

# Anti-Palestinian Racism in Canada 2024 Survey Report

Findings from a Survey

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

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<sup>1</sup> The names of the authors are pseudonyms. Their real names are not being used to protect them from being subjected to smear and doxxing campaigns as has been the case for individuals who advocate for Palestinian human rights.

The Palestinian Canadian Congress (PCC) was established on June 1, 2008. It is a national not-for-profit organization built from Palestinian-Canadians and groups of Palestinian-based members, regardless of their organizational focus, political, social, or cultural background. PCC's mission is to identify, articulate, defend, and pursue the Palestinian people's rights and interests and coordinate our community groups' efforts. PCC's vision is building a unified community that advocates its cause in one voice.

## **Acknowledgements**

The Palestinian Canadian Congress (PCC) and authors would like to offer special thanks to all individuals, academics, community leaders, and organizations that contributed to the distribution of the survey, as well as the review of this report. Their support enabled us to shed light on the issue of anti-Palestinian racism in Canada.

## Table of Contents

<b>Executive Summary.....</b>	<b>4</b>
Objective.....	4
Summary of Key Findings .....	5
<b>APR Context in Canada.....</b>	<b>7</b>
Overview of APR .....	7
Recent Examples of APR in Canada (since October 7, 2023).....	9
Schools .....	9
Colleges/Universities.....	9
Government .....	9
Media .....	10
Health Sector .....	10
Other .....	11
<b>Survey Methodology.....</b>	<b>12</b>
Survey Questions .....	12
Survey Distribution .....	12
Survey Respondents and Completion Rates .....	13
Confidence Interval .....	13
<b>Survey Findings .....</b>	<b>14</b>
Prevalence of APR and Characteristics of Survey Respondents.....	14
Perceptions Regarding APR .....	16
Insights into APR Experiences .....	18
Interactions with Law Enforcement and Police Reporting .....	20
Optional Survey Questions.....	23
<b>Conclusion and Recommendations.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>References .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>APPENDIX: Survey Questions.....</b>	<b>30</b>

## Executive Summary

### Objective

PCC commissioned a survey to measure and understand Anti-Palestinian Racism (APR) in Canada, given the increased targeting of Palestinians and their advocates, as well as the overall lack of acknowledgement of APR as a distinct form of discrimination. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of findings from the PCC-commissioned APR survey, which was distributed to individuals and organizations in Canada between March and October 2024. Advocates of Palestinian human rights were targeted for the survey, regardless of whether they were Palestinian or not and whether they had faced APR or not, as the survey intended to understand the prevalence, experience, and impact of APR in Canada in relation to those who advocate for Palestine.

This report is divided into four main parts:

1. An overview of APR, including manifestations of APR, as well as recent examples of APR in the Canadian context.
2. The survey's methodology, including how it was distributed to individuals and organizations.
3. A detailed summary of survey findings.
4. Conclusion and recommendations.

### APR in Canada

The Arab Canadian Lawyers Association (ACLA) has developed the following working draft description of Anti-Palestinian racism (APR):

*“Anti-Palestinian racism is a form of anti-Arab racism that silences, excludes, erases, stereotypes, defames or dehumanizes Palestinians or their narratives. Anti-Palestinian racism takes various forms including: denying the Nakba and justifying violence against Palestinians; failing to acknowledge Palestinians as an Indigenous people with a collective identity, belonging and rights in relation to occupied and historic Palestine; erasing the human rights and equal dignity and worth of Palestinians; excluding or pressuring others to exclude Palestinian perspectives, Palestinians and their allies; defaming Palestinians and their allies with slander such as being inherently antisemitic, a terrorist threat/sympathizer or opposed to democratic values” (Majid 2022).*

APR in Canada is not a recent phenomenon. As documented by organizations such as ACLA and Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME), Palestinian Canadians and their allies have persistently faced APR in schools, colleges/universities, workplaces, public places, and other institutions. Their experience includes facing repression, reprisals, discrimination, exclusion, defamation, silencing, intimidation, harassment, and increased marginalization.

While APR is not new, since October 7, 2023, there has been an increase in APR and anti-Palestinian rhetoric in all facets of Canadian society, as well as in other Western nations. Despite its longevity, APR has not been formally investigated in Canada, making it seem non-existent, even though many Canadians have been, and continue to be, harmed by it. Unlike other forms of racism and discrimination experienced in Canada, APR is not formally recognized or defined by governments in Canada. This is despite several organizations (CJPME 2024a) recommending that the Federal government recognize APR in its most recent update to Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy (i.e., Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy 2024-2028), which was published in June 2024<sup>2</sup>.

Too often, governments have politicized and mischaracterized APR due to fear, bias, ignorance, and/or a denial of Palestinian history and experience. While some aspects of the issue of APR are inherently political due to its nature as a systemic human rights issue, advocating for Palestinian human rights is crucial at the political level. However, APR has been politicized in a way that overlooks its core issues. Efforts to address APR are often misrepresented as politically motivated rather than rooted in human rights advocacy. This mischaracterization has led to the disregard, or lack of acknowledgment, of APR within many Canadian institutions and sectors.

## Summary of Key Findings

- 1272 out of 1562 respondents (81.43%) indicated that they experienced APR.
- 270 out of 1272 respondents (21.22%) that experienced APR identify as Palestinian; 359 (31.0%) identify as White/Caucasian.
- Approximately half of the respondents who experienced APR were born in Canada.

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<sup>2</sup> According to a [November 6, 2024 statement from Special Representative Amira Elghawaby](#), Prime Minister Trudeau made a “commitment on adopting a definition of anti-Palestinian racism to describe the bias and discrimination far too many Canadian Palestinians are experiencing”; however, this commitment is yet to be implemented as of the publication of this report.

- Almost half of respondents who experienced APR identify as Muslim; nearly 30.0% do not identify with a religion, 12.78% identify as Christian, and 2.94% identify as Jewish.
- 80.77% of respondents believe that APR is a very serious problem in Canada.
- The most common places where respondents indicated they experienced APR are social media, such as Instagram, Facebook, TikTok (66.51% of respondents), the workplace (46.90% of respondents), and online, e.g., forums, websites, or blog posts (43.89% of respondents).
- 1031 out of 1089 respondents (94.67%) who experienced APR did not report their experience to police.
- The most common reasons selected for not reporting APR incidents to police were:
  - not having confidence the incident would be taken seriously or addressed,
  - not knowing if the incident warranted a police report, and
  - worry or fear of being targeted by the police for reporting such an incident.
- 578 out of 1057 respondents (54.68%) who did not report APR incidents to police indicated that they are unlikely or very unlikely to report an APR incident to police in the future.

# APR Context in Canada

## Overview of APR

### What is Anti-Palestinian Racism (APR)?

Anti-Palestinian racism is “a form of anti-Arab racism that silences, excludes, erases, stereotypes, defames or dehumanizes Palestinians or their narratives” (Majid 2022).

APR can manifest in many different ways, including<sup>3</sup>:

- Believing Palestinians are either complicit in their own oppression and dispossession, or simply a pawn of other Palestinians who are complicit.
- Assigning the intent to commit genocidal, violent acts onto Palestinians who self-advocate (e.g., labelling ‘from the river to the sea’ as a call for genocide).
- Ignoring or suppressing the existence, history, culture, etc. of Palestine/ Palestinians (e.g., denial of the Nakba<sup>4</sup>).
- Demanding Palestinians first denounce something before listening to them or respecting their experiences or perspectives.
- Ascribing inherent and universal antisemitic values to those advocating for Palestinians/Palestine (e.g., conflating speech critical of Israel with anti-Jewish sentiment).
- Stigmatizing being Palestinian/speaking about Palestine by deeming it too controversial and uncomfortable to discuss (e.g., institutions shutting down Palestinian cultural or advocacy events without cause).
- Institutional repression of support for Palestine/Palestinians and the systems-level perpetuation of anti-Palestinian racism (e.g., advocates in academia being “blacklisted”, doxxed, and defamed).
- The manipulation and co-opting of Palestinian history and culture in order to perpetuate and benefit from their oppression (e.g., racist representation of Palestinians in film/TV).

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.antipalestinianracism.com/>

<sup>4</sup> The Nakba, which means “catastrophe” in Arabic, refers to the violent expulsion of approximately three quarters of all Palestinians from their homes and homeland by Zionist militias and the new Israeli army during the state of Israel’s establishment (1947-49). [Source](#).

Given the ways that APR can manifest, anyone who advocates for Palestinian rights, including non-Palestinians and non-Arabs, can be targeted by APR. This is what makes APR unique. Non-Palestinian critics of Israel's unlawful actions have been consistently labelled as "antisemitic" and have faced various repercussions in response to their legitimate criticisms. Even when non-Palestinians are the targets of APR, Palestinians are ultimately still harmed since APR serves to uphold their oppression.

While an individual can experience APR, anti-Arab racism, and Islamophobia, it is important to note that APR is distinct from both anti-Arab racism and Islamophobia. Conflating APR with Islamophobia can be problematic for several reasons.

**The conflation assumes that Palestinians face only Islamophobia despite having their Palestinian identity targeted as well, which contributes to the erasure of Palestinian identity** and feeds into the Zionist narrative that falsely claims there is no such thing as Palestine. Also, the conflation assumes that all Palestinians are Muslim. While the large majority of Palestinians are Muslim, there are also Christian and Druze Palestinians who are not immune to APR (nor Islamophobia when perceived as Muslim due to ignorance), as the findings of the survey show. **The conflation ostracizes Palestinians who are not Muslim.**

More significantly, **conflating APR with Islamophobia perpetuates the false and misleading narrative that Palestine-Israel is a religious conflict between Muslims and Jews, even though it is a typical case of settler-colonialism**<sup>5</sup> (Krebs & Olwan 2012), like settler-colonialism in Canada (Dana & Jarbawi 2017). Portraying it as a religious conflict ignores the historical and ongoing oppression, dispossession, and subjugation of Palestinians by the occupying power (i.e., Israel). It also allows the focus to be deflected into Islamophobic debates about Islam rather than occupation and colonization. Transforming settler-colonialism into a religious issue also legitimizes the Zionist narrative that criticizing Israel's policies and actions is antisemitic. All of these factors negatively impact the ongoing Palestinian struggle for liberation and self-determination.

In addition to not being recognized and acknowledged, APR is widely normalized and condoned in Canadian institutions. Average Canadians who lack historical and contextual knowledge and who rely on mainstream corporate media as a source of information are not exposed to a balanced coverage of events related to Palestine-Israel. As outlined in the APR examples below, Canadian mainstream corporate media is biased when it comes to Palestine-Israel, which contributes to the perpetuation of false, harmful, and racist perspectives in Canadian society.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/10/1129942>



## Recent Examples of APR in Canada (since October 7, 2023)

The following are select recent examples of APR sourced mainly from media coverage to demonstrate the prevalence of APR in various institutions/sectors within Canada.

### Schools

- A Palestinian student at an Ottawa elementary school was asked to remove a Palestinian flag from their online profile or risk being removed from the class because “political statements are not for the classroom” (Williams 2023).
- A school counsellor at an Oakville high school was recorded telling a student wearing a keffiyeh<sup>6</sup> that he reminded her of terrorists (Carter 2024).
- The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies instructed their educators who teach workshops and courses in schools to report students who make comments critical of Israel to the organization (Basu 2024).
- A student equity advisor for the Toronto District School Board was suspended and placed under investigation after publicly criticizing a pro-Israel group for spreading misinformation about students (CJPME 2023a).
- A Peel District School Board principal was suspended pending an investigation into a social media post in which he rewrote a news article headline about the consequences of recent events in Israel-Palestine (CJPME 2024b).

### Colleges/Universities

- A University of Manitoba nursing student was suspended for social media posts that criticize Israel’s violence against Palestinians in Gaza (Macintosh 2023).
- Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) Law School students faced backlash for signing a petition expressing solidarity with Palestinians. The backlash included death threats, lost employment, potential expulsion, doxing, and harassment (Sealy-Harrington 2024).
- The administration of York University targeted three student unions that released a statement expressing support for the people of Palestine (York-REC Subcommittee 2024).

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<sup>6</sup> The Palestinian keffiyeh is a black and white checkerboard headscarf that dates back as far as 3100 BC Mesopotamia in the “Kufa” region of Iraq. <https://kufiya.org/what-does-the-palestinian-keffiyeh-symbolize/>

## Government

- The keffiyeh was banned in the Ontario Legislature by House Speaker Ted Arnott, claiming that it is “clearly intended to be a political statement” (DeClerq 2024).
- The Ontario government required TMU law students who have “current or upcoming employment opportunities” in the government to sign a form to say they did not participate in a pro-Palestine petition (Chaudhary 2023).
- Then B.C. Minister of Post-Secondary Education said while speaking as part of a panel that the region on which the state of Israel was created was previously “a crappy piece of land with nothing on it” (Schmunk 2024).
- Canada’s immigration policy for Palestinians from Gaza in comparison to immigration policies for other groups, including remarks made by Immigration Minister Miller where he said, “We have extreme security concerns” and repeated the words “security” and “terrorism” several times in relation to considering Palestinians for a temporary visa program (Theobald 2024).

## Media

- CBC’s double standards in the coverage of Israel-Palestine events, the whitewashing of Israeli crimes, the cancelling of interviews with Palestinian guests, the dehumanizing comments made about Palestinians in the newsroom, the anti-Palestinian bias in language used across CBC platforms, and the discipline of CBC employees who spoke out against the discrimination (Schumann 2024).
- CTV National News featuring disproportionately more Israeli voices than Palestinian voices and allowing Israeli officials to make false claims without any pushback (Palling & Innes 2023).
- A Palestinian journalist was fired from CTV for her pro-Palestinian activism (Seebruch 2023).
- A Palestinian journalist was fired from Global News for expressing criticism of Israel and pro-Palestine views on her social media (CJPME 2023c).
- The media’s smear campaign against pro-Palestine protests, including falsely claiming that protestors targeted a Jewish hospital (Kui 2024).

## Health Sector

- Dr. Yipeng Ge, a University of Ottawa medical resident, was suspended by the university after they received internal complaints against him for posting pro-Palestine content on his personal social media (White-Crummey 2023).
- Dr. Ben Thomson, a nephrologist at Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital, was suspended after posting pro-Palestine content on his personal social media (Basu 2023).

## Other

- Ottawa Mayor boycotts Capital Pride after they released a statement demonstrating solidarity with Palestinians (Seebruch 2024).
- Wanda Nanibush, an Indigenous artist who was the curator of Indigenous art for the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), abruptly resigned from her role in what was described by the AGO as a “mutual decision”. The resignation came a month after the Israel Museums and Arts, Canada, sent a letter to the AGO expressing concerns about Wanda’s advocacy for Palestinian rights and criticism of Israel’s policies (Lawwson-Tancred 2024).
- The Toronto Police Service's Hate Crime Unit targeting of pro-Palestine activists through tactics like surveillance, night raids, and “trumped-up charges” (Lukacs 2024).

## Survey Methodology

The survey was developed using a paid version of SurveyMonkey, which utilizes special features and allows for a large number of responses.

## Survey Questions

For the respondent's reference, a description of APR and examples of how APR manifests were included in the introduction to the survey for reference purposes and to ensure a consistent understanding of APR. The survey did not collect any personal information, and the responses were completely anonymous.

The survey<sup>7</sup> included a total of 27 questions, six of which were optional and only shown to respondents if they indicated they would like to proceed with the optional questions. Some of the questions were conditional in that they were only shown to respondents if they provided a specific response to a previous question (i.e., branching logic was applied). Except for the optional questions, respondents were required to provide a response to all questions that were applicable to them. In several of the survey questions, there were opportunities to write-in responses in open-text fields.

The first two questions, which were applicable to all respondents, were qualifying questions; the first question ended the survey for respondents who indicated they do not reside in Canada, and the second question ended the survey for respondents who indicated they have never experienced APR as the focus of the survey is on APR experiences in Canada. For those who continued with the survey (i.e., respondents who reside in Canada and who have experienced APR), the next set of questions were related to demographics, including gender, age, place of birth, ethnicity, faith, and occupation. This was followed by a set of questions related to perceptions about APR and the respondents' APR experience, such as where it occurred, what was said or done and so on, and whether they reported it to police. The optional questions focused on how APR affected their life, how they coped at the time, and how it made them feel.

## Survey Distribution

The survey was shared with individuals and various types of organizations, such as advocacy and community groups, religious institutions, and think tanks. It was aimed at pro-Palestinian individuals, regardless of whether they had faced APR or not. To track response rates from the various organizations and individuals, different survey links were created, each with a unique Urchin Tracking Module (UTM) code appended to it. This helped ensure a healthy mix of people were responding to the survey and allowed

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<sup>7</sup> See Appendix for all survey questions.

a focus on networks that could reach a higher number of potential respondents. The links to the survey were shared with organizations via email, which then shared it with their members via their e-newsletter and/or social media accounts. Links were also sent to individuals through various messaging and social media platforms.

## Survey Respondents and Completion Rates

A total of 1664 respondents participated in the survey between March 25, 2024 and October 14, 2024. The completion rate was 74%<sup>8</sup>. The average time it took for respondents to complete the entire survey was approximately six minutes.

Most responses received were from individuals residing in Ontario (65.9%), followed by Manitoba (13.7%), and then British Columbia (8.7%). This distribution may have been impacted by the snowball effect of link sharing between individuals, depending on their location of residence and the reach of their immediate and extended networks.

The descriptive analysis of responses was conducted using cross-tabulation available within SurveyMonkey software to paint a portrait of who APR impacts and how it manifests in Canadian society. Textual analysis was conducted on write-in responses.

## Confidence Interval

The confidence interval was calculated using the following formula over the whole population of Canada, which, at the time of drafting this report, was 41,606,215<sup>9</sup>:

$$CI = \hat{p} \pm z \times \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p} \times (1 - \hat{p})}{n}} \times \sqrt{\frac{N - n}{N - 1}} \quad [33]$$

$$= 0.8 \pm 1.96 \times \sqrt{\frac{0.8 \times 0.2}{1,664}} \times \sqrt{\frac{41,845,089}{41,846,752}}$$

$$= 0.8 \pm 0.019, \quad [34]$$

Where CI is the confidence interval,  $\hat{p}$  is [...],  $z$  is [...],  $N$  is the population of Canada, and  $n$  is the number of survey respondents.

For every 100 samples, on average, 95 times out of 100, the population proportion facing APR would be between 78.1% and 81.9%<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>8</sup> The completion rate is the percentage of respondents that completed the entire survey. In other words, 1232 people completed the survey in full while 432 only completed it in part. We are using the completion rate in lieu of the response rate as there is no definitive way to determine how many people have received the survey link, due to the distribution methodology adopted.

<sup>9</sup> [Canada's population clock \(real-time model\)](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/28-661-x/2023001/article/00001-eng.htm)

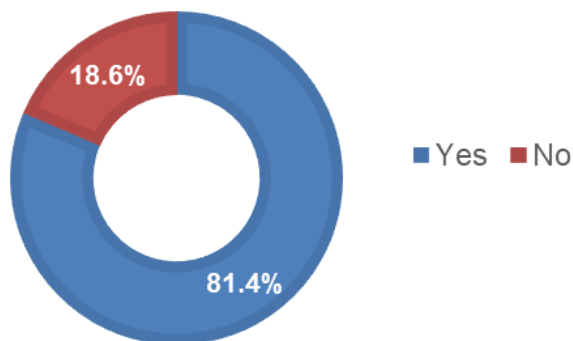
<sup>10</sup> It is important to note that these results cannot be inferred on the entire Canadian population given that it was not a random sample.

## Survey Findings

### Prevalence of APR and Characteristics of Survey Respondents

As shown in Figure 1, a striking 81.4% of survey respondents indicated that they have experienced APR.

**HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED APR?**



**Figure 1:** Proportion of respondents that experienced APR.

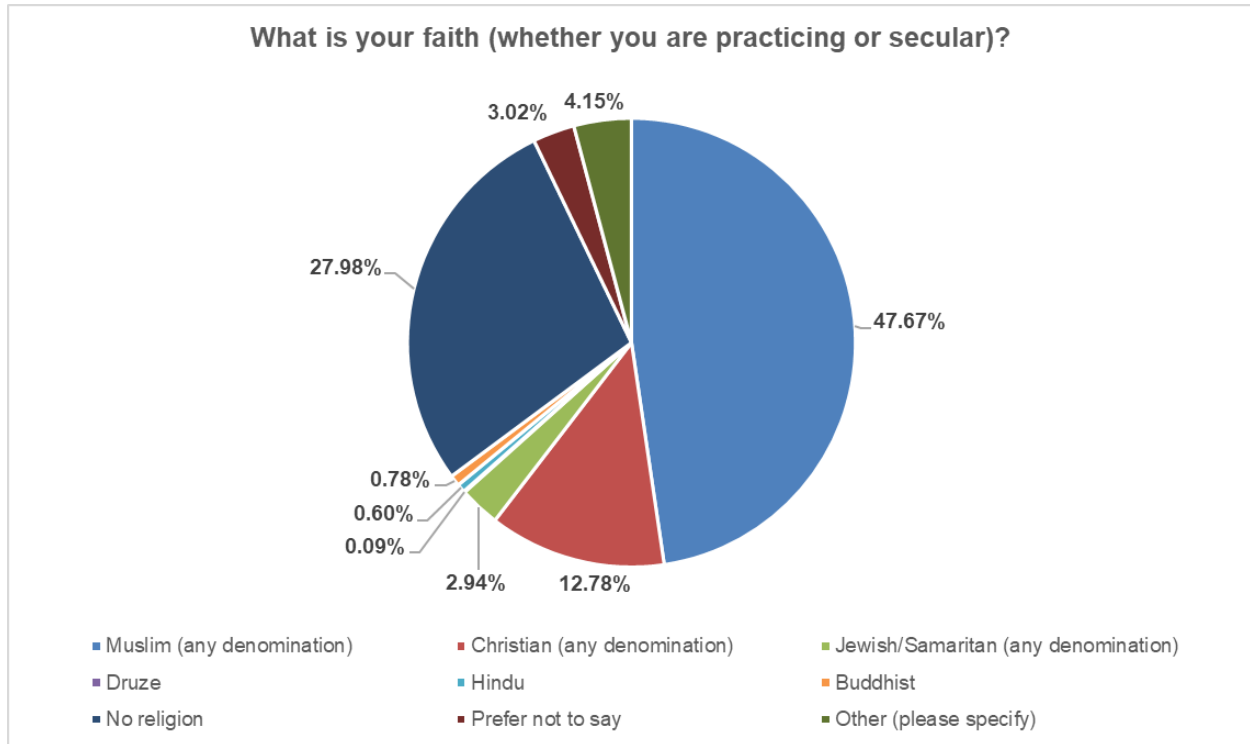
Almost two-thirds of the respondents identified as women, and 26.6% identified as men; the remainder of the respondents (5.5%) selected 'other' as their gender identity or preferred not to specify their gender identity.

The largest age group of respondents is 35-44 year-olds, making up 36.0% of respondents, followed by those aged 25-34 at 21.7%, understandably as most respondents are employed (63.8%) or self-employed (13.3%) and these groups fall within the core-aged workers group (Statistics Canada 2024).

Almost half of the respondents were born in Canada, making it less of an “imported issue,” as some may claim<sup>11</sup>, and demonstrating the prevalence of APR in Canada, even for those born here.

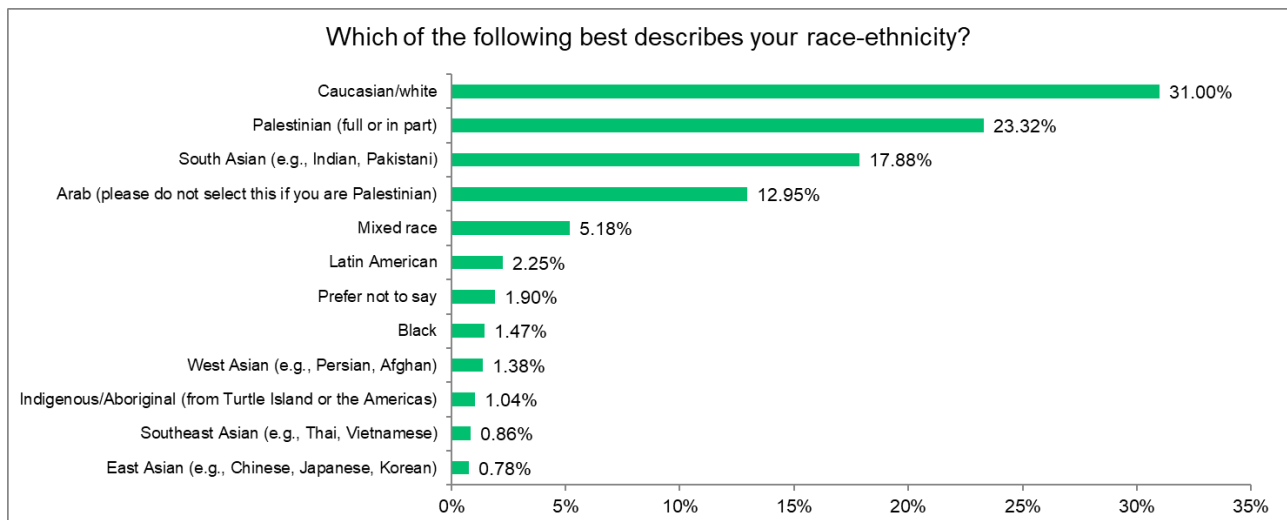
As shown in Figure 2, approximately half of the respondents identified as Muslim at 47.7%, followed by 27.9% who did not identify with any religion, 12.8% who identified as Christian, and 2.94% who identified as Jewish, further demonstrating the impact of APR on non-Muslim groups.

<sup>11</sup> In May 2024, while speaking about pro-Palestine encampments on university campuses, Premier Doug Ford said “You don’t come to Ontario, no matter what culture you are, and stir things up”, suggesting that the protestors are foreign.  
<https://x.com/ColinDMello/status/1787579199336644971>



**Figure 2:** Faith of respondents.

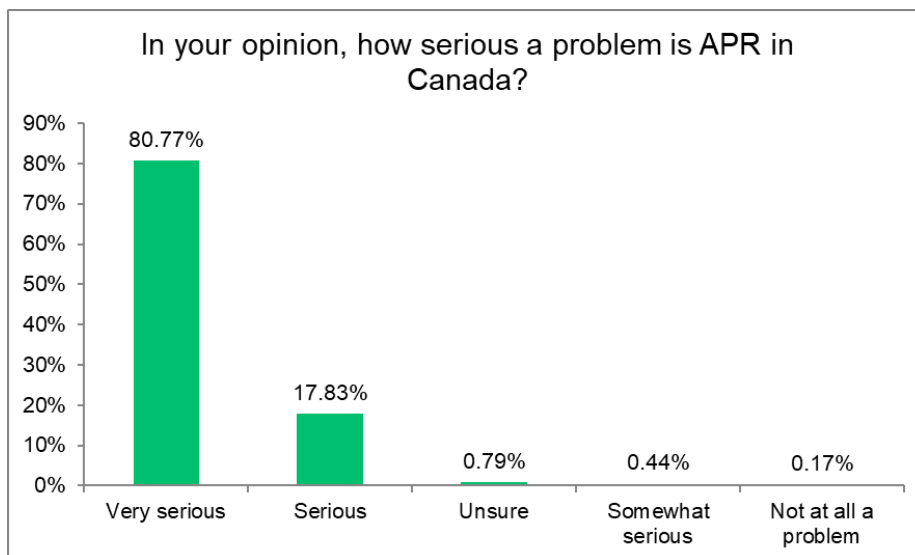
As shown in Figure 3, while nearly a quarter (23.3%) of respondents claimed Palestinian ancestry and almost 13% of Arab descent, 31.0% identified as White, once again demonstrating the prevalence of APR beyond the Palestinian and Arab communities.



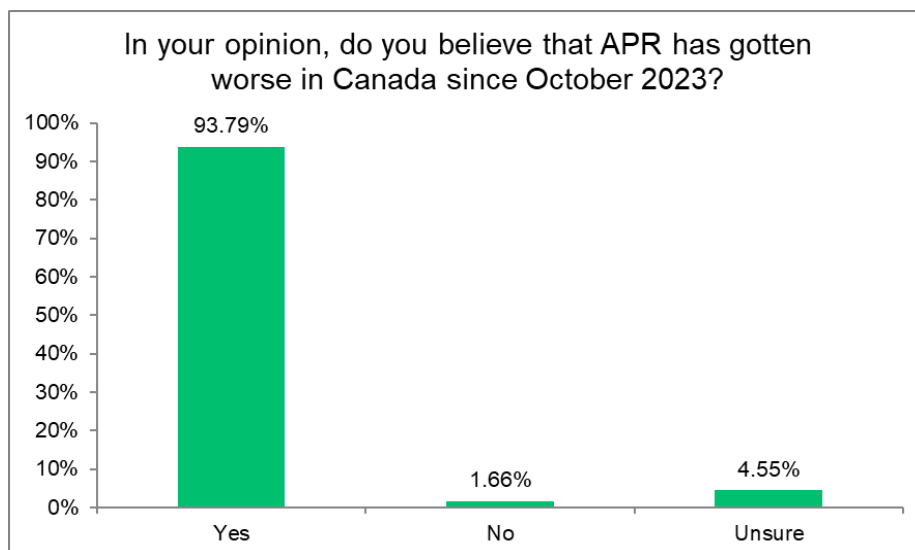
**Figure 3:** Race-ethnicity of respondents.

## Perceptions Regarding APR

Most respondents perceived APR to be a very serious problem in Canada at 80.6% (as per Figure 4), with 93.8% of respondents indicating that they believe APR has gotten worse since October 2023 (as per Figure 5). Overall, 94.0% of respondents feel that Palestinians and their advocacy for human rights are rarely or never adequately represented in the Western media (as per Figure 6).

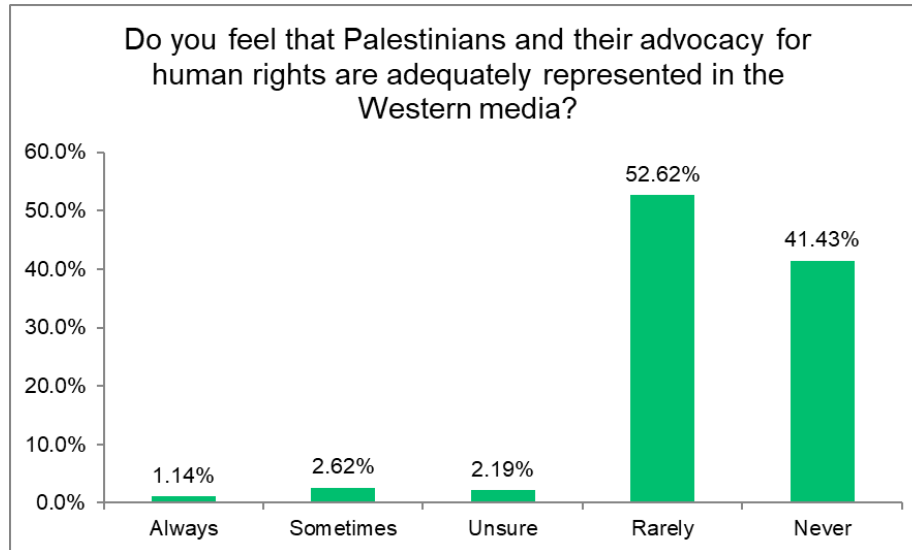


**Figure 4:** Perceptions regarding APR in Canada.



**Figure 5:** Perceptions regarding APR in Canada since October 2023.

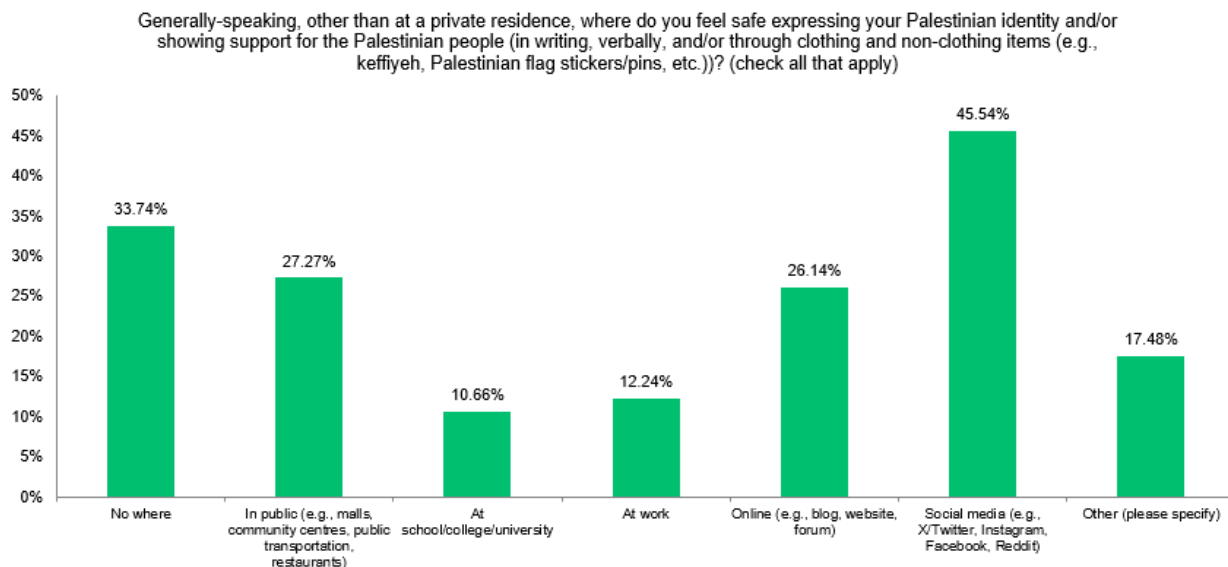




**Figure 6:** Perception regarding representation of Palestinians and their advocacy in Western media.

As shown in Figure 7, more than a third of respondents indicated that they are not comfortable showing support for the Palestinian cause anywhere, while 45.6% indicated they are comfortable doing so on social media, more than a quarter (27.3%) indicated they are comfortable in public such as malls, community centres, public transportation, and restaurants, and 26.2% are comfortable online (blog, website, forum)<sup>12</sup>. The rates are lower for respondents with Palestinian ancestry, where 45.0% indicated they are uncomfortable expressing their identity or showing support anywhere, 36.3% are comfortable doing so on social media, and one in five (20.6%) are comfortable in public.

<sup>12</sup> Respondents were able to select more than one option.



**Figure 7:** Places/platforms where respondents feel safe expressing their Palestinian identity and/or advocacy for Palestinians.

Of those respondents who selected *Other* to indicate where they feel safe expressing their Palestinian identity and/or showing support for Palestine (17.5% of respondents), the large majority indicated they feel safe when they are with close friends/family members, like-minded individuals, or when at a protest/rally. Some of these respondents indicated they feel safe when they are in faith-based spaces like mosques and churches, and other respondents indicated they feel safe in activist circles.

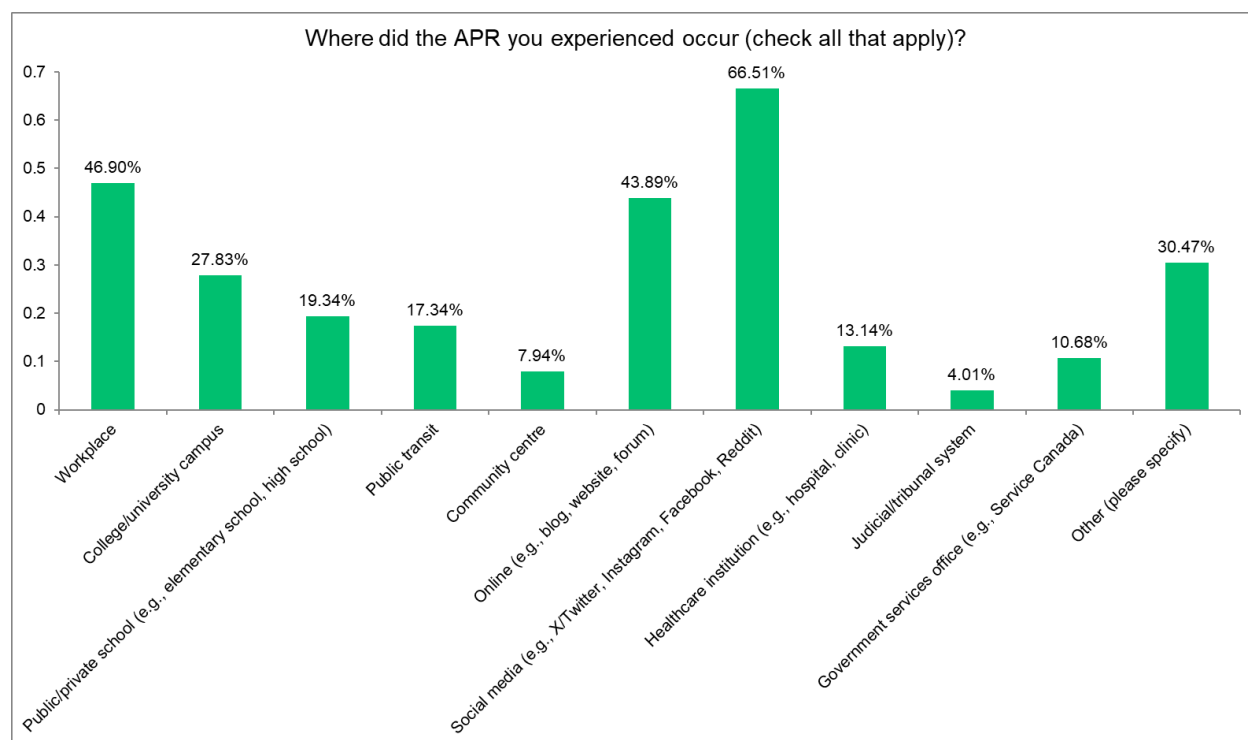
## Insights into APR Experiences

Respondents were provided with a series of terms/labels, some of which are used as slurs, and were asked whether they have been accused of being any of these terms/labels<sup>13</sup>. Over 60.1% of respondents were called antisemitic or anti-Jewish, followed by 58.5% who were labelled as pro-Hamas or Hamas supporters, while 53.6% were called “terrorist” or “terrorist sympathizer/supporter”. Over 44.0% were called anti-Israel/Israel haters, and almost 42.0% were accused of being someone who wants to destroy/erase Israel. When the question was analyzed for those with Palestinian ancestry, 55.9% indicated they were called a “terrorist” or “terrorist sympathizer/supporter”, over half (51.9%) were labeled as “Hamas supporters”, and 49.6% were called antisemitic. The various Jewish-based organizations that advocate for Palestinian human rights (e.g., Independent Jewish Voices) and the fact that Jewish individuals can

<sup>13</sup> Respondents were able to select more than one option.

be victims of APR (as demonstrated by this survey) emphasize the erroneousness of the antisemitism label that is placed on Palestinian supporters in Canada.

In terms of where APR was experienced by respondents, as shown in Figure 8, nearly two-thirds of respondents indicated that they had faced discrimination on social media (66.5%); for those who identified as Palestinian, it stands at 62.8%. This is followed by the workplace at 46.9% (58.0% for Palestinians) and 43.4% online (blogs, forums, websites), which is nearly the same for Palestinians at 44.0%<sup>14</sup>. These findings are consistent with the prevalence of APR within Canadian society, as noted in the APR Context in Canada section (e.g., individuals being investigated, suspended, and/or fired from their jobs for expressing support for Palestinians).



**Figure 8:** Places/platforms where respondents experienced APR.

Approximately 30.5% of respondents selected *Other* to indicate where they experienced APR. More than a quarter (28.1%) of these respondents indicated that they experienced APR in public spaces such as on the streets, public parks, and community centres, and some of them noted that they were wearing a keffiyeh or an item that displays solidarity with Palestine/Palestinians during the incident. A fifth (20.0%) of these respondents specified that they experienced APR during protests/rallies/demonstrations, and a similar proportion (20.0%) of these respondents noted that they experienced APR

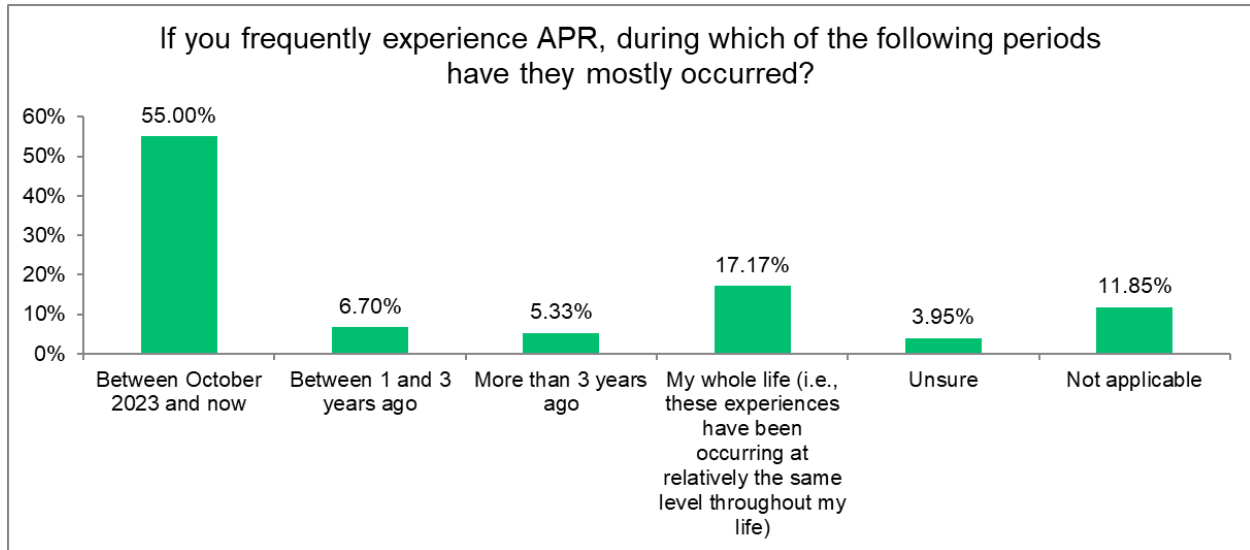
<sup>14</sup> Respondents were able to select more than one option.

during interactions with their friends and families. Other places where respondents noted that they experienced APR include their homes, restaurants, grocery stores, and shopping malls.

In response to being asked what they experienced at school, work, or other institutions they frequent, 44.9% of respondents (and 47.2% of Palestinian respondents) indicated being made to feel like their opinion is not wanted nor valued, and 39.0% of respondents, including Palestinian respondents specifically, indicated they were watched more closely. Slightly over 34.0% of all respondents (and 47.6% of Palestinian respondents) were made to feel inferior, while 29.5% of all respondents (and 31.2% of Palestinian respondents) were ignored or not taken seriously. More than a quarter (28.0%) of all respondents (and 40.4% of Palestinian respondents) were subjected to racial/ethnic slurs or jokes, and almost one in four (23.7%) of all respondents (and 24.8% of Palestinian respondents) were unfairly hassled.

Respondents who selected *Other* to indicate what they experienced (5.5% of respondents) noted various experiences; common experiences include facing punishment/discipline (~10% of respondents), being censored/smeared/silenced (~10% of respondents), facing criminal investigations (~10% of respondents), and having a complaint filed against them or being threatened of a potential complaint (~5% of respondents).

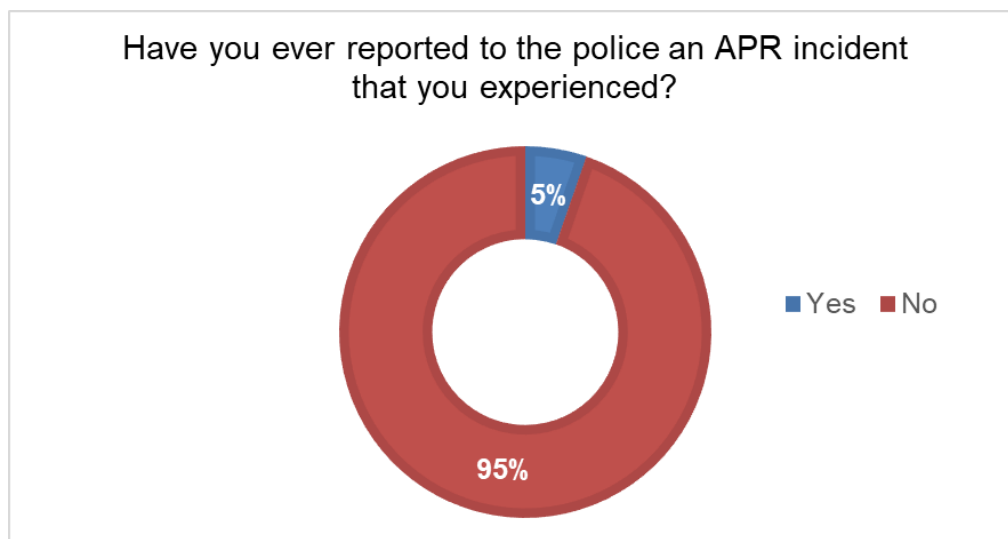
As shown in Figure 9, over half (55.0%) of respondents indicated they have experienced APR most frequently since October 2023, and over 17.0% of respondents indicated that they had experienced APR at a relatively consistent level throughout their whole lives. For Palestinian respondents, the rates of facing APR since October 2023 or at a consistent level through their entire lives are almost the same at 39.9% and 37.5%, respectively, with another 16.1% of Palestinian respondents having experienced APR most frequently between a year and more than three years ago.



**Figure 9:** Time period when respondents experienced the most APR.

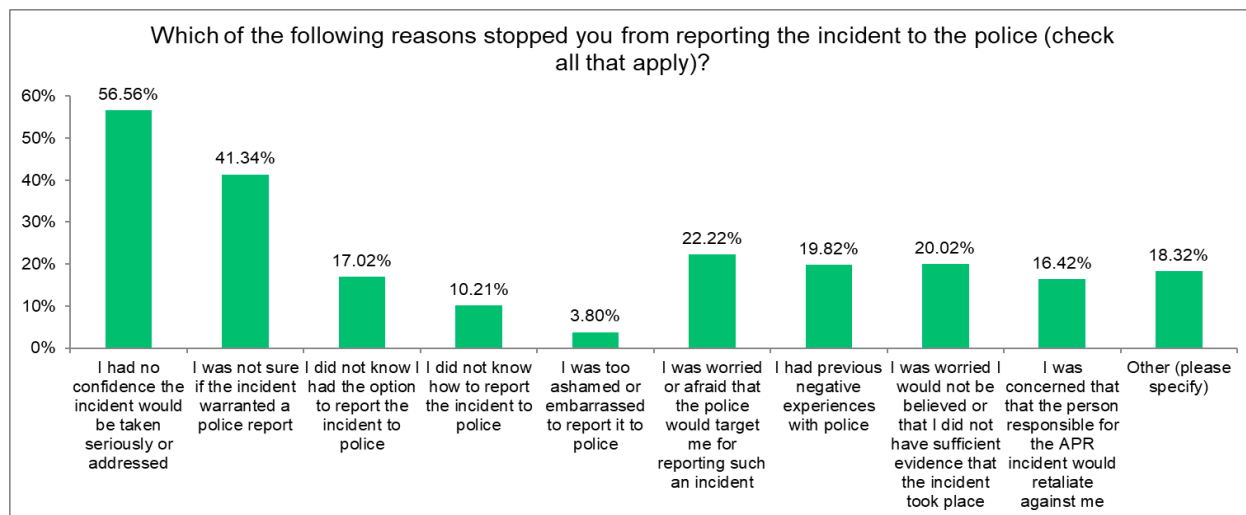
## Interactions with Law Enforcement and Police Reporting

Respondents were asked if they had reported the APR incident(s) they faced to the police. As shown in Figure 10, an overwhelming 94.7% of respondents indicated that they did not report the incident(s) to police, corroborating the lack of data on APR reported by community leaders and law enforcement, which makes it difficult to accurately quantify and address APR (CJPME 2023b).



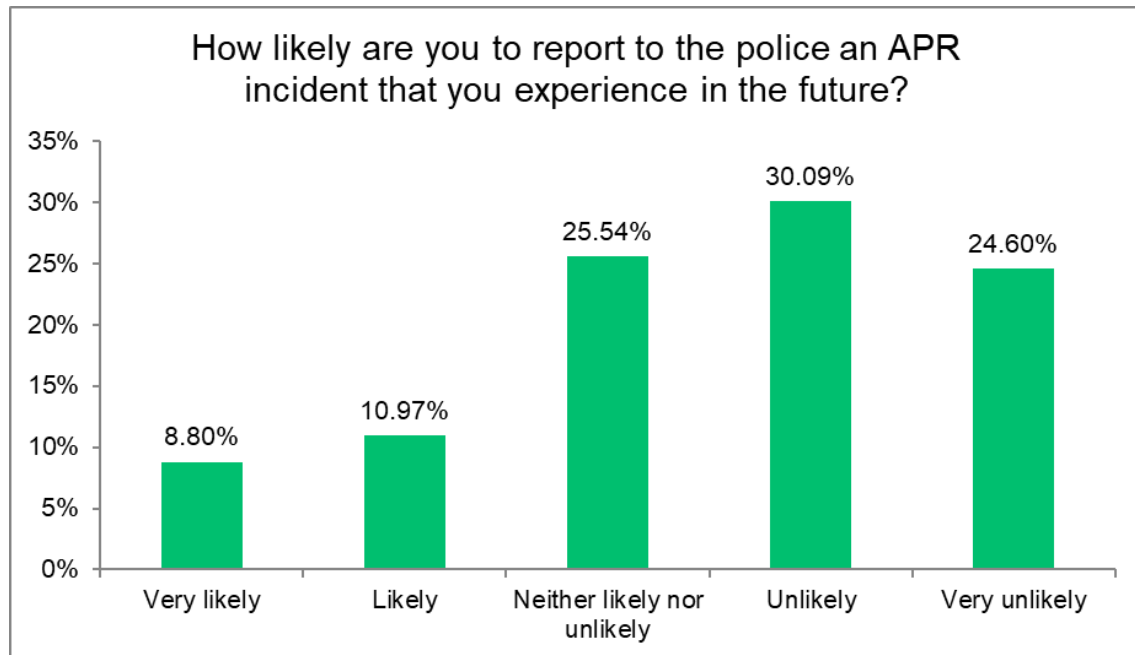
**Figure 10:** Proportion of respondents that reported APR incidents.

As shown in Figure 11, when asked why they did not report APR incidents to the police, 56.5% of respondents indicated they had no confidence the incident would be taken seriously or addressed, 41.3% were not sure if the incident warranted a police report, 22.2% were worried or afraid that the police would target them, and one in five (20.0%) were worried they would not be believed. This lack of confidence in the police is exacerbated by the structural racism deeply embedded in Canadian institutions (Stelkia 2020). Visible minorities are more likely to report experiencing discrimination when dealing with the police (Ibrahim 2020).



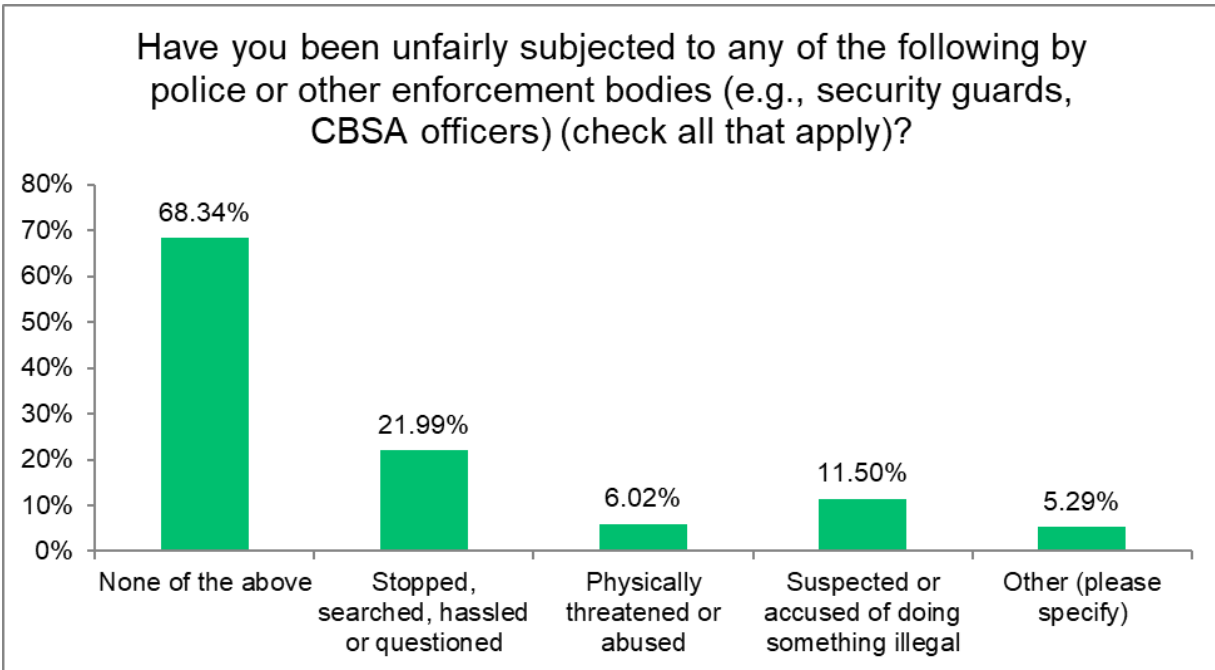
**Figure 11:** Reasons why respondents did not report APR incidents.

As shown in Figure 12, when asked how likely they are to report to police an APR incident in the future, 56.4% of respondents indicated they were unlikely to, while one in four (25.6%) were unsure, and less than 20.0% said they are likely to report an APR incident in the future.



**Figure 12:** Likelihood that respondents would report future APR incidents.

As shown in Figure 13, respondents were also asked whether they had been unfairly subjected to a list of actions by police or other enforcement bodies (e.g., security guards, Canada Border Services Agency officers, etc). Those who reported being subjected to such actions indicated that they were stopped, searched, hassled or questioned (22.0%), suspected or accused of doing something illegal (11.5%), and physically threatened or abused (6.0%).



**Figure 13:** Unfair treatment of respondents by police/enforcement bodies.

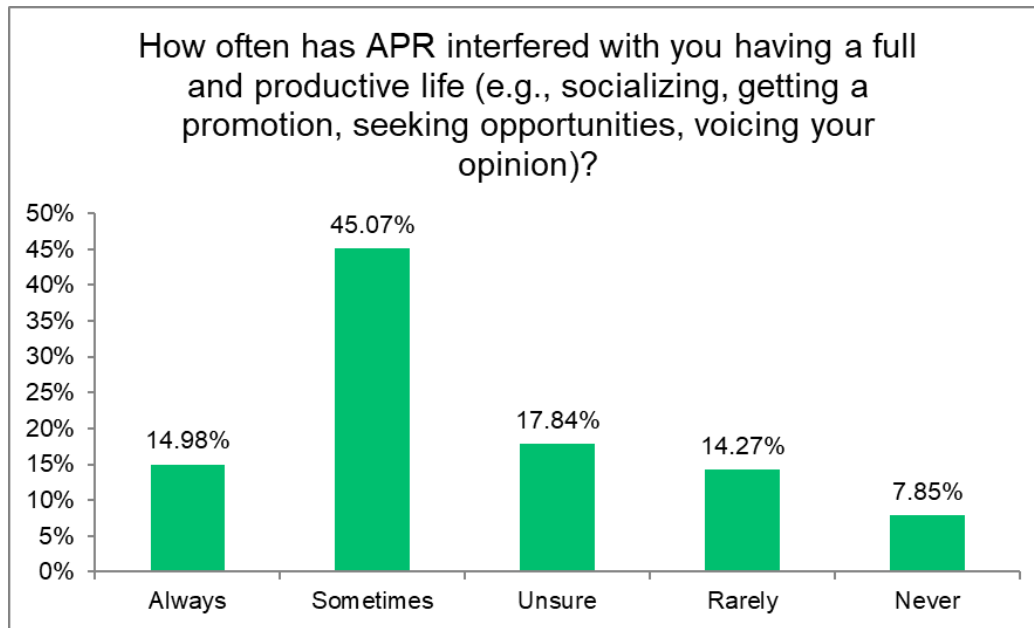
Respondents who selected *Other* to indicate what they were subjected to (5.3% of respondents) noted various experiences, most commonly being followed/under surveillance by law enforcement, as well as being verbally or physically assaulted by police. These results are supported by alarming trends of racialized groups in Canada, including Indigenous, Black, and Arab people, being subjected to brutality, profiling, and general discrimination by police forces at higher rates than the rest of the population (Stelkia 2020, McKinley 2023, Loriggio 2023, Plante 2024, White-Crummey 2024).

## Optional Survey Questions

The following section focuses on the six optional questions of the survey. The respondents who indicated they would like to proceed to the optional questions were not required to respond to all of the optional questions, and the applicability of two of the optional questions was dependent on the response to one of the questions. The optional questions were completed by 841 respondents (out of the 1664 total survey respondents).

As shown in Figure 14, when asked how often APR interfered with having a full and productive life (e.g., socializing, getting a promotion, seeking opportunities, voicing your opinion), 15.0% said always, while 45.0% said sometimes. When narrowing it to Palestinian respondents only, 26.3% of them said always, and 47.5% said sometimes.





**Figure 14:** Frequency of APR interfering in having a full and productive life.

When asked how they deal with these day-to-day experiences<sup>15</sup>, 77.1% of respondents (and 81.1% of Palestinian respondents specifically) indicated that they carefully watch what they say. Nearly 72.0% said they are careful with their appearance (e.g., wearing pro-Palestinian items), and for Palestinian respondents, that rises to 80.6%. Approximately two-thirds (67.0%) of respondents indicated that they think in advance about the kinds of problems they are likely to experience, whereas this was the case for 72.5% of Palestinian respondents. Over 64.5% of respondents indicated they are careful about what they post online or who is following them [on social media], but this is slightly lower for Palestinian respondents at 63.8%, possibly because they post less than their allies.

Respondents were also asked how facing APR makes them feel<sup>16</sup>. As there was a wide range of emotions that respondents were able to select from, related feelings were grouped based on the Geoffry Roberts emotions wheel<sup>17</sup> to simplify the analysis. Four main emotions were prevalent in the responses - fear, sadness, anger, and disgust. Figure 15 shows the distribution of emotions across respondents. Over 46% of respondents felt angry, and a slightly lower proportion felt fear (41.8%) and sad (42.0%)<sup>18</sup>. For Palestinian respondents, 67.5% felt angry, while 68.3% felt fearful, and

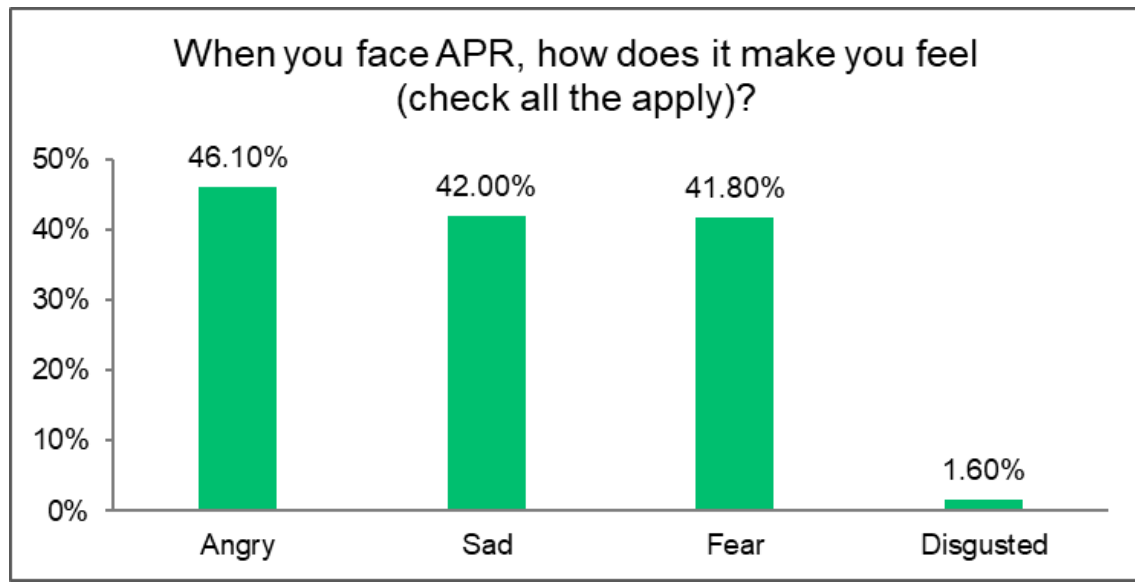
<sup>15</sup> Respondents were able to select more than one option.

<sup>16</sup> Respondents were able to select more than one option.

<sup>17</sup> <https://uca.edu/bewell/files/2020/11/Feelings-Wheel-Learn-How-to-Label-Your-Feelings.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> Respondents were able to select multiple options.

63.5% felt sad<sup>19</sup>. While there are common emotions experienced by Palestinian and non-Palestinian respondents, feelings may be more prevalent for Palestinians due to the ongoing trauma from their lived experience as Palestinians in Canada, particularly given the normalization of APR, as previously noted in this report.



**Figure 15:** How facing APR made respondents feel.

When asked whether they ever tried to stand up for themselves or for someone else experiencing APR, 82.3% (and 82.1% of Palestinian respondents) indicated that they have. When asked what they tried to do, 82.1% of respondents indicated they provided the aggressor with facts, which is about the same for Palestinian respondents at 83.7%.

When asked whether they faced any backlash for standing up against APR, 76.4% of respondents (and 70.7% of Palestinian respondents) indicated that they did. 41.1% of respondents (and 34.4% of Palestinian respondents) were accused of being antisemitic, a terrorist, a terrorist sympathizer, or another offensive slur in response to standing up against APR.

<sup>19</sup> Respondents were able to select multiple options.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

Overall, based on the survey findings, it is clear that APR experiences in Canada are prevalent and impact a wide range of the population beyond Palestinians and Arabs. Like other forms of racism, APR can manifest in unique ways and can have significant detriment to an individual's life, including impacts on their physical and psychological safety, career, relationships, and general livelihood.

The failure to acknowledge APR ultimately normalizes the racism, emboldens those who perpetuate it, and further contributes to the erasure of Palestinian identity. It also undermines efforts in Canada to combat racism in all its forms and reveals an inequity in the recognition of some forms of racism but not others.

Recognizing and addressing APR is urgently needed now more than ever. The following are the recommendations to address APR:

1. Public and private institutions/organizations to adopt the ACLA's working definition of APR and to incorporate this APR definition into existing anti-racism frameworks and strategies (e.g., Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy), as well as, recognize it as a distinct form of racism apart from anti-Arab and anti-Muslim hate/Islamophobia.
2. Federal, provincial, and municipal governments to take measures to address systemic and institutional APR (e.g., in law enforcement, immigration policies, etc.).
3. Federal and provincial governments to not conflate criticism of Israel with antisemitism.
4. Canada to formally recognize the Nakba and its ongoing impacts, as well as settler-colonialism being a central feature in the establishment of Israel.
5. Canada to uphold its legal obligations under international law and treaties, including, but not limited to, the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and the Arms Trade Treaty.

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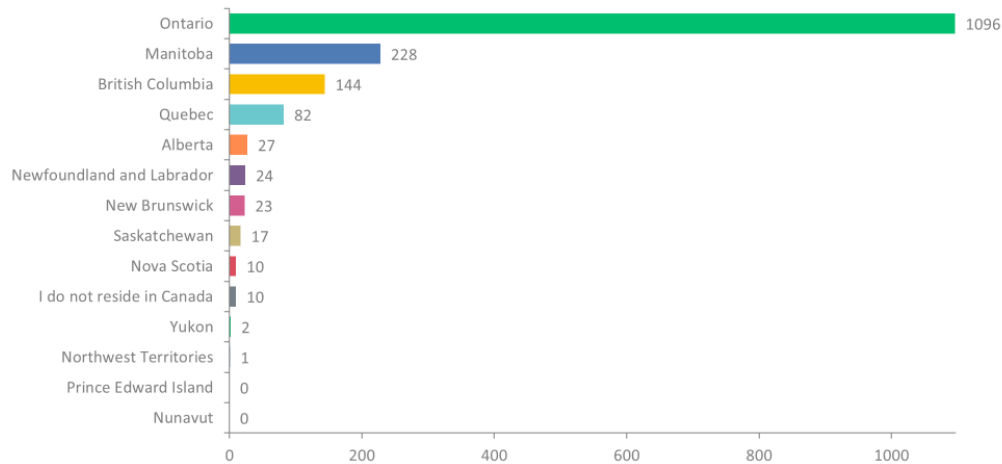
## APPENDIX: Survey Questions

The survey included a total of 27 questions; Q1-Q21 were mandatory, and Q22-Q27 were optional. One of the mandatory questions (Q21) asked respondents if they would like to continue with the optional questions. In several of the survey questions, there were opportunities to write-in responses in open-text fields.

The first question ended the survey for respondents who indicated they do not reside in Canada, and the second question ended the survey for respondents who indicated they have never experienced APR. Except for the optional questions, respondents were required to provide a response to all questions that were applicable to them. There were respondents who abandoned the survey at different points.

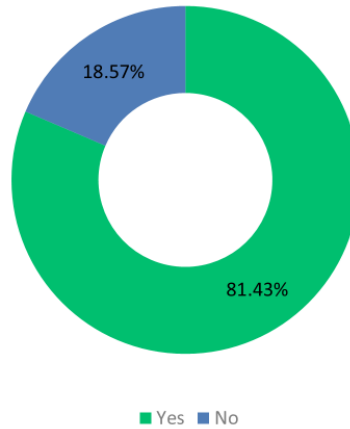
### Q1: Which province/territory do you reside in?

Answered: 1664 Skipped: 0



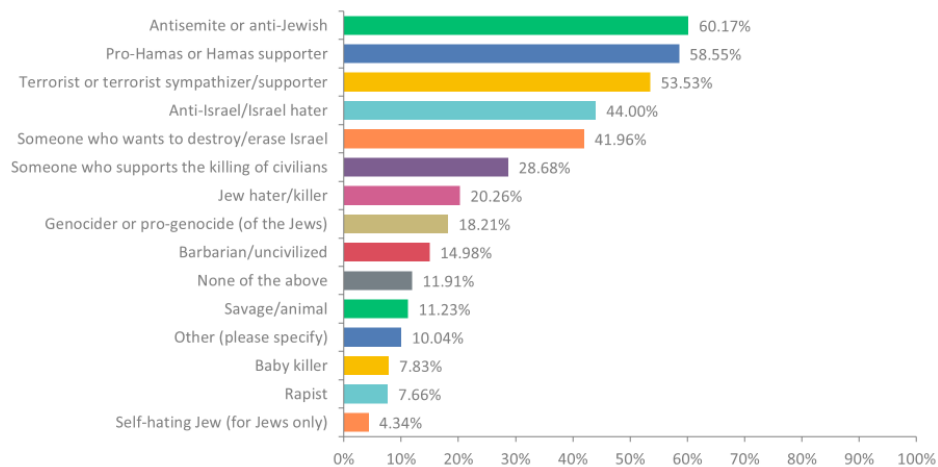
## Q2: Have you ever experienced APR?

Answered: 1562 Skipped: 102



## Q3: Have you ever been accused of being any of the following (check all that apply):

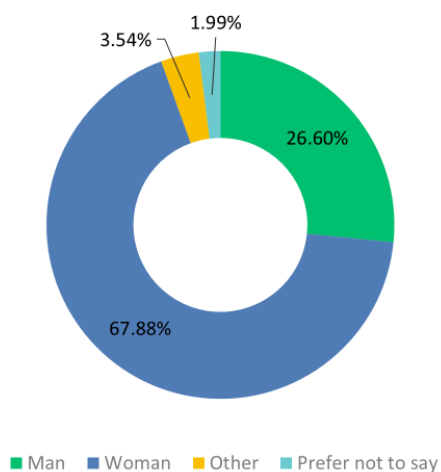
Answered: 1175 Skipped: 489





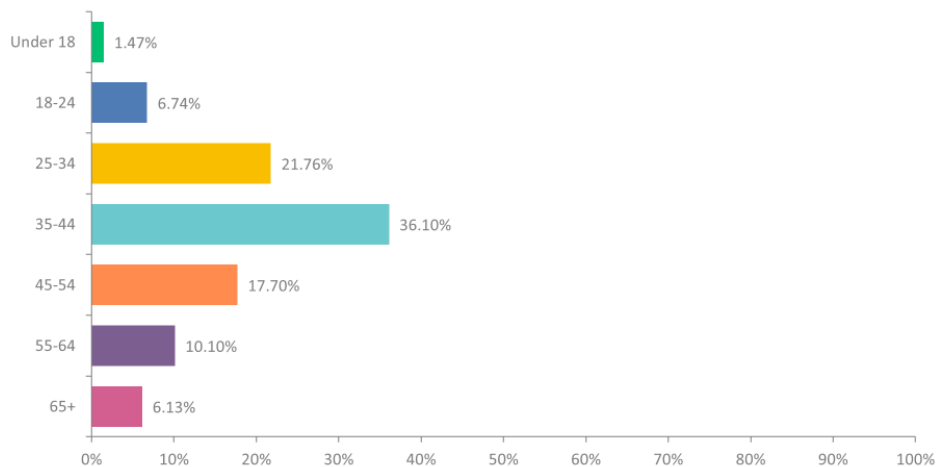
#### Q4: What is your gender identity?

Answered: 1158 Skipped: 506



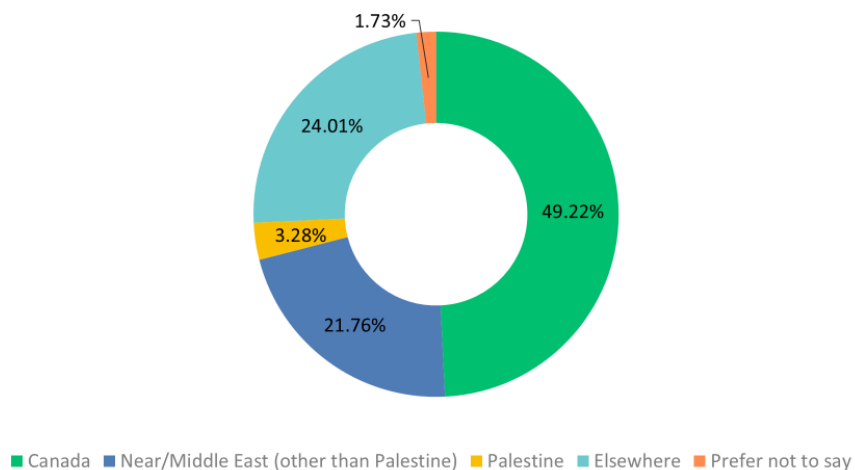
#### Q5: What is your age group (or the age of your child if you are filling out the survey on their behalf)?

Answered: 1158 Skipped: 506



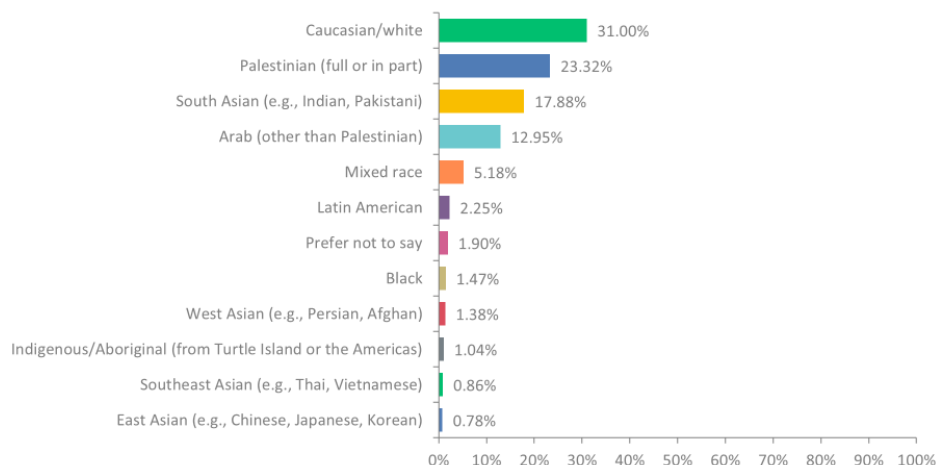
## Q6: Where were you born?

Answered: 1158 Skipped: 506



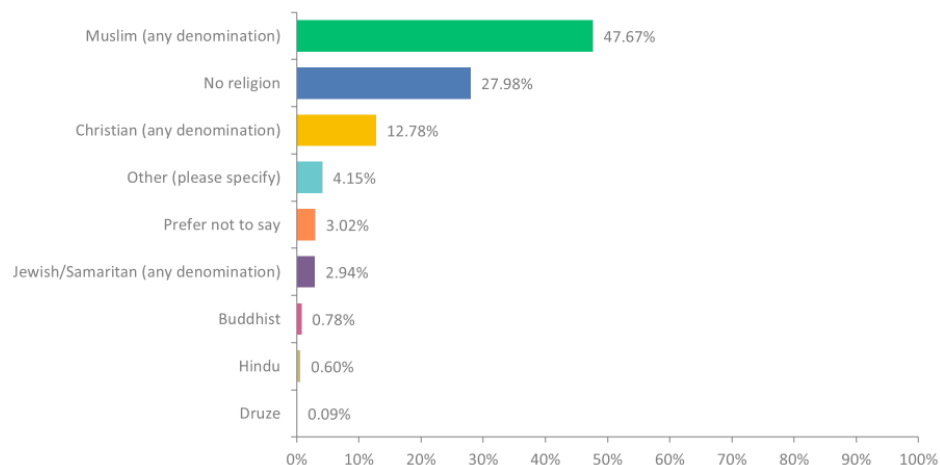
## Q7: Which of the following best describes your race-ethnicity?

Answered: 1158 Skipped: 506



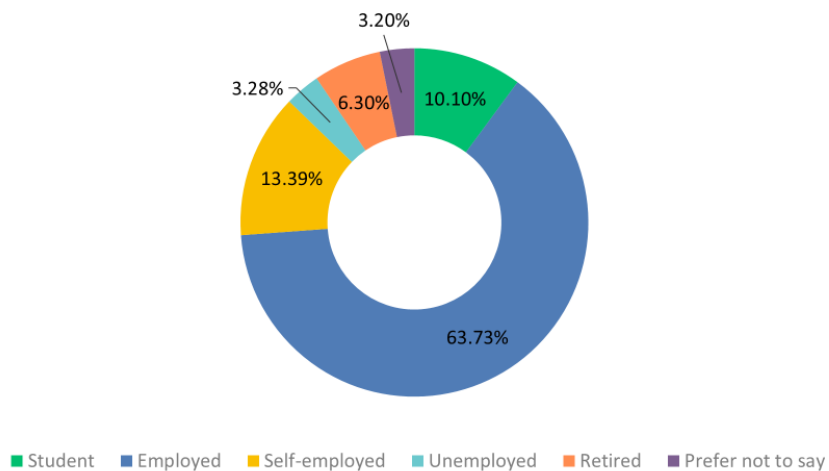
## Q8: What is your faith (whether you are practicing or secular)?

Answered: 1158 Skipped: 506



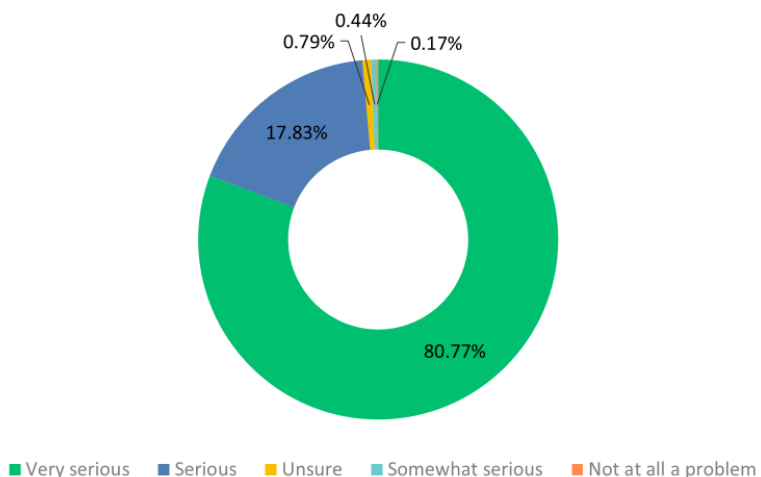
## Q9: What is your occupation?

Answered: 1158 Skipped: 506



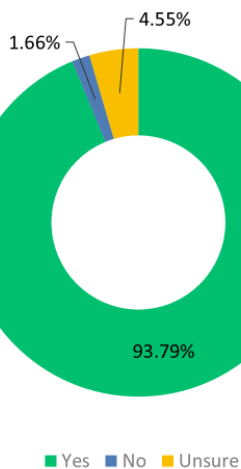
### Q10: In your opinion, how serious a problem is APR in Canada?

Answered: 1144 Skipped: 520



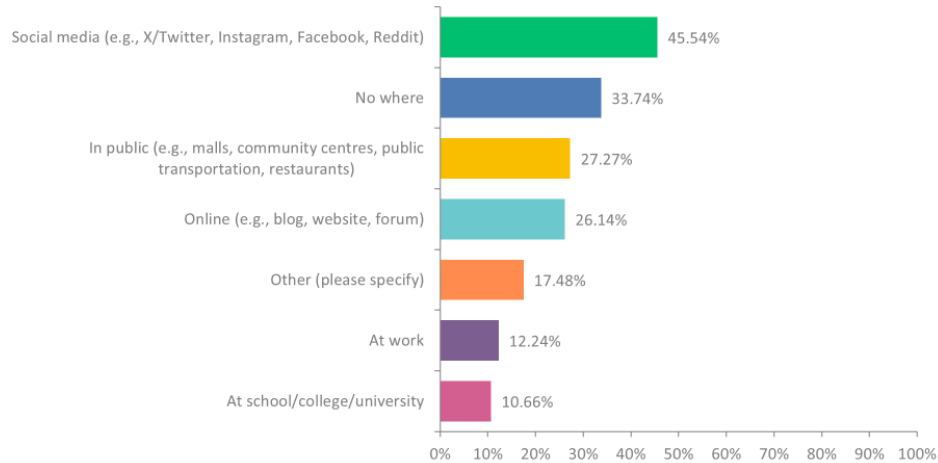
### Q11: In your opinion, do you believe that APR has gotten worse in Canada since October 2023?

Answered: 1144 Skipped: 520



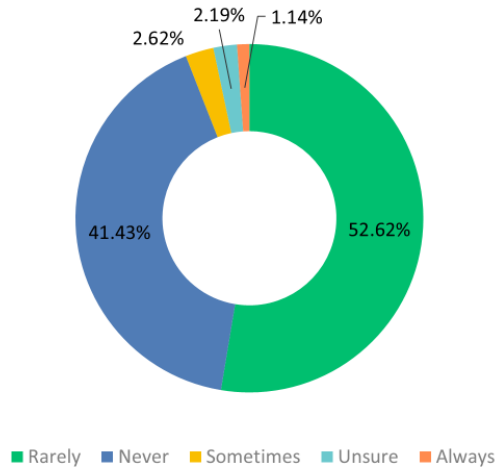
**Q12: Generally-speaking, other than at a private residence, where do you feel safe expressing your Palestinian identity and/or showing support for the Palestinian people (in writing, verbally, and/or through clothing and non-clothing items (e.g., keffiyeh, Palestinian flag stickers/pins, etc.))? (check all that apply)**

Answered: 1144 Skipped: 520



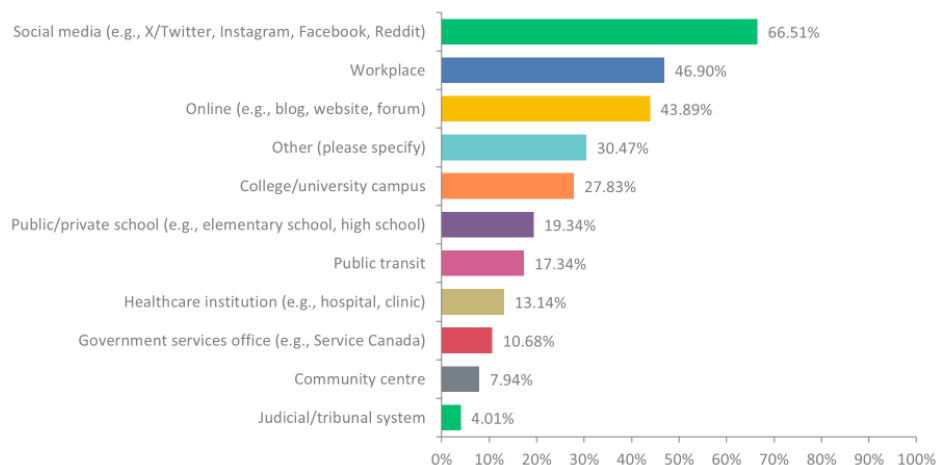
**Q13: Do you feel that Palestinians and their advocacy for human rights are adequately represented in the Western media?**

Answered: 1144 Skipped: 520



## Q14: Where did the APR you experienced occur (check all that apply)?

Answered: 1096 Skipped: 568



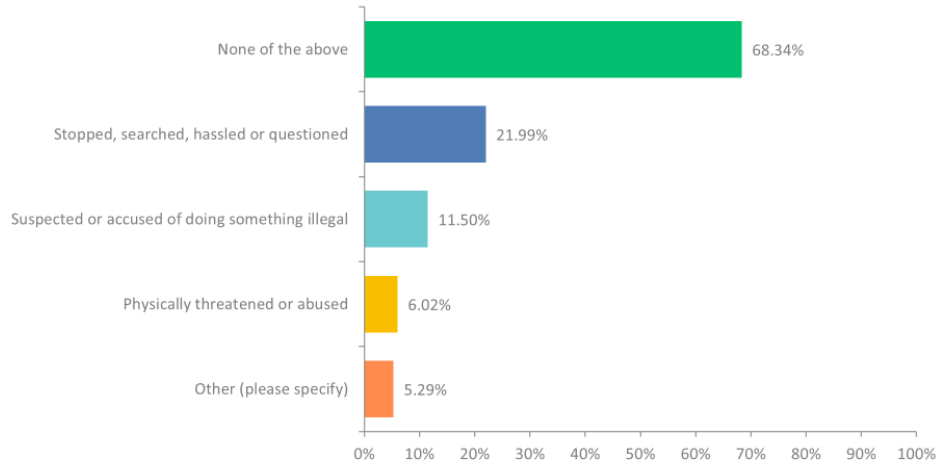
## Q15: Have you ever experienced any of the following at school, work, or other institutions you frequent (check all that apply)?

Answered: 1096 Skipped: 568

Being made to feel like your opinion is not wanted or not valued	44.89%
Watched more closely than others	38.96%
Being made to feel inferior	34.22%
Being ignored or not taken seriously by others	29.47%
Being subjected to racial/ethnic slurs or jokes, whether mentioned generally or directly at you	27.83%
Unfairly hassled	23.63%
Having to work twice as hard as others to get the same recognition	22.81%
None of the above	21.81%
Having unfounded complaints filed against you	19.43%
Had your social media channels scraped by others	17.24%
Being humiliated in private or in front of others	16.51%
Seeing less experienced and less qualified colleagues get promoted before you	16.33%
Unfairly denied a promotion/scholarship	8.94%
Unfairly discouraged by a teacher, supervisor or advisor from continuing your education, or pursuing a promotion	8.67%
Unfairly not hired	7.39%
Unfairly fired	5.75%
Other (please specify)	5.47%

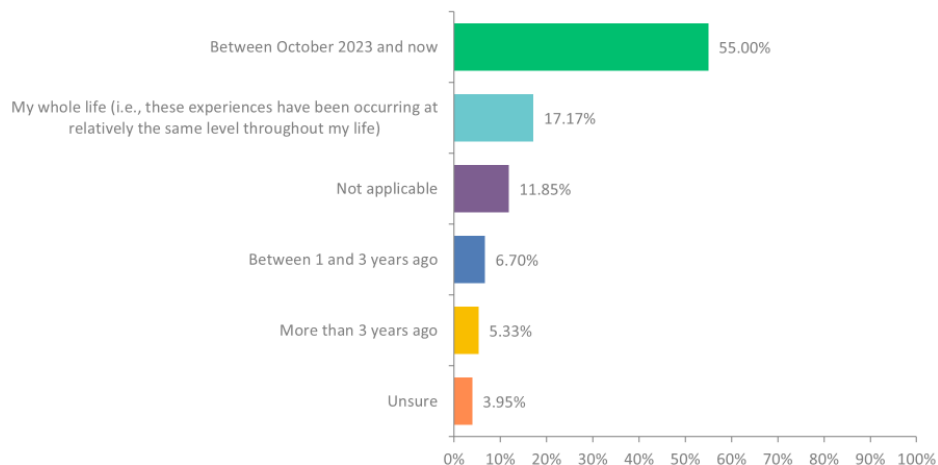
**Q16: Have you been unfairly subjected to any of the following by police or other enforcement bodies (e.g., security guards, CBSA officers) (check all that apply)?**

Answered: 1096 Skipped: 568



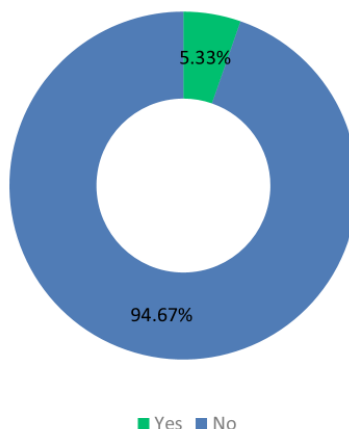
**Q17: If you frequently experience APR, during which of the following periods have they mostly occurred?**

Answered: 1089 Skipped: 575



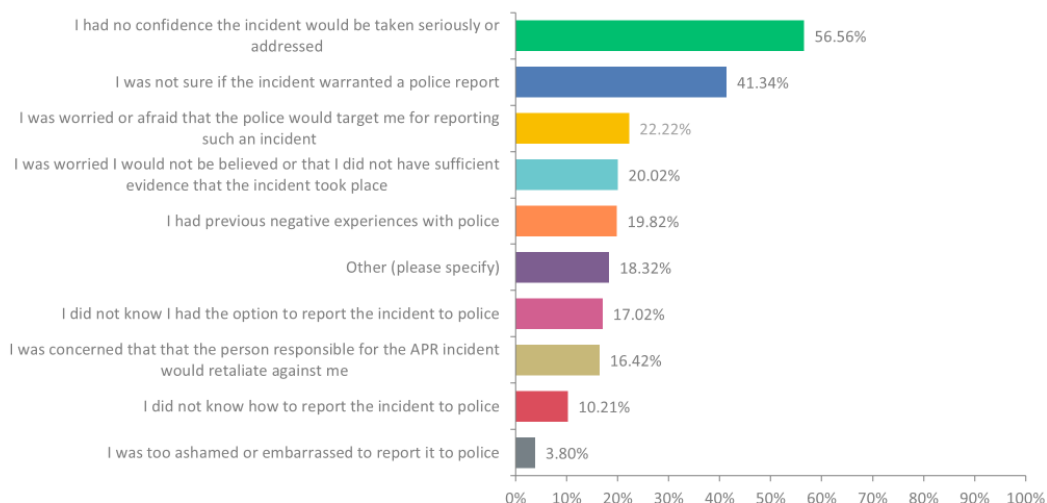
## Q18: Have you ever reported to the police an APR incident that you experienced?

Answered: 1089 Skipped: 575



## Q19: Which of the following reasons stopped you from reporting the incident to the police (check all that apply)?

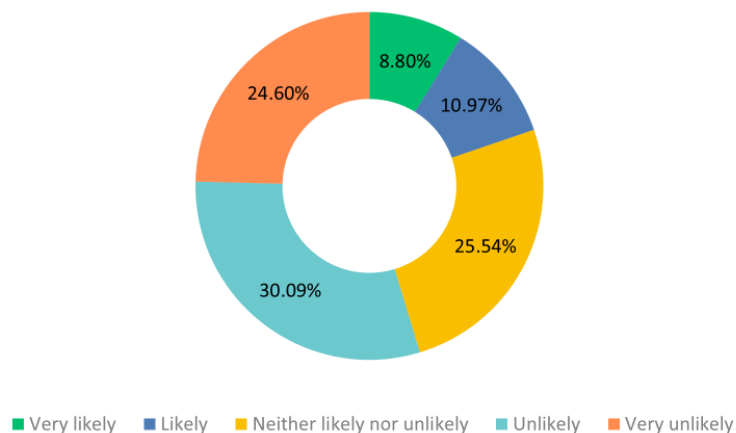
Answered: 999 Skipped: 665





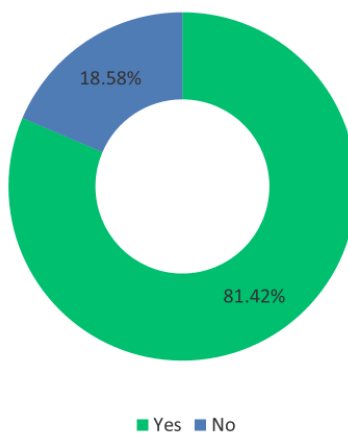
## Q20: How likely are you to report to the police an APR incident that you experience in the future?

Answered: 1057 Skipped: 607



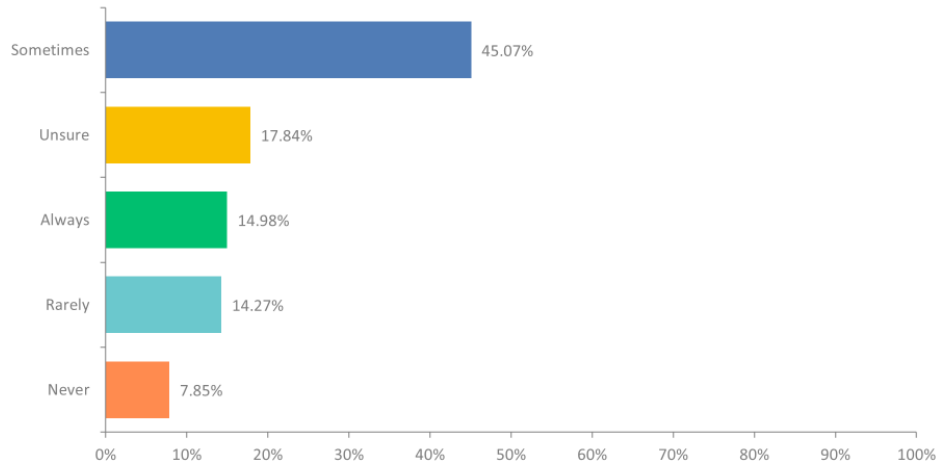
## Q21: We have a few more optional questions we would like to ask you. Would you like to continue?

Answered: 1055 Skipped: 609



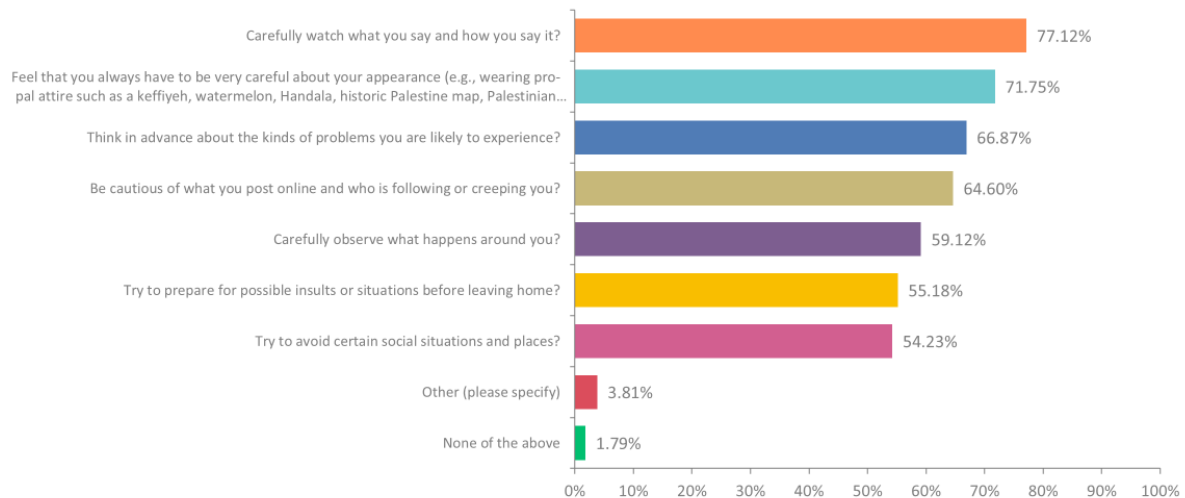
## Q22: How often has APR interfered with you having a full and productive life (e.g., socializing, getting a promotion, seeking opportunities, voicing your opinion)?

Answered: 841 Skipped: 823



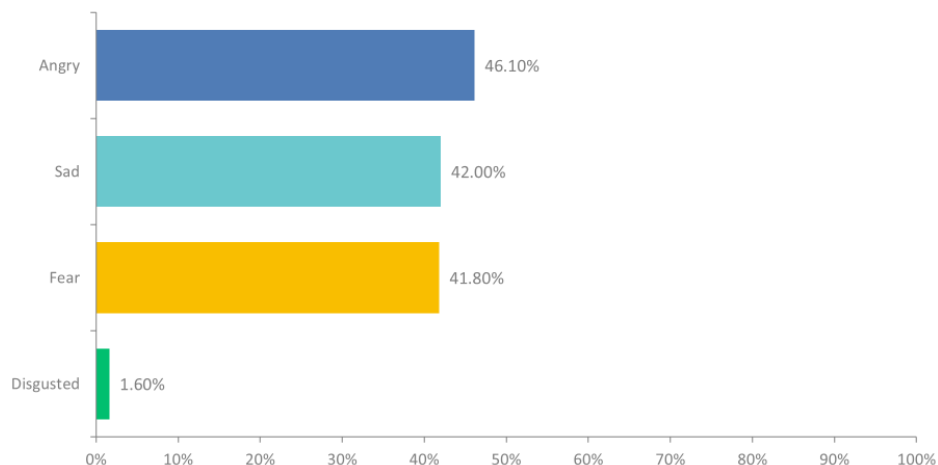
## Q23: In dealing with these day-to-day experiences, do you ever (check all that apply):

Answered: 839 Skipped: 825



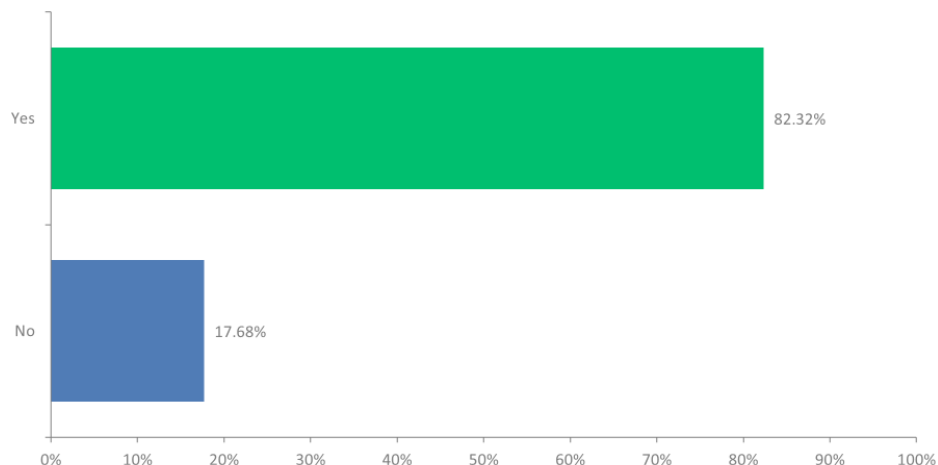
**Q24: When you face APR, how does it make you feel (check all that apply)?**

Answered: 841 Skipped: 823



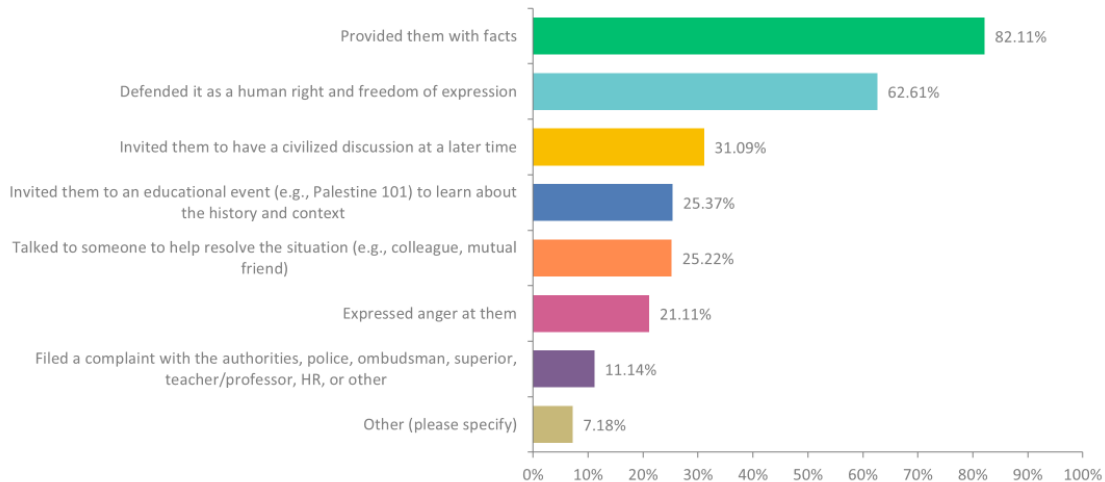
**Q25: Did you ever try to stand up for yourself or for someone else when you or another person experienced APR?**

Answered: 837 Skipped: 827



## Q26: What did you try to do (check all that apply)?

Answered: 682 Skipped: 982



## Q27: What backlash did you face, if any?

Answered: 658 Skipped: 1006

