



# Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

Awareness of and Attitudes to Human Rights and Equality



REDC

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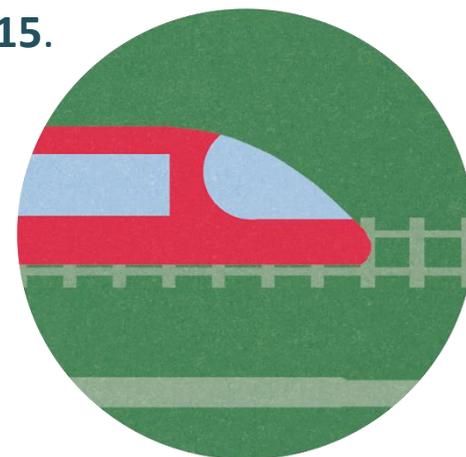


## Background to the Research

- / Established on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 under the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014, The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission has a statutory remit to:
  - » Protect and promote human rights and equality in the State;
  - » Promote a culture of respect for human rights, equality and intercultural understanding;
  - » Promote understanding and awareness of the importance of human rights and equality.
  
- / In early 2015, the Commission identified the need to collect data to measure:
  - » Public understanding of attitudes towards human rights and equality issues and towards protected groups;
  - » Individual's understanding and knowledge of their rights and the avenues available to them for the protection of those rights.
  
- / RED C submitted a tender, and the contract was awarded in early March.

## Research Methodology

- / The research was conducted between **2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015**, using RED C's telephone omnibus survey, RED Express.
- / A follow up question was polled between **22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015**.
- / **1,005 adults aged 18+** were interviewed over the telephone.
- / The sample size was **quota controlled** by age, gender, socio-economic status and region in order to ensure a fully representative sample.
- / In addition to this, RED Express uses a Random Digit Dial (RDD) method across landline and mobile to ensure that ex-directory households or those with no landline are included in the sample.
- / The margin of error on a sample size of 1,000 is +/- 3%.
- / Rounding applied. Figures indicative





# Ireland's Performance on Human Rights and Equality

# Evaluation of Performance in Ireland - Summary

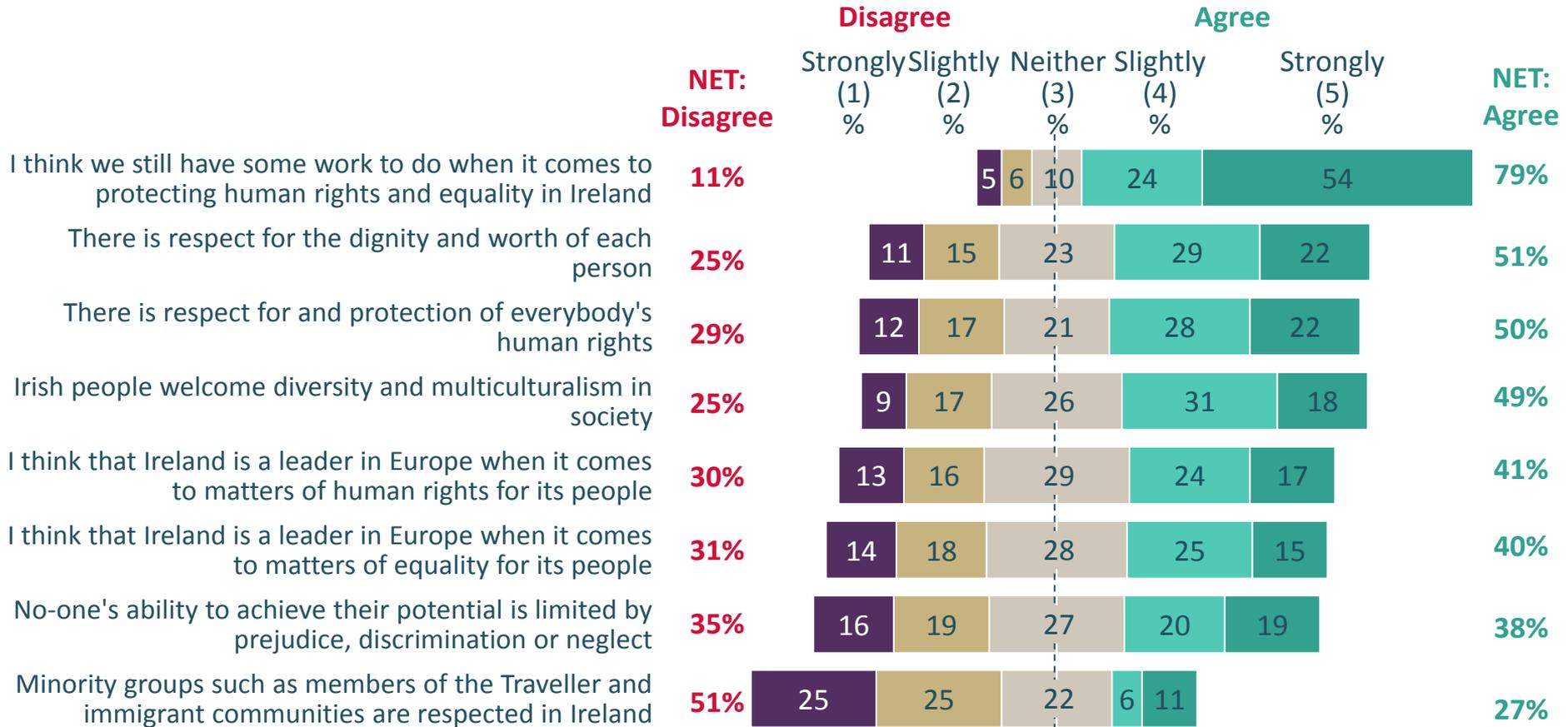
- / Almost 4 in 5 of the Irish population (79%) agree that we still have some work to do when it comes to protecting human rights and equality in Ireland today.
- / 1 in 2 people agree that there is respect for the dignity of each person and protection of everybody's human rights.
- / 1 in 2 people agree that Irish people welcome diversity and multiculturalism but just 27% agree that members of minority groups such as Travellers and immigrants are respected in Ireland, with 51% disagreeing. Younger people are more likely to disagree – 58% of those aged 18-34 compared to 47% among those 35 and older.
- / 38% agree that no-one's ability to achieve their potential is limited by prejudice, discrimination or neglect, with 35% disagreeing. Women are more likely to disagree - 40% of women compared to 29% of men.
- / We have recorded uplift in the proportion viewing Ireland as a leader in Europe on equality and human rights – this is on the back of the high profile marriage referendum. In the April poll, 2 in 5 people agreed that Ireland was a leader while in a follow up in June this figure rose to 55% (equality) and 54% (human rights).
- / In June we also found that 44% of respondents do not agree that health service users in Ireland experience respect for their dignity and 1 in 3 do not agree that employment rights are well respected.

# Evaluation of Ireland's Performance on Human Rights and Equality -

## APRIL RED EXPRESS

(Base: All Adults aged 18+ - 1005)

Thinking about Ireland today, please tell me how much you agree or disagree with the following statements?



Note: Don't know not shown

Rounding applied. Figures indicative

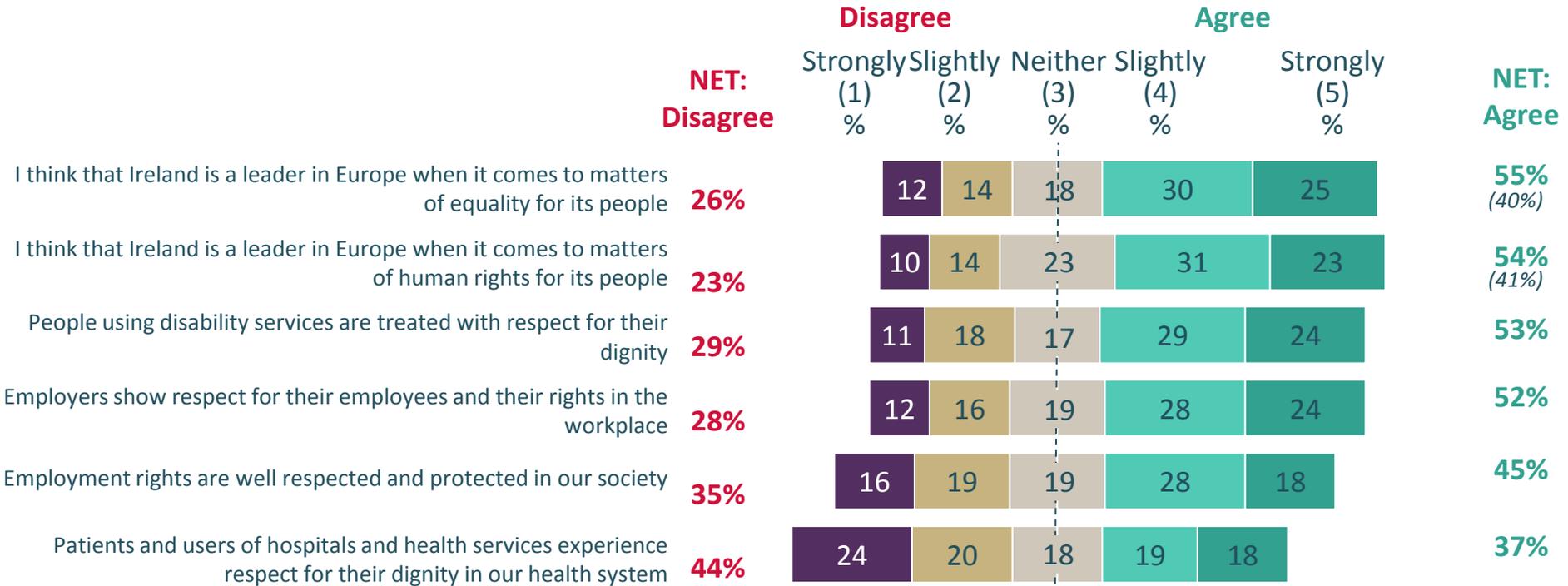


# Evaluation of Ireland's Performance on Human Rights and Equality –

## JUNE RED EXPRESS

(Base: All Adults aged 18+ - 1007)

Thinking about Ireland today, please tell me how much you agree or disagree with the following statements?



Note: Don't know not shown

Rounding applied. Figures indicative

( ) April Results



# Attitudes Towards Human Rights and Equality



# Attitudes Towards Human Rights and Equality – Summary (I)

- / Overall people express positive views on human rights and equality issues with some variation from issue to issue.
- / 92% agree that no one should ever be subject to cruel or degrading treatment or punishments.
- / 88% agree that all types of families regardless of their structure should be equally supported without exception.
- / 88% agree that everyone should be free to practice their religion as they see fit.
- / 86% agree that no-one should have the right to refuse services to people because they are gay or lesbian.
- / 83% agree that people with disabilities should have the right to make their own decisions about their lives and care.
- / 80% agree people with mental health problems should have the same right to a job as anyone else.

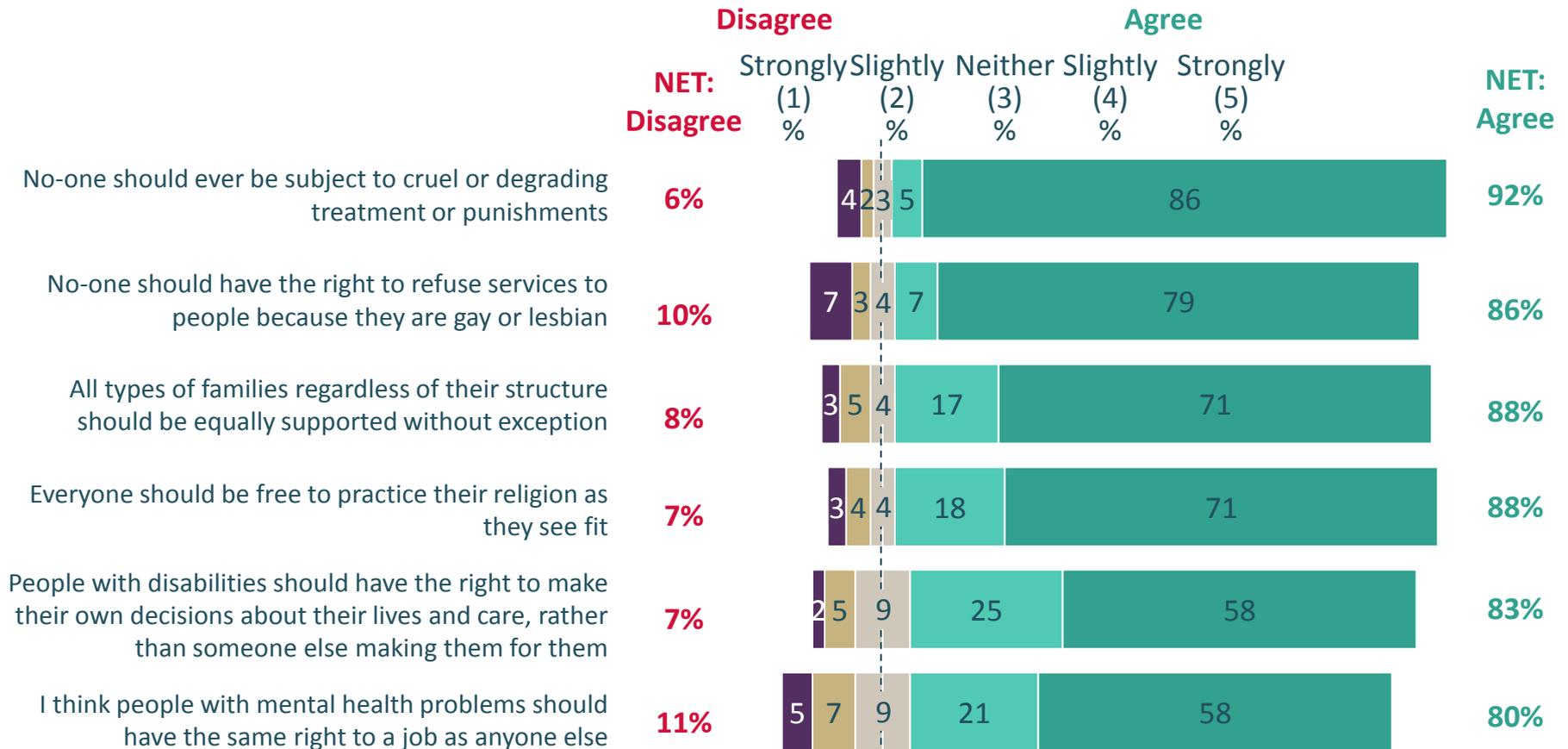
# Attitudes Towards Human Rights and Equality – Summary (II)

- / 72% agree that transgender people should be allowed to use public bathrooms for the gender with which they identify.
- / 70% agree that people should be free to express their thoughts and opinions even if they may offend other people, with 1 in 5 disagreeing.
- / 6 in 10 agree that abortion should be legal in Ireland, with 27% disagreeing.
- / There appears to be some contrasting views around the rights of asylum seekers, prisoners and Travellers and Roma.
- / 55% do not think that prisoners should have the same rights as everyone else, with 29% disagreeing.
- / 54% do not think that asylum seekers should have the same rights to work, housing or education until they are granted asylum, with 31% disagreeing.
- / 53% think it is unacceptable for shopping centres and pubs to refuse entry to members of the Traveller or Roma communities if they wish, while 34% think it is acceptable.

# Attitudes Towards Human Rights and Equality (I)

(Base: All Adults aged 18+ - 1005)

Here are some things that other people have said about human rights and equality in Ireland. Can you tell me how much you personally agree or disagree with the following statements?



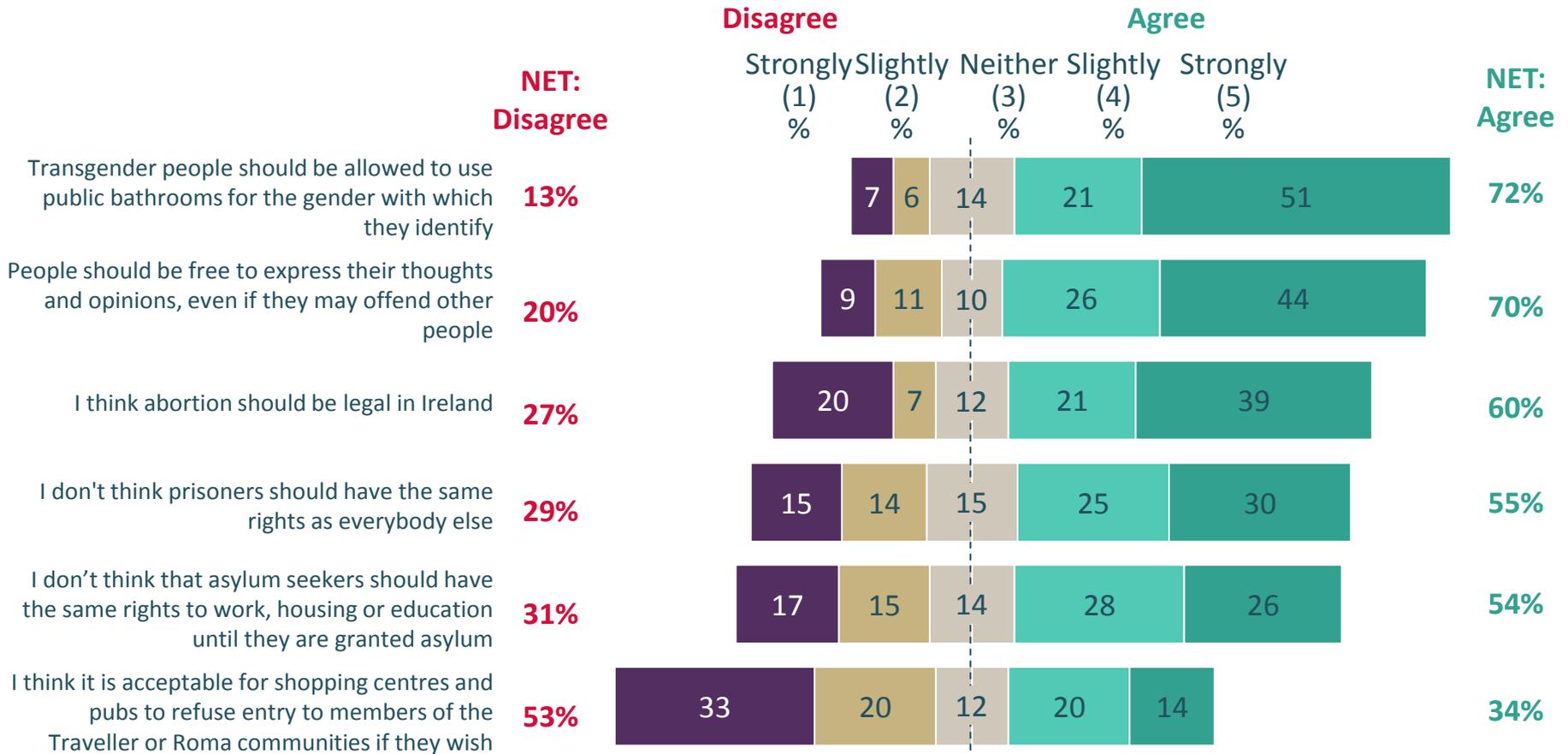
Rounding applied. Figures indicative



# Attitudes Towards Human Rights and Equality (II)

(Base: All Adults aged 18+ - 1005)

*Here are some things that other people have said about human rights and equality in Ireland. Can you tell me how much you personally agree or disagree with the following statements?*



Rounding applied. Figures indicative





# Awareness and Understanding of Human Rights and Equality

# Awareness & Understanding Of Human Rights And Equality – Summary (I)

- / Awareness and understanding was examined through a number of open and prompted questions.
- / There was a very wide range of human rights mentioned at both a prompted and unprompted level.
- / At a spontaneous level for human rights, equality/equal treatment was the most frequently mentioned association, being cited by 29% of respondents – indicating an innate association between human rights and equality.
- / At a prompted level all options presented are strongly endorsed as basic human rights – though support ranges from 97% for the presumption of innocence to 82% for the right to seek asylum.
- / There is no strong hierarchy or priority grouping apparent in terms of recognition of different types of human rights – whether civil , political, economic or social rights.

# Awareness & Understanding Of Human Rights And Equality – Summary (II)

- / When asked about “equality”, the public find it more straightforward to define.
- / Equality of treatment came out strongly in terms of spontaneous mentions, at 29%.
- / This was followed by gender equality/women’s rights (26%), workplace equality including equal pay (22%) and travellers and other ethnic minorities (17%).
- / Race and ethnicity is the factor most widely seen as a ground for discrimination mentioned by 54%. This is followed at some distance by religion (26%), sexual orientation (24%) and nationality (22%).
- / A range of socio-economic and other issues, many of which are not covered by equality legislation, are also seen as giving rise to discrimination.

# Understanding of Human Rights (Unprompted)

(Base: All Asked About Human Rights - 499)

*Thinking in terms of Irish society specifically, what do you think of when you hear the term "human rights"?*



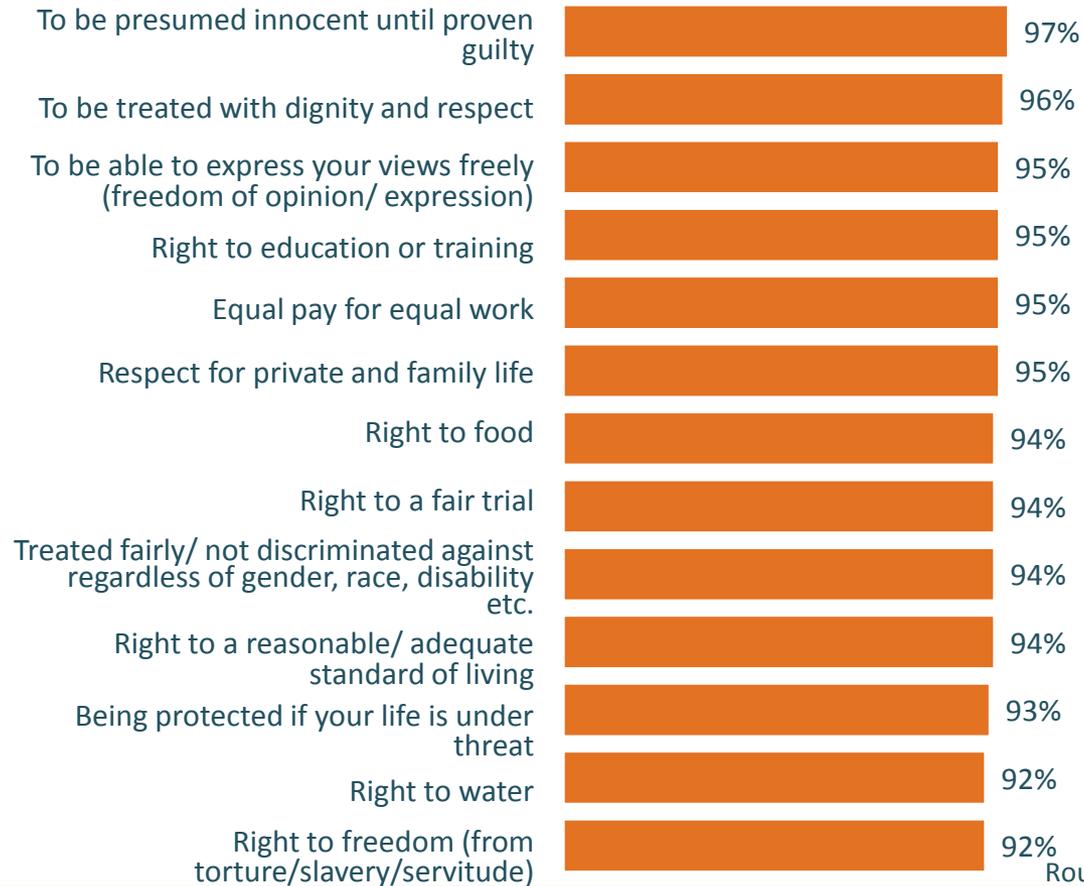
Rounding applied. Figures indicative



# What are Regarded as the Basic Human Rights? (Prompted - I)

(Base: All Asked About Each - 6 Statements Randomly Selected For Each Respondent)

*Thinking about human rights in Ireland, in your opinion which of the following are the basic human rights?*

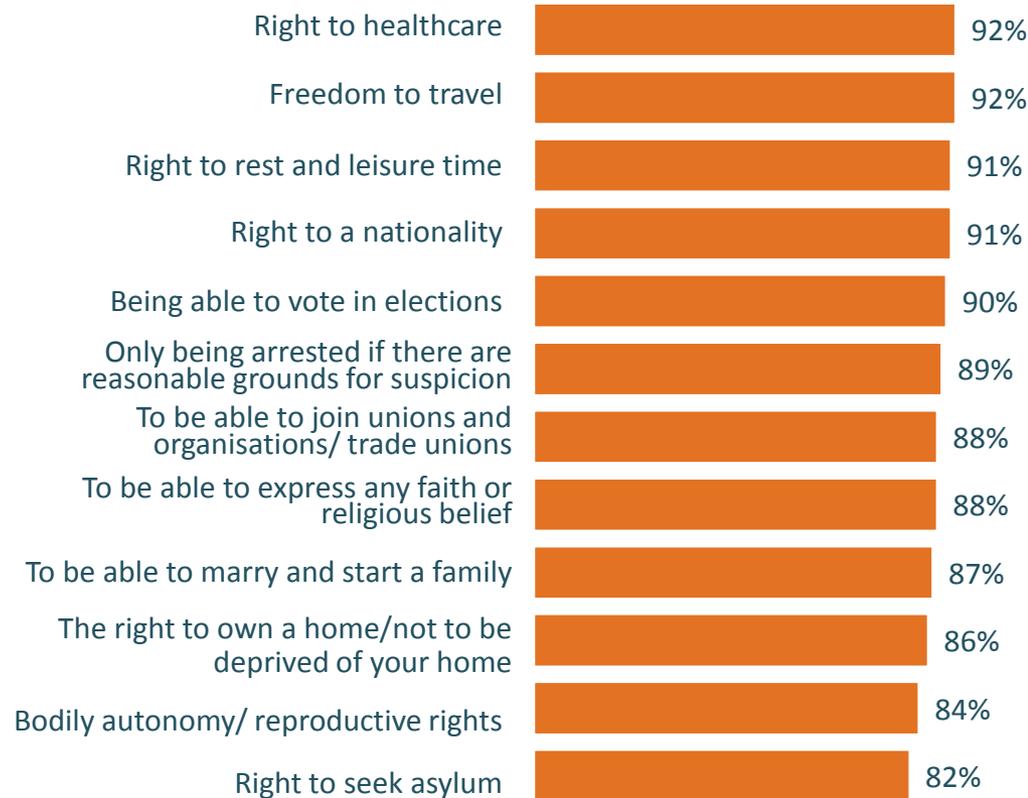


Rounding applied. Figures indicative

# What are Regarded as the Basic Human Rights? (Prompted - II)

(Base: All Asked About Each - 6 Statements Randomly Selected For Each Respondent)

*Thinking about human rights in Ireland, in your opinion which of the following are the basic human rights?*

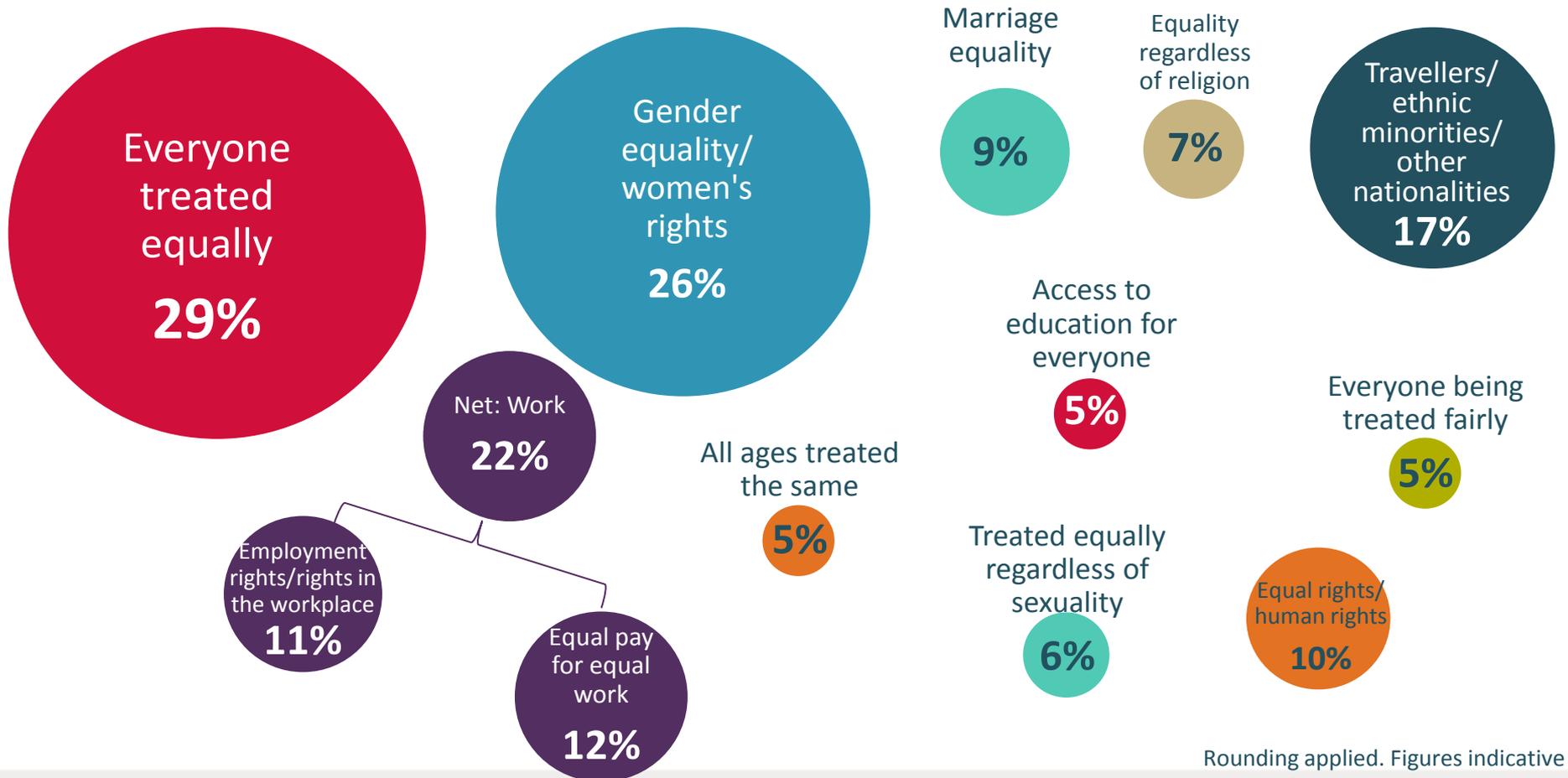


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# Understanding of Equality (Unprompted)

(Base: All Asked About Equality- 499)

Q.1b Thinking in terms of Irish society specifically, what do you think of when you hear the term "equality"?



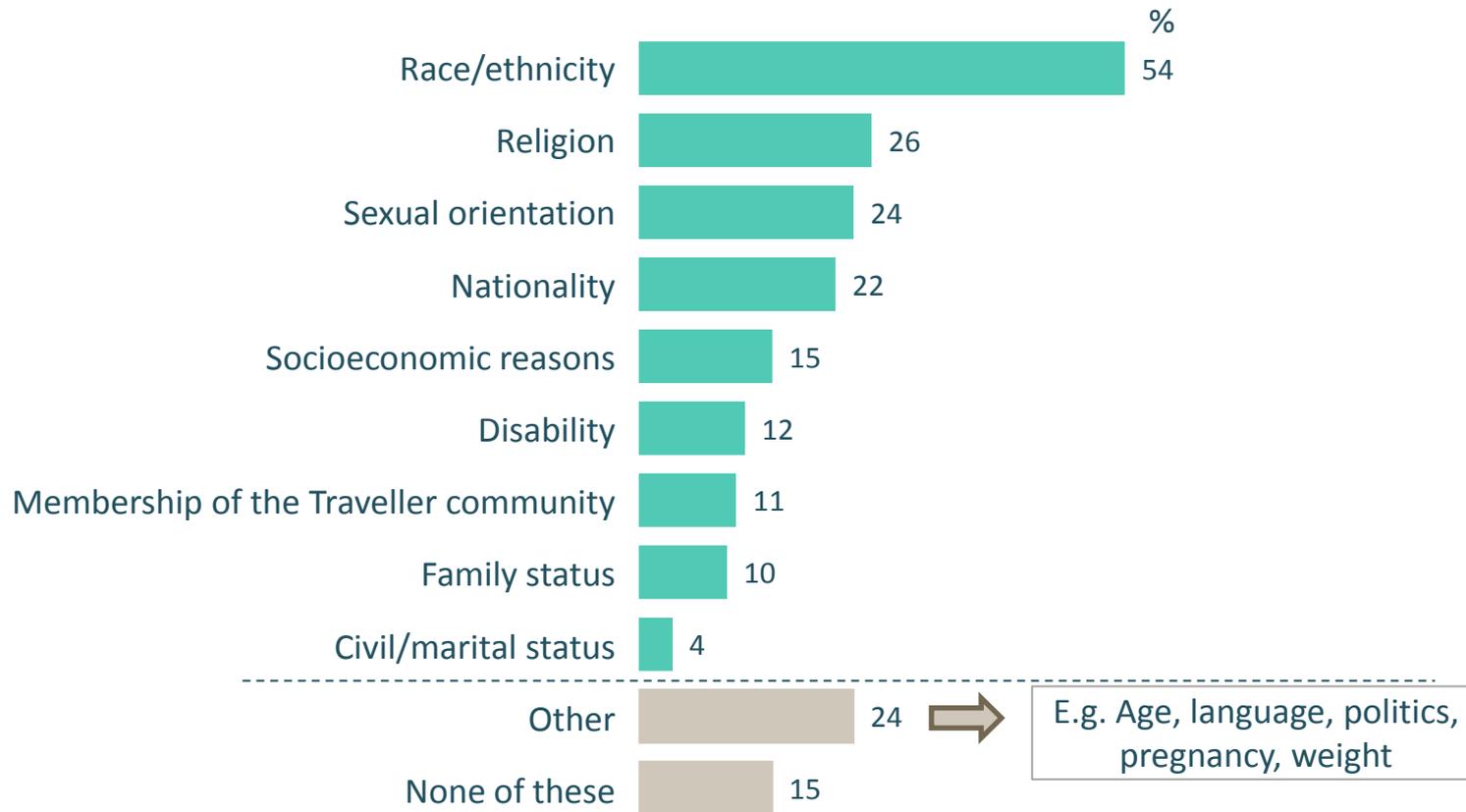
Rounding applied. Figures indicative



# Understanding of Discrimination

(Base: All Adults Aged 18+ - 1005)

*Under Irish Equality legislation, discrimination is illegal in Ireland in employment and in access to public and private goods, services and facilities. A person is said to be discriminated against if he or she is treated less favourably than another person in a comparable situation, because of things like their gender or age. Can you think of any other reasons why people may typically experience discrimination?*



# Engagement with Human Rights and Equality



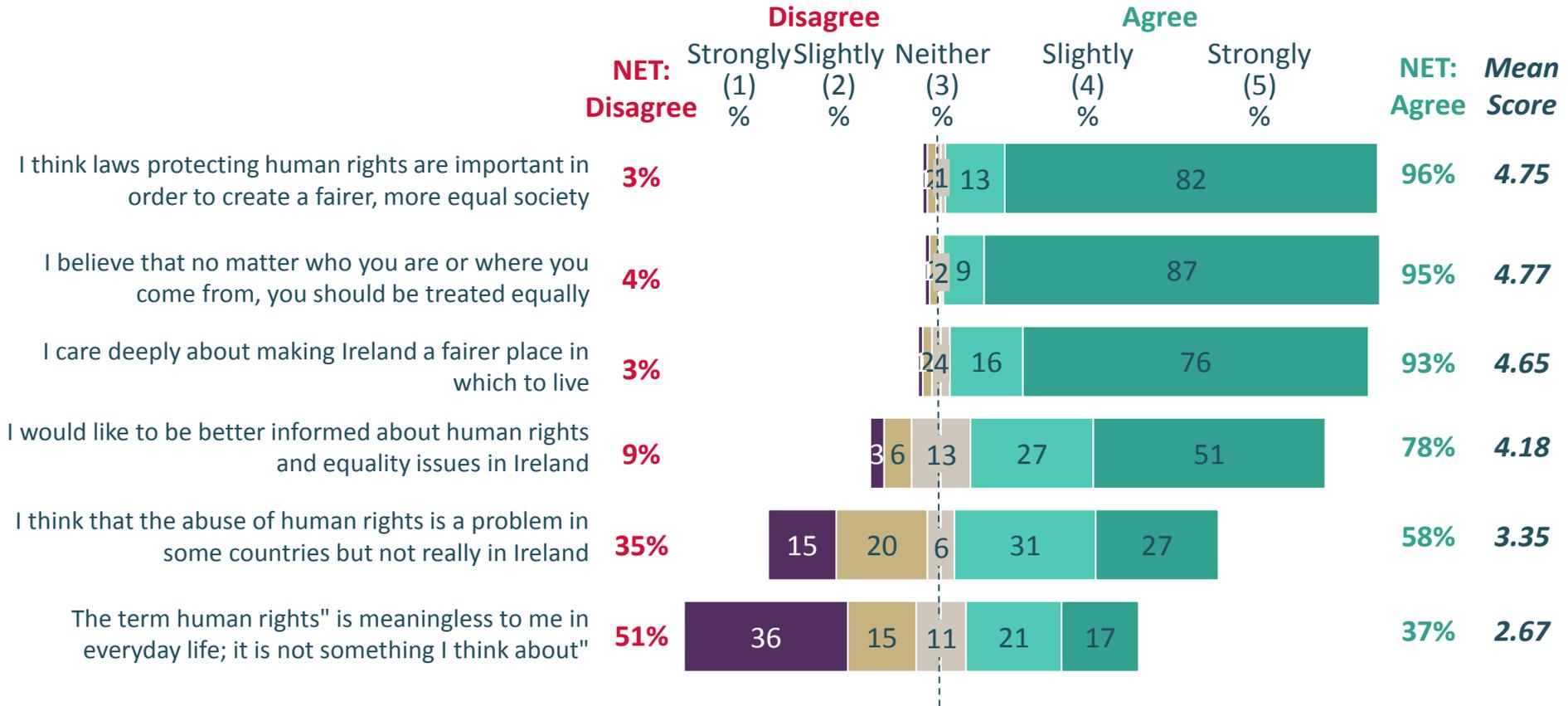
# Engagement with Human Rights and Equality – Summary

- / There is almost universal endorsement of the general importance of equality and human rights.
- / 96% think that laws protecting human rights are important in order to create a fairer more equal society.
- / 95% believe that no matter who you are or where you come from, you should be treated equally.
- / 93% care deeply about making Ireland a fairer place in which to live.
- / 78% would like to be better informed about human rights and equality issues in Ireland.
- / 58% agree with the statement that abuse of human rights is a problem in some countries but not really in Ireland, with 35% disagreeing.
- / 51% disagree that the term human rights 'is meaningless to me in everyday life, it is not something I think about', 37% agree.

# Engagement with Human Rights and Equality

(Base: All Adults aged 18+ - 1005)

*Thinking of yourself personally, can you tell me how much you agree or disagree with the following statements?*



Rounding applied. Figures indicative



# Support for Action on Human Rights and Equality

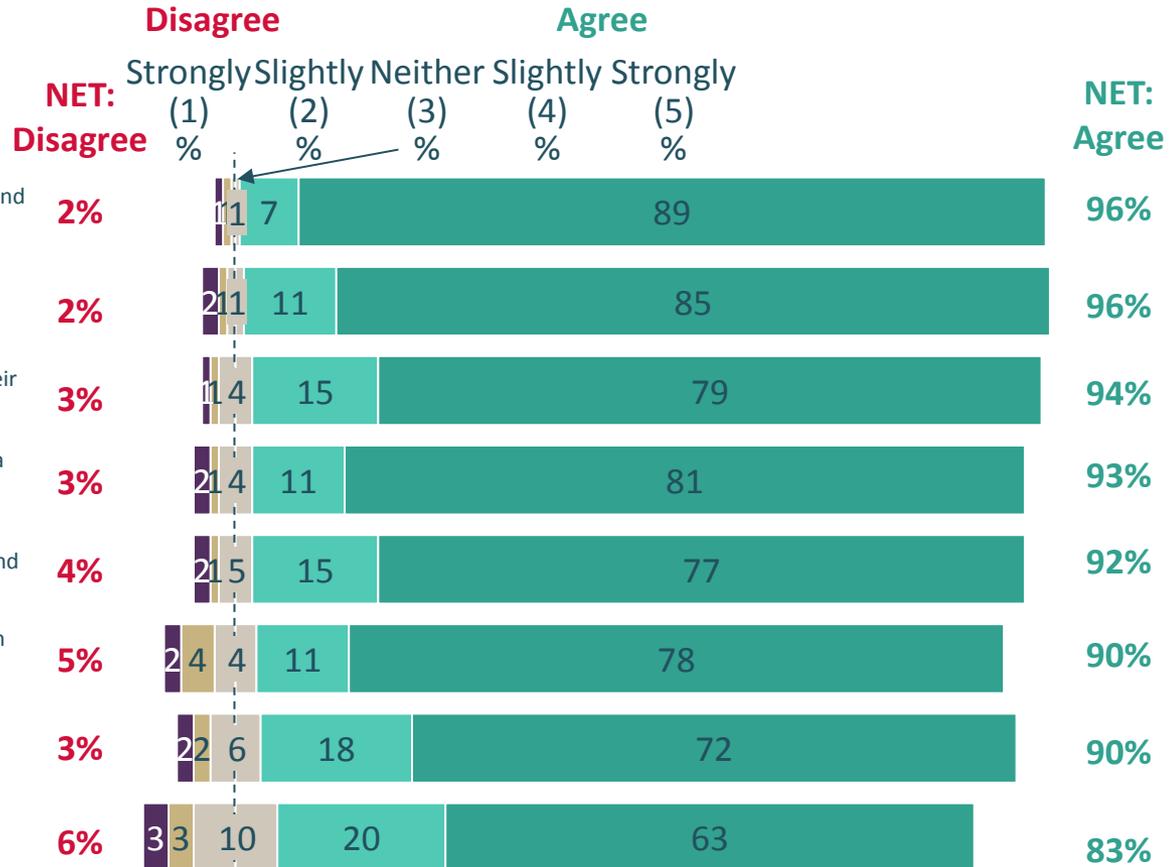


## Support for Action on Human Rights and Equality - Summary

- / 96% agree that employers should ensure that employees' human rights are protected and that they are treated equally in the workplace.
- / 96% agree that schools, colleges and our education system have a role to play in educating young people about human rights and equality.
- / 94% agree that public bodies such as the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission should be leading the way in educating the public in how to protect human rights.
- / 93% agree that our justice and legal system including the courts and An Garda Síochána should show themselves as leaders in promoting human rights and equality.
- / 92% agree that protecting human rights and equality is a government's responsibility and they should be prepared to invest in this.
- / 90% agree that businesses such as retailers, banks and nightclubs should by law be seen to treat all customers equally.
- / 90% agree that they have a role to play as individuals in the protection of human rights and equality in Ireland'.
- / 83% agree that they support voluntary and community organisations that fight for human rights and equality in Irish society.

# Support For Action On Human Rights And Equality – Summary

(Base: All Adults aged 18+ - 1005)



Rounding applied. Figures indicative



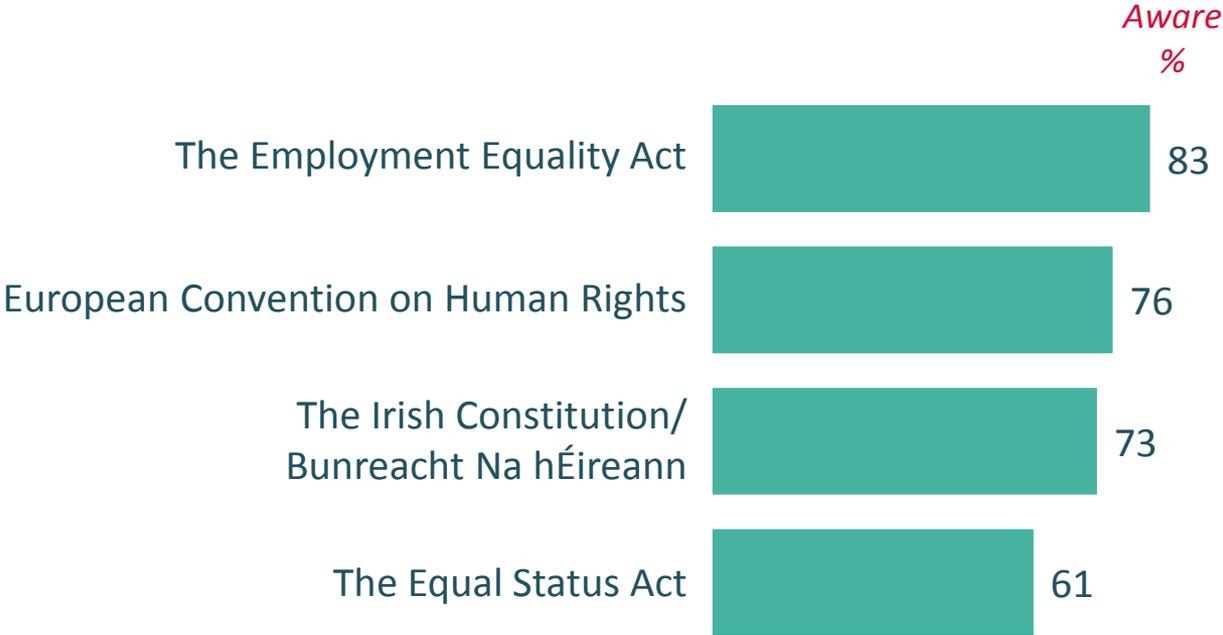
# Knowledge of Laws Protecting Rights



# Awareness of Laws Protecting Rights

(Base: All Adults Aged 18+ - 1005)

*Certain laws and international agreements exist to protect human rights and promote equality in Ireland.. Prior to today, were you aware that your rights are protected under each of these?*



Rounding applied. Figures indicative

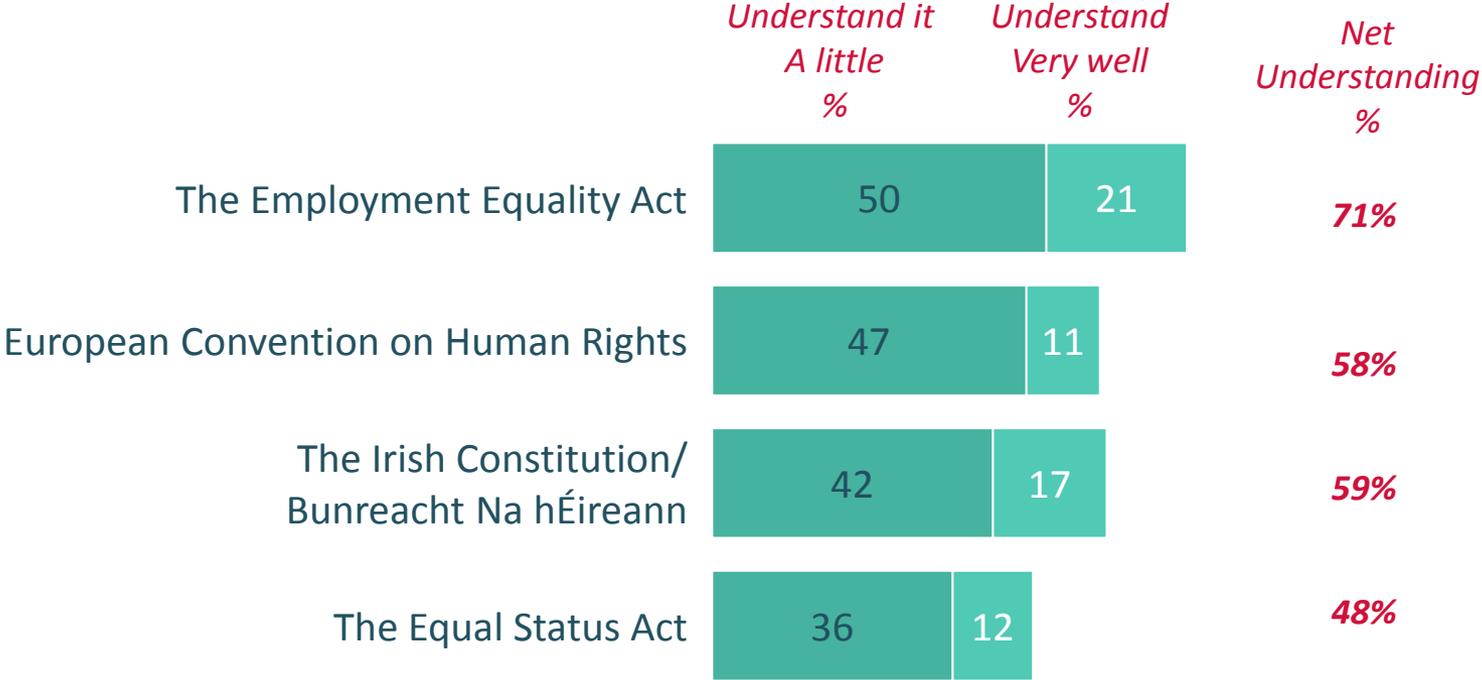


# Understanding of Laws Protecting Rights

(Base: All Adults Aged 18+ - 1005)

*Certain laws and international agreements exist to protect human rights and promote equality in Ireland.. .*

*How much would you say you understand how they protect your rights?*



Rounding applied. Figures indicative

