

# South Africa



Respondents in South Africa believe it is easier for most men than for most women to access quality education and health care, be hired as skilled workers, run for elected office, buy property in their name, and have control over personal finances and decisions in their lives.

At the same time, most respondents (89%) agree that women should be free to make choices regarding marriage – if, when and whom they marry – and 91% believe it is essential for women to have access to family planning. Although 92% of respondents see women’s access to university education as key to the country’s future success, 33% agree that it is more important for a boy to get a university education than a girl.

Most respondents (86%) believe it is essential for society to treat women as equal to men and 82% agree that a woman should be free to refuse sex with her husband/partner. Yet 33% also think there are acceptable circumstances for someone to hit their spouse or partner. In addition, 34% of respondents perceive that most women feel unsafe in their home, and 41% perceive that most women feel unsafe in public spaces.

Roughly 3 in 4 respondents believe that both women and men are typically portrayed by the media in traditional roles. Nearly half (46%) agree that women call attention to themselves based on how they dress, and 37% believe it is appropriate for men to discuss a female colleague’s appearance at work.

Interestingly, although 44% believe that a man’s job is to earn money while a woman’s job is to look after the house and the family, and half of respondents agree that women should work less and devote more time to caring for their family, 1 respondent in 3 agrees that children suffer just as much when the mother and the father work for pay. Conversely, 1 in 3 also believes that men should be paid more than women for the same job, and that a woman should not earn more than her husband.

Respondents in South Africa ascribe high importance to gender equality in all areas for their country’s future success. Yet 42% of respondents believe that when jobs are scarce, men should have more right to a job than women and that men should be given priority in times of food shortages.

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TABLE 1

### Perceptions: Percentage of respondents who agree with the statement

	% FOR MOST WOMEN	% FOR MOST MEN
In general, it is easy for most women/most men to get a quality education	61.4	63.4
In general, it is easy for most women/most men to be hired as skilled workers	36.9	50.6
In general, it is easy for most women/most men to run for elected office	36.4	60.5
In general, it is easy for women/men to buy property in their own name	49.7	63.6
In general, most women/men have control over their decision on who to marry	55.6	70.5
In general, most women/most men have control over their lives	55.3	73.2
In general, most women /most men have control over their personal finances	59.3	67.4

TABLE 2

### Perceptions: Percentage of respondents who agree with each statement

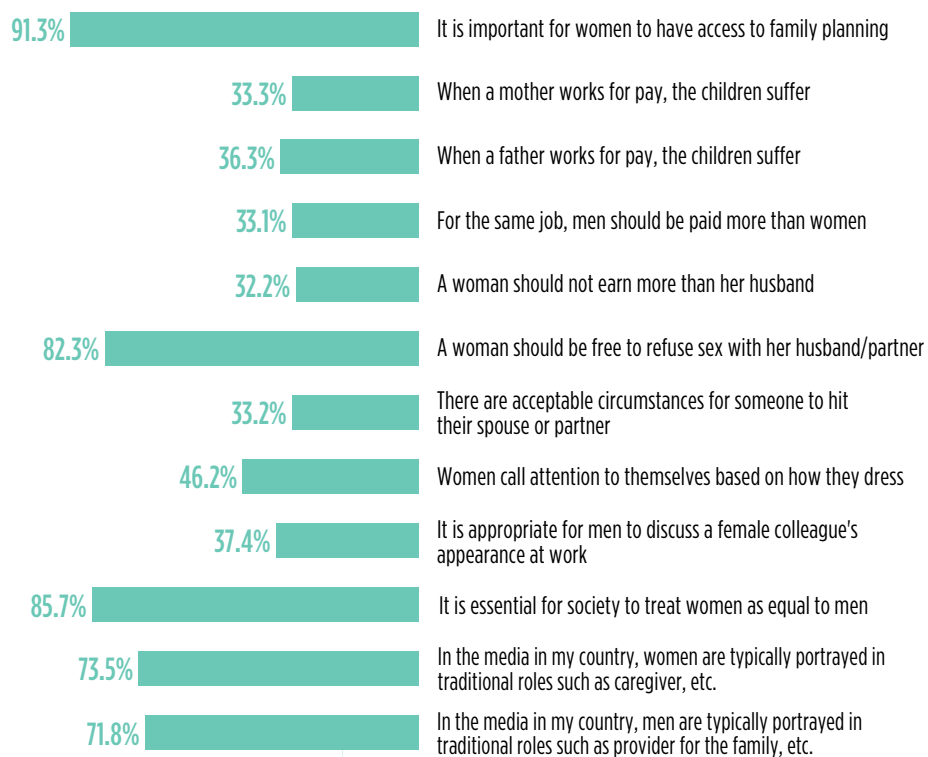
	% POOR/ UNSAFE	% ADEQUATE
In general, the quality of basic health care for women is ....	16.7	34.7
In general, the quality of basic health care for men is ...	17.8	35.8
In general, the quality of basic health care for you is ..	16.4	31.5
The quality of family planning services is ...	16.4	32.9
In general, do most women feel safe when they are in their home (by safe, we mean "free from physical, mental, or emotional harm")?	33.6	31.6
In general, do most women feel safe when they are in public spaces (by safe, we mean "free from physical, mental, or emotional harm")?	41.3	27.9

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FIGURE 1



## Attitudes: Percentage of respondents who agree with each statement



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FIGURE 2



**Future ideal:** In your opinion, how important is each of the following to your country's future?

(Completely important + somewhat important)

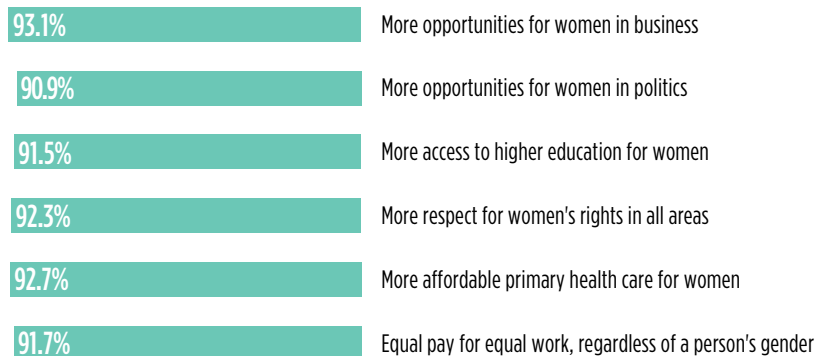


FIGURE 3



**Societal roles and priorities:** Percentage of respondents who agree with each statement

