



Young Russian Women on Trafficking, Prostitution and Gender-Based Discrimination

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Agenda: What do women think?

- What do they know about human trafficking?
- What are the policy implications of these findings?
- What about prostitution?
- Experiences of harassment and discrimination in the workplace and educational institutions
- Views on gender roles
- Why are they not having more babies?
 - Not covered today but we can discuss in Q and A
 - Implications of the financial crisis

Fill the Knowledge Gap

- Conventional wisdom, even myths, drive views of these issues
- Anecdotal sense of how widespread particular views and experiences are
- Our benchmark survey data on knowledge, attitude and experience challenge assumptions
- Enables better and more effective policy interventions

Benchmark Survey

- April 2007: Four focus groups*
- Summer 2007: Follow up in-depth interviews
- March-April 2008: Pretest of 20 and survey of 2,004 women 16-34 years old implemented by the Levada Analytic Center
- Supported by a grant from the Ford Foundation
- Survey addresses multiple, separate issues

- * Findings from focus group informed response categories—language is theirs, not ours

Table 1. Sample Characteristics

	<i>Percent</i>	<i>N</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>N</i>
Age			Place of residence		
Under 18	12.1%	242	Moscow	6.7%	135
18 to 21	23.9%	479	Other large city (1 mil. +)	13.1%	263
22 to 27	30.9%	619	Small city/town	57.5%	1152
27 to 34	33.1%	664	Rural village	22.7%	454
Education			Ethnicity		
Less than secondary	12.9%	258	Russian	87.1%	1746
Lower vocational	11.2%	224	Other Slavic	1.3%	25
Secondary	43.6%	873	Non-European	10.0%	201
College	32.4%	649	Other/hard to say	1.6%	32
Marital Status			Religious Affiliation		
Single (never married)	43.2%	865	None	22.4%	448
Married	42.6%	853	Orthodox	67.7%	1357
Cohabiting	8.5%	171	Catholic	0.3%	5
Separated/Divorced	5.1%	103	Muslim	5.7%	115
Widowed	0.6%	12	Other	0.4%	8
			Not sure	3.5%	71
Main activity					
Working for hire	43.9%	879	Not working, not looking	3.3%	67
Individual work activity	1.5%	29	Disabled	0.7%	13
Own business, with employees	0.7%	14	Homemaking	9.1%	182
Studying in secondary school	12.9%	258	On maternity leave	12.3%	247
Studying in university	10.8%	217	Other	0.1%	1
Unemployed, looking for work	4.8%	97			

I. Human Trafficking

- Movement of people either through force, fraud, or coercion for the express purposes of enslavement
- Forced prostitution involves being sold as chattel, stripped of passport, and forced to pay off a bogus “debt” to their traffickers.
- UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

Policy Context

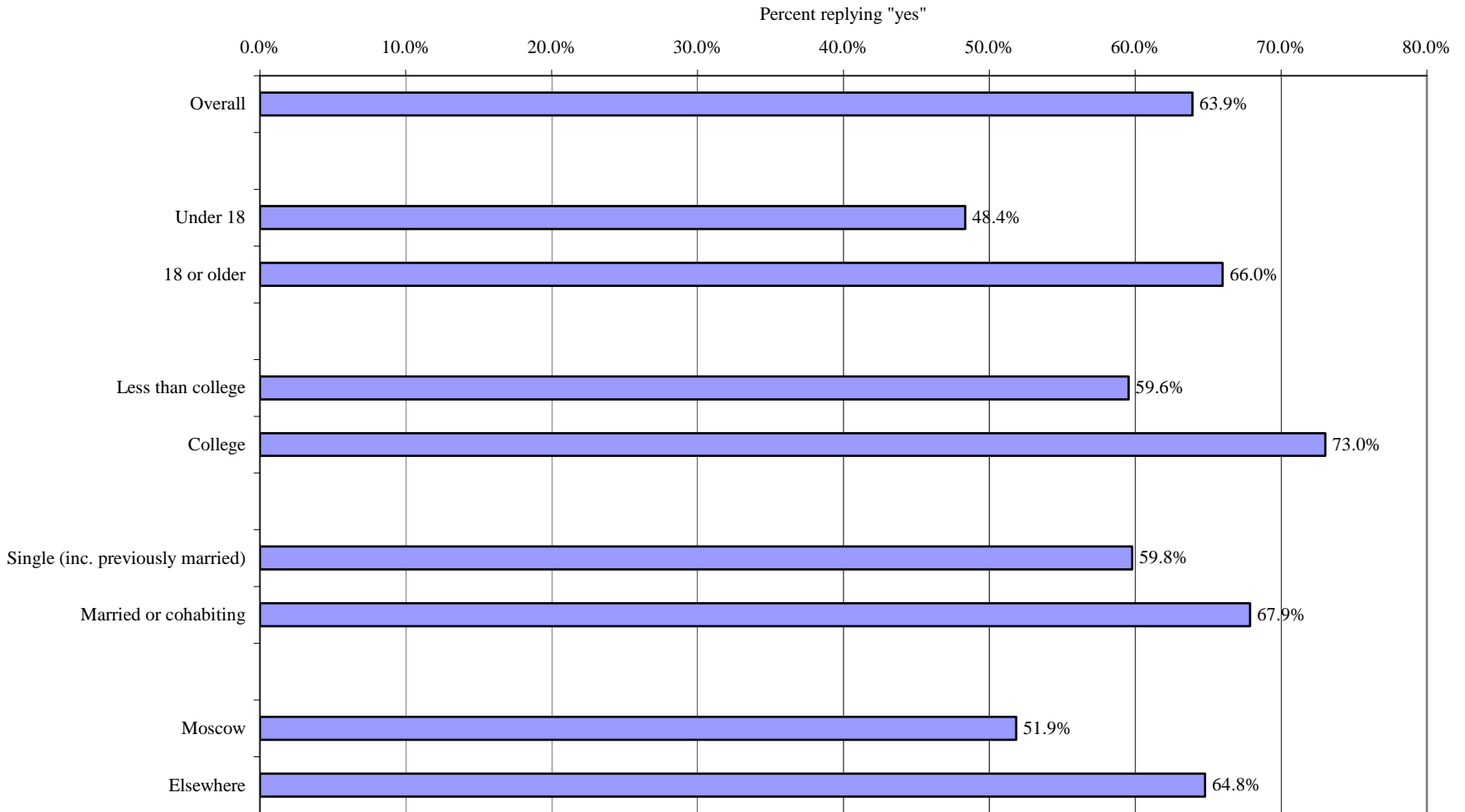
- US State Department placed Russia on the “Tier 2 Watch List” for the last five years
- Viewed as major source, destination and transit
- According to the 2008 TIP Report, little to no funding for victims’ assistance programs
- No funding to NGOs working on anti-trafficking programs
- Comprehensive legislation pending but stuck since 2003

The Range of Conventional Wisdoms

- Russian women have not heard of this phenomenon/do not know what it is
- Russian women are easily duped into trafficking through advertisements for work abroad
- Rare event; concern is largely donor driven/foreign
- Not rare: trafficking involves upwards of 10,000 women sold a year from Russia

Figure 1. Have you seen an advertisement for highly paid work abroad, no experience necessary?

(Note: All contrasts are statistically significant in a multivariate analysis.)



Fewer than 2% would answer such an advertisement

Figure 2. Why would you not reply to the advertisement for highly paid work abroad?
(Note: respondents could choose all answers that apply.)

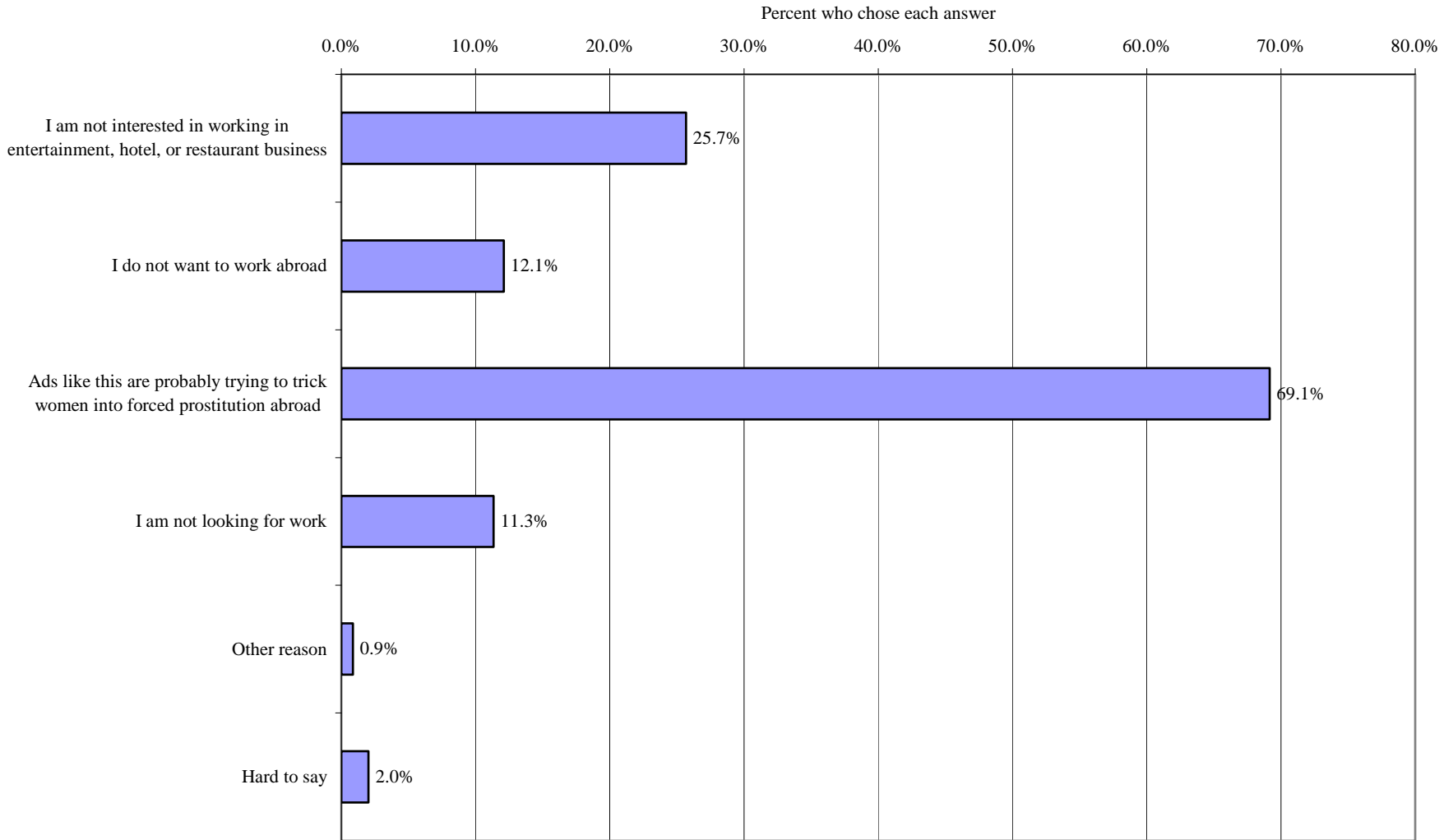
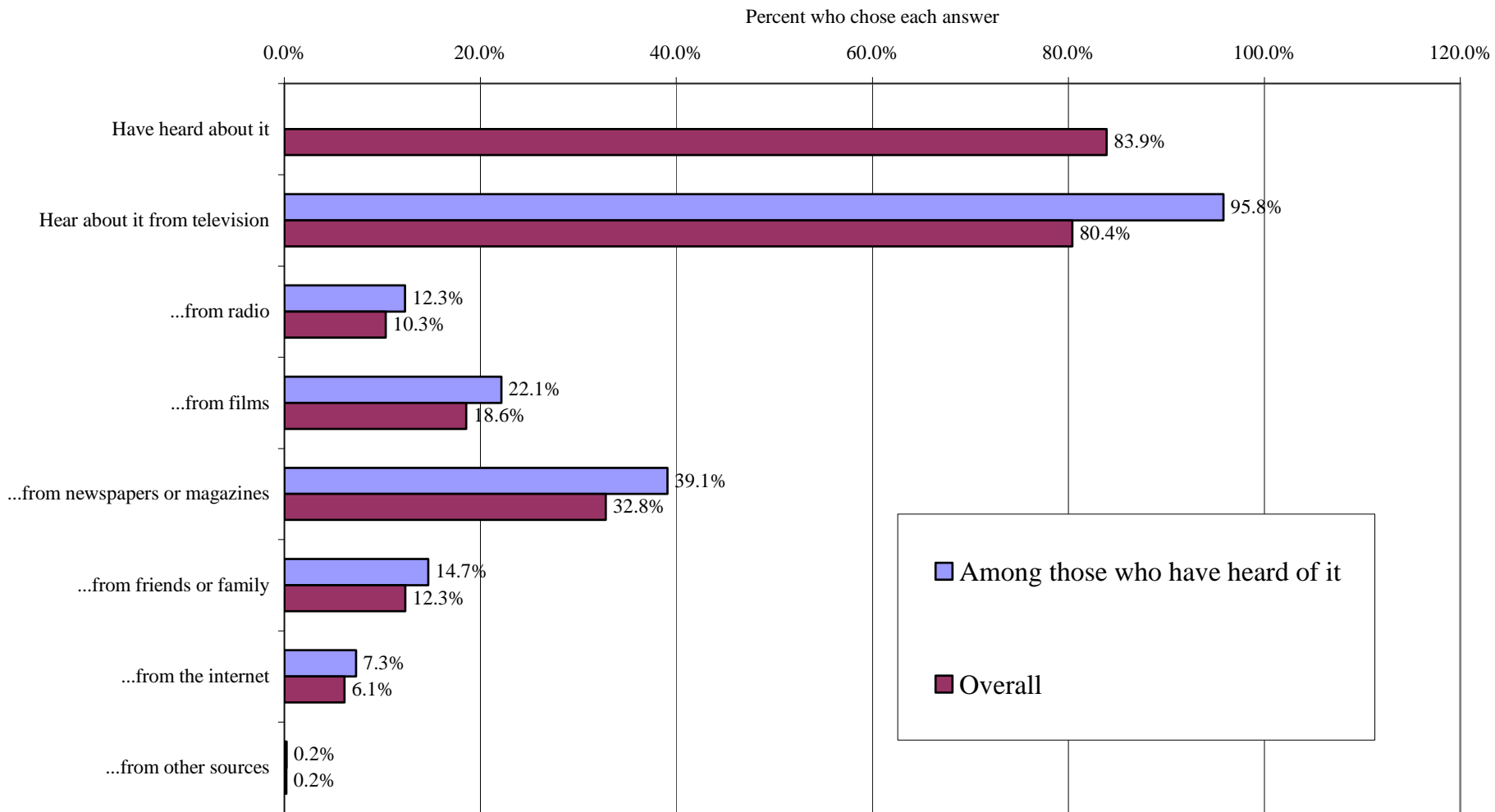


Figure 3. Where did you hear about women who voluntarily went abroad and were then forced to work as prostitution against their will?

(Note: respondents could choose all answers that apply.)



How many people do you personally know who travelled abroad voluntarily and then were forced to work as prostitutes?

	Percent	N
None	94.6%	1896
1	3.4%	68
2	1.0%	20
3	0.4%	7
4	0.1%	1
5	0.5%	10
8	0.1%	1
10	0.1%	1

Do you personally know any women who have worked abroad as prostitutes because they chose to?

	Percent	N
None	95.8%	1919
1	2.1%	42
2	1.1%	22
3	0.4%	7
4	0.2%	3
5	0.1%	1
8	0.4%	8
10	0.1%	2

Have you been tricked into going abroad voluntarily and then forced to work as a prostitute?

(Asked of respondents aged 18-34)

	N	Percent	LCL	UCL
Yes	16	0.9%	0.5%	1.4%
No	1,744	99.1%		

Estimated population size (women aged 18-34): 19,292,751

(From Demograficheskii Ezhegodnik Rossii, 2007)

Sample-based estimates of the number of women 18-34 currently living in Russia who were trafficked

Mean estimate	175,564
Lower bound estimate	89,758
Upper bound estimate	261,019

Figure 4. Which statement do you agree with most (about the frequency of trafficking)?

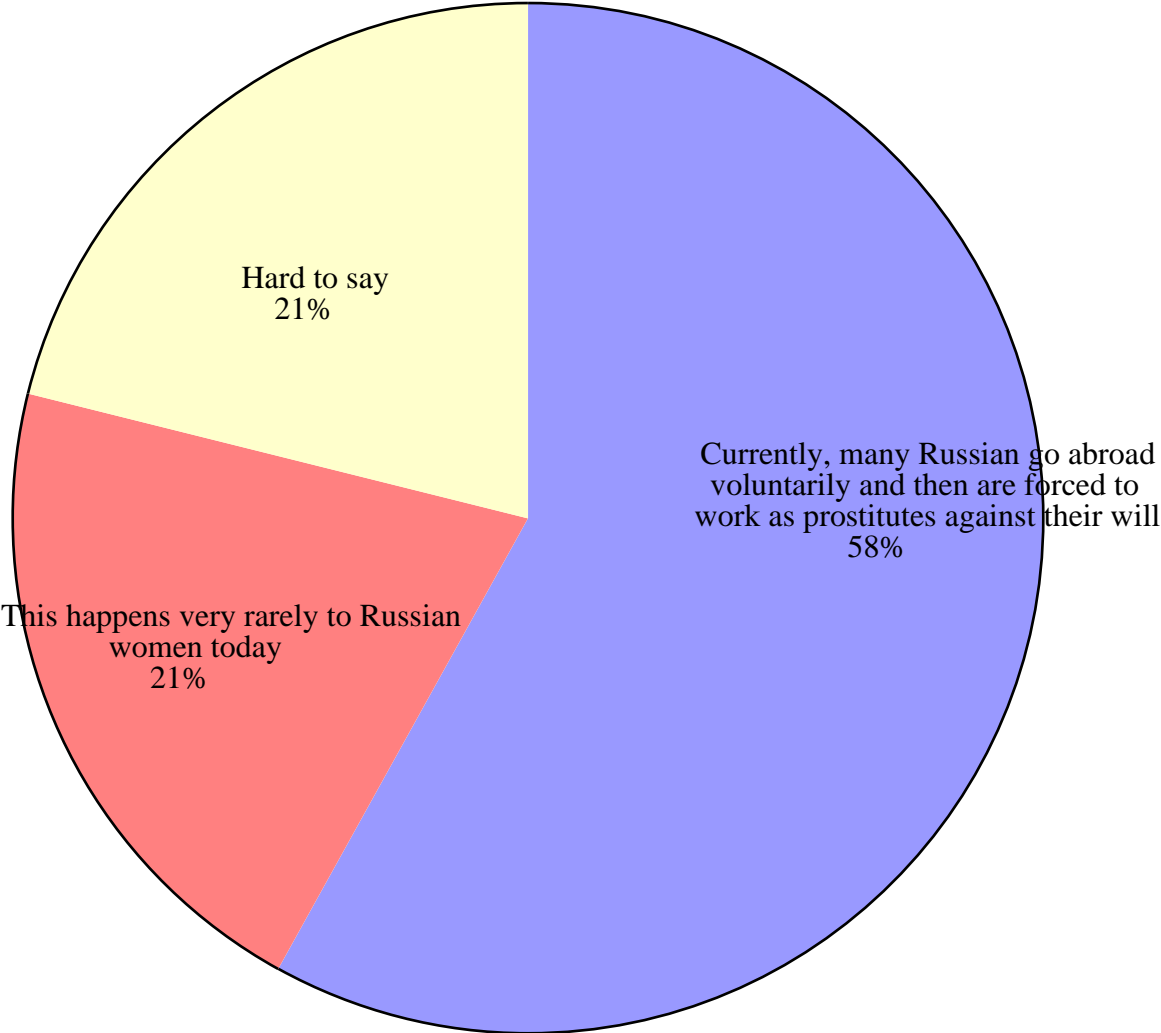
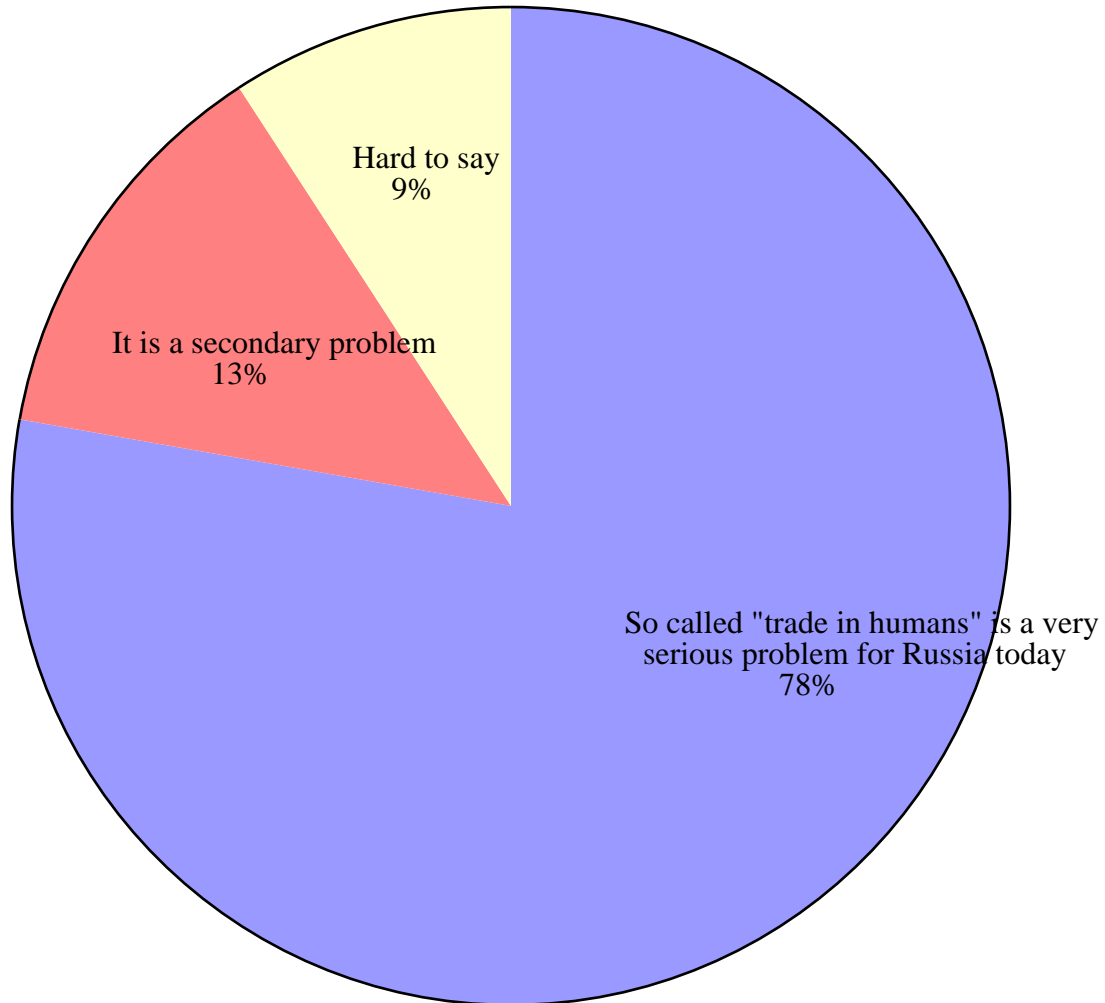


Figure 5. Which statement do you agree with most (about the seriousness of the problem)?



Policy implications

- Russian women are aware and concerned about trafficking
- It's time for the Russian government and society to do more to combat trafficking
- What would that look like?
- Message to the authorities:
 - Continue to discuss this issue on TV
 - But need to pass laws
 - Support NGOs
 - Create witness protection and survivor service programs

- 8 out of 10 young women in Russia believe that human trafficking is a very serious problem.



What are you doing to stop it?

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What are you doing to stop it?

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What are you going to do to stop it?

Implications for the Obama Administration

- Tier 2 Watch List countries ought to receive special priority and tailored programs
- Missing Data: Internal trafficking; forced (migrant) labor; attitudes of police; attitudes of general population
- Link to our own struggle with slavery—memorials in the US
- Part of message to Russian population
- Raise it with the President and Prime Minister
- Target Assistance

Cultural Issue: Absent Victim

- Victims generally not memorialized or prioritized
 - Gulag
 - Terrorist attacks such as Nord-Ost, Beslan
- A legal approach to countering trafficking that places the victim/survivor at the center faces specific cultural challenges in Russia

II. Prostitution

- Throughout the 1990s, scholars and activists wrote about the permissive views of Russian women to prostitution.
- 1990s study claimed that 60% of Russian female high school students would exchange sex for hard currency
- This conventional wisdom lives on today:
- “[T]he sexualization of Russian culture has both sensationalized and normalized prostitution, causing many women to seek it as an acceptable form of work in the face of economic hardship.”

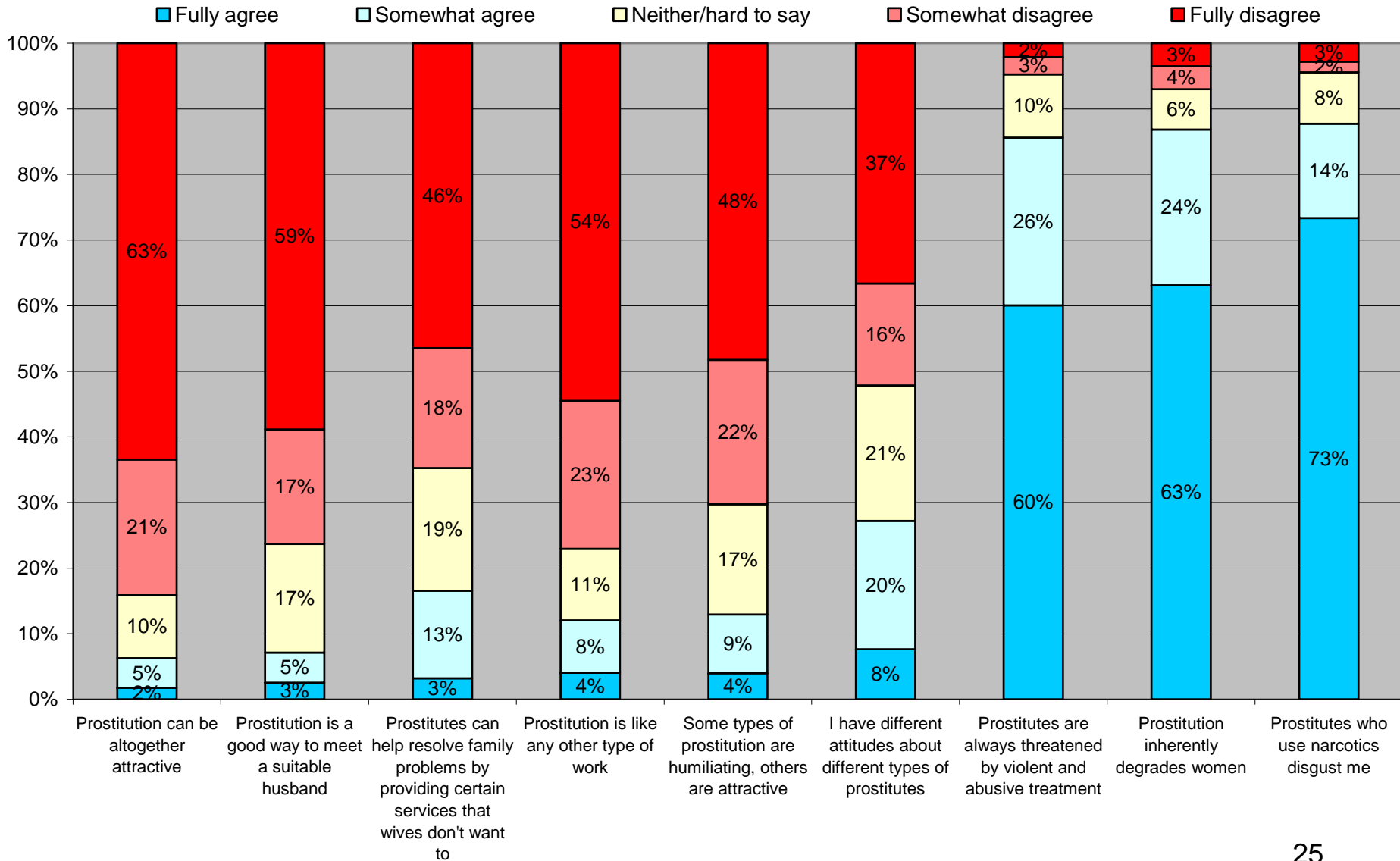
Katherine P. Averginos, “From Vixen to Victim: The Sensationalization and Normalization of Prostitution in Post-Soviet Russia.” *Vestnik*. 2006.

Conventional Wisdom and Myths Regarding Prostitution

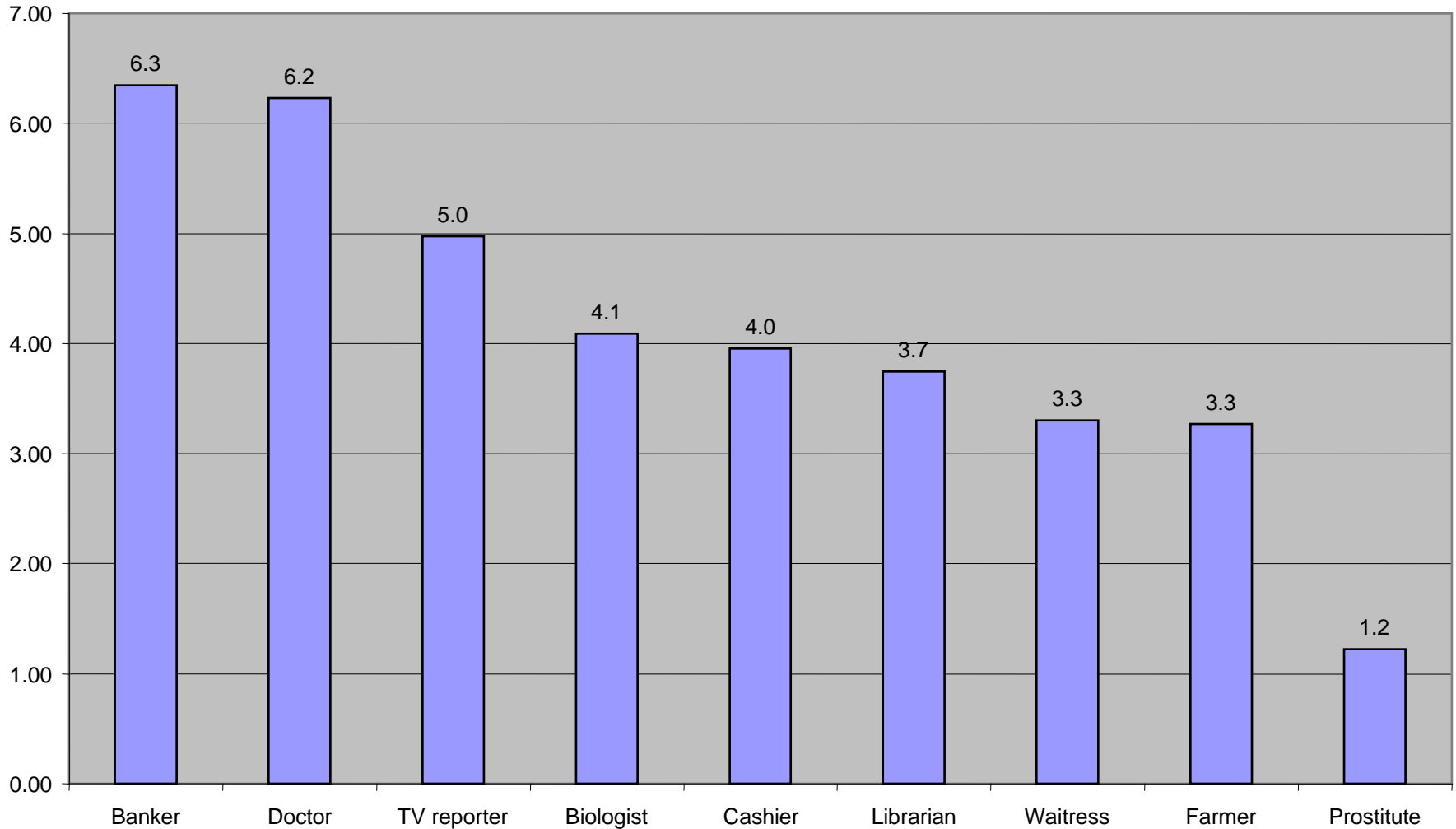
- Russian women buy into the “Pretty Woman” or “Interdevochka” (1989) image of prostitution
- Russian women see prostitution as a viable, even attractive, type of work

Views about prostitution

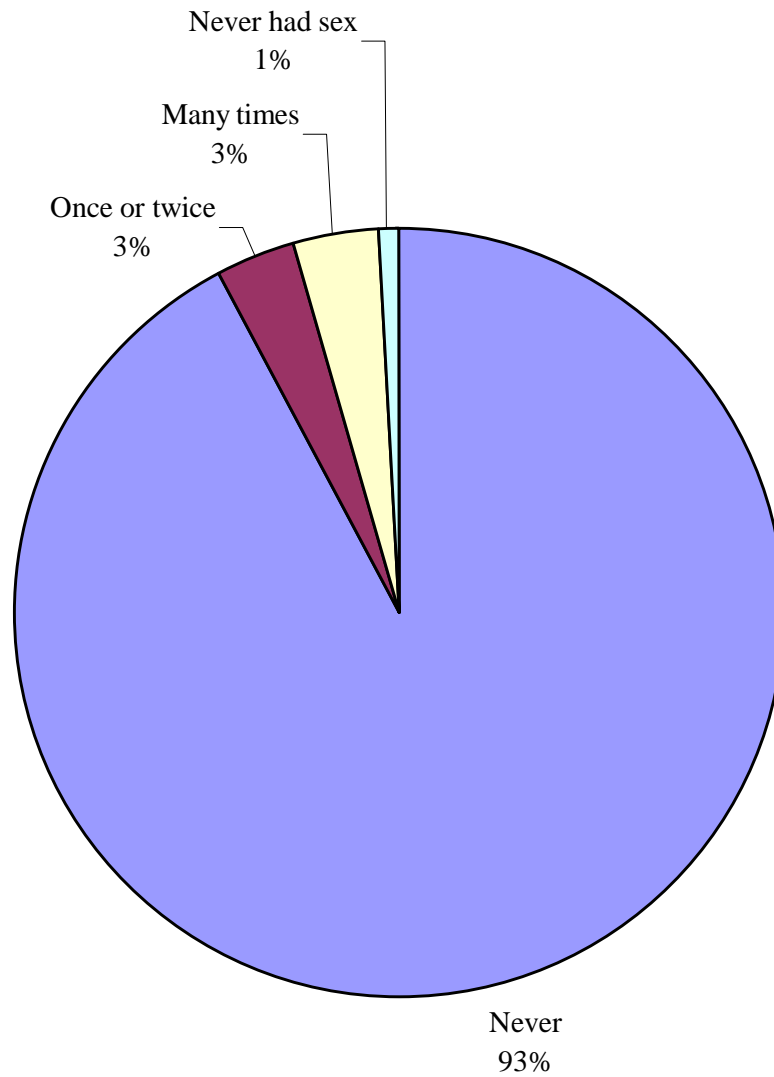
Note: Statements appeared in a different order on the survey



**Average rating of attractiveness of professions for respondent
(1=least attractive, 10=most attractive)**



**Have you ever had sex only in order to receive money or gifts?
(Asked only of respondents ages 18 and older)**



Effect of Renewed Economic Hardship?

- Both for trafficking and for prostitution
 - Will Russian women be more likely to go abroad or move internally and seek employment?
 - Will rates of both trafficking and prostitution increase?
 - What can the Russian government do to preempt?

III. Gender-based harassment and discrimination at work

- Many reports suggest that sexual harassment of women is widespread in Russia
- We asked respondents whether they had ever experienced several forms of harassment
- 1103 respondents have had least one job where their boss is/was male

Evidence of Harassment at work

- Among those who have had a male boss:
 - 31.2% say their boss has joked that women are stupid or incompetent
 - 32.5% say their boss has made flirtatious remarks or gestures that made them feel uncomfortable
 - 6.6% have been pressured to have sex by their boss

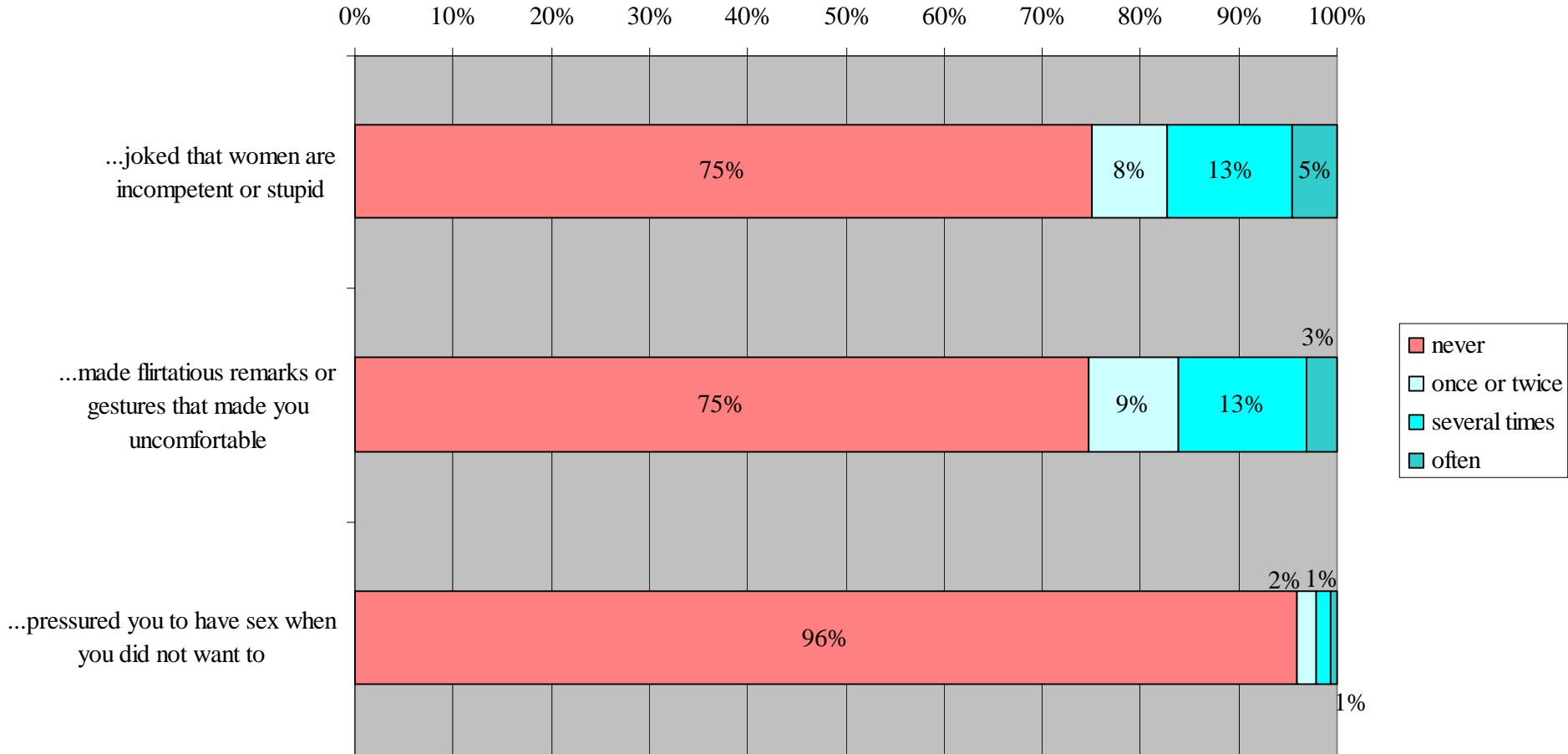
Evidence of Harassment at work

- Among those who have had a male boss:
 - 2.7% have had problems at work because they refused to have sex with their boss
 - 0.6% had sex with their boss because he pressured them to
 - 4.0% were asked during a job interview if they would consider having sex with their boss

Harassment at work

- Another way to look at harassment: what percentage of jobs held by women involve harassment at some point?
 - Respondents reported on their current or more recent job and also on their prior job (if any)
 - They reported on 1467 specific jobs in which they had male bosses

Percentage of jobs with a male boss (N=1467) where where he...



Evidence of Harassment at work

- Overall, women report at least one of these forms of harassment in 35.9% of the jobs they've held where they had a male boss
- They report all three forms in 2.7% of such jobs

Harassment at work

- Is there variation in exposure to harassment by occupation, education, sector of employer (public vs. private), or part-time vs. full-time?

Harassment at work

Percentage of jobs where different types of harassment was experienced

<i>By occupation</i>	sexist jokes	flirtation	pressure	any form
Managers	27%	39%	3%	48%
Higher professionals	28%	28%	4%	39%
Lower professionals	25%	20%	1%	32%
Routine non-manuals, upper level	25%	24%	4%	35%
Routine non-manuals, lower level	25%	25%	4%	37%
Proprietors	29%	21%	14%	29%
Supervisors, skilled workers	24%	29%	5%	36%
Semi-skilled and unskilled workers	20%	21%	5%	31%
Agricultural workers	29%	29%	9%	37%

Note: no differences by occupation are statistically significant at $p < .05$.

Harassment at work

	sexist	jokes	flirtation	pressure	any form
<i>By sector</i>					
Private, Russian owned	27%	25%	5%	37%	
Private, some foreign ownership	26%	23%	5%	35%	
State sector	21%	24%	2%	33%	
<i>By education</i>					
Less than secondary	21%	26%	10%	30%	
Lower vocational (PTU)	25%	27%	6%	35%	
Secondary (inc. SSUZ)	25%	27%	5%	37%	
University (VUZ)	25%	24%	2%	35%	
<i>By hours worked</i>					
Full time	25%	25%	4%	36%	
Part time	20%	28%	2%	34%	

Note: only significant difference is by education for "pressure" to have sex

Harassment at work

- Conclusion: exposure to harassment does not vary by occupation, sector of employment, or hours worked
 - Slight evidence of variation by education: the least educated are the most likely to be pressured to have sex by their boss

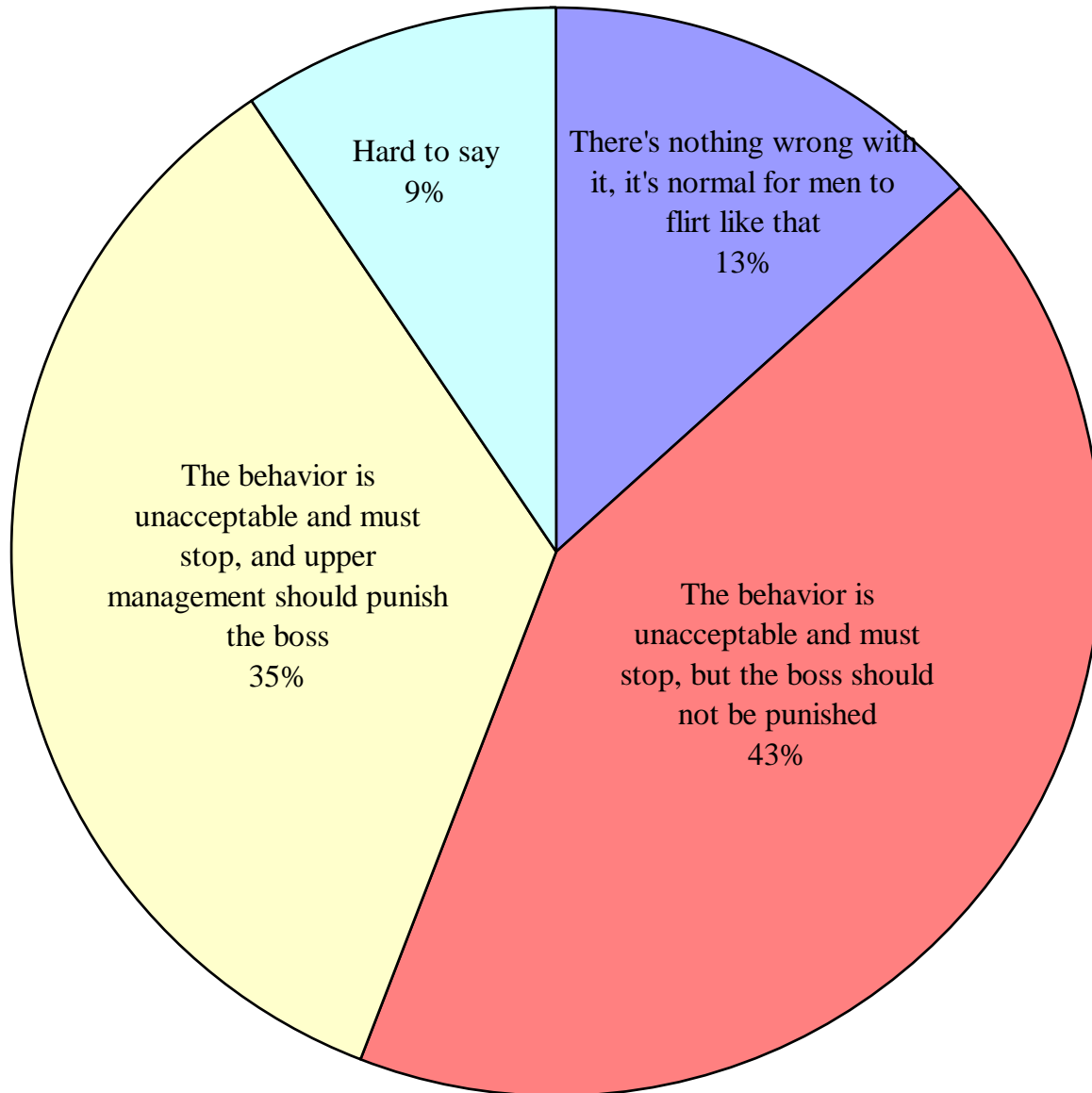
Evidence of Discrimination

- About 2% of respondents who got pregnant while they were working said they were fired or quit under pressure due to their pregnancy
- 24% say they know at least one friend, acquaintance, or family member who lost a job due to pregnancy
- 4% of those who have interviewed for a job were asked to sign a statement promising they would not get pregnant
 - 60% were asked if they have kids during a job interview

IV. Harassment and Gender Norms

- Scenario: Your girlfriend complains her boss acts in too familiar a manner toward her, compliments her figure, asks if she would cheat on her husband, proposes meeting outside of work, pinches her rear. She asks him to stop, but he continues to behave this way.

What do you think about the boss's behavior?



Harassment: responses

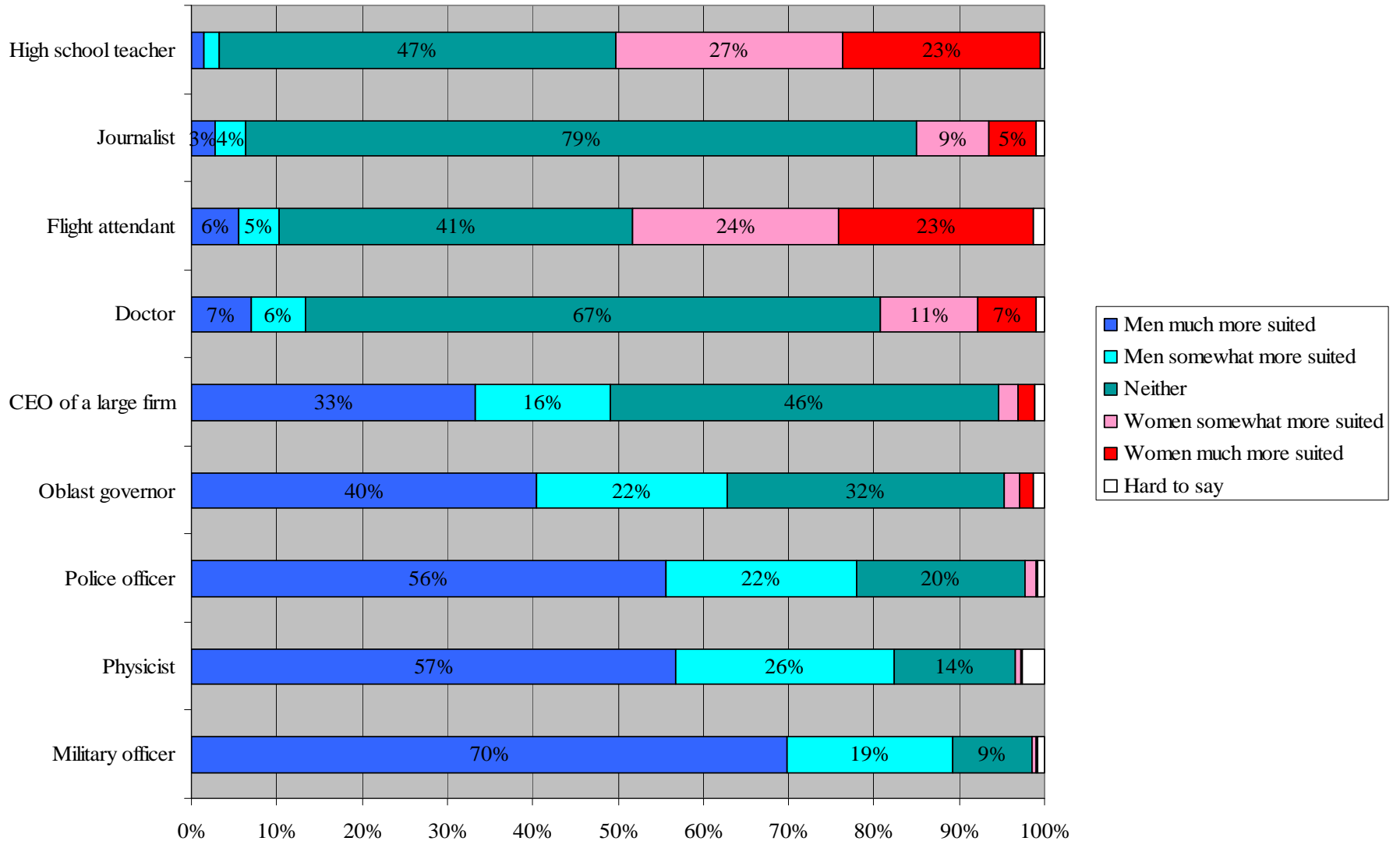
What would you advise your friend to do? (Choose all that apply.)

Quit the job	22%
Go meet her boss because it might get her a promotion	3%
Stop provoking the boss with her own behavior and style of dress	26%
Try to defuse the situation with humor and avoid conflict	24%
Get her husband or boyfriend to intervene and defend her	11%
Tell upper management about the situation	17%
Get help from a lawyer specializing in the rights of working women	14%
Hard to say	9%

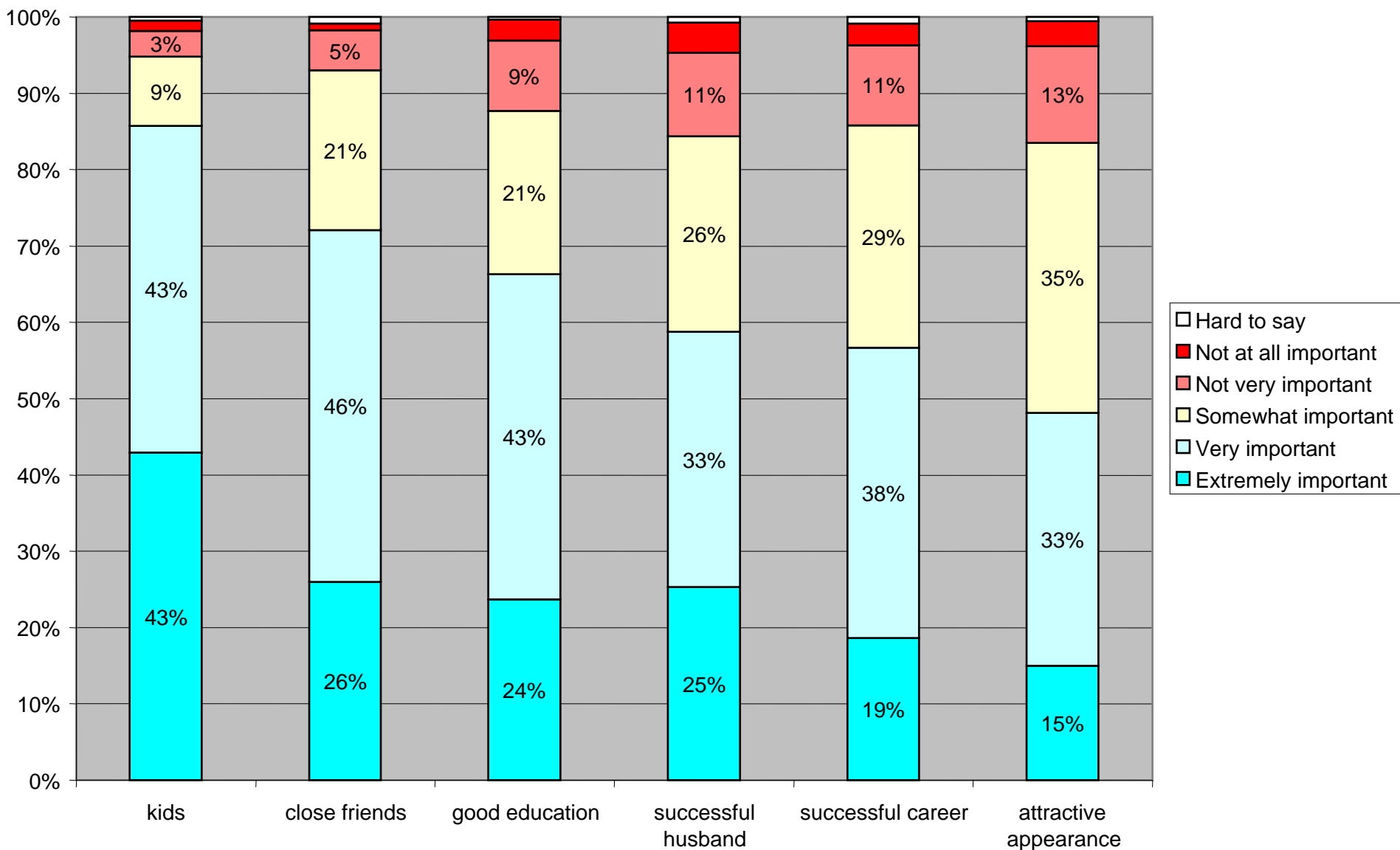
Traditional Gender Norms Persist

- Sex-typical occupations
- Children are essential to a woman's happiness
- Woman's primary role is to care for the family, career is secondary

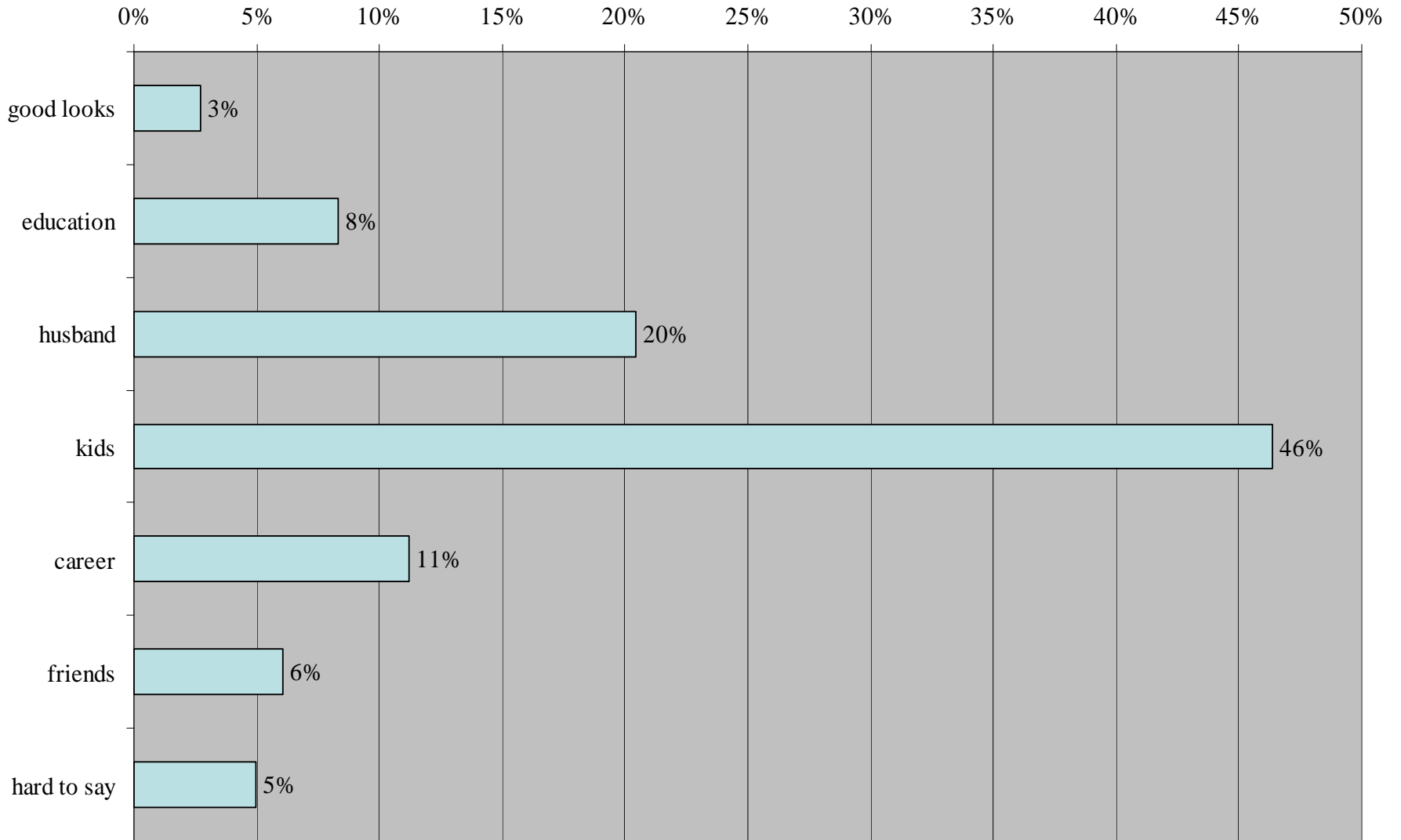
Are men or women more suited for the following occupations?



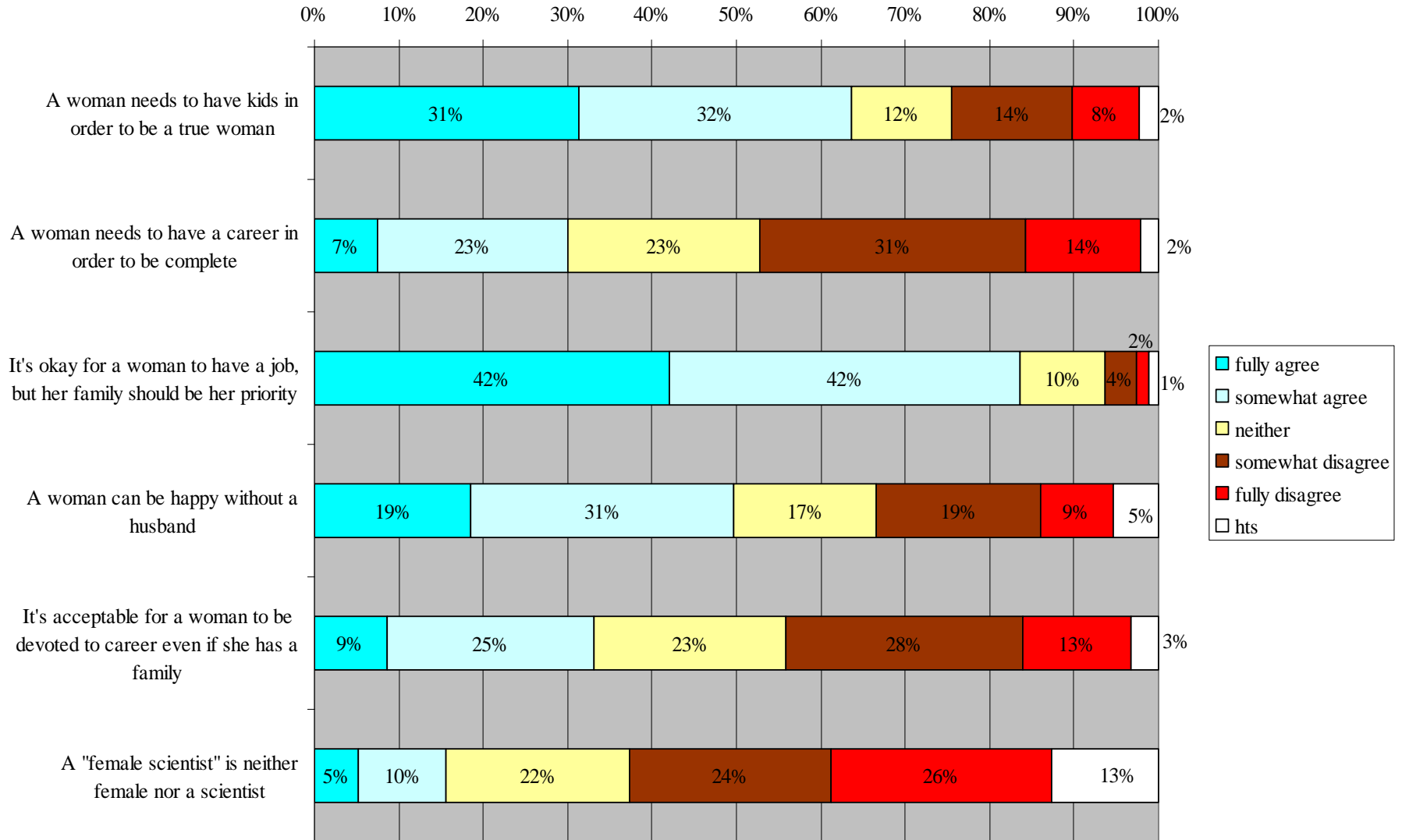
How important is each of the following for a woman to be happy in life?



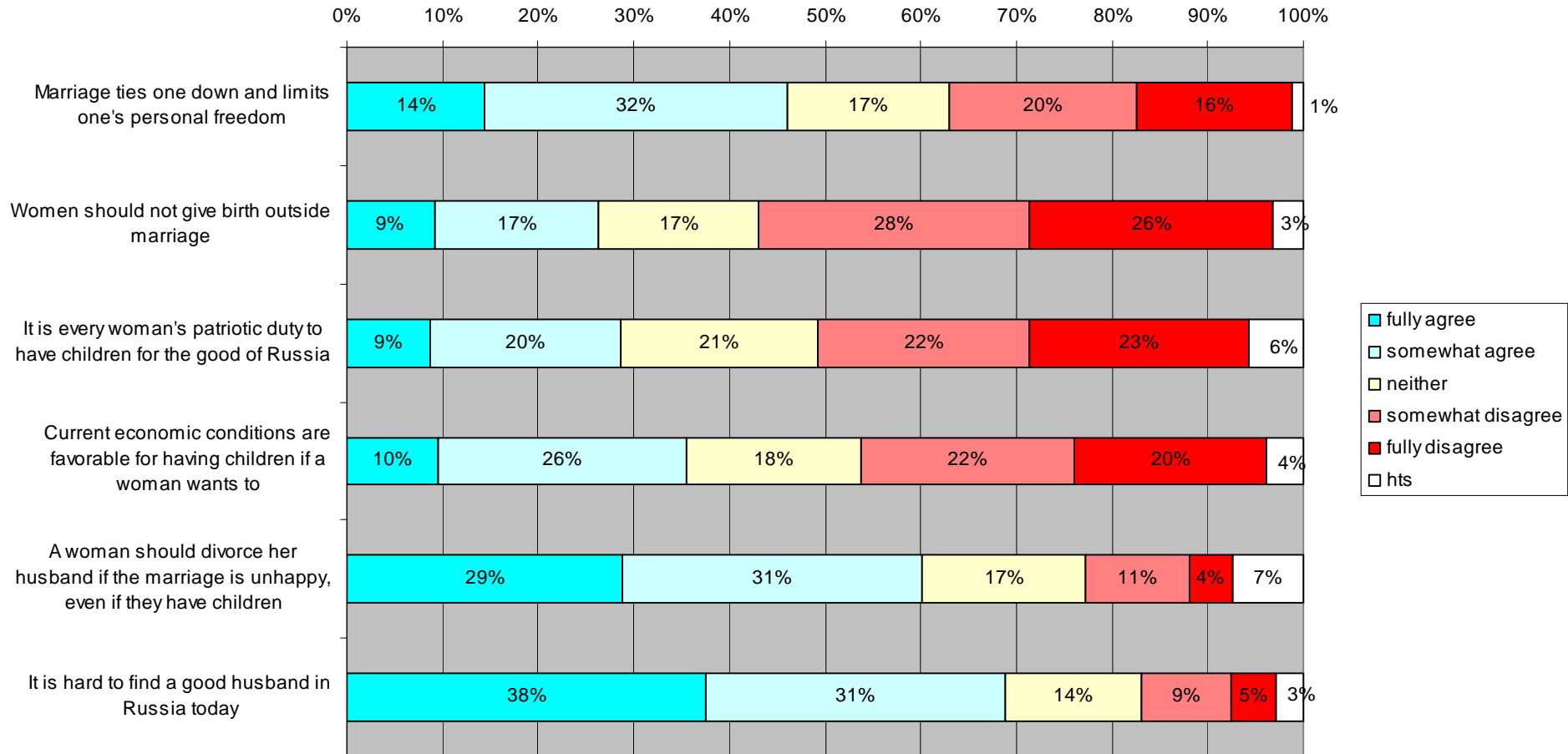
What is most important for a woman's happiness?



Attitudes toward work and family



Attitudes toward children and marriage



Closing Observations

- More evidence that the victim's rights are not paramount
- How to get more women in police?
- Or in governance positions?