ARTICLE 153:
KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES AMONG KUWAITI CITIZENS

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Overview

- Introduction
  - Why are surveys important?
  - What is unique about this survey?
- Survey methodology
- Topics included in the survey
- Results of the survey
  - Knowledge/awareness of Article 153
  - Attitudes toward violence against women
- Conclusions
Introduction

Why a national public opinion survey?
- Little reliable data on public attitudes toward violence against women, in Kuwait or elsewhere
- Data are important not just for academic purposes but also to help policymakers understand important issues
- Increasing awareness of the importance of reliable opinion surveys in the Middle East and Gulf region

How is this survey unique?
- First large-scale study in Kuwait and perhaps the GCC
- Large (1,050) and nationally-representative sample
- Designed to address low knowledge, high sensitivity
Methodology

- Standard approval from Central Statistical Bureau
- Conducted in July 2016 by a well-established and reputable local survey firm
- Administered by telephone using a comprehensive sampling frame
- Final sample of 1,050 respondents
- Kuwaiti nationals aged 21 (voting age) and older
- Representative of Kuwaiti society across important demographic and socioeconomic categories: gender, age, education, economy, geography, etc.
Survey pre-test established very low knowledge (less than 10% were aware of Article 153 by name)

Key questions embedded in larger batteries of items to reduce sensitivity

Order of appearance of survey questions randomized to avoid ordering effects
Survey Topics

- Knowledge of Article 153
- General attitudes toward women
- Views about violence of against women in the specific case of adultery
- Support for a law permitting violence against women in the case of adultery
- General interest and involvement in politics, including in National Assembly elections
Results

- Very low knowledge
  - Low knowledge of Article 153 (less than 10%)
  - Low knowledge of its general provisions (14%)
- Most Kuwaitis (63%) are not supportive
  - More extreme opponents than extreme supporters
- Support lower among more educated citizens
- Opponents, not supporters, are more politically active
63%  
Two-thirds (63%) of Kuwaitis do not support a law such as Article 153. About twice as many people strongly oppose it than strongly support it.

13%  
More educated Kuwaitis are less likely to support such a law: University-educated Kuwaitis are 13% more opposed to such a law than uneducated Kuwaitis.

Opponents of the law participate in parliamentary elections more frequently than do supporters.

86%  
The vast majority (86%) of Kuwaitis are not aware that the law exists—either by name or in terms of its general provisions.
Support for Article 153, by Age and Gender

- Male
- Female
Conclusions

- Most Kuwaitis do not realize Article 153 exists
- Most Kuwaitis oppose the idea of a law condoning violence against women adulterers
- There is no difference between the knowledge and attitudes of men and women
- Opponents are better educated, but the relationship with age is more nuanced and gender-specific
- Opponents are more politically engaged than supporters