



GERMANY

CITIZENS CALL FOR A GENDER-EQUAL WORLD: A ROADMAP FOR ACTION¹



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WHAT DO RESPONDENTS IN GERMANY THINK ABOUT GENDER EQUALITY?

- ➔ **Seventy-two percent of respondents in Germany say that gender equality is important to them personally.** Among female respondents, 77 percent declare that gender equality is important to them personally. Only nine percent of respondents in Germany say that gender equality is unimportant to them.
- ➔ Fifty-nine percent of respondents think that gender equality is “better” in Germany now than it was 25 years ago. Thirty-three percent think gender equality is “more or less the same,” and five percent think it has gotten “worse.”
- ➔ Still, **62 percent of respondents in Germany, and 67 percent of female respondents, think the government should do more to promote gender equality.** Thirty percent want the government to do “a lot more” and 32 percent want “a bit more” government action.
- ➔ **To promote gender equality, 50 percent of respondents in Germany want their government to “reform laws to promote equality between women and men and end discrimination against women.”** Thirty-two percent think the government should “conduct regular reviews of progress in the pursuit of gender equality.”
- ➔ No one explanation for gender inequality in Germany had majority agreement. **The most widely-believed is “because women and men have different employment opportunities” as 49 percent of respondents see this as a main reason for inequality.** “Because unpaid care, domestic work, and parental responsibilities are not shared equally between women and men” is the other popular explanation, with 43 percent saying this is a main reason for gender inequality in Germany.

¹ This country data sheet captures findings from a public perception survey on gender equality for Germany. This work is co-led by Focus 2030 and Women Deliver. The survey was executed through an online poll, conducted by Deltapoll, in 17 countries. Approximately one thousand respondents in each country were surveyed in July/August 2020. Demographic data collected included: gender, age, income level, education level, last vote in national elections (where applicable), ethnicity (where applicable), migrant status, and region of residency. In Germany, 1,001 respondents were surveyed, including 515 female respondents, and 486 male respondents, and zero respondents who identified “in another way.” Of the 1,001 respondents, 97 were aged 18 to 24, 313 were aged 25 to 44, 273 were aged 45 to 59, and 318 were aged 60 and older. Please see www.focus2030.org and www.womendeliver.org for more information.

² Text in italics and quotes reflect survey response options presented to respondents.



ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND RIGHTS

- ➔ **Women's economic justice and rights is ranked by respondents as the top priority** their government should focus on to improve gender equality, with 31 percent of respondents choosing *"implement access to well-paid jobs, equal pay, financial independence, and property rights"* as their top priority. Seventy-one percent of respondents in Germany choose the issue as a top-three priority.
- ➔ In order to improve women's broader economic opportunities and decision-making powers, 61 percent of respondents in Germany think the government should *"achieve equal pay for women and men."* Thirty-four percent think the government should *"prevent violence and sexual harassment in the workplace"* and 33 percent want the government to *"guarantee social protection and working conditions for women in low-paying jobs."* Only four percent do not want the government to improve women's economic opportunities and decision-making powers.
- ➔ **Twenty percent of female respondents in Germany say that they have not had "the same access to promotion opportunities in [their] job as [their] male peers."** Furthermore, **29 percent of them say that they are "not paid as much as male counterparts where [they] work,"** rising to 37 percent among female respondents aged 45 to 59.
- ➔ In Germany 58 percent of female respondents and 42 percent of male respondents consider it *"unacceptable"* *"to let women do the majority of housework, childcare, and elderly care."* Only 12 percent of female respondents, and 22 percent of male respondents, consider this *"acceptable."*
- ➔ Fifty-nine percent consider it *"unacceptable"* *"to ask a woman during a job interview whether she has, or would like to have, children,"* And 79 percent of respondents in Germany think it is *"unacceptable"* *"that women earn less than men for the same work."*
- ➔ Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, 16 percent of female respondents in Germany say that they *"could not do as many hours of paid work as [they] usually would"* and five percent said that they had *"lost [their] job."* Additionally, 26 percent of female respondents report that their *"time doing household work has increased."*



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

- ➔ **Gender-based violence is second priority,** with 29 percent choosing *"ending violence against women"* as their first priority. Sixty-nine percent choose the issue as a top-three priority.
- ➔ In terms of tackling gender-based violence in Germany, **63 percent of respondents think that their government should "increase accountability for [perpetrators of] physical and sexual crimes against women."** Forty-four percent want action to *"end traditional practices that are harmful to women and girls."* Only three percent think that the government should not work to fight violence against women.
- ➔ **Twelve percent of female respondents in Germany say that their "freedom of movement has been restricted against their will by family members or a partner."** Among female respondents aged 18 to 24 this rises to 19 percent.

- ➔ Fifty-five percent of respondents in Germany feel at risk, or know someone who feels at risk, of assault or harassment in some place or another. The most common place to feel at risk, or know someone who feels at risk, is “public spaces,” where 40 percent of female respondents and 36 percent of male respondents worry about assault or harassment. Ten percent of female respondents and 12 percent of their male counterparts feel at risk, or know someone who feels at risk, of assault or harassment in their own home.
- ➔ **Young female respondents aged 18 to 24 are most likely to feel at risk, or know someone who feels at risk, of assault or harassment in public spaces (49 percent).**
- ➔ It is considered “unacceptable” “for women to always obey their partner” by 77 percent of respondents in Germany, and only eight percent consider this “acceptable.” Sixty-one percent consider it “acceptable” “for women to refuse sexual intercourse with their partner,” and 15 percent consider it “unacceptable.”
- ➔ “To whistle at a woman in the street or touch a woman without consent” is deemed “unacceptable” by 73 percent of respondents in Germany. “To tell or share a sexist joke about a woman with friends or on social media” is similarly deemed “unacceptable” by 46 percent of respondents, and “acceptable” to 18 percent.



FEMINIST MOVEMENTS AND LEADERSHIP

- ➔ **Feminist movements and leadership is respondents’ third priority overall**, with 10 percent of respondents selecting “improve women’s participation and leadership in politics, and cultural and social movements” as their top priority. Forty-eight percent of respondents choose this area as a top-three priority.
- ➔ To improve women’s participation and leadership in politics and movements, 37 percent of respondents in Germany want the government to “support women’s political leadership and participation.” Thirty-five percent want the government to “support specifically young women’s participation in politics and movements.”
- ➔ Forty-six percent of respondents believe that imposing gender quotas is a good way to advance gender equality in Germany, while 22 percent do not support quotas.



TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

- ➔ **Technology and innovation for gender equality is the fourth most cited priority**, with six percent of respondents choosing “invest in technology to improve women’s access to health services, education, and economic opportunities.” Twenty-nine percent of respondents in Germany choose this issue as a top-three priority.
- ➔ Forty-seven percent of respondents in Germany think the government should “provide equal opportunities for girls and women to study and work in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).” This measure is particularly popular with young and old — 52 percent of those aged 18 to 24 and 51 percent of those aged 60 and older support the policy as a way to promote the use of technology and innovation for gender equality.

- ➔ Furthermore, 45 percent of female respondents and 38 percent of male respondents think the government should *“increase the safety of digital spaces for girls and women.”*



BODILY AUTONOMY AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

- ➔ **Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is the fifth most cited priority for respondents in Germany**, as five percent choose *“provide access to contraception and family planning, good maternal health, the sex education in schools”* as their top priority. Twenty-four percent of respondents choose this issue as a top-three priority.
- ➔ In order to improve women’s SRHR, 33 percent want the government to *“increase access to accurate information including sexual education in schools.”* Furthermore, 33 percent of respondents in Germany think the government should *“increase youth engagement in the implementation of sexual and reproductive health services”* and 32 percent support *“increased access to legal abortion and post-abortion care.”* Only six percent do not think the government should improve women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- ➔ **Eight percent of female respondents in Germany have “had difficulty accessing their chosen method of contraception,”** rising to 12 percent among female respondents aged 25 to 44 and 11 percent among those aged 18 to 24. Additionally, **seven percent of women in Germany have “had difficult accessing abortion and post-abortion care.”**



FEMINIST ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

- ➔ **Feminist action for climate justice is the sixth most cited priority.** Four percent choose *“promote women’s participation in climate change action”* as their top priority and 14 percent choose it as a top-three priority.
To promote women’s efforts to respond to climate change, 36 percent of respondents in Germany think the government should *“promote the training and hiring of women in jobs related to climate change.”* Thirty-three percent think the government should *“increase girls’ and women’s participation in the development of solutions to tackle climate change.”*



FINANCING FOR GENDER EQUALITY

- ➔ Fifty-one percent of respondents think that the German government should increase its funding for gender equality in Germany. Only 13 percent of female respondents and 18 percent of male respondents do not think the government should increase this funding.
- ➔ Furthermore, 46 percent of respondents in Germany want the government to increase its funding for international projects and organizations fighting for gender equality around the world. Only 18 percent do not think the German government should increase this funding.

- ➔ Fifty-nine percent of respondents in Germany think that achieving gender equality is essential to end poverty in all countries. Fourteen percent disagree.



WHAT ACTIONS ARE RESPONDENTS IN GERMANY WILLING TO TAKE?

- ➔ To encourage policymakers to tackle gender inequality around the world, 36 percent would “*sign a petition,*” and 35 percent of respondents in Germany would be willing to “*vote in an election for a candidate supporting gender equality.*” Thirty-two percent are willing to “*promote gender equality in everyday conversations and interactions,*” 24 percent would “*purchase or boycott products from companies based on their views on gender equality,*” and 20 percent would “*share information about gender equality on social media.*”



IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- ➔ Twenty-seven percent of respondents in Germany think that gender inequality will increase as a result of Covid-19, whereas 36 percent do not.
- ➔ Seventy-four percent of respondents in Germany “*agree*” that women should be involved in all aspects of the global health response and recovery efforts to Covid-19, including in the development of policies and treatments, and only five percent “*disagree.*” Fifty-seven percent of respondents also “*agree*” that the German government’s response to Covid-19 “*has met the needs of men and women equally,*” whereas 14 percent “*disagree.*”

This country data sheet is a supplement to Citizens Call for a Gender-Equal World: A Roadmap for Action, a global report on the findings from a 17-country public perception survey on gender equality. For the full report and all country data sheets, please visit: www.focus2030.org and <http://womendeliver.org/citizens-call-for-a-gender-equal-world/>.