



Opinion Poll on Penal Code Article 522 – Baseline Wave

Final Report

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Center for Research and Development

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Consultation and Research Institute (CRI), upon the request of “ABAAD”, conducted an opinion survey on the Article 522 of the Lebanese Penal Code. This article states that prosecution or execution of a penalty halts when the perpetrator of a rape, kidnapping, or statutory rape marries the person he has raped or kidnapped. This fact denies sexually assaulted women from their right to justice and thus, fails to protect them from sexual predators. Instead, in many cases, it may facilitate and intensify pressures of forced marriage on rape victims, being coerced by family, or courts, to marry their attackers.

The opinion survey was implemented in October 2016. It targeted a sample of 1,000 respondents (above 21 years old) through telephone calls. The study team applied sampling quotas (gender, age and geographic location) using the existing national statistics as a base.

The most significant results are listed here below:

- **Awareness is extremely low.** The exercise resulted in having a great majority of unaware respondents (94%) of Article 522 of the Lebanese Penal Code;
- **Moral values do not justify Article 522.** The most profound aspect of this issue, was that public opinion highly agrees that “Article 522 compromises the dignity of assaulted women”; and that it does not “conserve women’s honor” (as in the legislator intention).
- **High level of justice values** towards sexually assaulted women, indicating that Article 522 would impede the course of justice.
- Pregnancy and Abortion are the most controversial and disputable issues.
- All in all, results illustrated deep sympathy and understanding towards the social dilemmas and issues faced by sexually assaulted women, and significant support for the women’s rights.
- Highest levels of support were registered among females, young age groups and residents of central regions (Mount Lebanon, followed by Beirut).
- **A comfortable majority (60%)** supports the abolition of Article 522.

The recommendations for the campaign were focused on the following:

- Increase legal awareness among the public, simplify legal terms, and link Article 522 to social prejudice.
- Target the undecided public, as many of whom are supportive.
- Address campaign message to specific social segments: males, middle-aged people, peripheral areas and traditional communities.
- Distinguish the campaign for cancelling Article 522 from the issue of pregnancy and abortion.

1. STUDY OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGY

1.1. Objectives:

Article 522 of the Lebanese Penal Code remains one of the most controversial issues regarding Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) legislations in Lebanon. This article does not only apply to rape, but to all articles in the section (503 – 521) that include rape of a minor, rape of a person with a mental or physical disability, sex with a minor, molestation of children, sexual harassment of children, exploitation of someone in a weaker position and forcing someone into sexual acts, kidnapping of women or girls (with or without intention of marriage). It states that prosecution or execution of a penalty halts when the perpetrator of a rape, kidnapping, or statutory rape marries the person he has raped or kidnapped. This fact denies sexually assaulted women from their right to justice and thus, fails to protect them from sexual predators. Instead, in many cases, it may facilitate and intensify pressures of forced marriage on rape victims, being coerced by family, or courts, to marry their attackers.

Moreover, the Penal Code being enacted many decades ago (in 1943), the legislator might have taken into consideration the implications of persistent social norms and cultural traditions – at that time - among local communities, in addition to tribal codes and perceptions of “dignity” and “honor”. The intention of law makers then, from regularizing Article 522, might have been to overcome limitations of a newly established modern-state and to deal realistically with its own shortcomings in the domain of law enforcement, especially in peripheral areas.

“In the event a legal marriage is concluded between the person who committed any of the crimes mentioned in this chapter [including rape, kidnapping and statutory rape], and the victim, prosecution shall be stopped and in case a decision is rendered, the execution of such decision shall be suspended against the person who was subject to it. Prosecution or the execution of the penalty shall be resumed before the lapse of three years in cases of misdemeanors and five years in cases of felonies, in the event such marriage ends by the divorce of the woman without a legitimate reason or by a divorce which is decided by court in favor of the woman”

Lebanese Penal Code – Article 522

Nowadays, this article is considered as a clear discrimination and an obvious violation of women's rights. In this sense, a Lebanese Member of Parliament has recently submitted a draft law that aims to cancel this article from the Penal Code. The draft law noted that protecting Lebanese women and their dignity and safety calls for amending the criminal justice system and specifically amending the penal code for the purpose of ending injustice against women.

In this context, “ABAAD-Resource Center for Gender Equality” believes that working on strengthening all the legislations related to end SGBV should always go along with a focused and influential public campaigning work that supports the shift and change in social norms. Therefore, “ABBAD” will be launching a new campaign on Article 522 of the Lebanese Penal Code in November 2016, aiming to change the narrative and legislative around SGBV, in order to recognize it as a crime, whether in or out of the marriage, and dissociating it from women's honor.

Thus, the client assigned the “Consultation and Research Institute” (CRI) to conduct a baseline wave of public opinion poll research that measures the following aspects:

1. The public awareness of Article 522;
2. The public attitude and perceptions towards SGBV in general and Article 522 in particular;
3. The public response towards the suggestion of repealing Article 522.

1.2. Methodology:

The opinion poll survey should consist of two waves; the first wave was implemented prior to the campaign, and will be considered as a baseline indicator; while the second wave shall be conducted at the end of the project and would eventually help in measuring the impact of the campaign.

The survey is considered a quantitative research, implemented through telephone interviews. A custom made questionnaire was produced for the purposes of this study. Each wave of this opinion poll survey will target interviewing a sample of Lebanese nationals, which comprises an optimum sample size estimated at around 1,000 respondents. The sample should be representative to Lebanese citizens at the national level and sub-level distribution, in terms of gender, age group and place of residence (Mohafaza).

A team of 4 interviewers conducted the telephone calls, during working hours, between 11th of October and the 25th of the same month. The fieldwork team is a well experienced one and attained a specialized training session for this study. The team was subjected to a direct control by a fieldwork supervisor.

The data entry program was designed utilizing special software, and a data entry officer was assigned for this task. At the end of the fieldwork, the data base was edited, cleaned and transferred to SPSS for data crunching and analysis.

The time frame of the whole study extended among a period of seven weeks, starting on September 16 and ended on November 4.

2. OPINION POLL RESULTS

2.1. Quotas

In order to ensure reaching a representative sample of the Lebanese society, the field work targeted interviewing respondents based on pre-selected quotas, targeting gender, age group and residency distribution of total population. The quotas were set based on existing data provided by national household surveys (Central Administration for Statistics-CAS). In other terms, the quotas set below – in terms of gender, age and geographical distribution – are in line with the available national statistics.

Gender Distribution: The results show that male and female respondents were almost split in half, in correspondence to their distribution on the national level, with a slight shift in favor of male respondents (52%) on behalf of females (48%).

Table 1: Sample Distribution According to Gender

#	Gender	Required	Achieved
1	Male	49.8%	52.3%
2	Female	50.2%	47.7%

Age Distribution: For the purpose of this study, respondents were grouped under three age categories, as follows:

1. A young age group: between 21 and 34 years old (41%);
2. A middle-aged group: between 35 and 49 years old (34%);
3. An elderly age group: from 50 years and above (26%).

Table 2: Sample Distribution According to Age Categories

#	Age Category	Required	Achieved
1	Between 21 and 34 years	40.0%	41.0%
2	Between 35 and 49 years	29.8%	33.6%
3	From 50 and Above	30.1%	25.5%

Residency Distribution: The results of sample distribution according to district of residency (at the Mouhafaza level) illustrated a perfect match to that of the population. In fact, the total sample of respondents comprised of the following distribution (refer to Table 3 below):

Table 3: Sample Distribution According to Residency (Mouhafaza)

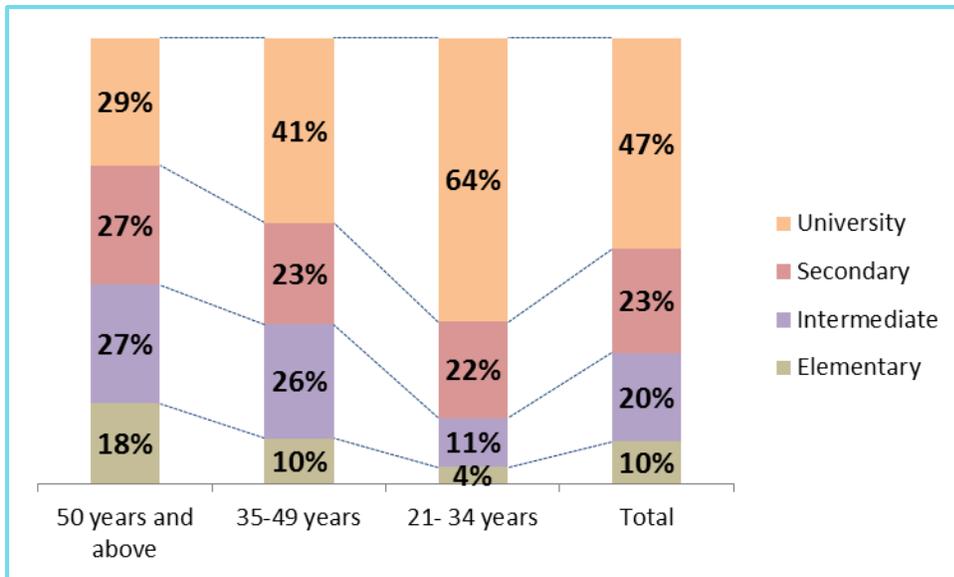
#	Residence	Required	Achieved
1	Beirut	10.4%	10.5%
2	Mount Lebanon	40.0%	40.2%
3	North	20.5%	20.3%
4	Bekaa	12.5%	12.5%
5	South	16.6%	16.6%

2.2. Socio-Demographic Profiles

The profile of respondents, based on their socio-demographic conditions – in addition to gender, age and place of residence – was identified according to the household size, marital status, level of education, economic activity and income.

Level of Education: the most significant category of level of education were those holding a university degree (47%)¹; while the share of respondents contracted, in line with lower educational levels, until reaching the smallest share of only 10% of those who attained an elementary level of education and below. The interesting aspect was that level of education generally improved among younger age groups, as 64% of those aged between 21 and 34 years old were university students and graduates.

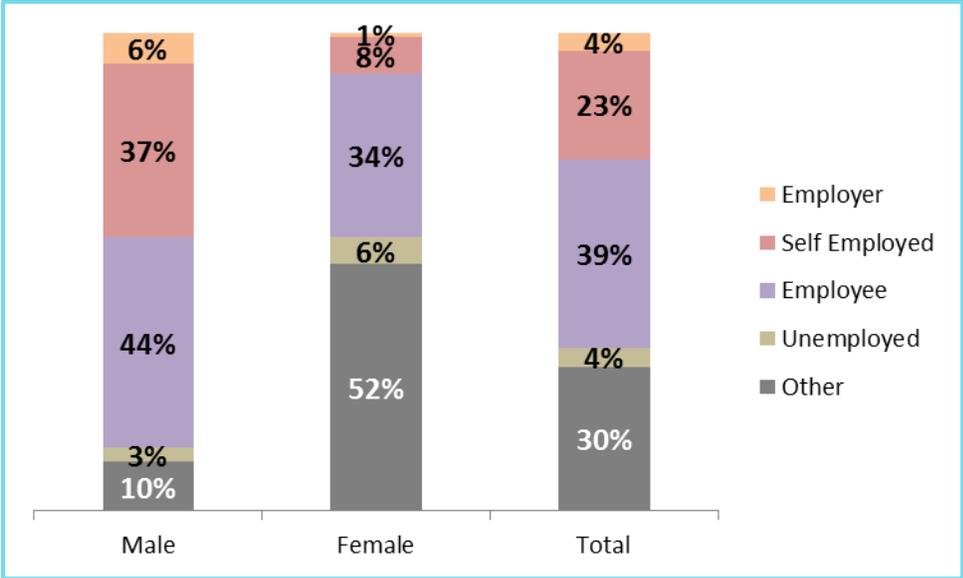
Figure 1: Profile of Respondents According to Level of Education



¹ It should be noted that the share of university graduates is higher than its national level, due to factors of auto-declaration and excluding from the sample age categories under 21 years old.

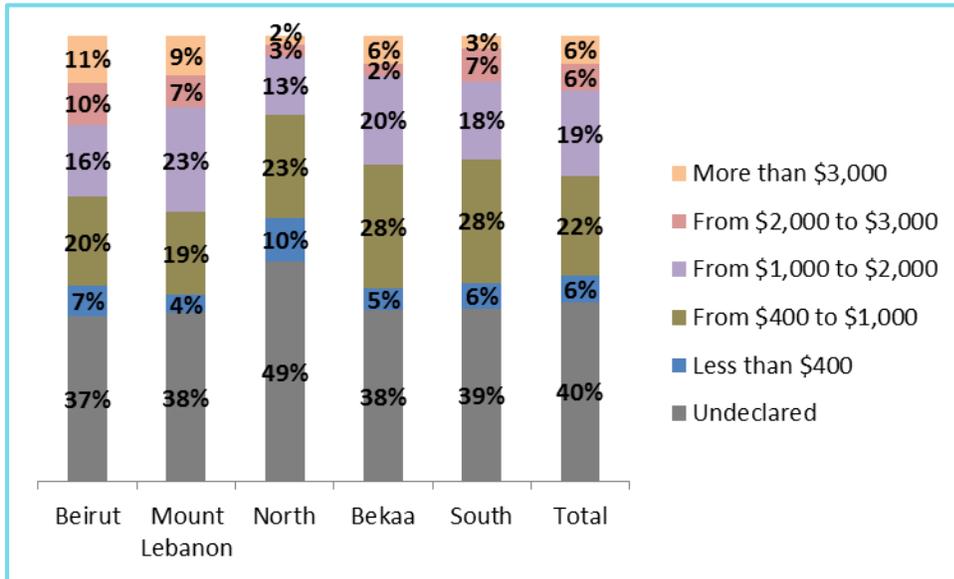
Economic Activity: the employees constituted the highest share of respondents (39%) according to their economic activities; this share increases among male respondents (44%), whereas declines among females (34%). The second biggest share of respondents (30%), where those grouped under the “other” economic activity group, which consists of economically “inactive” population, mainly students, retired and home makers, etc. The latter seems to be of the most significant weight, due to the fact that the “other” category surges to 52% among females. It is obvious that the share of unemployed doubled among females (6%) when compared to males (3%). On the contrary, the share of employers and self-employed was much higher among males (6% and 37% respectively), against a much modest share among females (1% and 8% respectively).

Figure 2: Profile of Respondents According to Economic Activity



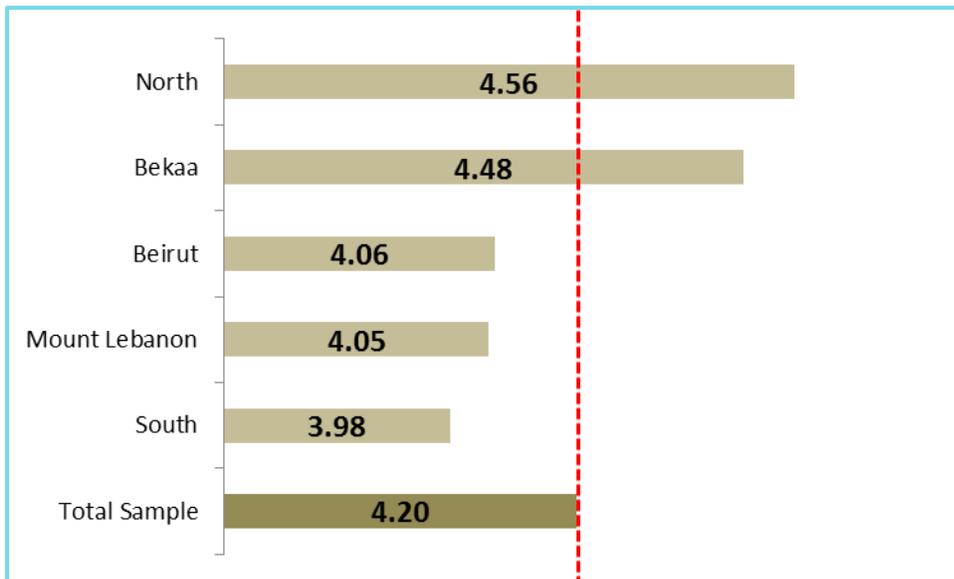
Household Monthly Income: the respondents' breakdown according to several income categories fluctuated strongly based on their places of residence (Mouhafaza); nevertheless, it was clear that the highest share of upper levels of monthly household incomes were more concentrated in Beirut (21% more than \$2,000), followed by Mount Lebanon (16%), in comparison to all other peripheral areas (as low as 5% in Northern Lebanon). Overall, the highest share of income category was that ranging from \$400 and \$1,000 (22% of total sample). Many respondents preferred not to declare their household monthly income, as it is often considered as being a sensitive kind of information to reveal.

Figure 3: Profile of Respondents According to Income



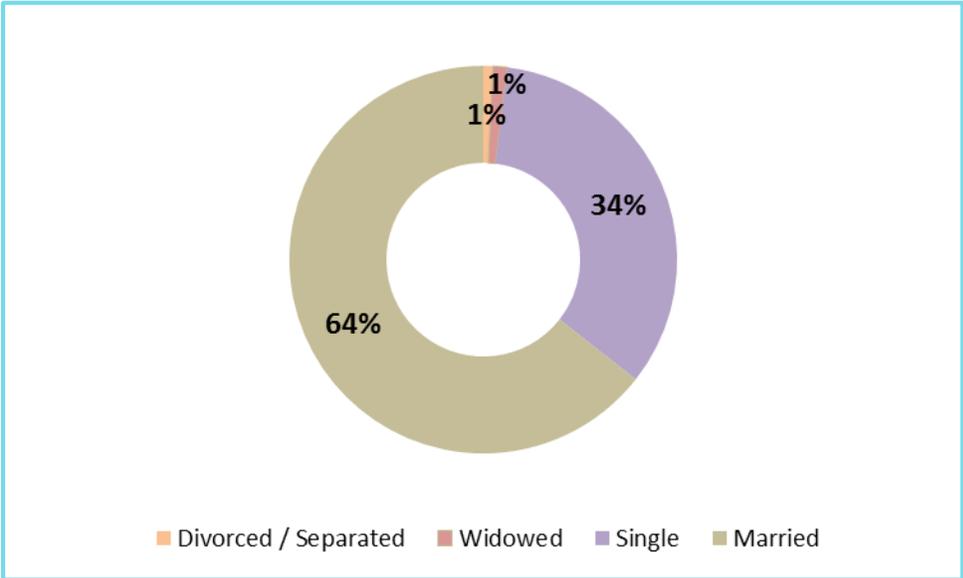
Household Size: It was found that the average household size for the total sample comprises of 4.2 members per household, which is in line with national data. The average varies among regions, reaching its highest levels in northern Lebanon (4.56 HH members), and its lowest levels in the South – South Lebanon and Nabatiyeh – (3.98 HH members).

Figure 4: Profile of Respondents According to Household Size (HH Members)



Marital Status: Almost two-third of the respondents are currently married (64%), while slightly more than one-third are single (34%). These shares barely differed among gender groups.

Figure 5: Profile of Respondents According to Marital Status

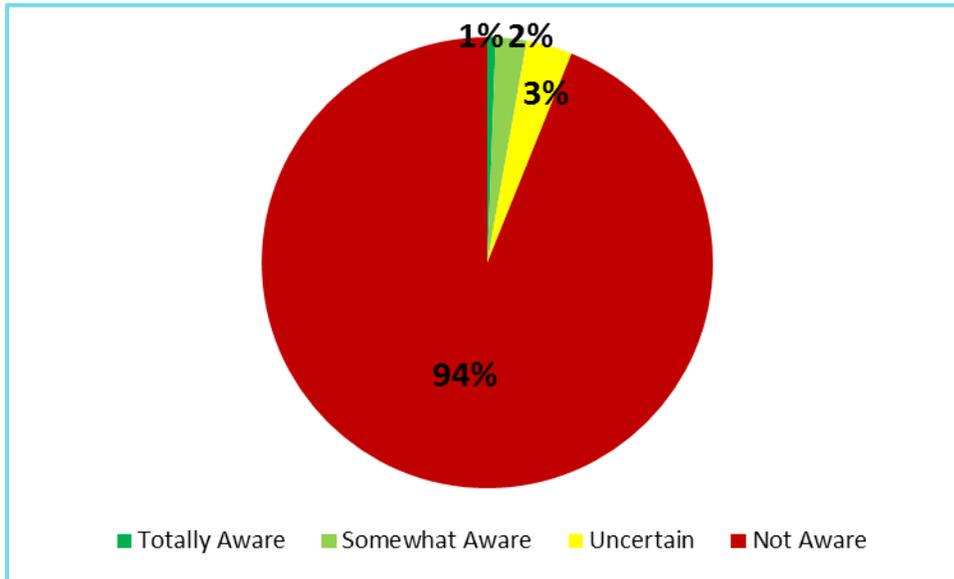


2.3. Awareness of Article 522

The opinion poll started with asking respondents about their knowledge of Article 522 of the Lebanese Penal Code, without giving them any hint about the subject of this article. Then, for all those who claimed or thought that they are aware of the article, they were asked to elaborate on what they know about this matter. The exercise resulted in having a great majority of unaware respondents of this subject (94%); while the rest of the respondents were equally split into two broad categories: 1) those who are uncertain that they heard of it (3%), and those who are informed about it (3%). It is worth noting that a mere 1% of respondents were fully aware of Article 522.

These results are quite normal, as it was expected – in light of lack of previous awareness campaigns – that awareness of this particular article of the Penal Code, would be restricted to those who studied or worked in the legal and legislative domains, in addition to those who had to directly deal with sexual assault cases in courts and/or law enforcement bodies.

Figure 6: Level of Awareness of Penal Code Article 522



2.4. Perception of Article 522 (attributes: scores and standings)

It is clear that Article 522 of the Lebanese Penal Code is a multi-faceted topic, which addresses several issues related to social relations and attitudes, notion and standpoints towards justice values, in addition to perception and assessment of Sexual and Gender Based Violence questions.

Bearing this into consideration, the questionnaire contained ten pre-determined "statements" concerning various issues related to Article 522; and respondents were asked to state to what level they agree or disagree with each of the statements. The results of this exercise were quantified and rated on a scale of 1 to 5, where number 1 means that respondents totally disagree with a certain statement and number 5 means that they totally agree with it (the mean score on this scale is 3.00 points).

Table 4 below illustrates the rates scored for each of the "statements" (attributes) related to Article 522 of the Penal code, according to variables associated with respondents' profiles. It should be noted that results in green are those recorded above the mean score, while the ones in red are those recorded beneath the mean score. The statements or attributes presented in this table are sorted from the highest total score to the lowest.

Table 4: Perception of Attributes Related to Article 522, According to Respondents' Profiles (scores are on a scale of 1 to 5)

Attributes		Total	Male	Female	21- 34 years	35-49 years	50 years and above	Beirut	Mount Lebanon	North	Bekaa	South
1	This article compromises the dignity of assaulted women	4.49	4.33	4.66	4.47	4.47	4.55	4.17	4.67	4.33	4.48	4.45
2	Marriage of a woman to her assaulter creates marital and social troubles for spouses	4.46	4.29	4.64	4.47	4.43	4.48	4.05	4.60	4.42	4.46	4.41
3	Article 522 protects rapists from prosecution and punishment	4.45	4.34	4.58	4.44	4.41	4.52	4.20	4.57	4.40	4.50	4.35
4	Article 522 denies the assaulted women's right to justice	4.30	4.12	4.49	4.33	4.29	4.25	4.16	4.44	4.23	4.21	4.19
5	Article 522 ignores the women's rights to compensate for physical, psychological and moral damages	4.28	4.09	4.48	4.30	4.29	4.22	3.90	4.46	4.25	4.14	4.21
6	Article 522 increases pressure on women to marry her assaulter	4.15	4.04	4.27	4.20	4.13	4.09	4.17	4.23	4.16	4.05	4.00
7	Article 522 tackles the society's perception of family honor rather the woman's problem	3.97	3.81	4.16	3.99	3.99	3.92	3.96	4.02	3.98	4.09	3.78
8	In case of pregnancy, a woman tends to accept marriage to her assaulter	2.98	3.05	2.90	2.72	3.02	3.35	2.71	3.01	3.03	3.06	2.95
9	Article 522 conserves women's honor	2.04	2.23	1.84	2.00	2.06	2.09	1.90	1.82	2.27	2.08	2.35
10	Article 522 resolves the problem for sexually assaulted woman	1.95	2.13	1.75	1.90	1.98	2.01	1.75	1.78	2.14	1.99	2.22

The attribute that recorded the highest scores; i.e. respondents – in general – mostly agree with, was that stating that “**Article 522 compromises the dignity of assaulted women**” (4.49 points). It was found that all profiles of respondents recorded one of their highest scores of agreement with this particular statement. Nevertheless, these scores differed from one profile to another; for example, females (4.66 points) agreed with this statement to a higher extent compared with males (4.33 points). Surprisingly, the oldest age group (50 years and above) agreed the most with this statement, scoring 4.55 points. Also, respondents that reside in Mount Lebanon scored the highest level of agreement with this statement (4.67 points), which is ultimately the highest level of agreement scored among all statements.

In the same sense, when the statement was inversed in order to measure the degree respondents agreed that “**Article 522 conserves women's honor**”; it was found that the statement registered one of the lowest (ranking before last) levels of agreement (2.04 points). The score fell below the mean, which meant that respondents mostly disagreed with it. The score was especially low among females (1.84 points), youngest age group between 21 and 34 years old (2.00 points) and among residents of Mount Lebanon (1.82 points).

These results prove that in case the intention of the legislator was to maintain the dignity and conserve the honor of sexually assaulted women; most people, on the contrary, find this article – itself – demeaning to women and ineffectual towards conserving their honor.

On another note, the least agreeable attribute was the one stating that “**Article 522 resolves the problem for sexually assaulted woman**” (1.95 points). Thus, the respondents find the article inept to resolve the problems of sexually assaulted women.

Taking the previous finding into account; one can better comprehend why the attribute that states that “**Article 522 tackles the society's perception of family honor rather the woman's problem**” recorded the least scores among those statements that witnessed a kind of consensus - generally speaking - among respondents. Even though respondents still tend to firmly agree on this statement (3.97 points), it did not rank on top of the list; as more respondents felt skeptical about it compared to other statements. The only explanation is that many respondents were doubtful – to a certain extent – that the article is capable of tackling the issue of family's honor within the society.

Moreover, from a social point of view, the second highest score was registered by the attribute that stated that “**Marriage of a woman to her assaulter creates marital and social troubles for spouses**” (4.46 points). The fact that clearly asserts that applying Article 522 in practice would not only unsolved the women's problems, but might

actually aggravate future marital troubles and social hassles and difficulties in case of marriage to the assaulters.

It is worth mentioning that most respondents expressed high level of justice values towards sexually assaulted women. It was found that all statements assessing women's right to justice recorded high scores: in third rank, came the attribute that states that "**Article 522 protects rapists from prosecution and punishment**" (4.45 points), followed by the statement that "**Article 522 denies the assaulted women's right to justice**" (4.30 points), and then by the one that mentions that "**Article 522 ignores the women's rights to compensate for physical, psychological and moral damages**" (4.28 points).

Ranking in sixth position, still with a high score, was the attribute that stated that "**Article 522 increases pressure on women to marry her assaulter**" (4.15 points). Evidently, the existence of the article creates pressures on sexually assaulted women to marry their attackers; nevertheless, it is believed that this is a subjective matter, in which a woman still has a saying – regardless of the law – and still possesses her own decision.

The most interesting results, controversial and disputable as they are, were those related to the attribute that stated that "**In case of pregnancy, a woman tends to accept marriage to her assaulter**" (2.98 points). This attribute barely felt beneath the mean score considering the registered record for the total sample; but, results fluctuated sharply among different respondents' profiles. It was found that females (2.90 points) tend to disagree with the statement, while males (3.05 points) mostly agreed with it. The youngest age group also disagreed (2.72 points), whereas, the middle aged group (3.02) and especially the oldest age group (3.35) agreed with it. On the regional level, the residents of Beirut (2.71 points) and those of the Southern Mouhafazas (2.95 points) disagreed with the statement, while those of Mount Lebanon (3.01 points), Northern Lebanon (3.03 points) and Bekaa (3.06 points) slightly agreed with. Noticeably, the new aspect that created confusion among respondents was the case of pregnancy that might result from rape or other sexual assault. The element of pregnancy or giving birth to a child, has clearly affected the decision of an influential portion of respondents. There is no doubt, that such unfold of the events, shall complicate the matter and create uncertainty of public opinion. Such a scenario might be the weakest point for clear judgment.

All in all, when examining the detailed results of the ten attributes; it was found that they expressed deep sympathy and understanding towards the social dilemmas and issues faced by sexually assaulted women. The results also illustrated significant support for the women's rights, and indicated that Article 522 would impede the course of justice.

Mostly, it was females who strongly supported the right causes of sexually assaulted women. This does not allocate males' general opinion in the opposite position at all; it simply means that even though both genders were proponent to social and legal issues

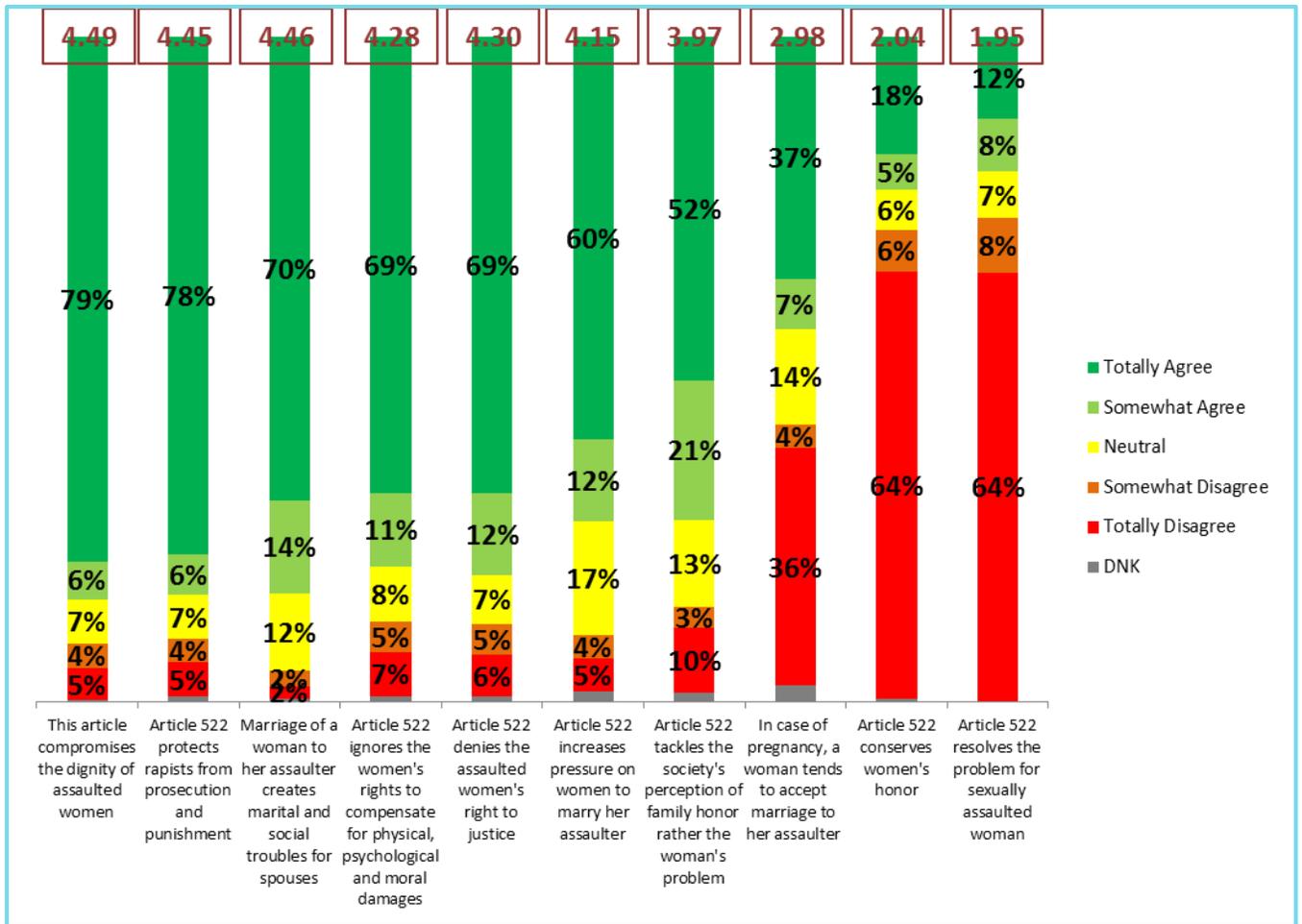
of sexually assaulted women, the gap between the provisions of both genders was significant.

Also the new generation, in most cases, has expressed a great deal of open-mindedness towards these issues, which might have been considered as taboo in old days. Surprisingly enough, it was not the oldest age group that demonstrated conservative attitudes towards Sexual and Gender Based Violence; it was the middle-aged segment that all along fell behind the other age groups, or were reluctant with this respect. Nonetheless, the difference among age groups remained insignificant – despite of the above remarks – in most cases, except for the situation where pregnancy resulted of the sexual assault.

On the regional level, it was the peripheral areas that indicated more conservative stances, when compared to Beirut and Mount Lebanon residents.

The graph below (Figure 7) illustrates the extent to which responded agreed or disagreed with each and every attribute (statement). It is another method to present the above results. Further analysis will take place in the following section for each and every attribute based on respondents' profiles.

Figure 7: Level of Accordance with Attributes



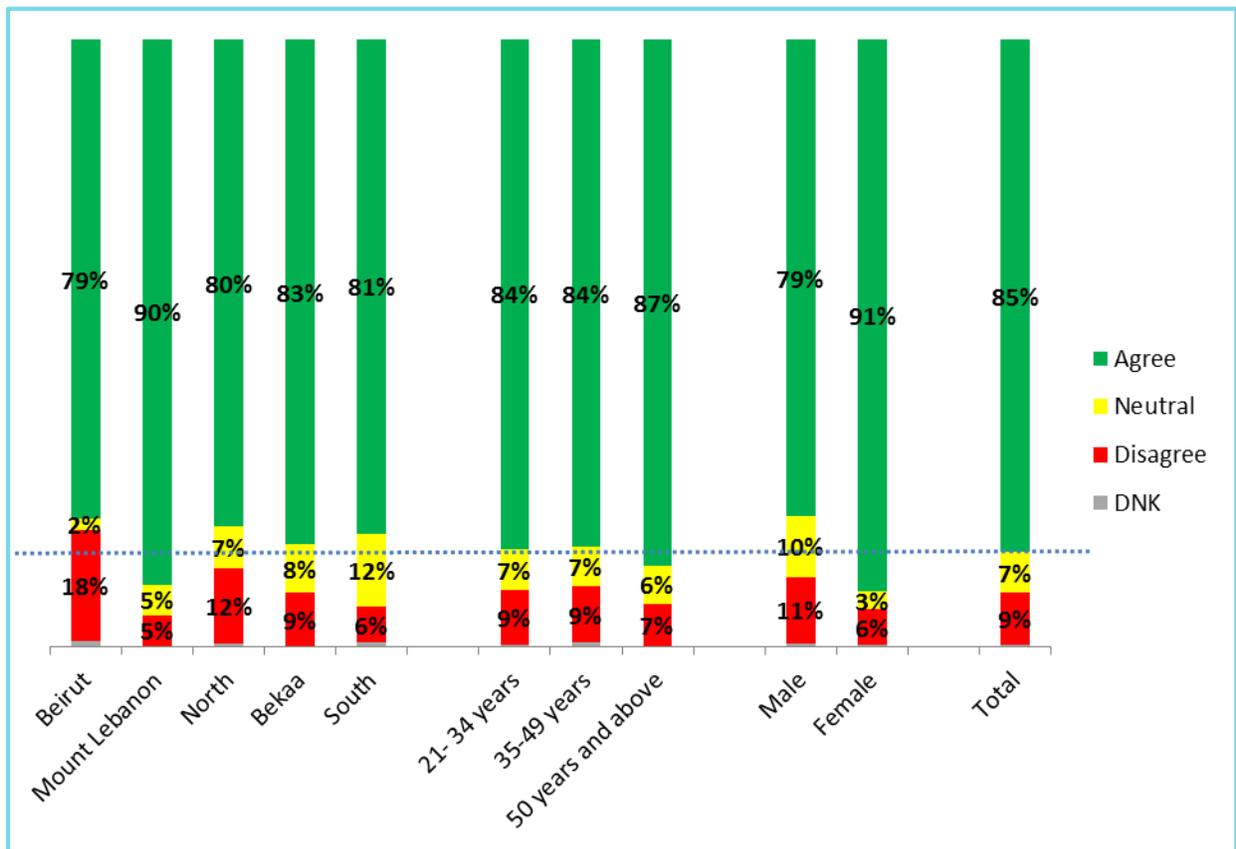
In order to simplify reading and analyzing the results, those who “totally agree” with any attribute together with those who “somewhat agree” were merged in one category, facing the other combined category of those who “totally disagree” and “somewhat disagree” with it (those who were reluctant were kept under the category “neutral”).

“This article compromises the dignity of assaulted women”:

It was found that 85% of respondents agree that the article compromises the dignity of assaulted women, in opposition to 9% of respondents who disagree with this attribute. Only 7% are neutral towards this statement.

Those who mostly agree with this attribute were females (91%), residents of Mount Lebanon (90%) and the older age group (87%). The highest shares of neutral respondents are residents of southern areas (12%) and males (10%). It should be noted that the highest shares of those who disagree were among residents of Beirut (18%) and Northern Lebanon (12%), in addition to male respondents again (11%).

Figure 8: “This article compromises the dignity of assaulted women”: Accordance Based on Profile

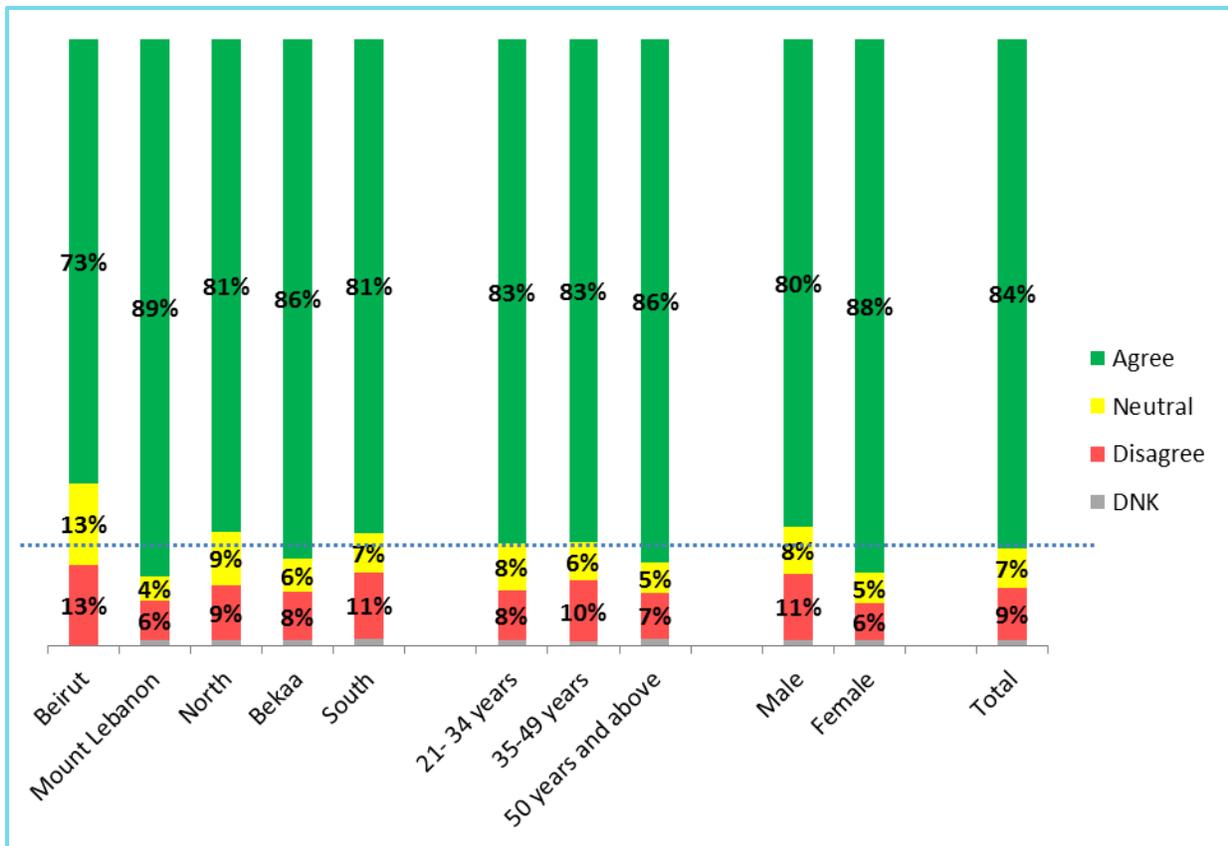


“Article 522 protects rapists from prosecution and punishment”:

It was found that 84% of respondents agree that the article protects rapists from prosecution and punishment, in opposition to 9% of respondents who disagree with this attribute. Only 7% are neutral towards this statement.

Those who mostly agree with this attribute were residents of Mount Lebanon (89%) and Bekaa (86%), females (88%), and the older age group (86%). The highest shares of neutral respondents are residents of Beirut (13%), younger age group (8%) and males (8%). It should be noted that the highest shares of those who disagree were among residents of Beirut (13%) and southern regions (11%), in addition to male respondents (11%) and middle aged group (10%).

Figure 9: "Article 522 protects rapists from prosecution and punishment": Accordance Based on Profile

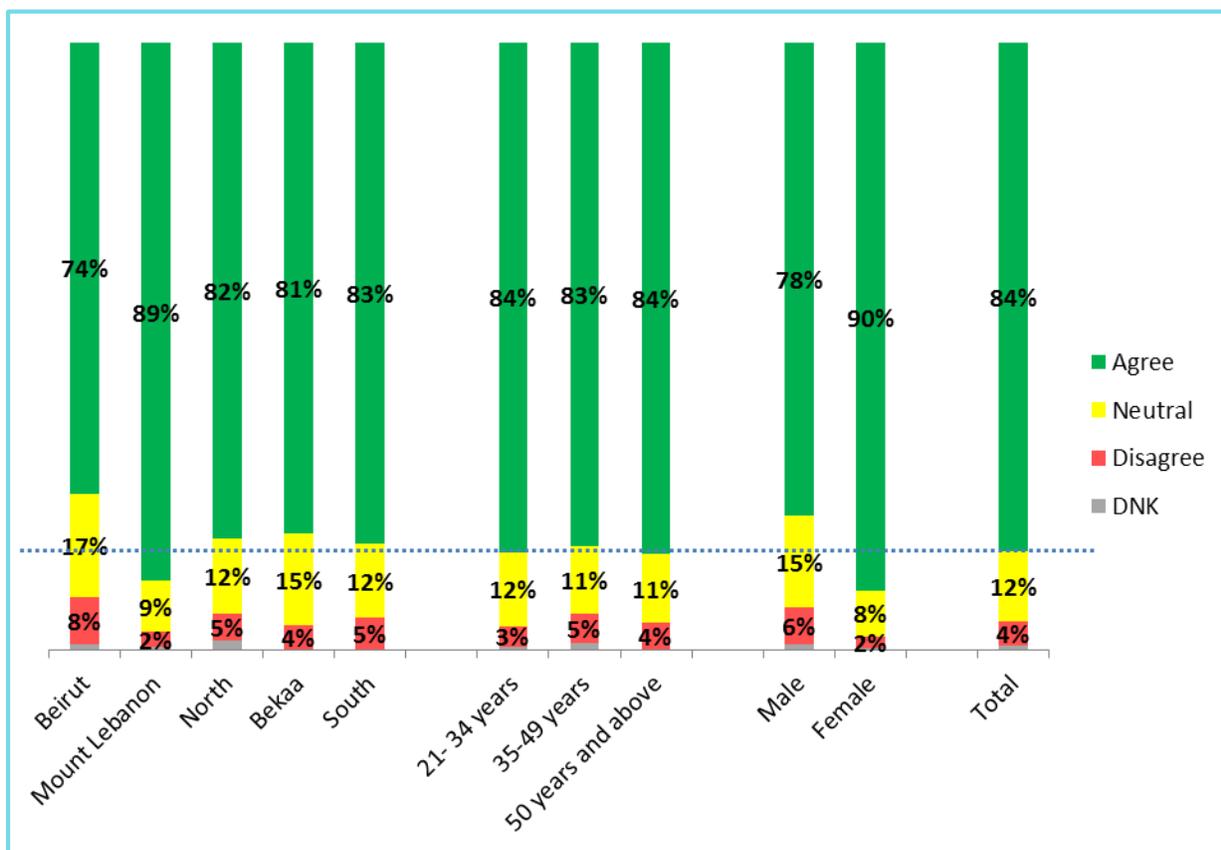


“Marriage of a woman to her assaulter creates marital and social troubles for spouses”:

It was found that 84% of respondents agree that marriage of a woman to her assaulter creates marital and social troubles for spouses, in opposition to only 4% of respondents who disagree with this attribute. Around 12% are neutral towards this statement.

Those who mostly agree with this attribute were females (90%), residents of Mount Lebanon (89%) and both the younger and older age groups (84% each). The highest shares of neutral respondents are residents of Beirut (17%), Bekaa (15%), males (15%) and younger age group (12%). It should be noted that the highest shares of those who disagree were among residents of Beirut (8%), in addition to male respondents (6%) and middle aged group (5%).

Figure 10: "Marriage of a woman to her assaulter creates marital and social troubles for spouses": Accordance Based on Profile

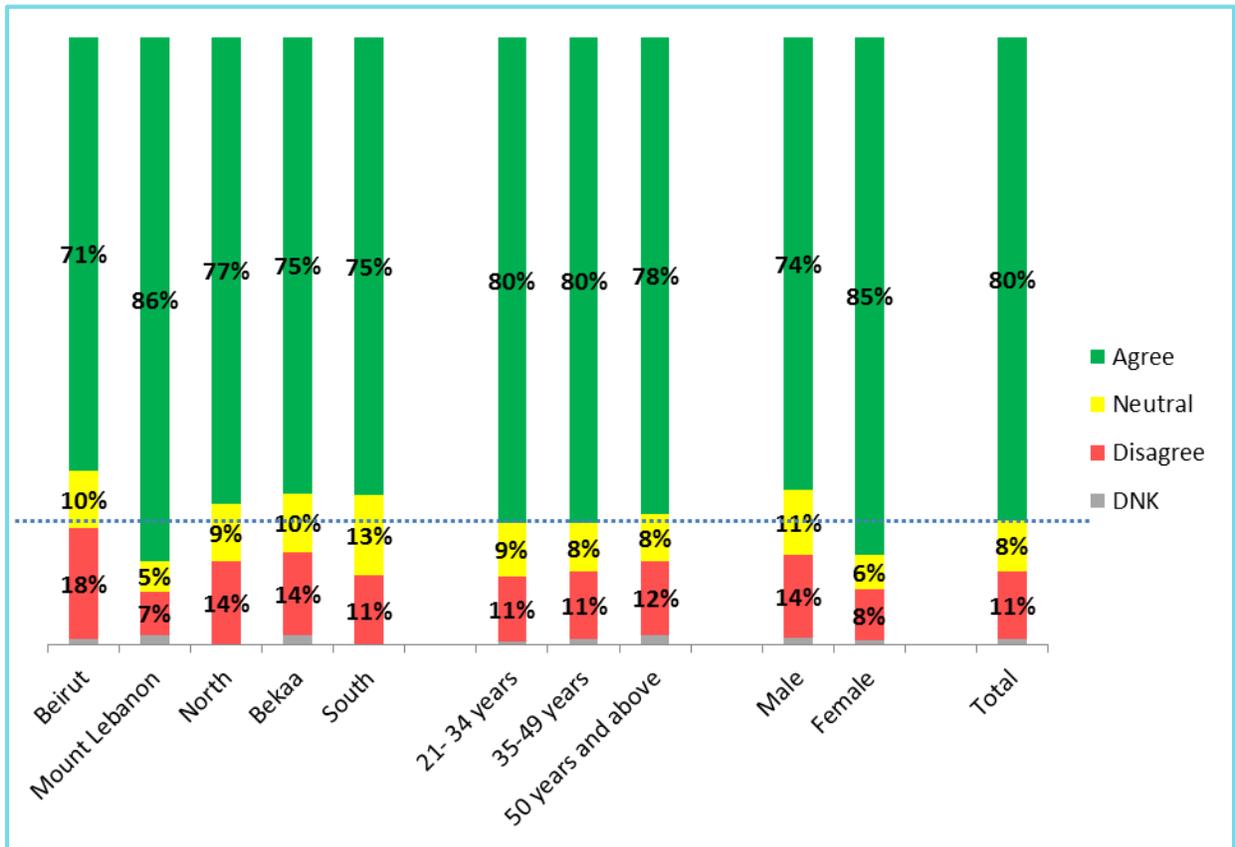


“Article 522 ignores the women’s rights to compensate for physical, psychological and moral damages”:

It was found that 80% of respondents agree that Article 522 ignores the women’s rights to compensate for physical, psychological and moral damages, in opposition to 11% of respondents who disagree with this attribute. Around 8% are neutral towards this statement.

Those who mostly agree with this attribute were residents of Mount Lebanon (86%), females (85%), and all those aged less than 50 years old (80%). The highest shares of neutral respondents are residents of South (13%), males (11%) and younger age group (9%). It should be noted that the highest shares of those who disagree were among residents of Beirut (18%), in addition to male respondents (14%) and older age group (12%).

Figure 11: "Article 522 ignores the women’s rights to compensate for physical": Accordance Based on Profile

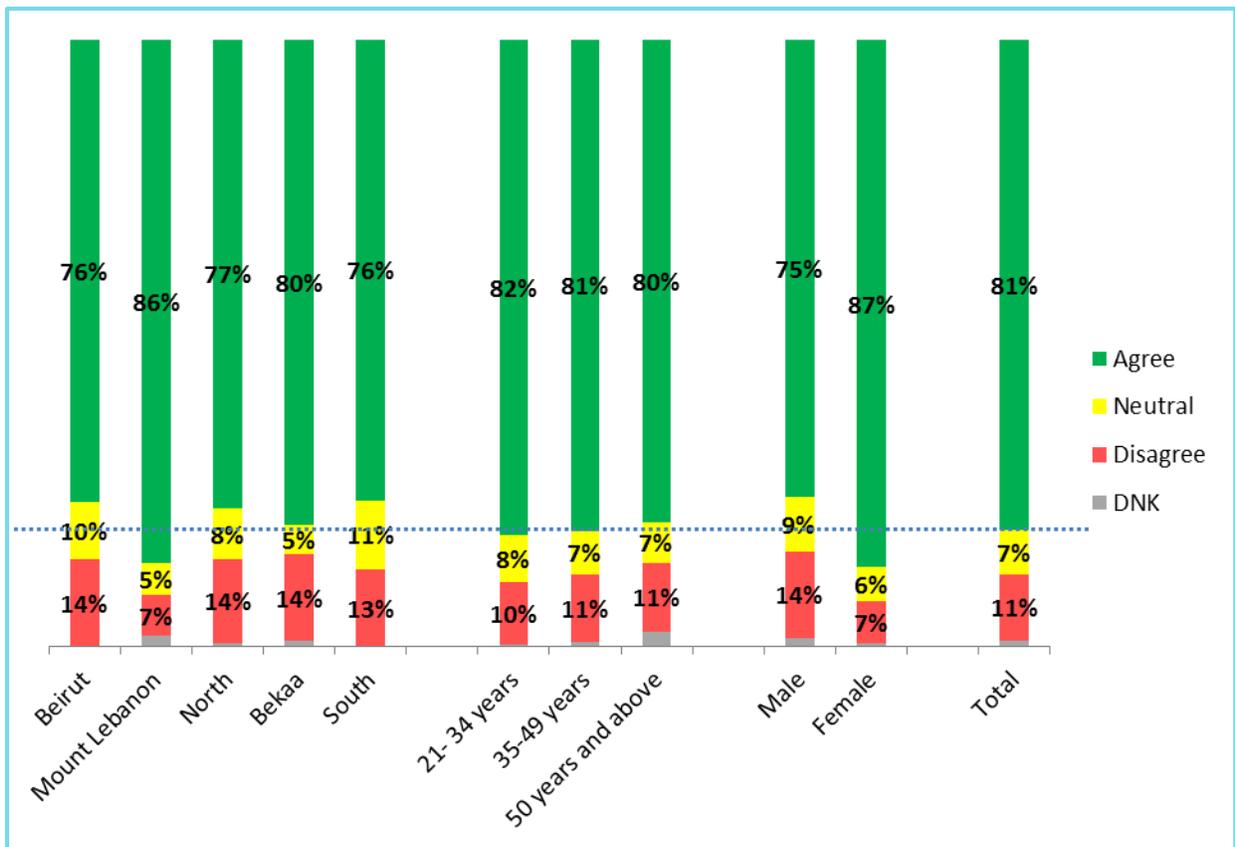


“Article 522 denies the assaulted women's right to justice”:

It was found that 81% of respondents agree that Article 522 denies the assaulted women's right to justice, in opposition to 11% of respondents who disagree with this attribute. Around 7% are neutral towards this statement.

Those who mostly agree with this attribute were females (87%), residents of Mount Lebanon (86%), and younger age group (82%). The highest shares of neutral respondents are residents of South (11%) and Beirut (10%), males (9%) and younger age group (8%). It should be noted that the highest shares of those who disagree were among residents of Beirut, North and South (14% each), in addition to male respondents (14%) and age groups older than 34 years (11%).

Figure 12: "Article 522 denies the assaulted women's right to justice": Accordance Based on Profile

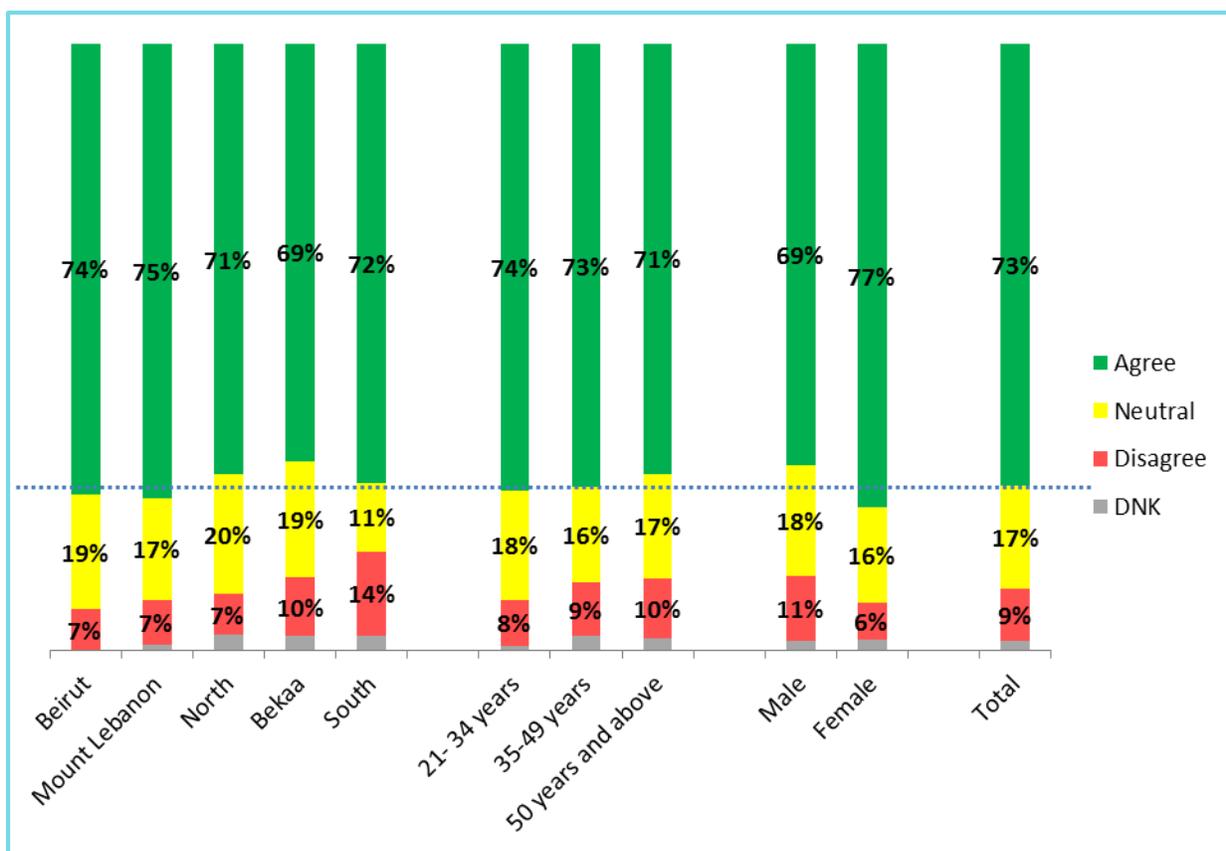


“Article 522 increases pressure on women to marry her assaulter”:

It was found that 73% of respondents agree that Article 522 increases pressure on women to marry her assaulter, in opposition to 9% of respondents who disagree with this attribute. Around 17% are neutral towards this statement.

Those who mostly agree with this attribute were females (77%), residents of Mount Lebanon (75%) and Beirut (74%), and younger age group (74%). The highest shares of neutral respondents are residents of North (20%), Beirut and Bekaa (19% each), males (18%) and younger age group (18%). It should be noted that the highest shares of those who disagree were among residents of South (14%), in addition to male respondents (11%) and older age groups (10%).

Figure 13: "Article 522 increases pressure on women to marry her assaulter": Accordance Based on Profile

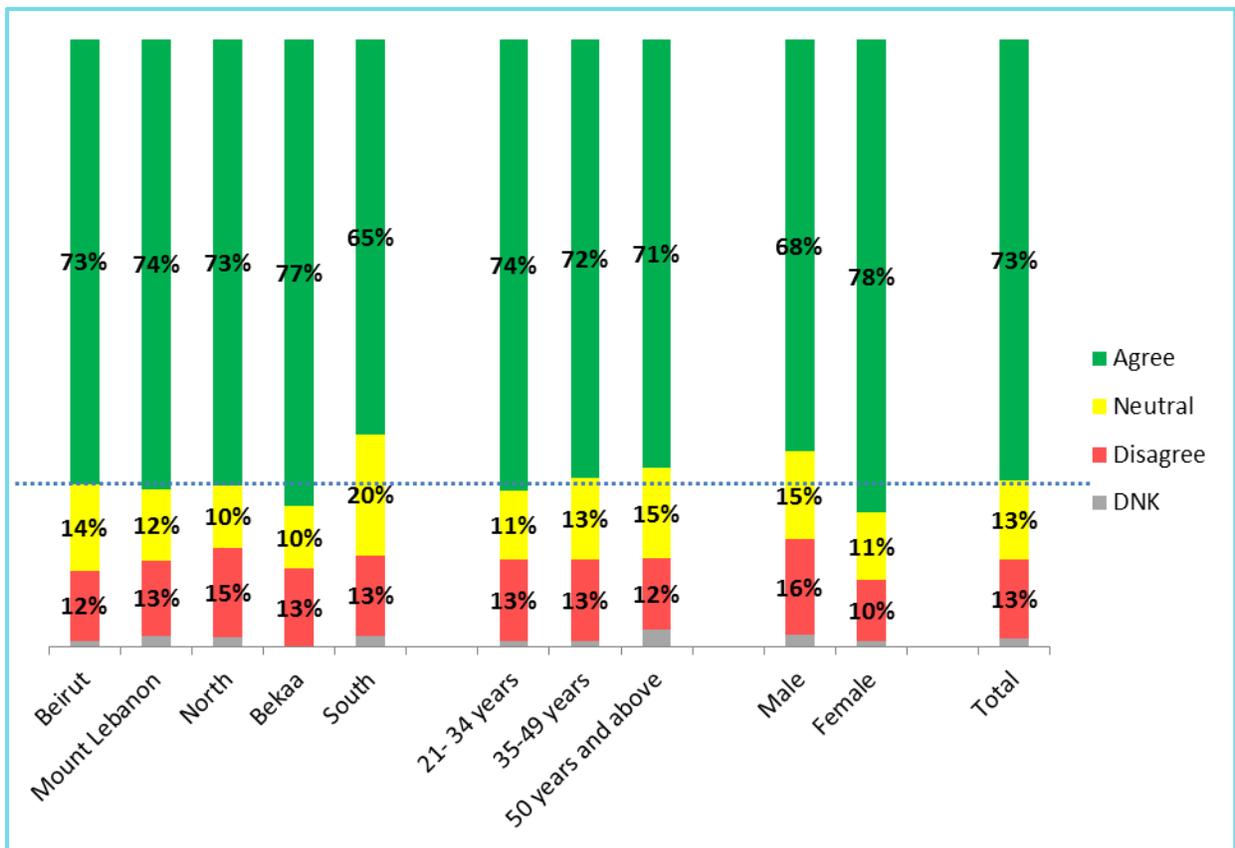


“Article 522 tackles the society's perception of family honor rather the woman's problem”:

It was found that 73% of respondents agree that Article 522 tackles the society's perception of family honor rather the woman's problem, in opposition to 13% of respondents who disagree with this attribute. Around 13% are neutral towards this statement.

Those who mostly agree with this attribute were females (78%), residents of Bekaa (77%) and Mount Lebanon (73%), and younger age group (74%). The highest shares of neutral respondents are residents of South (20%), males (15%) and older age group (15%). It should be noted that the highest shares of those who disagree were among male respondents (16%) and residents of North (15%).

Figure 14: "Article 522 tackles the society's perception of family honor rather the woman's problem": Accordance Based on Profile

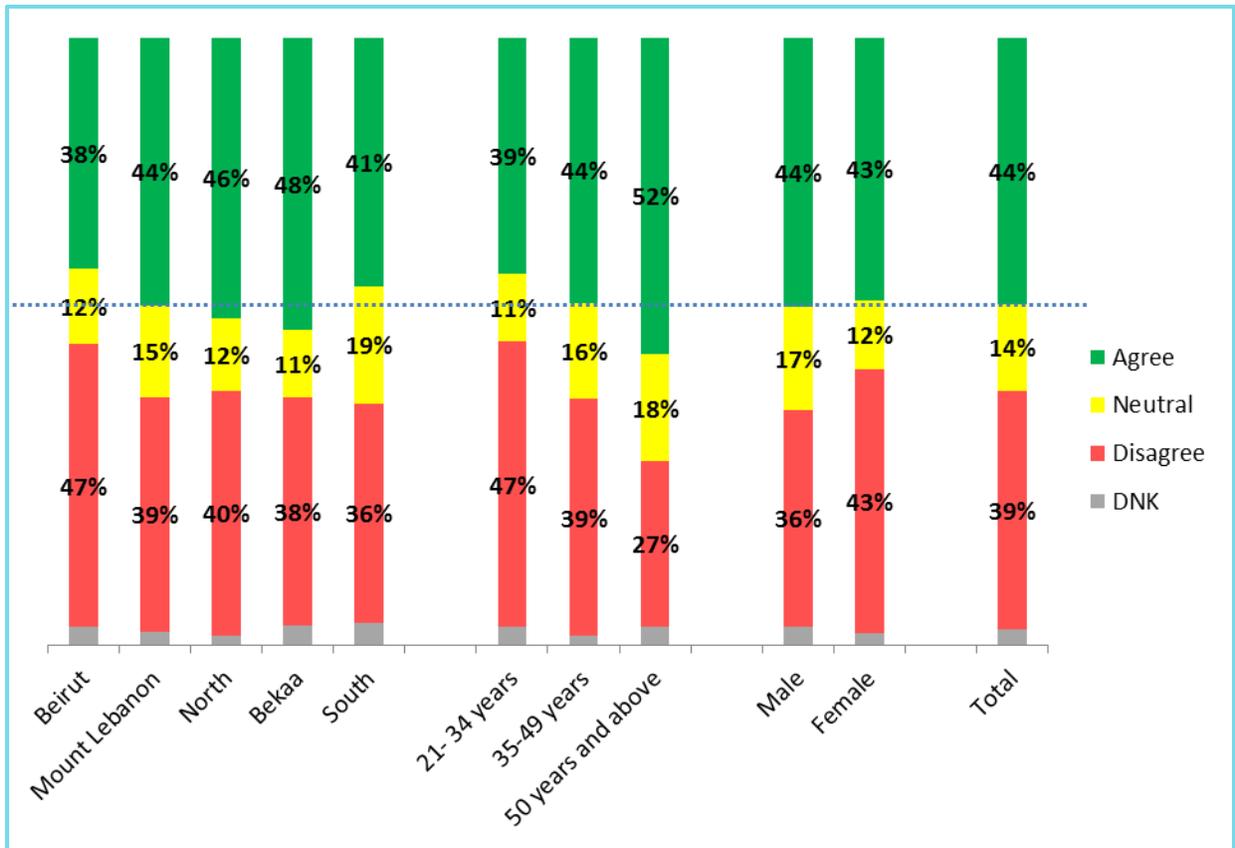


“In case of pregnancy, a woman tends to accept marriage to her assaulter”:

It was found that 44% of respondents agree that in case of pregnancy, a woman tends to accept marriage to her assaulter, in opposition to 39% of respondents who disagree with this attribute. Around 14% are neutral towards this statement.

Those who mostly agree with this attribute were older age group (52%) in addition to residents of Bekaa (48%) and North (46%). The highest shares of neutral respondents are residents of South (19%), older age group (18%) and males (17%). It should be noted that the highest shares of those who disagree were among residents of Beirut (47%), younger age groups (47%) and male respondents (36%).

Figure 15: “In case of pregnancy, a woman tends to accept marriage to her assaulter”: Accordance Based on Profile

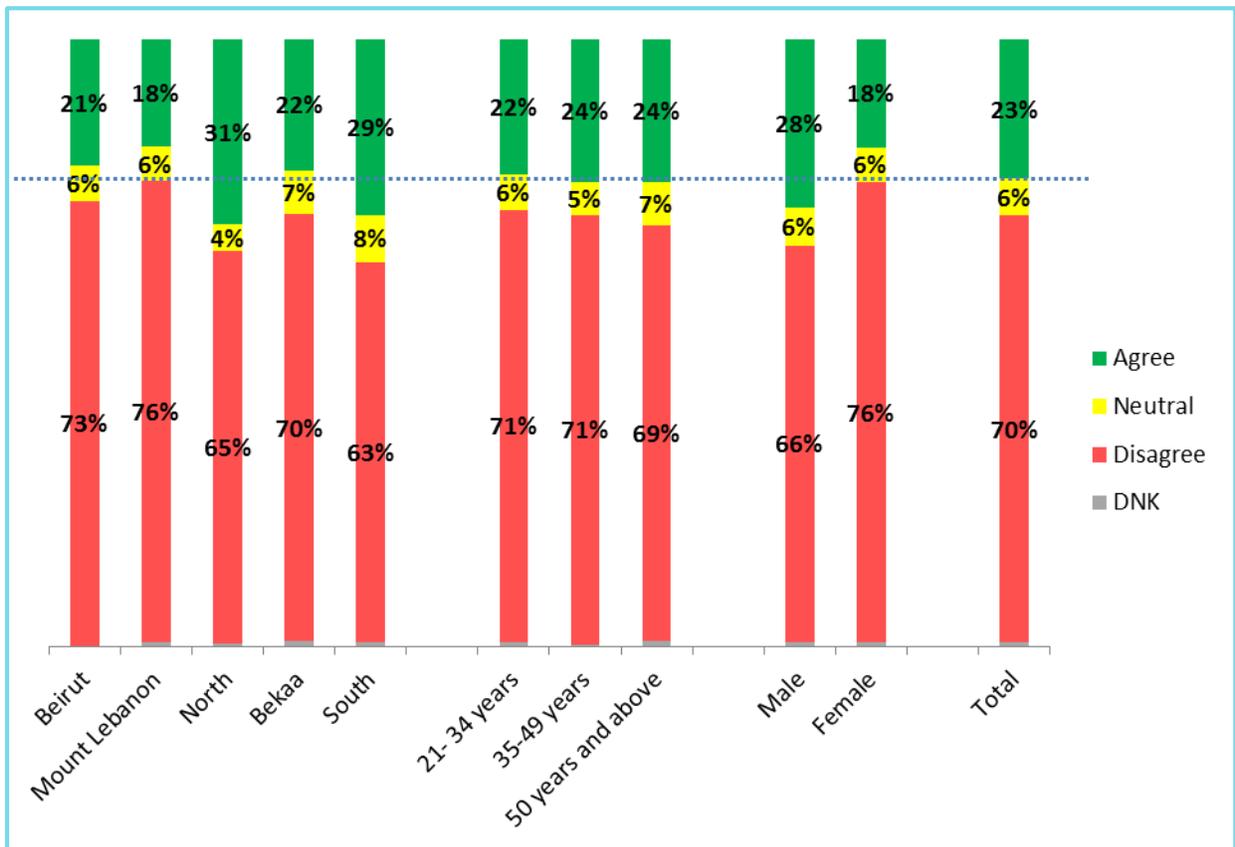


“Article 522 conserves women's honor”:

It was found that 70% of respondents disagree with the statement that Article 522 conserves women's honor, in opposition to 23% of respondents who do agree with this attribute. Only 6% are neutral towards this statement.

Those who mostly disagree with this attribute were females (76%), residents of Mount Lebanon (76%). The neutral responses were minimal (ranging from a minimum of 4% and a maximum of 8%). It should be noted that the highest shares of those who agree were among residents of North (31%), in addition to male respondents (28%).

Figure 16: “Article 522 conserves women's honor”: Accordance Based on Profile

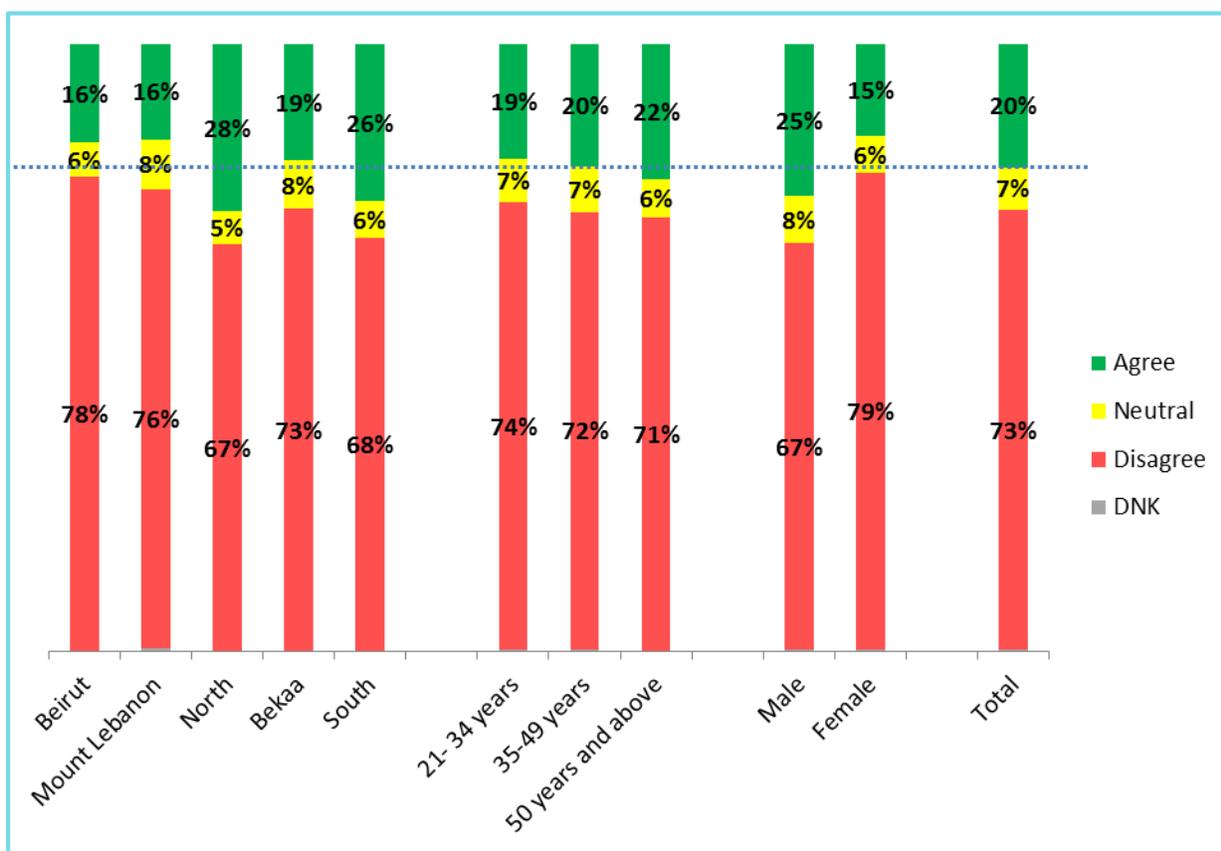


“Article 522 resolves the problem for sexually assaulted woman”:

It was found that 73% of respondents disagree with the statement that Article 522 resolves the problem for sexually assaulted woman, in opposition to 20% of respondents who do agree with this attribute. Only 7% are neutral towards this statement.

Those who mostly disagree with this attribute were females (79%), residents of Beirut (78%) and younger age group (74%). The neutral responses were minimal (ranging from a minimum of 5% and a maximum of 8%). It should be noted that the highest shares of those who agree were among residents of North (28%) and South (26%), in addition to male respondents (25%) and older age group (22%).

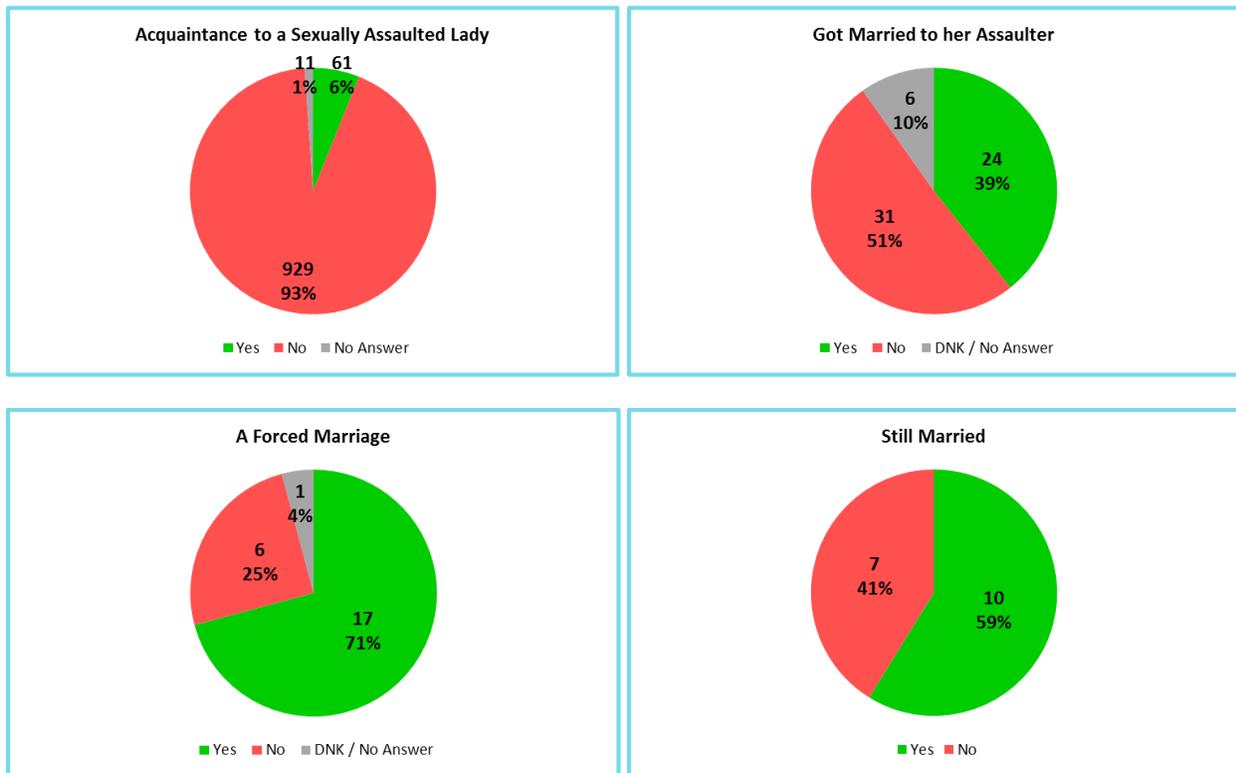
Figure 17: “Article 522 resolves the problem for sexually assaulted woman”: Accordance Based on Profile



2.5. Situation of Acquainted Sexually Assaulted Women

Respondents were asked, if they are acquainted to a woman that was sexually assaulted. Surprisingly, about 6% of the sample (61 respondents) affirmed that they know women who were sexually assaulted, while another 1% (11 respondents) did not wish to answer this question.

Figure 18: Situation of Acquainted Sexually Assaulted Women



Then, those 61 respondents, who are acquainted to a sexually assaulted woman, were asked if this lady got married to her assaulter or not. More than half of them were found not to have married to their assaulters (31 respondents); whereas, 39% did marry their assaulter (24 respondents); and around 10% preferred not to answer or, else, did not know (6 respondents).

Furthermore, those 24 respondents, who confirmed that the sexually assaulted women they are acquainted with who got married to their assaulters, were asked if these marriages were forced at the sexually assaulted ladies in any way. It was found that a

great majority of them did experience forced marriages (17 respondents); one-quarter of them denied any kind of forced marriage to their assaulters (6 respondents); and a very small fraction of them did not know (1 respondent only).

When they were further asked if these ladies are currently still married to their assaulters? Around 59% confirmed the fact (10 respondents); while 41% - a significant share - said otherwise (7 respondents).

It should be noted, that these results are statistically insignificant, because they are based on a very small number of respondents – in absolute terms – acquainted to sexually assaulted women. These findings are only indicative, and should be dealt with the acquired storyline with precaution.

2.6. Opinion about Certain Articles of the Law

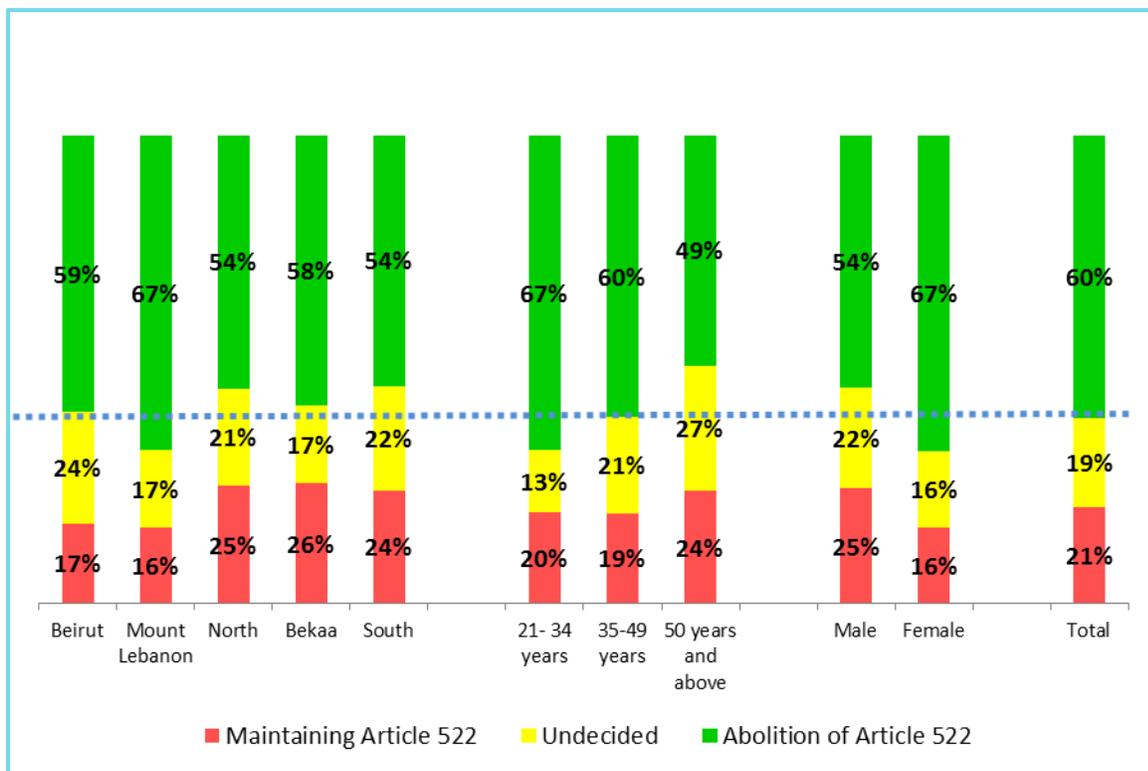
In the last section of the opinion poll, the questionnaire examined the suggestions of the interviewees regarding the Articles 522 and 545 of the Penal Code, which are of direct concern of the up-coming campaign.

Opinion on Article 522:

In reference to Article 522, the responses came in line with the positive results of the perception on Sexual and Gender Based Violence; as around 60% of total sample are in favor of abolishing Article 522; in opposition to 21% who are in favor of maintaining the article; whereas, a significant share of respondents are still undecided (19%).

Moreover, two-third of the females (67%) was in favor of abolition of Article 522. Also, those residing in Mount Lebanon (67%) recorded the highest share of those in favor of abolishing of the article. In addition to the younger age group (67%) who was most in favor of annulling this article.

Figure 19: Opinion Concerning Article 522



Opinion on Article 545:

On the other hand, concerning Article 545, respondents were more hesitant to favor allowing abortion for sexually assaulted women in case of pregnancy as a result of sexual assault. It was found that around 42% of total sample are in favor of an exception to Article 545 in such cases; in opposition to 44% who are in favor of maintaining of prohibition of abortion in all cases; whereas, a share of 15% are still undecided.

Moreover, none of the social segments reached the 50% threshold of favoring abortion in this particular case. Females came close (49%), followed closely by residents of Mount Lebanon (48%), and those age groups that are younger than 50 years old (44% to 45%). Actually, throughout all other social segments, the majority was in favor of maintaining Article 545 without any exception.

Figure 20: Opinion Concerning Law 545

