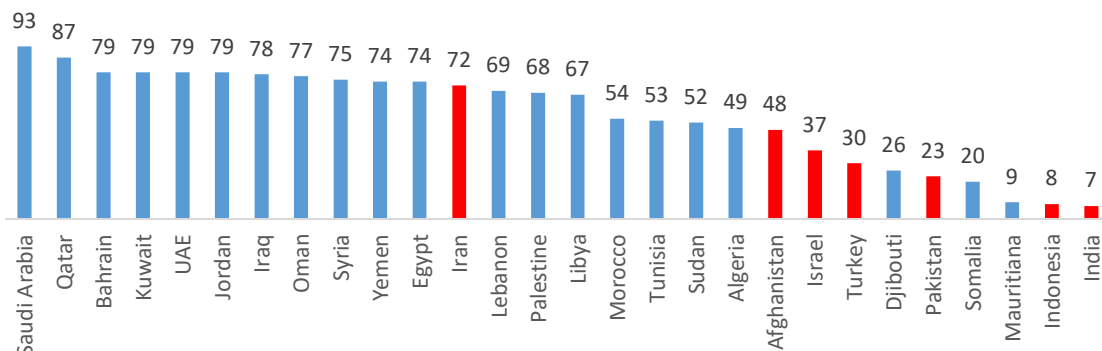
2. A little over one-thirds are interested in knowing more about the Arab world.

- UK citizens with political inclination towards the Conservative Party are less likely to be interested in learning more than those who voted for the Labour Party in 2017 elections.
- Those who voted to leave in the 2016 EU referendum also express less willingness to learn than others.

How interested, if at all, would you be in knowing more about the Arab world?	Total	Vote in 2017			2016 EU Referendum Vote	
		Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Remain	Leave
Not interested	35	36	27	22	22	42
Neutral	31	35	29	30	30	33
Interested	34	29	44	47	48	25

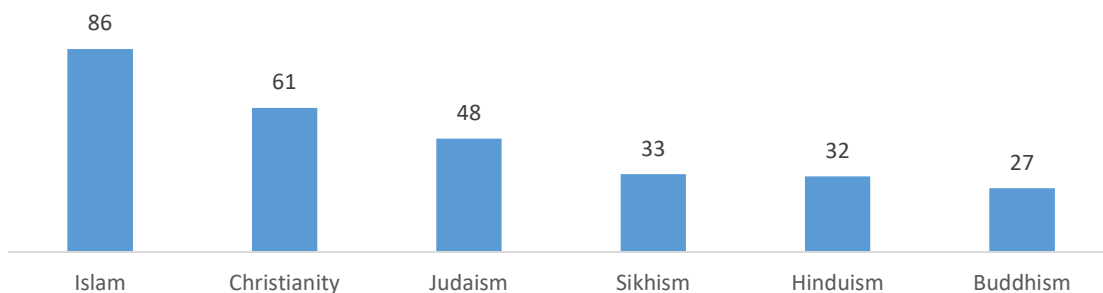
3. The six GCC countries, followed by Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Syria, and Egypt are among the countries recognized by most as part of the Arab world. Notably, 72% identify Iran and 48% associate Afghanistan with the Arab countries. The countries incorrectly associated with the Arab world are highlighted in red in the figure below.

Countries perceived as a part of the Arab world



4. Islam and Christianity are among the top two religions known to be found in the Arab world.

Religions perceived as a part of the Arab world

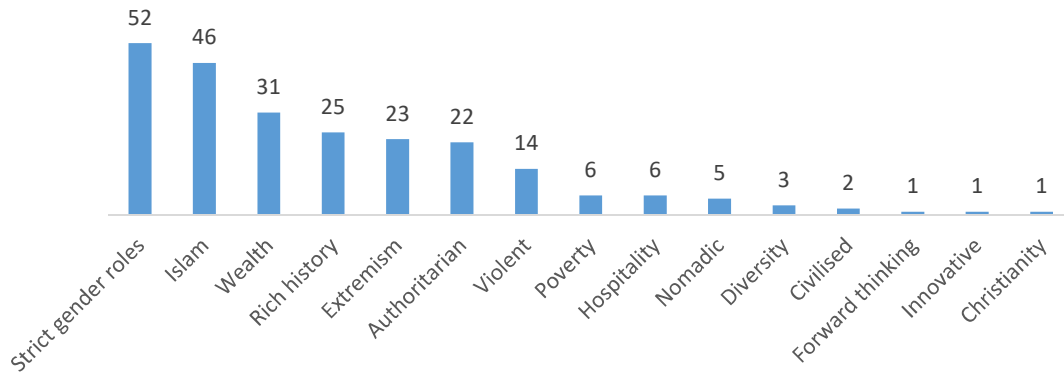


Perceptions towards the Arab world

1. A little more than half associate Arab culture with strict gender roles and Islam. Less than one-third associates Arab societies with rich history. Notably, 23% associate the Arab world with extremism and 14% with violence. The level of association with innovation and forward-thinking is negligible. The region continues to be associated with wealth (31%); only a minor 6% relate the Arab world with poverty. This is despite large-scale migration and the economic impact of wars.

- Females are more likely than males to associate Arab culture with strict gender roles (57% vs. 48%).
- A higher proportion of those who voted to leave in the 2016 EU referendum associate the Arab world with extremism and violence compared to others.
- The perception related to Arab world’s association with strict gender roles and extremism appears to grow stronger with age.

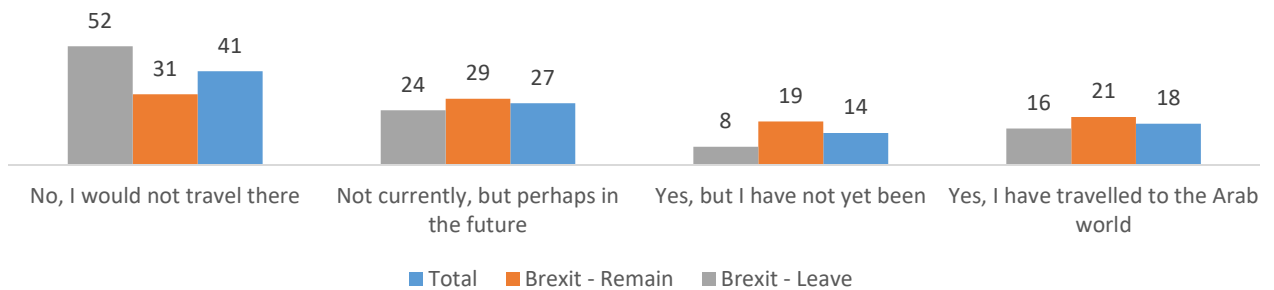
Perceptions associated with Arab culture and Arab societies



2. Less than one-fifth of UK residents have traveled to Arab countries. In contrast, 41% would not travel there.

- Those who voted to remain in Brexit are more likely to consider visiting the Arab world in future. The inclination to visit Arab countries decreases with age.

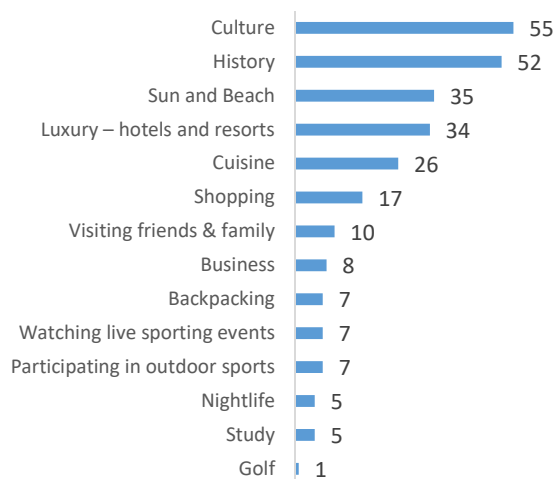
Inclination to travel to the Arab world



3. Key motivators to travel include culture (55%) and history (52%). Other triggers to travel include sun and beach (35%), luxury hotels and resorts (34%) and cuisine (26%).

- British voters that chose to remain part of the EU are more likely to consider traveling to Arab countries in view of their cultural, historical, and culinary offerings.

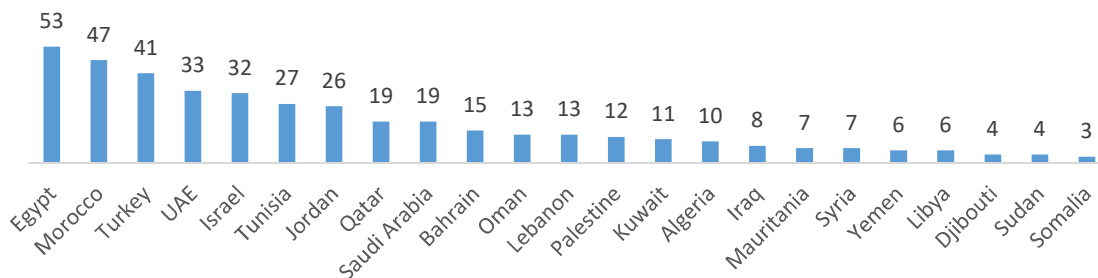
Motivators to travel to the Arab world



Which of the following would motivate you to travel to the Arab world? Please select all that apply.	Total	2016 EU Referendum Vote	
		Remain	Leave
Culture	55	61	49
History	52	57	48
Cuisine	26	33	18

4. Top preferred destinations among those who have been to the Arab world, or may consider going to the Arab world now or in future, are Egypt (53%), Morocco (47%), and Turkey (41%). Among the countries in the GCC, UAE is the most preferred destination (33%), followed by Saudi Arabia (19%).

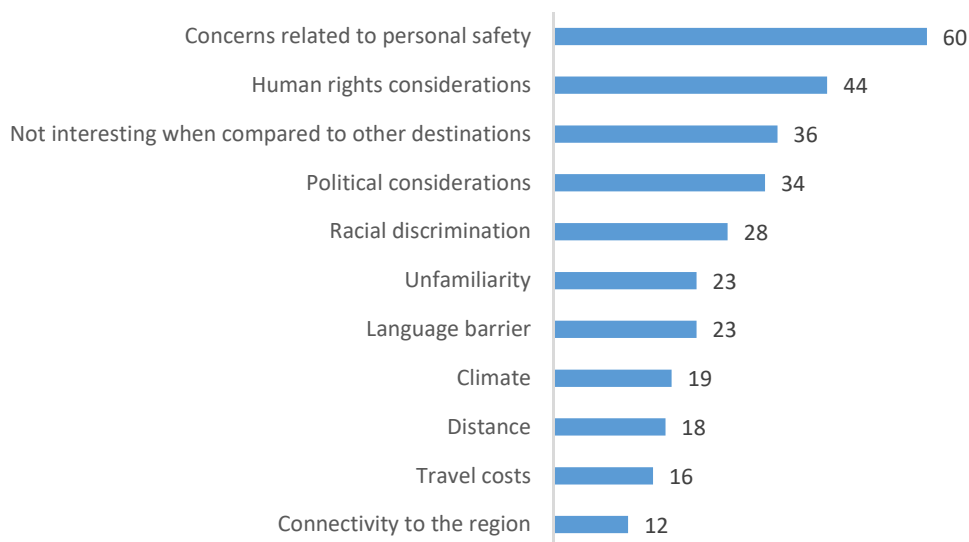
Preferred destinations in the Arab world



5. Key reasons reported by those not considering travel to the Arab world are mainly concerns related to personal safety (60%) and human rights (44%).

- Males are more likely to cite personal safety and human rights as deterrents to travel to the Arab world. A higher proportion of those from socio-economic grades ABC1 are likely to report these concerns compared to their counterparts from C2DE classes.

Deterrents to traveling to the Arab world

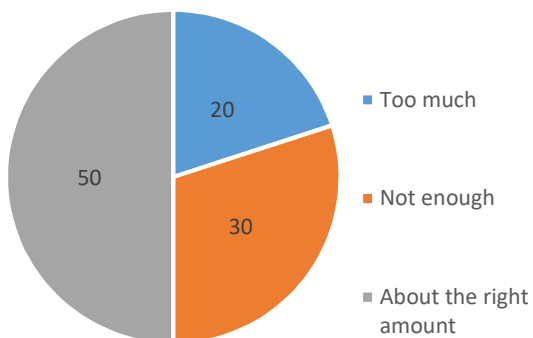


Portrayal of the Arab world by UK media

1. 50% believe that the UK media provides just the right amount of coverage of the Arab world.

- Supporters of the Labour and Liberal Democrat parties are more likely to think that the UK media does not provide enough coverage about the Arab world. Notably, this view is observed to be stronger among younger respondents.

UK media coverage of the Arab world



Do you think the UK media provides enough coverage of the Arab world?	Vote in 2017		
	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
Too much	25	12	15
Not enough	19	41	36
About the right amount	56	47	48

2. However, 39% consider UK media coverage of the region inaccurate, in contrast to 22% who consider coverage of the Arab world accurate.

- More frequently, supporters of the Labour party in the 2017 election and those voting to remain in the EU perceive the UK media’s coverage of the Arab world as inaccurate.

Perceived accuracy of the UK media's coverage of the Arab world



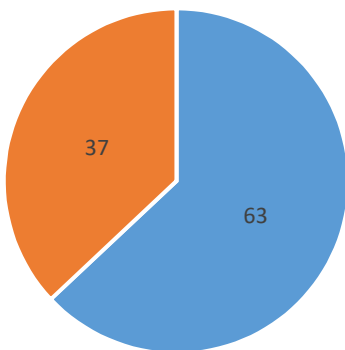
Integration of Arabs and Islamophobia in the UK

1. 63% of British respondents feel that Arabs who migrated to the UK have failed to integrate in Western societies and live in isolated communities.

- Those who voted in favor of the Conservative Party in 2017 elections and ‘leave’ in the 2016 EU referendum are more likely to see the Arab migrants living in isolated communities in the UK. The perception also appears to get stronger with age.

Perceptions towards Arab migrants in the UK

- Arabs who migrated to the UK have failed to integrate in Western societies and live in isolated communities
- Arabs who migrated to the UK have made an effort to adapt and integrate in Western societies

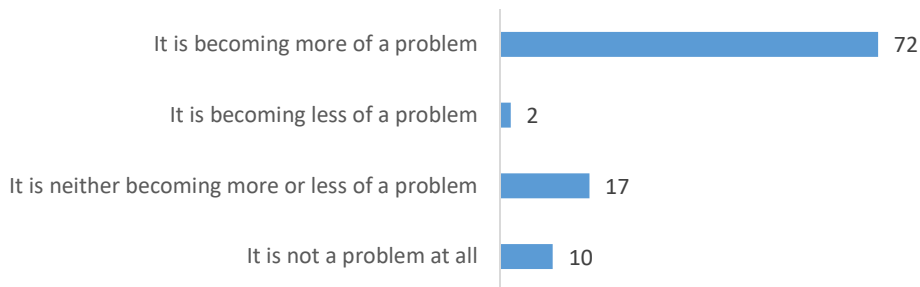


Which of the following statements do you most agree	Vote in 2017			2016 EU Referendum Vote	
	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Remain	Leave
Migrant Arabs have failed to integrate in Western societies and live in isolated communities	77	47	42	45	78
Migrant Arabs have made an effort to adapt and integrate in Western societies	23	53	58	55	22

2. Most agree that Islamophobia is become more of a problem in Britain today.

- A higher percentage of those opposing Brexit support the claim that Islamophobia is increasingly becoming an issue in Britain.

Islamophobia as an issue in Britain today



3. 70% believe that anti-refugee statements by politicians, commentators, and public figures increase the risk of hate crimes in the UK.

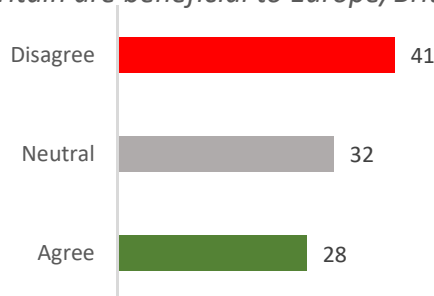
- More Labour party supporters and those choosing to remain in 2016 EU referendum see anti-refugee statements resulting in a higher risk of hate crimes in the UK.

Do you think that politicians, commentators and public figures making anti-refugee statements does or does not risk increasing hate crimes in the UK?	Total	Vote in 2017			2016 EU Referendum Vote	
		Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Remain	Leave
Does risk increasing hate crimes	70	55	84	84	87	51
Does not risk increasing hate crimes	16	27	7	7	7	27
Not applicable - I don't think there are anti-refugee statements made in the UK	14	18	9	9	5	22

4. Overall, only a minor 28% of the population agrees that migrants and/or refugees from the Arab world are beneficial to Europe/Britain.

- Similar to trends noted earlier, Labour party and Liberal Democrat supporters and those opposed to Brexit are more likely to see benefits in migrants and/or refugees from the Arab world to Britain. The trend appears to be inversely related to age.

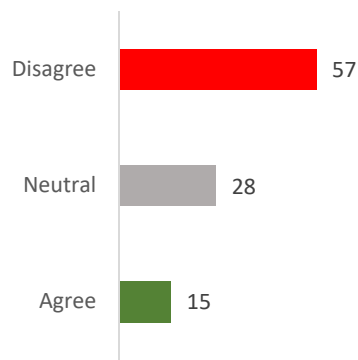
"Migrant and/or refugees coming from the Arab world to Europe and especially Britain are beneficial to Europe/Britain"



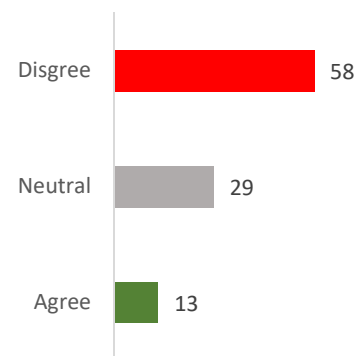
Perceptions associated with Britain’s foreign policy

- 1. 57% of the UK population are of the opinion that British foreign policy in the Arab world has been largely ineffective in upholding human rights and promoting global security. Further, only 13% believe that British foreign policy in the Arab world has been a stabilizing force in the region.**

"British foreign policy in the Arab world is largely effective in upholding human rights and promoting global security"



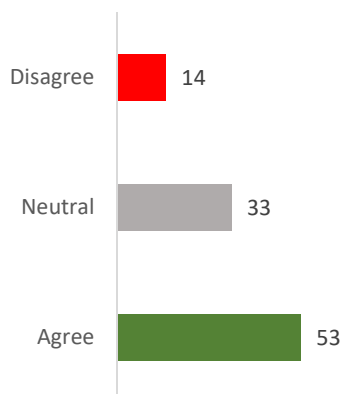
"British foreign policy in the Arab world has been a stabilising force in the region"



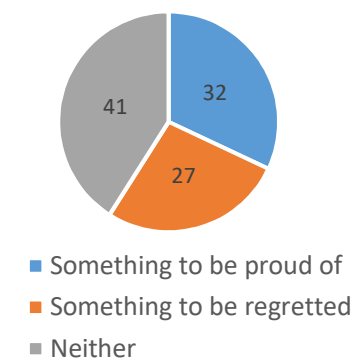
- 2. Over half of respondents think that the UK should recognize Palestine as a state. The responses, however, are divided on whether or not Britain should think of Balfour Declaration with pride (32%) or regret (27%).**

- The percentage of respondents who agree that the UK should recognize Palestine as a state improves with educational qualifications.

"The UK should recognise Palestine as a state"



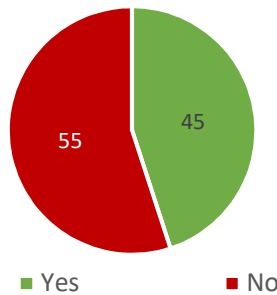
Britain should think of the Balfour Declaration as...



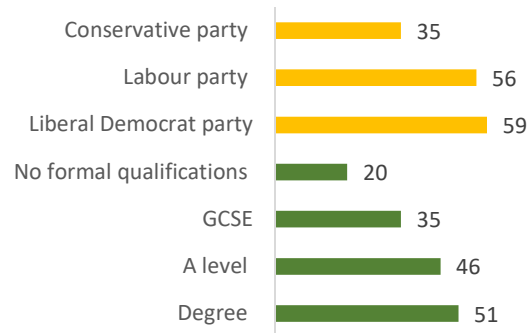
3. In view of its historic role, 55% feel that Britain should not take responsibility in helping sort out the Israeli-Palestinian conflict now.

- Labour and Liberal Democrat party supporters are more likely to hold the country responsible towards the conflict. This is also true of respondents with higher educational qualifications.

Given Britain's historic role, do we have a particular responsibility to help sort out the Israeli-Palestinian conflict now?



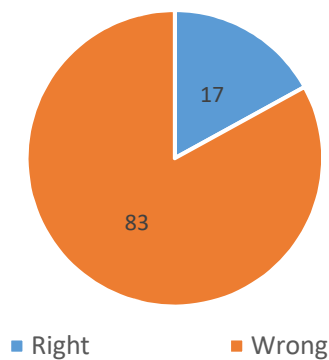
Those who say Britain has a responsibility towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict now



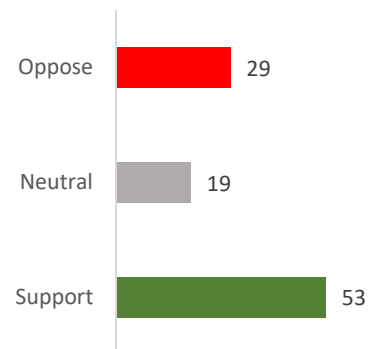
4. A staggering 83% believe that Britain was wrong to go to war in Iraq in 2003. Notably, 53% support Britain's continued military involvement against ISIS in Syria/Iraq.

- Conservative party supporters are more likely to support Britain's continued military involvement compared to respondents who voted for the Labour party; the support also grows stronger with age.

Do you think Britain was right or wrong to go to war in Iraq in 2003?



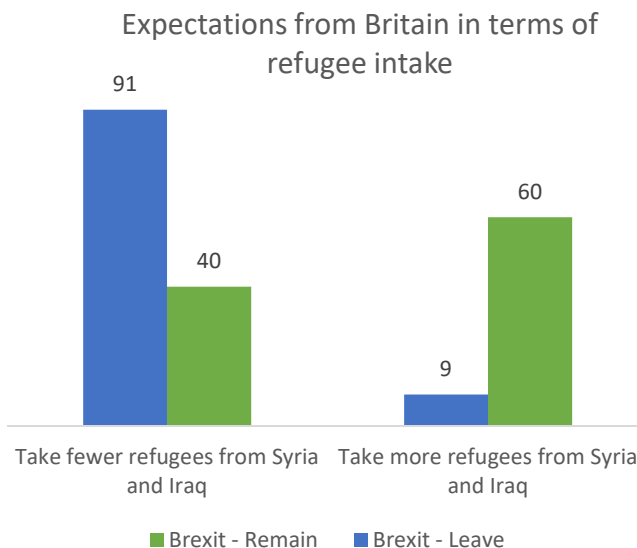
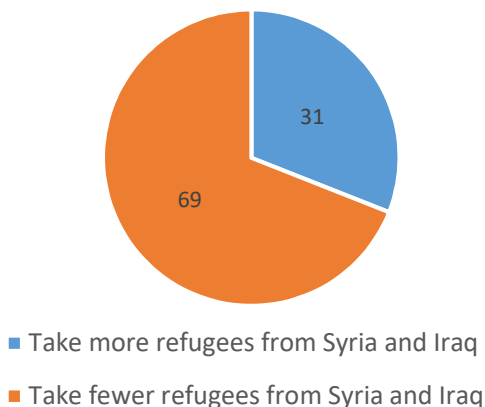
To what extent do you support or oppose Britain's continued military involvement against ISIS in Syria/Iraq?



5. Given how Britain has dealt with the issue of refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria and Iraq, most believe that Britain should take fewer refugees from these war-torn countries.

- 60% of those who opposed the UK leaving the EU think that Britain should take more refugees from conflict-ridden countries in contrast to over 90% Brexit supporters who are in agreement with Britain taking in fewer refugees.

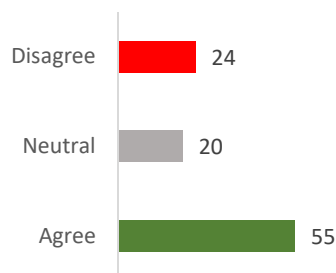
Thinking about how Britain has dealt with the issue of refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria and Iraq, do you think Britain should..?



6. 55% would support racial profiling against Arabs/Muslims for security reasons.

- Majority of the Conservative party supporters agree with racial profiling against Arabs/Muslims for security reasons, significantly higher than their counterparts.

To what extent do you agree with racial profiling against Arabs/Muslims for security reasons?



By vote in 2017	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
Disagree	10	38	34
Agree	72	42	40

Methodology:

The Arab News/YouGov UK perception survey was conducted between August 16-17, 2017 among members of the YouGov Plc GB panel of close to 1.02 million individuals.

The total sample achieved was 2,142. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+) by gender, age, region, political inclination, and household income. Wherever

applicable, the figures have been rebased to exclude those who opted for “don’t know” or “not sure” responses.

Overall, respondents answered 25 close-ended questions. There was a near-even gender split amongst respondents, with 48% males and 52% females. 67% of the sample falls between the ages of 25 and 64 years.