
Anti-Palestinian Racism in Canada

2024 SURVEY FINDINGS

Information session



Palestinian Canadian Congress



WHO WE ARE - THE PALESTINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS

The Palestinian Canadian Congress (PCC) is a national organization that advocates for the rights of Palestinian Canadians and the broader Palestinian people. PCC works to raise awareness of Palestinian culture and history, combat anti-Palestinian racism, and advance justice and accountability in Canada's policies toward Palestine.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We begin by acknowledging that we are providing this information session from the unceded, unsurrendered territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation and the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishinaabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Huron-Wendat. We recognize their enduring relationship to this land, water, and community, and we honour the generations of Indigenous peoples who have lived, cared for, and defended these lands since time immemorial.

As Palestinians, we recognize the deep connection between land, identity, and resistance. Our presence here reminds us that struggles for justice, decolonization, and self-determination are interconnected. We affirm our solidarity with Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island in their fight for sovereignty, land return, and justice.



AGENDA

Defining Anti-Palestinian Racism (APR)

APR Context in Canada

2024 Palestinian Canadian Congress APR Survey

- Objective and Methodology
- Survey Respondents
- Key Findings
- Recommendations

Questions?



DEFINING 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.

Arab Canadian Lawyers Association (ACLA) Definition



Palestinian Canadian Congress

APR EXAMPLES

Denying the Nakba and justifying violence against Palestinians.

Failing to acknowledge Palestinians as an Indigenous people, belonging 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.



EXAMPLES OF APR IN CANADA

EDUCATION

1.

A school counsellor at an Oakville high school was recorded telling a student wearing a keffiyeh that he reminded her of terrorists.

2.

The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies instructed their educators who teach workshops and courses in schools to report to the organization students who make comments critical of Israel.

3.

TMU Law students faced backlash for signing a petition expressing solidarity with Palestinians (death threats, lost employment, expulsion, doxing, harassment).

GOVERNMENT

4.

ON gov required TMU law students who seeking employment in the gov to attest they did not participate in a pro-Palestine petition.

5.

B.C. Minister of Education said that the region on which the state of Israel was created was previously "a crappy piece of land with nothing on it".

6.

Canada's immigration Minister Miller 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.

HEALTH

7.

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.

8.

Dr. Ben Thomson, a nephrologist at Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital, was suspended after posting pro-Palestine content on his personal social media.



EXAMPLES OF APR IN CANADA (CONT'D)

MEDIA

9.

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.

10.

CTV National News featuring disproportionately more Israeli voices than Palestinian voices and allowing Israeli officials to make false claims without any pushback.

11.

A Palestinian journalist was fired from CTV for her pro-Palestinian activism.

12.

A Palestinian journalist was fired from Global News for expressing criticism of Israel and pro-Palestine views on her social media.

13.

The media's smear campaign against pro-Palestine protests, including falsely claiming that protestors targeted a Jewish hospital

OTHER

14.

Ottawa Mayor boycotts Capital Pride after they released a statement demonstrating solidarity with Palestinians.

15.

Wanda Nanibush, curator of Indigenous art for the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), resigned from her role. The resignation came a month after the Israel Museums and Arts sent a letter to the AGO expressing concerns about Wanda's advocacy for Palestinian rights and criticism of Israel's policies.

16.

The Toronto Police Service's Hate Crime Unit targeting of pro-Palestine activists through tactics like surveillance, night raids, and "trumped-up charges".



2024 SURVEY: APR IN CANADA

OBJECTIVE

- Quantify, measure and understand APR in Canada.

METHODOLOGY

- Used SurveyMonkey between March 25, 2024 and October 14, 2024.
- 27 questions, 6 optional.
- First 2 questions were qualifiers to ensure respondents who resided in Canada and who have experienced APR were able to proceed with the remainder of the survey.
- 1 question was open ended to root out Zionist based on their response of defining their APR experience.



SURVEY RESPONDENTS

**1664
respondents**

**74% completion
rate**

6 min avg time

Geographical locations:

66% from Ontario

14% from Manitoba

9% from British Columbia



SURVEY KEY FINDINGS

PREVALENCE OF APR

81%

of respondents experienced APR

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS WHO EXPERIENCED APR

Gender Identity

68% → women
27% → men
6% → 'other'/preferred
not to say

Age

36% → 35-44
22% → 25-34
18% → 45-54

Place of Birth

49% → born in
Canada

Faith

48% → Muslim
13% → Christian
3% → Jewish
28% → no religion

Race-Ethnicity

23% → Palestinian
13% → Arab
31% → White/ Caucasian

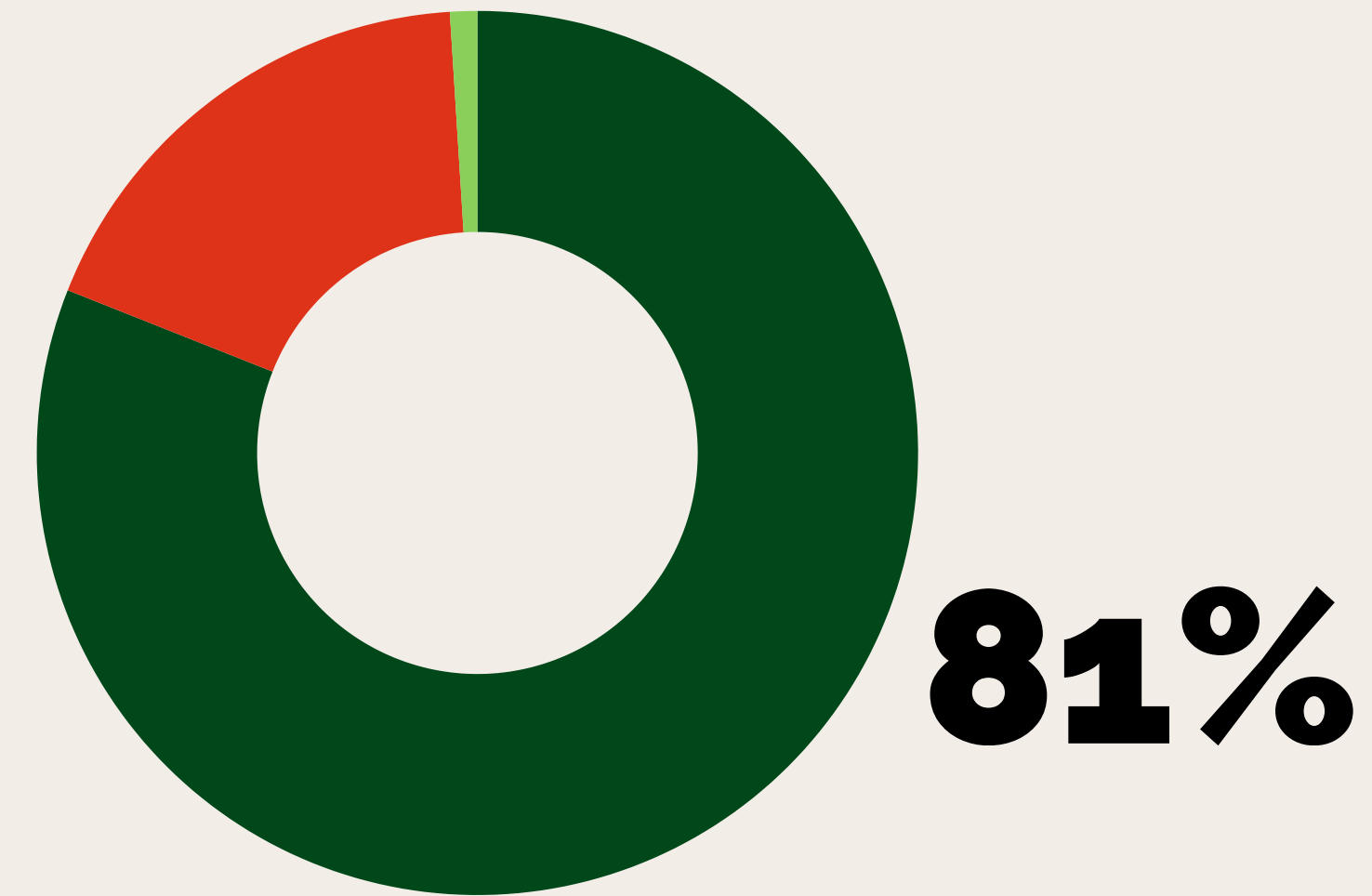


Perceptions Regarding APR

Most survey respondents....

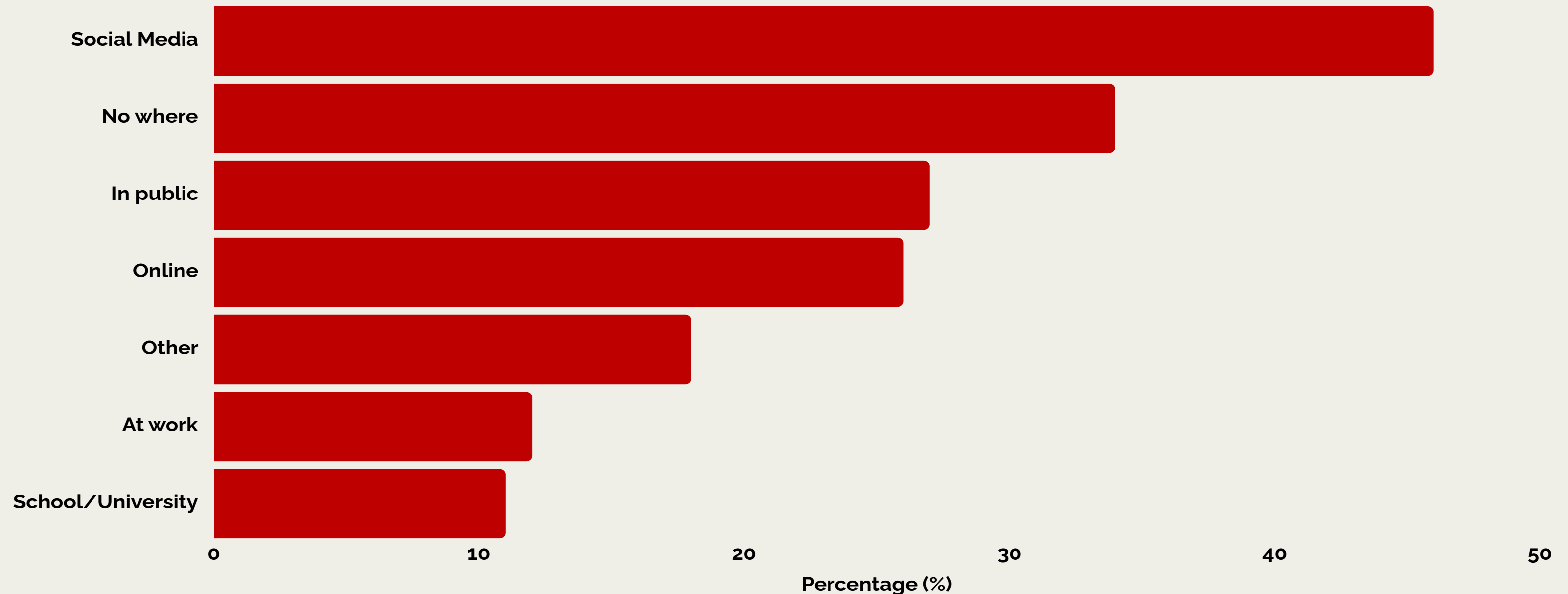
- *deemed APR a very serious problem in Canada (81%)*
- *believe it has gotten worse since October 2023 (94%)*
- *believe Palestinians and their advocacy are not adequately represented in Western media (94%)*

● Very serious ● Serious ● Unsure



Perceptions Regarding APR

1/3 are not comfortable expressing Palestinian identity/showing support anywhere.



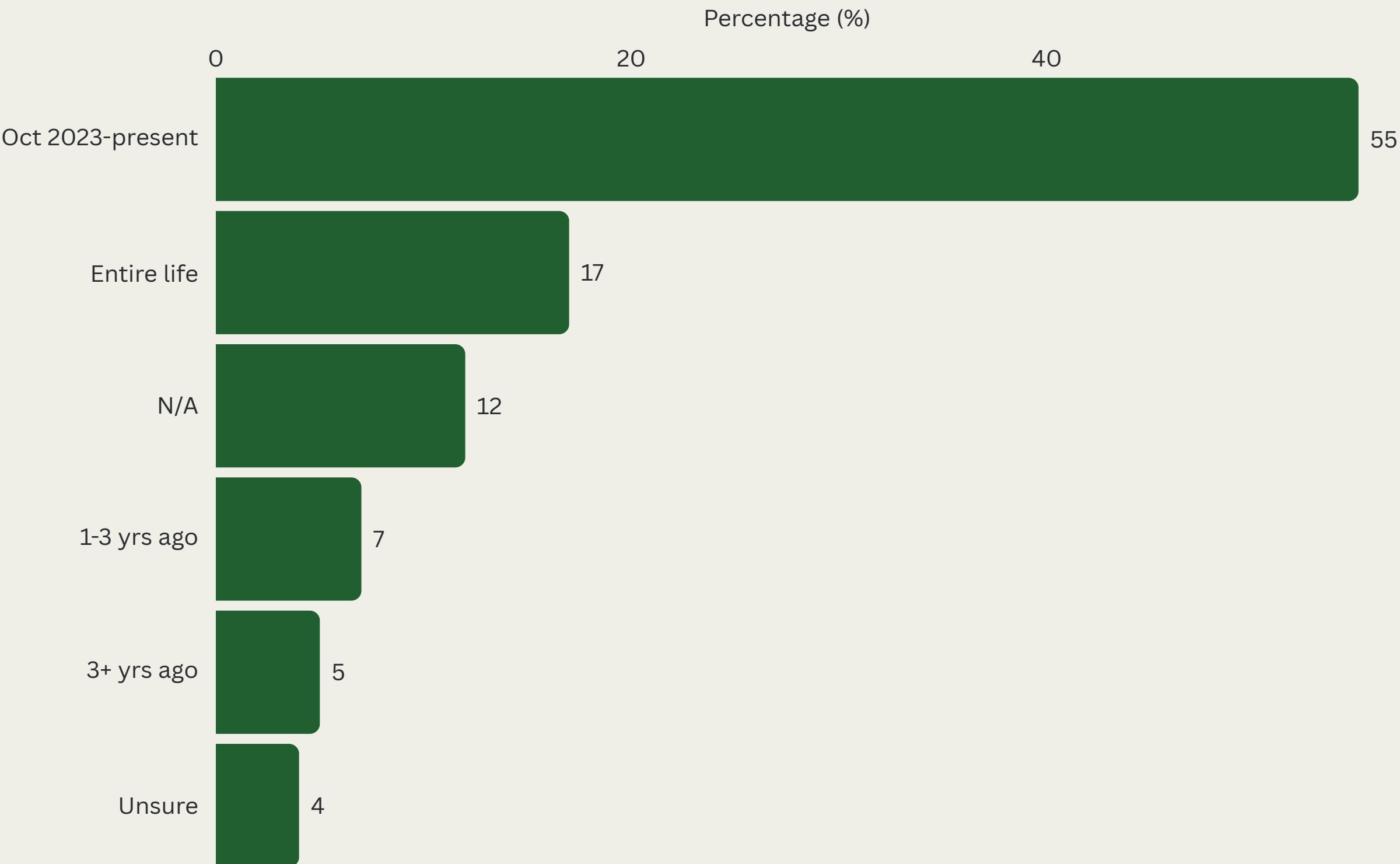
Where APR Occurs

APR WAS MOST COMMONLY EXPERIENCED ON SOCIAL MEDIA, FOLLOWED BY THE WORKPLACE.



TIME PERIOD OF APR EXPERIENCES

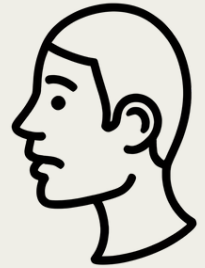
Over half indicated they have experienced APR most frequently since October 2023.



APR EXPERIENCES

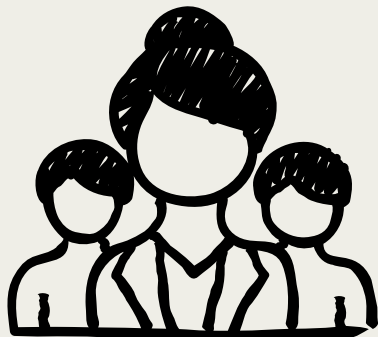


**45% INDICATED BEING MADE TO FEEL LIKE THEIR
OPINION IS NOT WANTED NOR VALUED.**



**34% WERE MADE TO FEEL INFERIOR, WHILE 30%
WERE IGNORED OR NOT TAKEN SERIOUSLY.**

**39% INDICATED THEY WERE WATCHED MORE
CLOSELY.**



**28% OF ALL RESPONDENTS (AND 40% OF
PALESTINIAN RESPONDENTS) WERE SUBJECTED TO
RACIAL/ETHNIC SLURS OR JOKES.**



APR AND POLICE REPORTING

95%
did not report
APR incident(s)
to police

Reasons for not reporting

- 57% had no confidence the incident would be taken seriously or addressed.
- 41% were not sure if the incident warranted a police report.
- 22% were worried or afraid that the police would target them.
- 20% were worried they would not be believed.

LIKELIHOOD OF FUTURE REPORTING

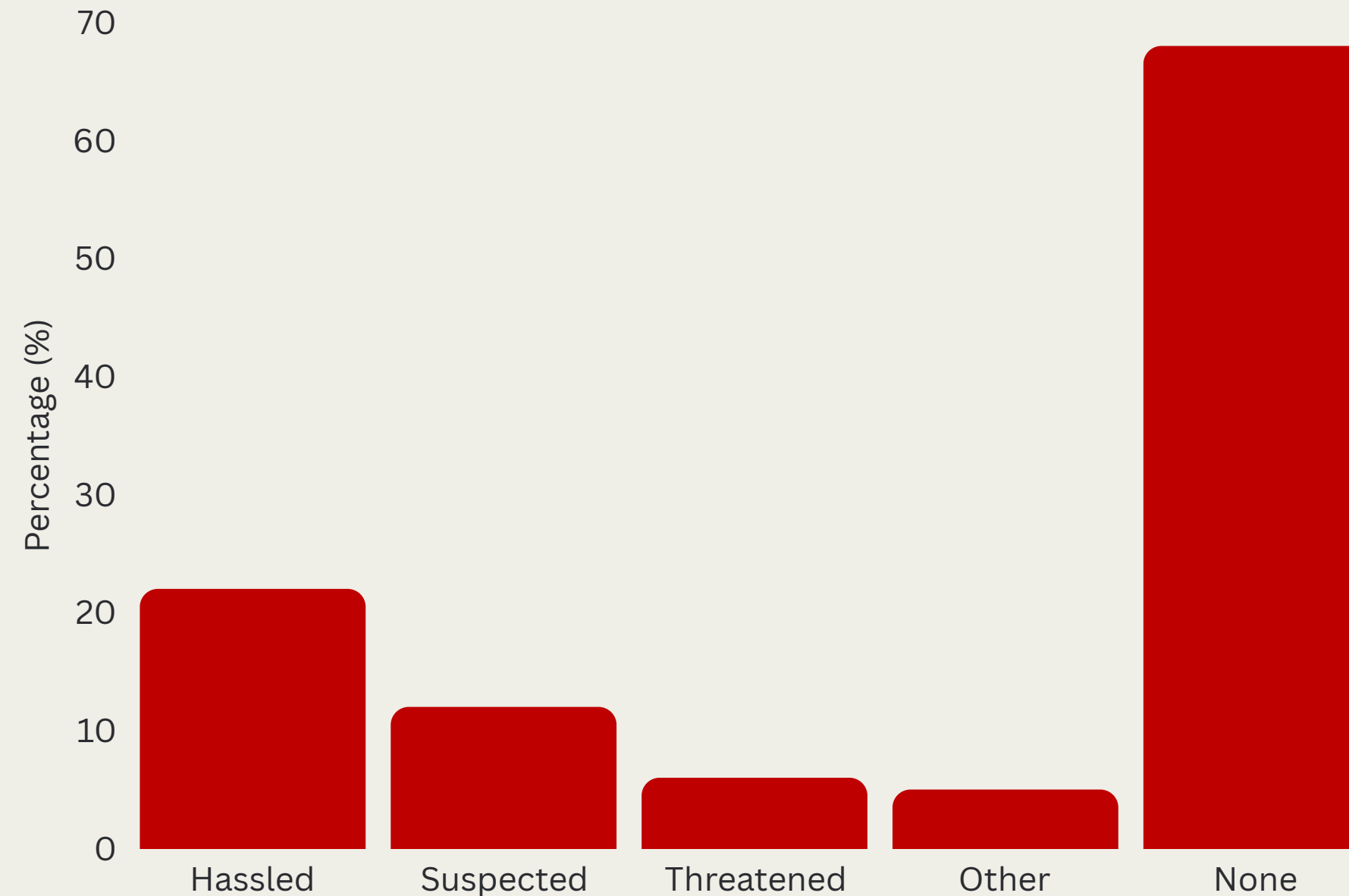
56%

**ARE UNLIKELY TO REPORT TO THE POLICE
AN APR INCIDENT IN THE FUTURE.**

Less than **20%** are likely to report an APR
incident in the future.



INTERACTIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT



Some indicated that they have been unfairly stopped, searched, hassled or questioned by law enforcement.



RECOMMENDATIONS



Recognize

Public/private 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), and recognize it as a distinct form of racism.

Canada to formally recognize the Nakba and its ongoing impacts, as well as settler-colonialism being a central feature in the establishment of Israel.



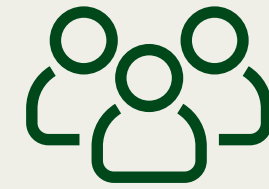
Implement

Federal, provincial, and municipal governments to take measures to address systemic and institutional APR (e.g., in law enforcement, immigration policies, etc.).



Clarify

Federal and provincial governments to not conflate criticism of Israel with antisemitism.



Uphold

Canada to uphold its legal obligations under international law and treaties (e.g., 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).



Thank you!

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