

# “Voices of Syria” Project

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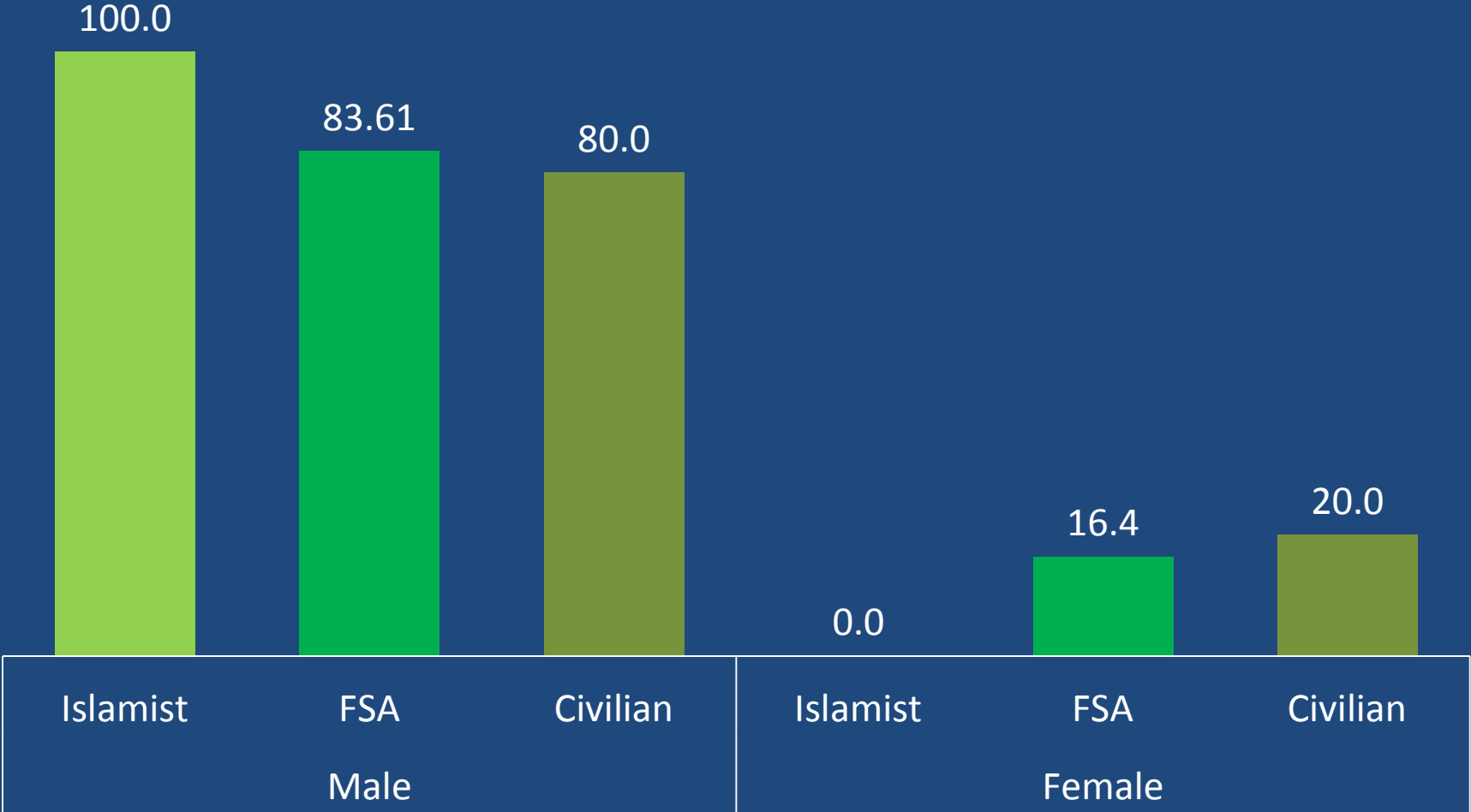
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High Point University

# Methodology

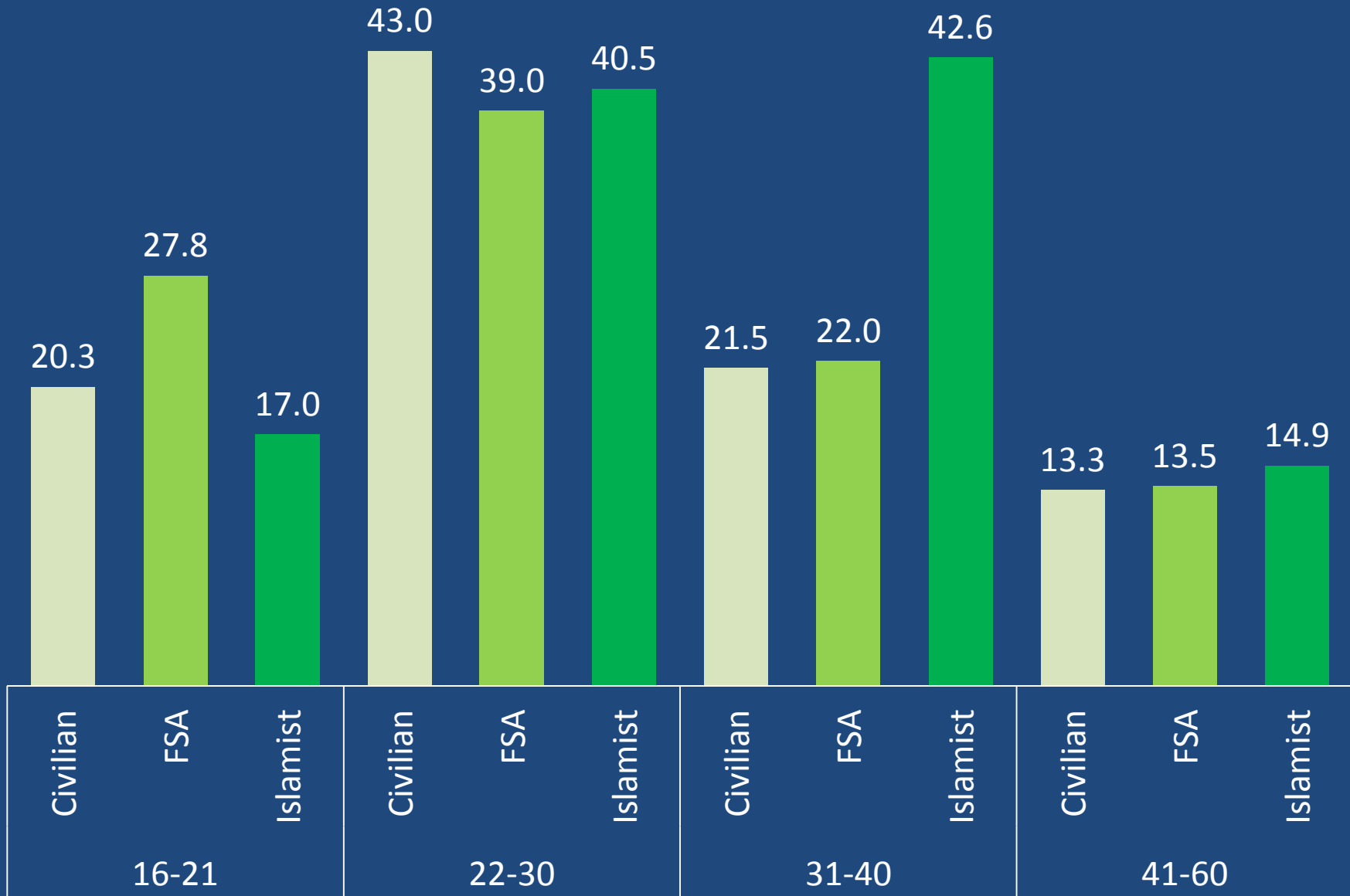
- Unknown population parameters and security concerns preclude random sampling
- We rely on non-probability, cluster sampling
- No more than 5 per cluster, 1 per household
- Civilian/FSA interviews in Aleppo and Idlib (August 2013-December 2013)
- Refugee Interviews in Turkey (Jan- April 2014)
- Islamist fighters, mostly from Islamic Front (May 2014)
- N = 310

# Demographics

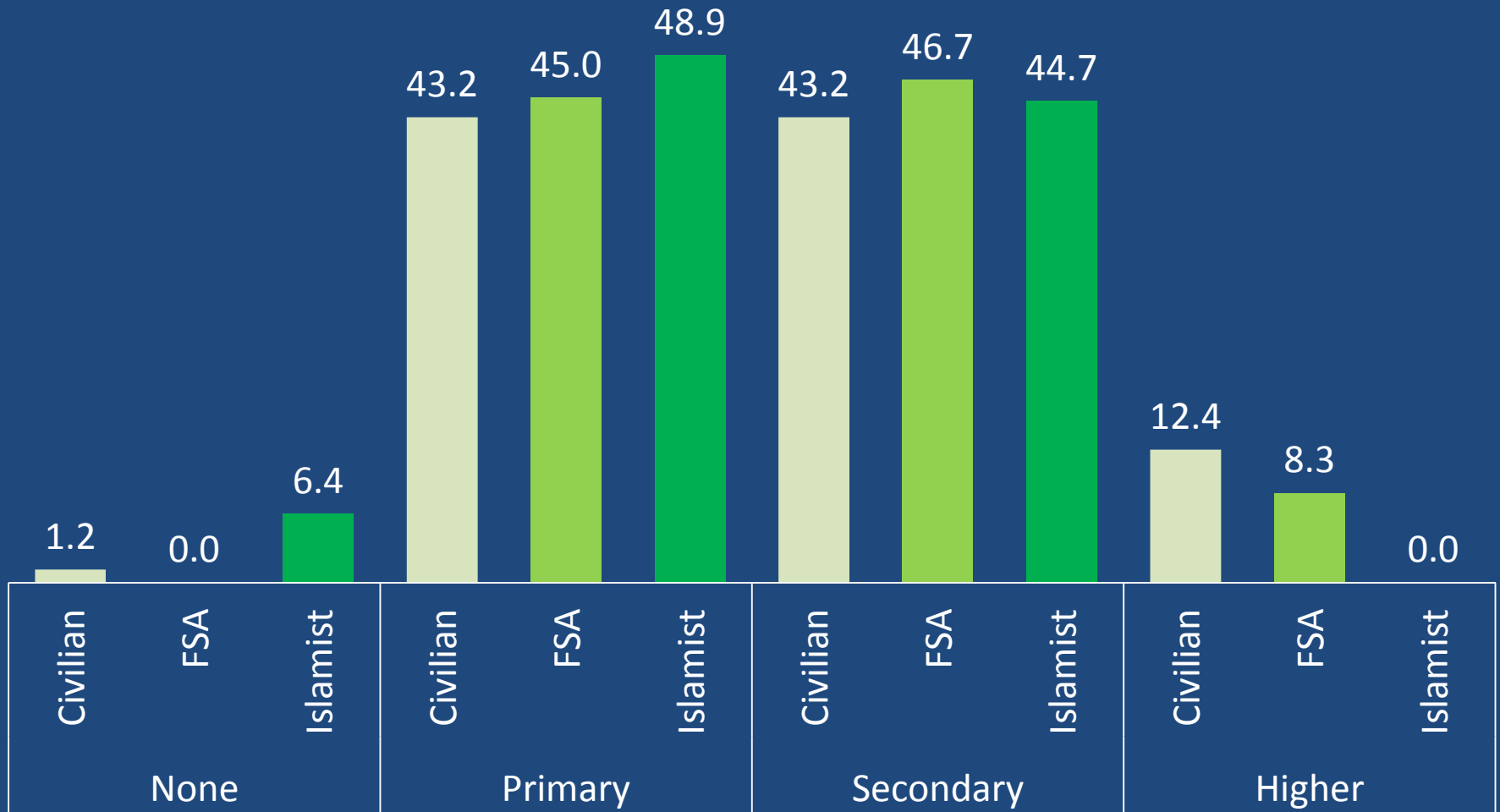
# Respondents Gender



# Respondents Age Group



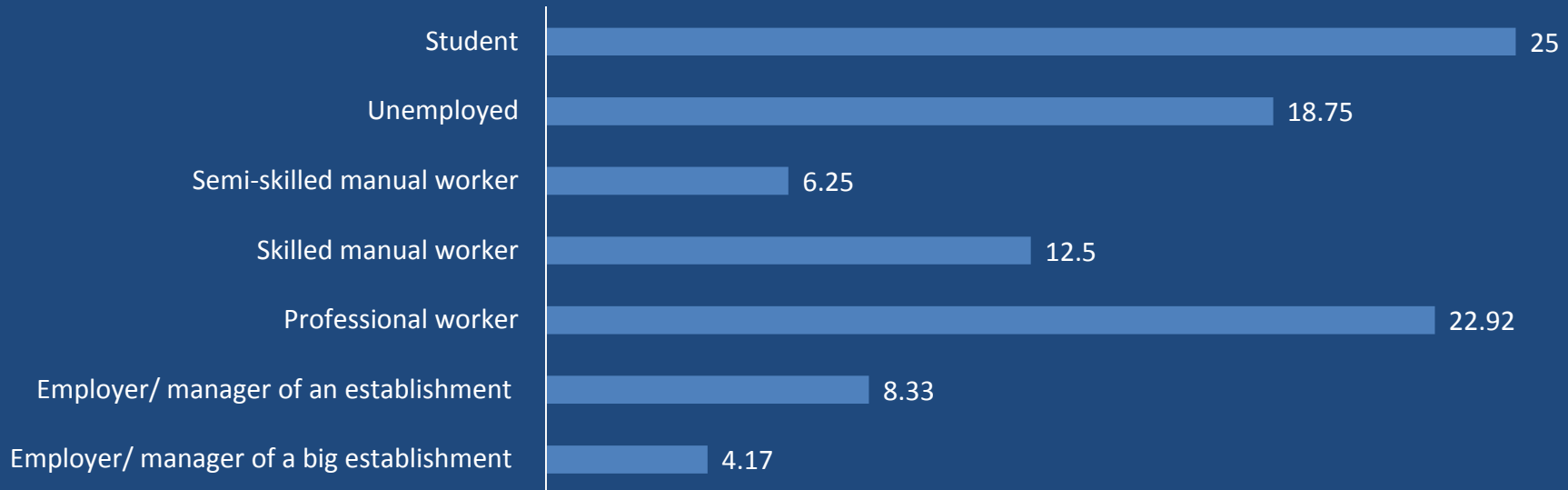
# Respondents Education Levels



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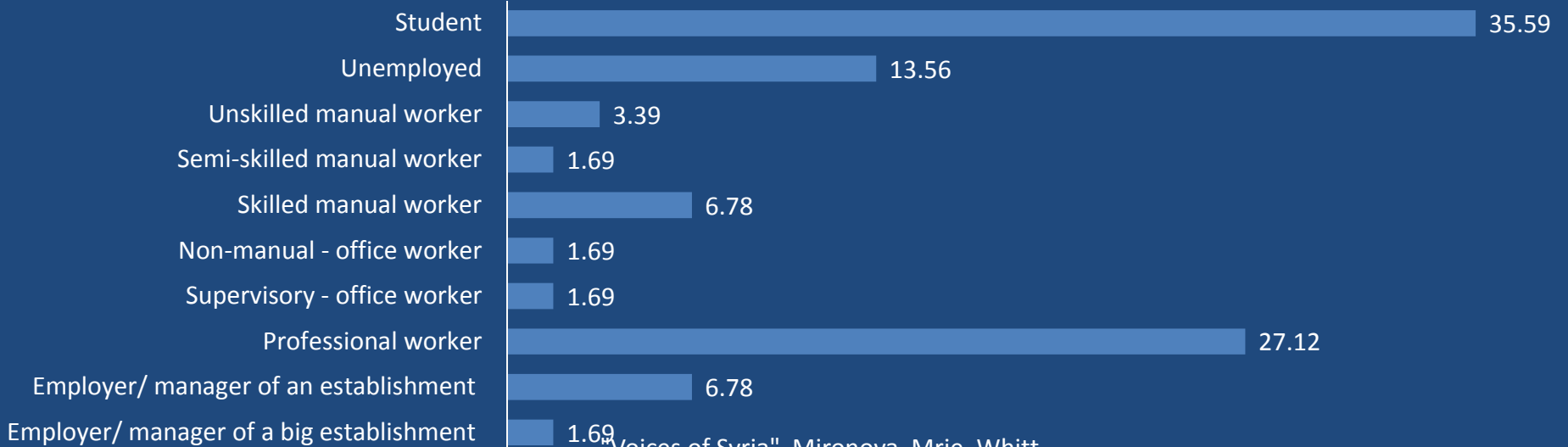
## Occupation Before the War (Islamists)

Q: What type of work were you doing before the war began ?



## Occupation Before War (FSA)

Q: What type of work were you doing before the war began ?



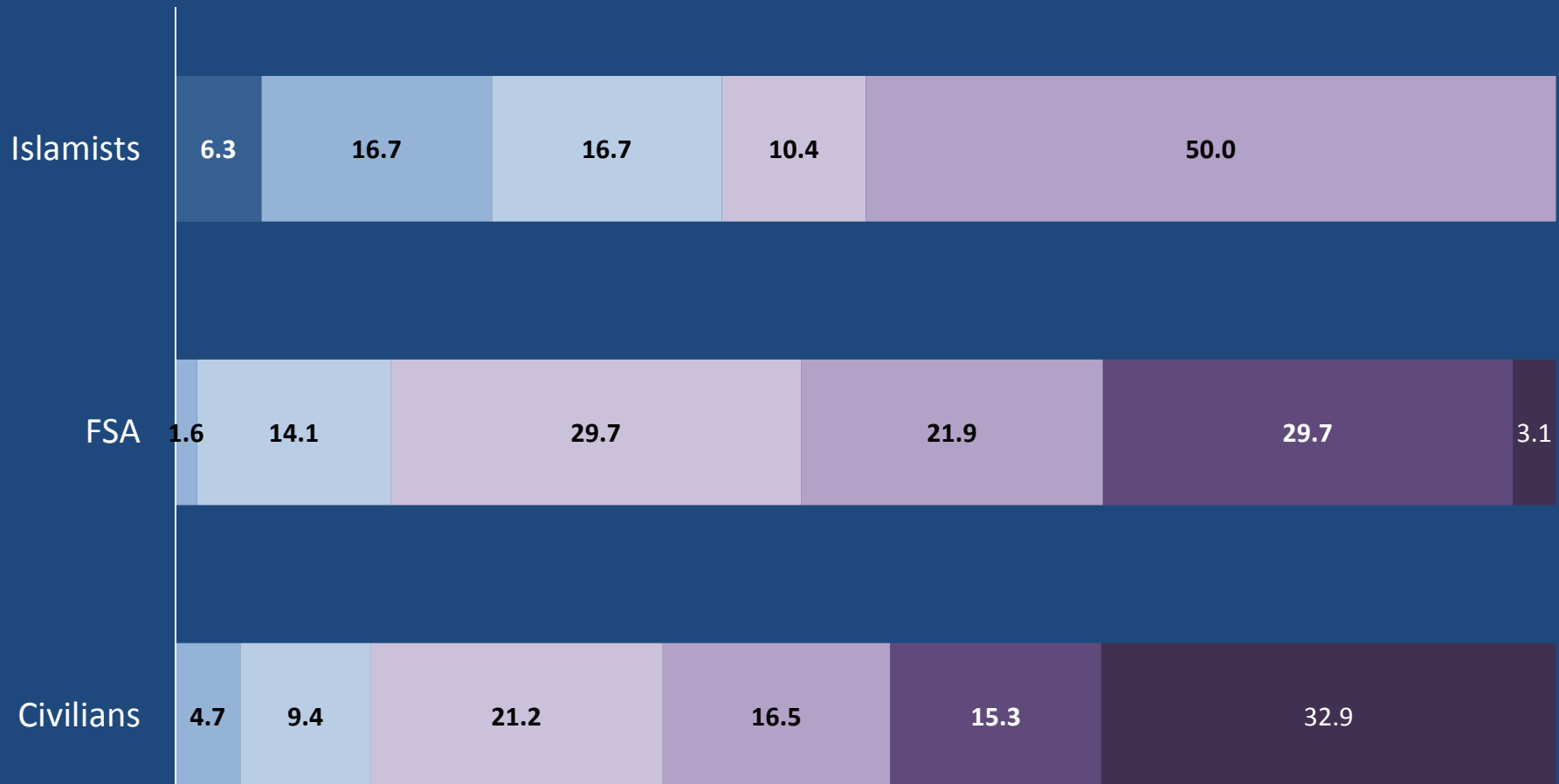
Displacement



## Time at Current Location

*Q: How long have you been in the location where you are currently living/seeking shelter?*

■ Less than a week    ■ 1–3 weeks    ■ 1-3 months    ■ 3-6 months  
■ 6-12 months    ■ 1-2 years    ■ More than 2 years

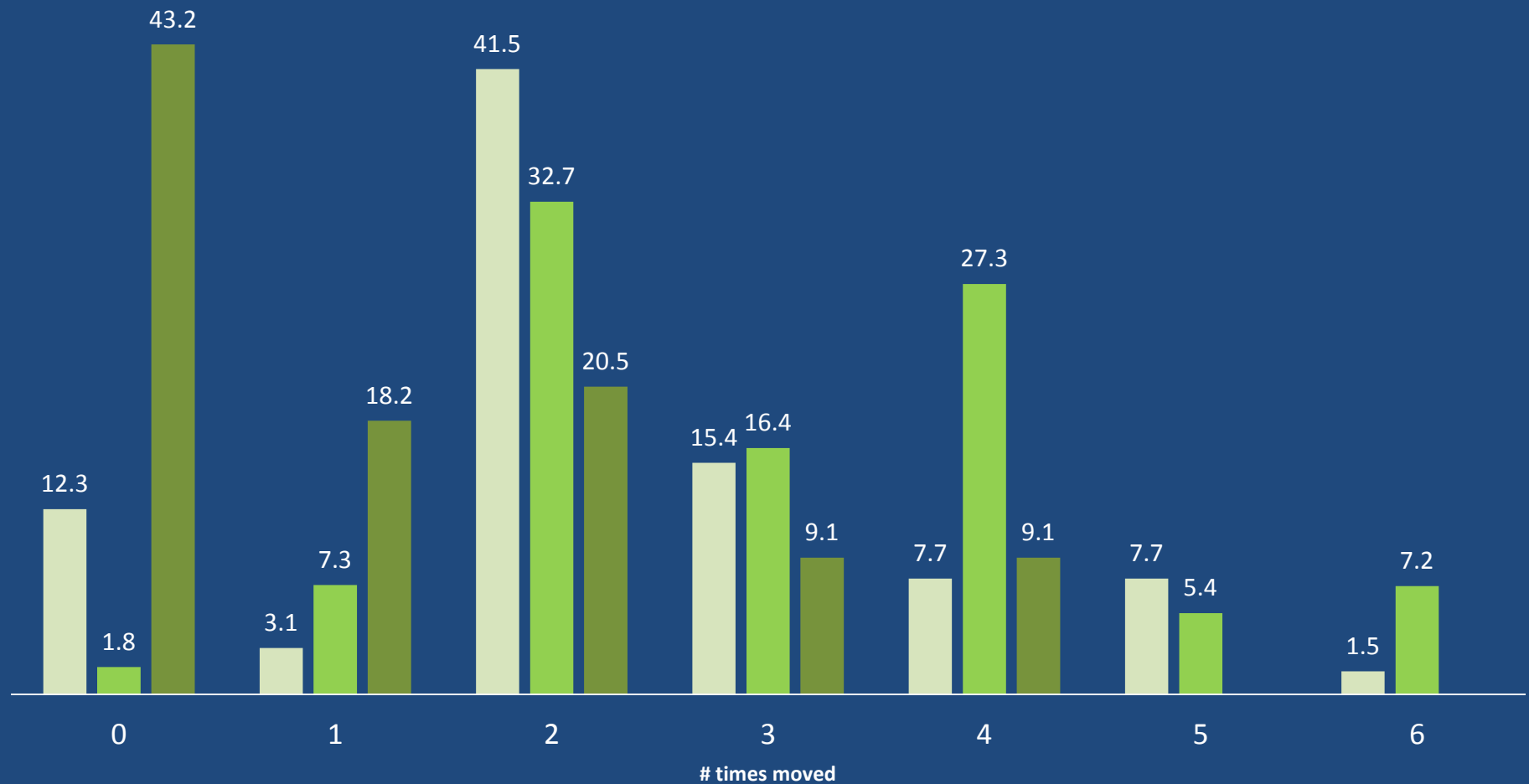


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## Displacement by Conflict

*Q: How many times have you moved since the war began?*

■ Civilians ■ FSA ■ Islamist



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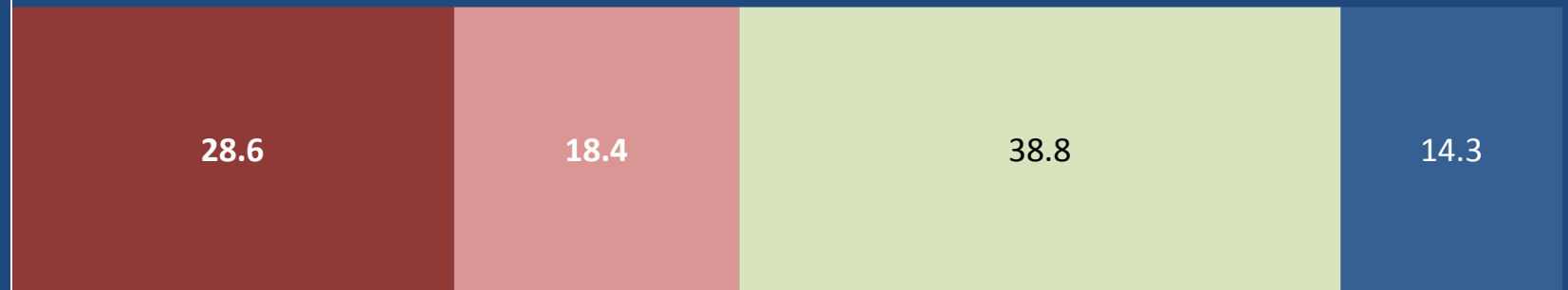
# Safety and Security

## Assessment of Current Conditions

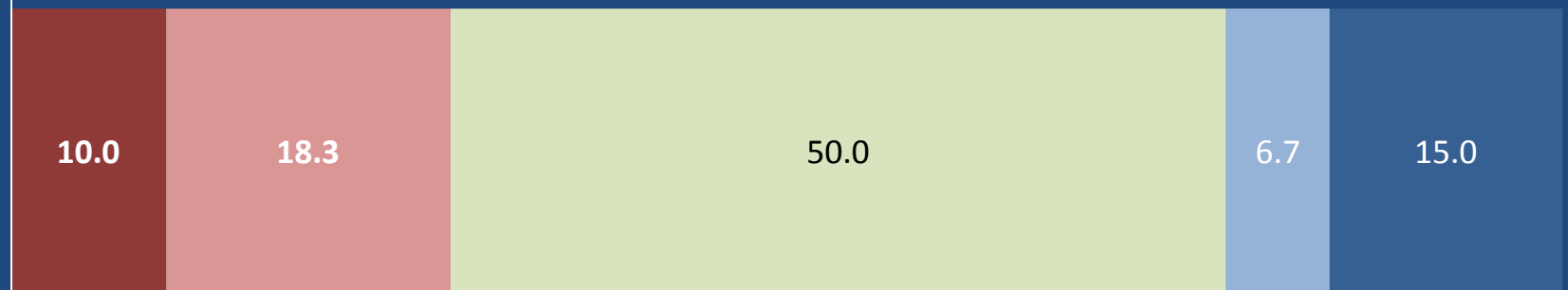
Q: Compared to 12 months ago, do you think conditions here have:

■ Got a lot worse ■ Got a little worse ■ Stayed the same ■ Got a little better ■ Got a lot better

Islamist



FSA

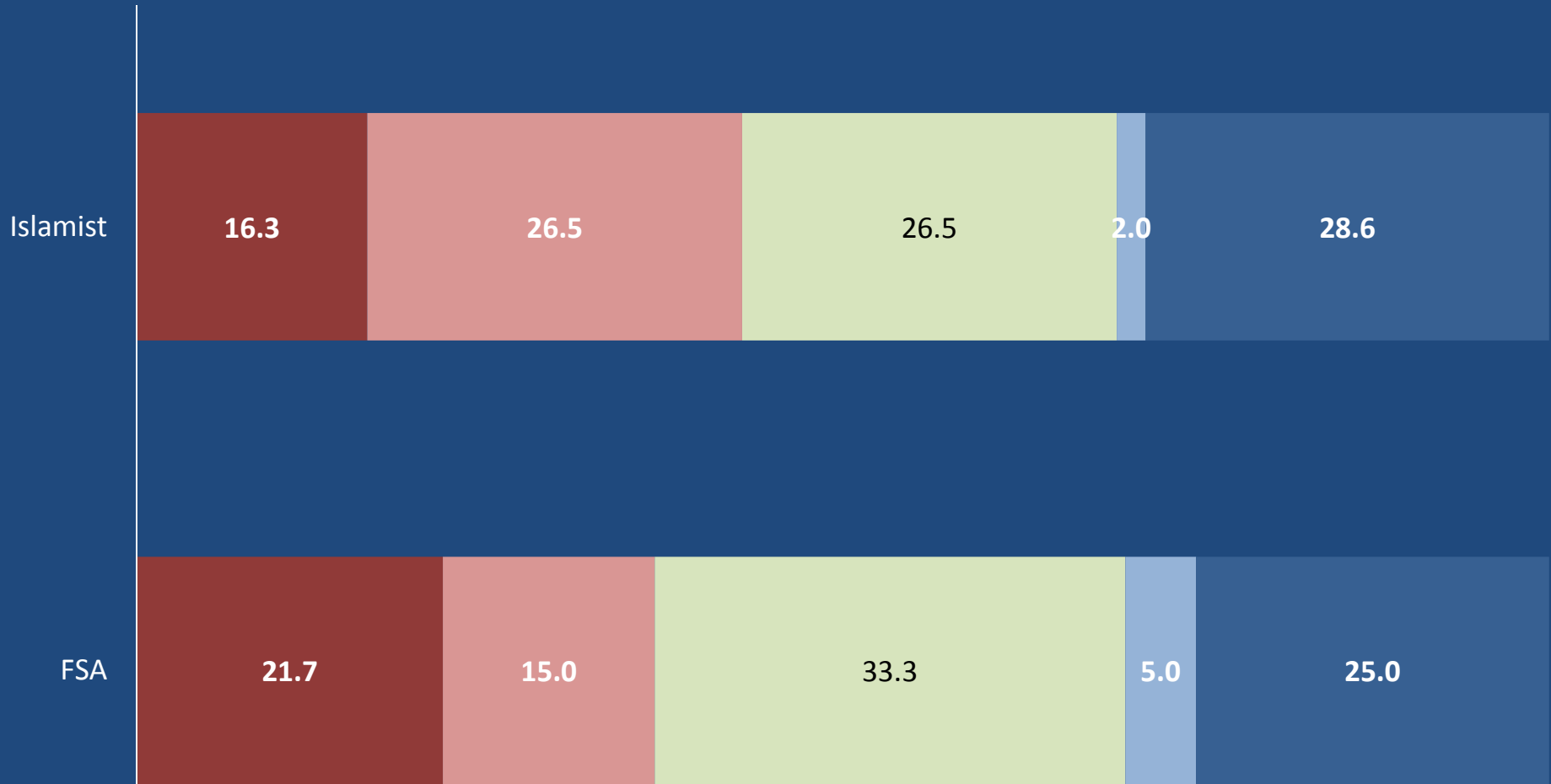


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## Expectations for the Future

Q: And over the next 12 months, do you expect conditions here to ...  
?

Get a lot worse   Get a little worse   Stay the same   Get a little better   Get a lot better

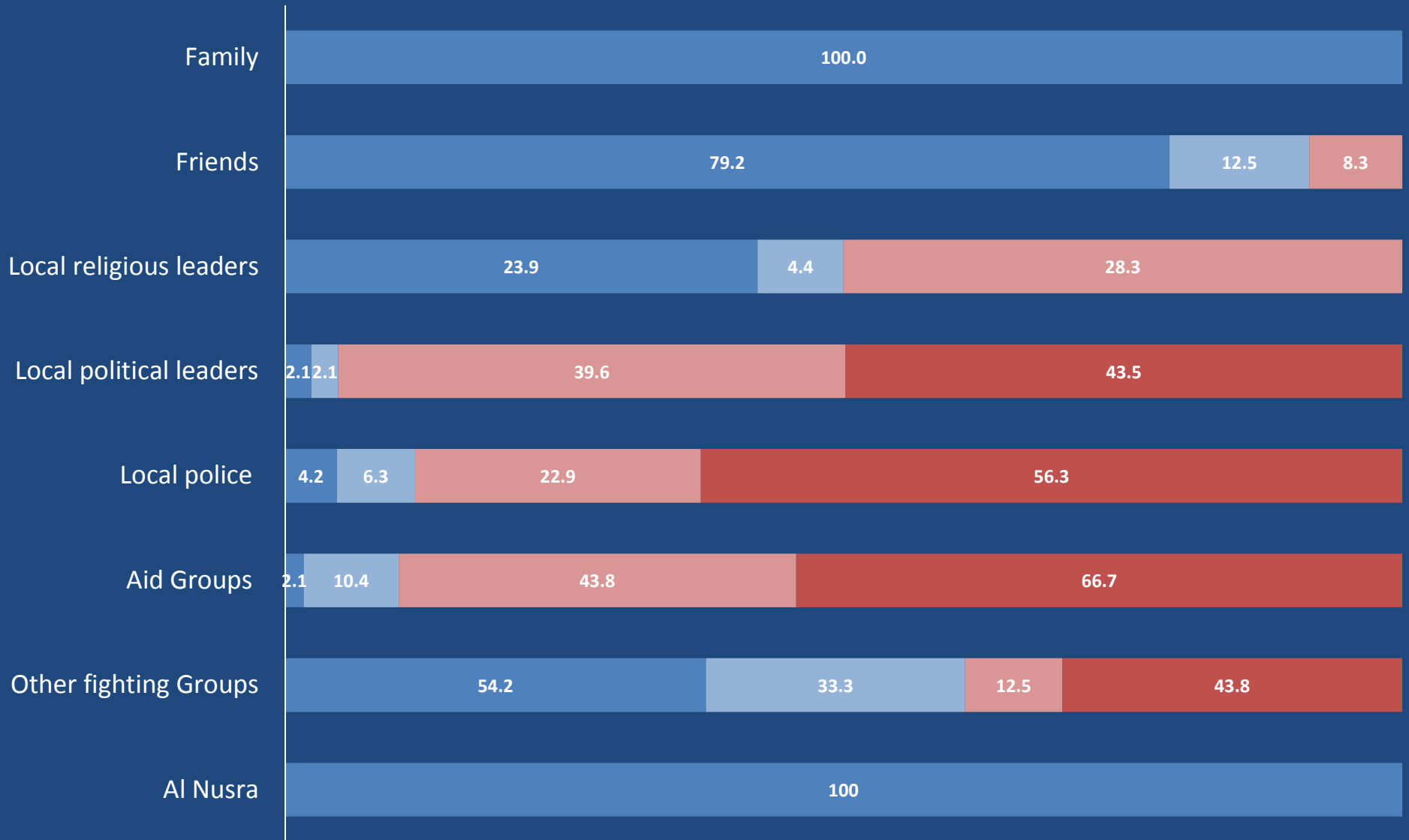


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## Reliance on Others for Safety and Security (Islamists only)

Q: How much confidence do you have in the following to help keep you safe?

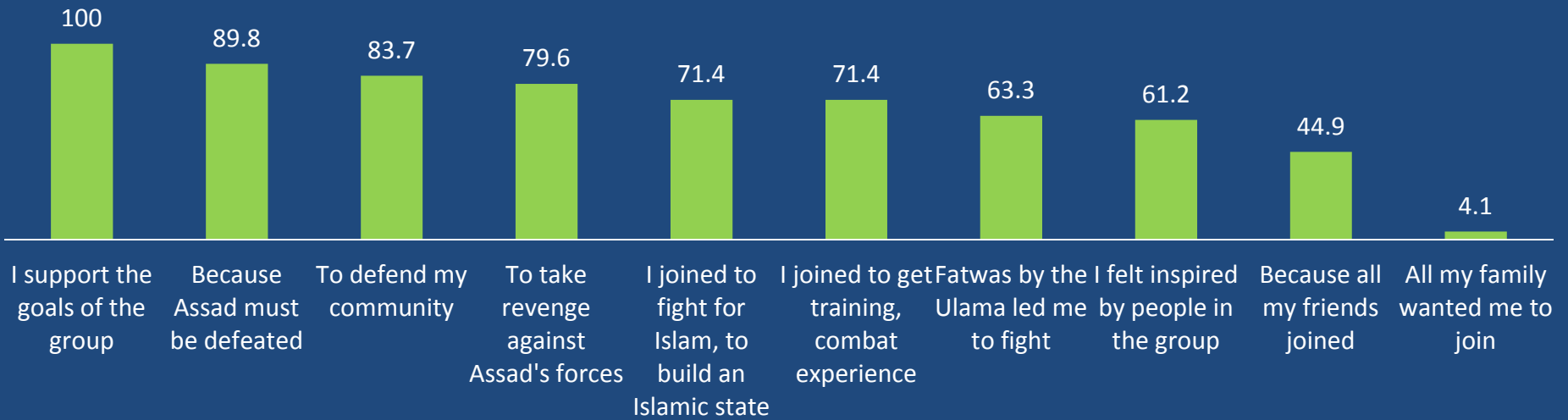
Strongly agree   Somewhat Agree   Somewhat disagree   Strongly disagree



# Rebel Recruitment

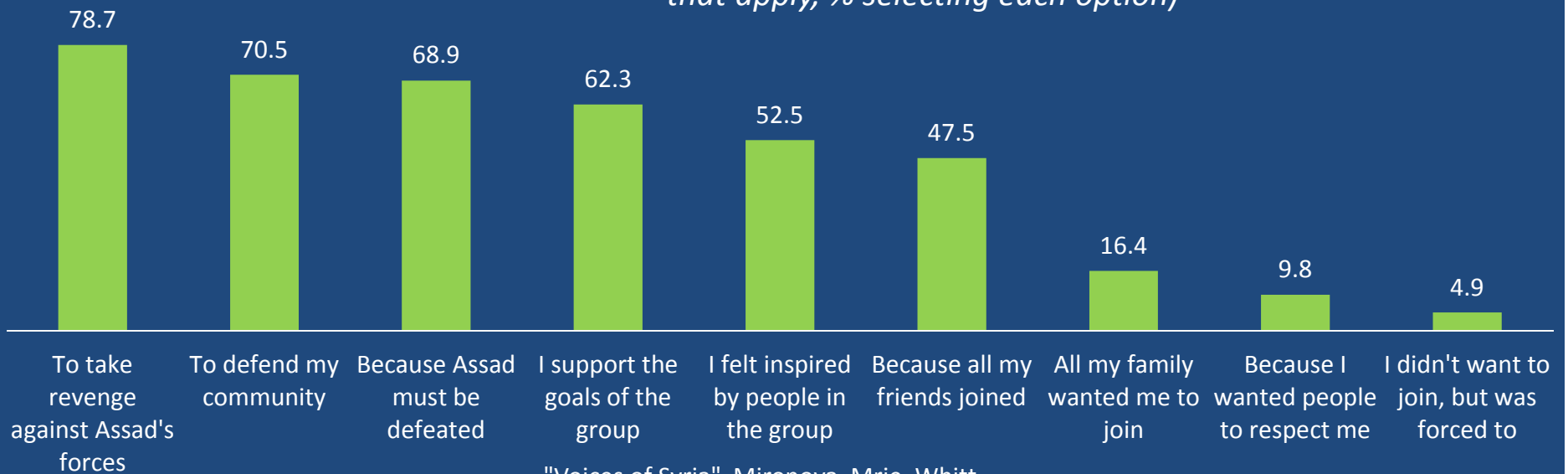
### Reasons Given for Joining Rebel Groups (Islamists)

Q: If you are currently fighting or have fought, why did you join? (select all that apply, % selecting each option)



### Reasons Given for Joining Rebel Groups (FSA)

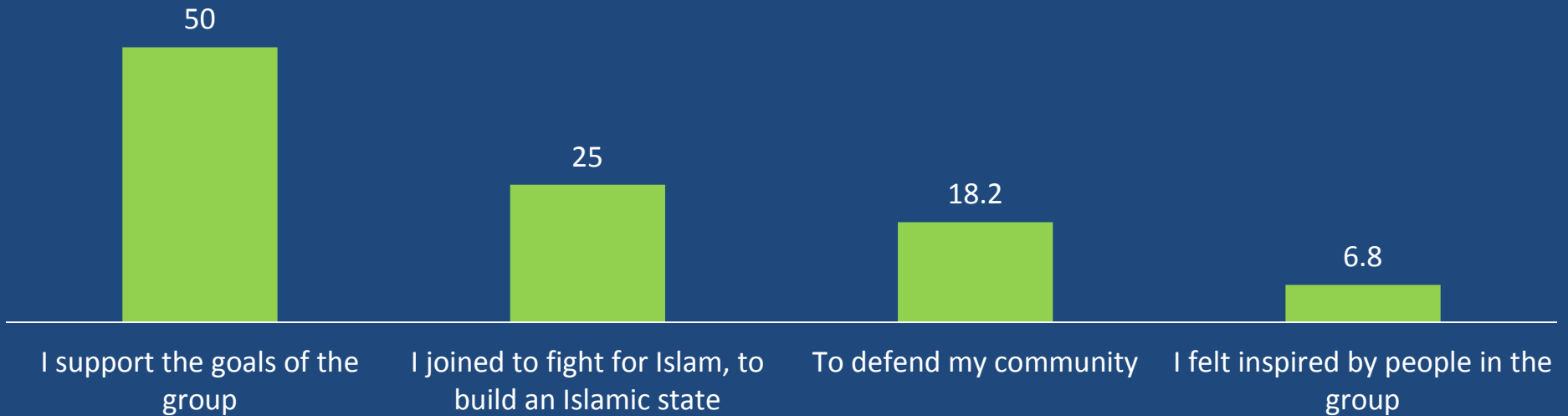
Q: If you are currently fighting or have fought with the FSA, why did you join? (select all that apply, % selecting each option)





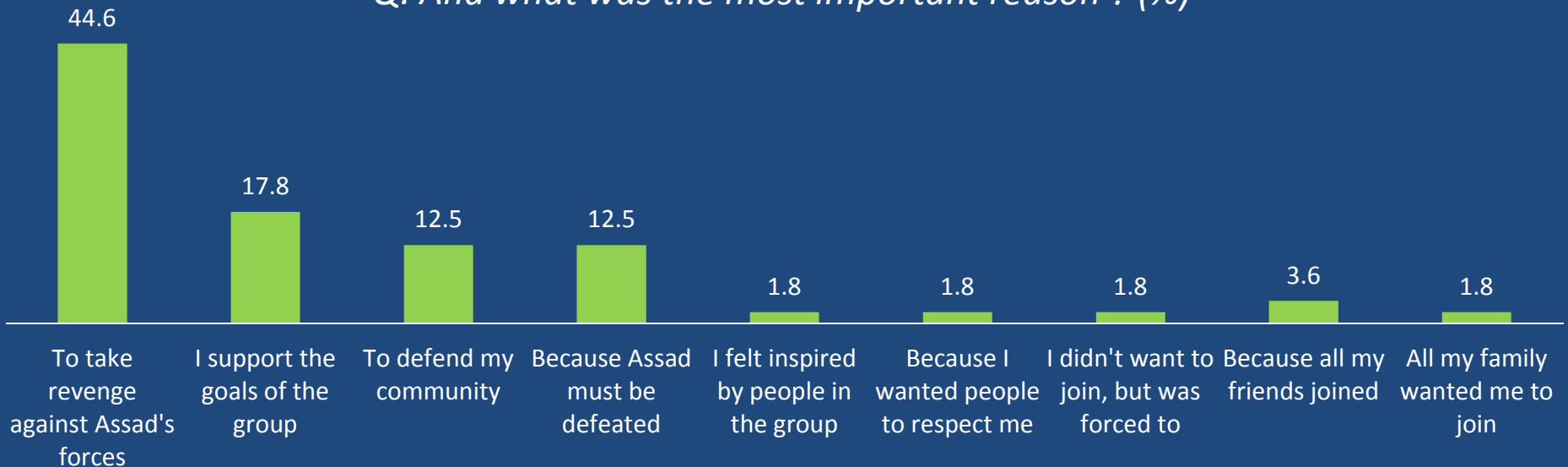
## Main Reason Given for Joining Rebel Groups (Islamists)

Q: And what was the most important reason ? (%)



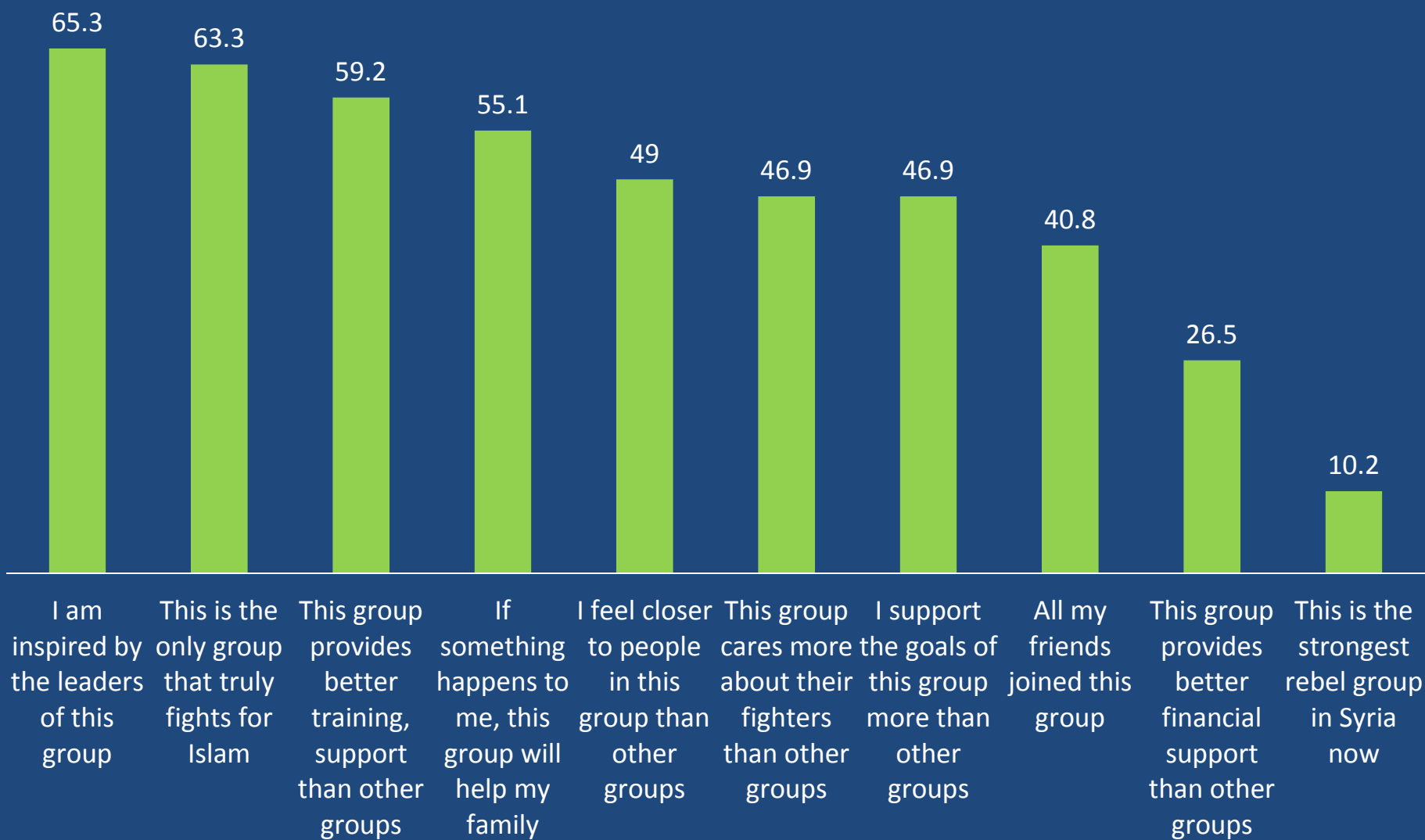
## Main Reason Given for Joining Rebel Groups (FSA)

Q: And what was the most important reason ? (%)



## Reasons Given for not Joining Other Groups (Islamists)

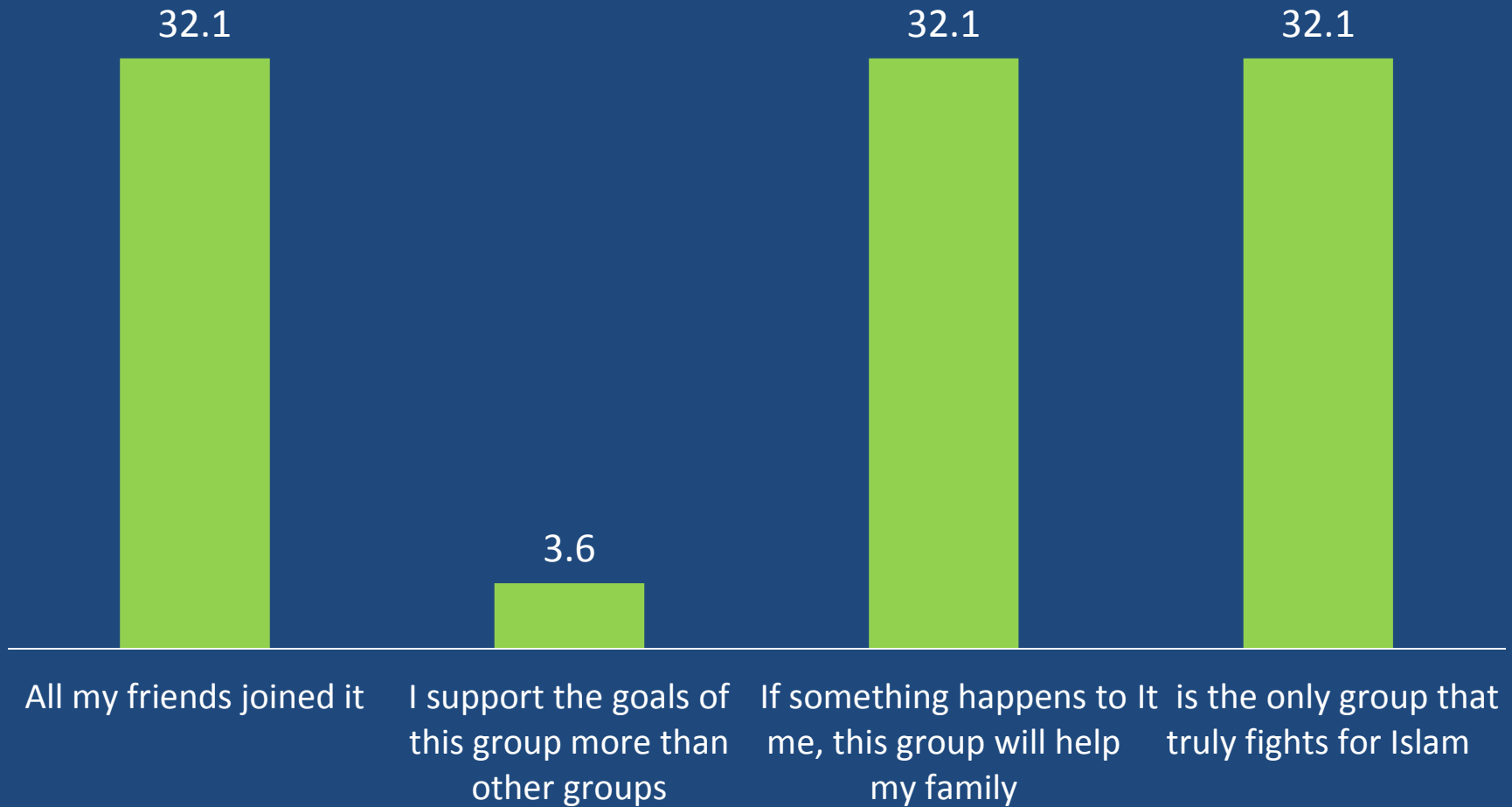
*Q: Why did you join this group as opposed to FSA or other rebel groups?*



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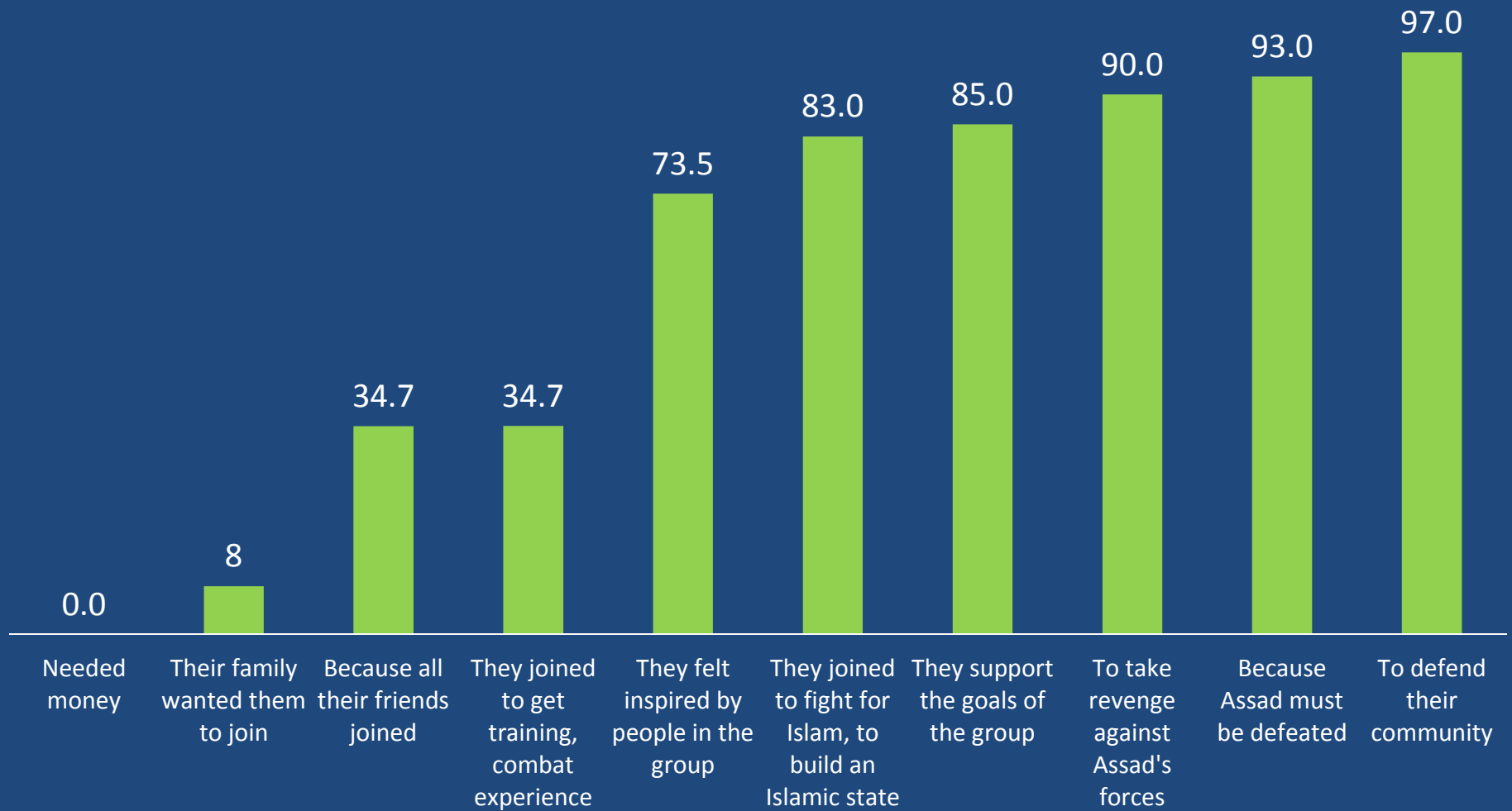
## Reasons Given for not Joining Other Groups (Islamists)

*Q: And what was the most important reason ? (%)*



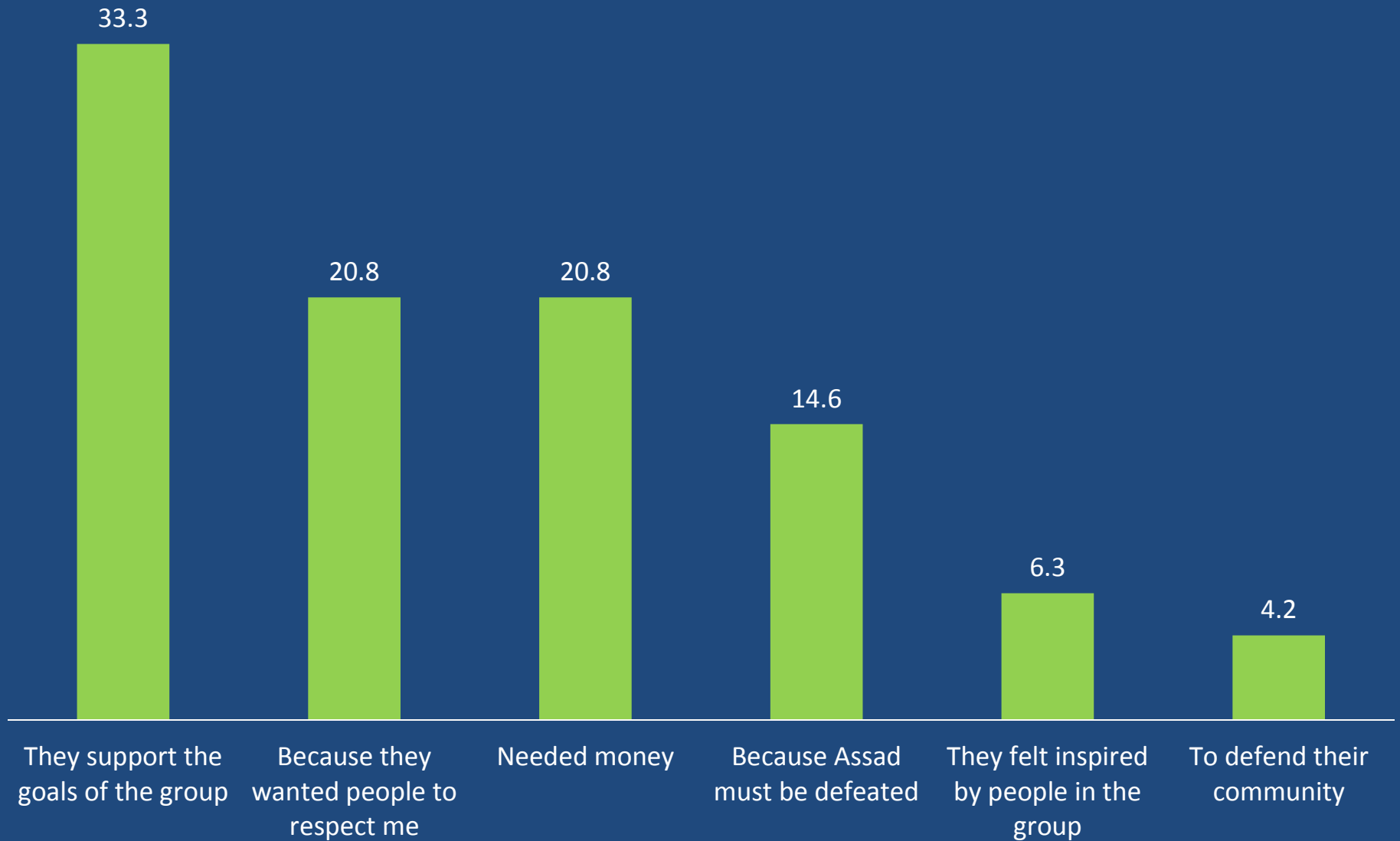
## Reasons Given For Why Others Joined Your Group (Islamists)

Q: Why do you think most people join your group ? (select all that apply, % selecting each option)



## Main Reason Given For Why Others Joined Your Group (Islamists)

*Q: And what was the most important reason ? (%)*

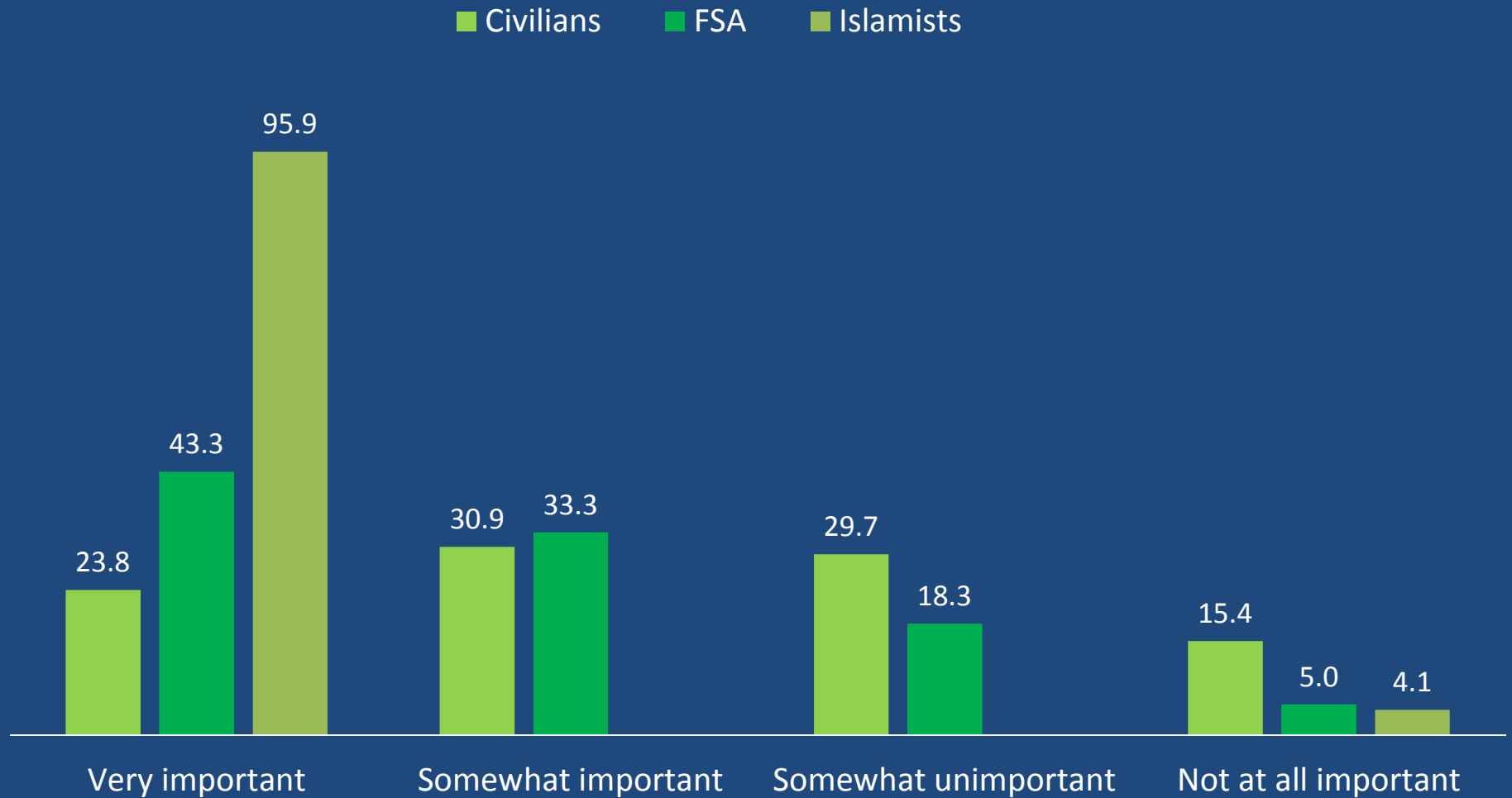


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Religion

## Importance of religion

*Q: In general, how important are your religious beliefs to you in your daily life ?*

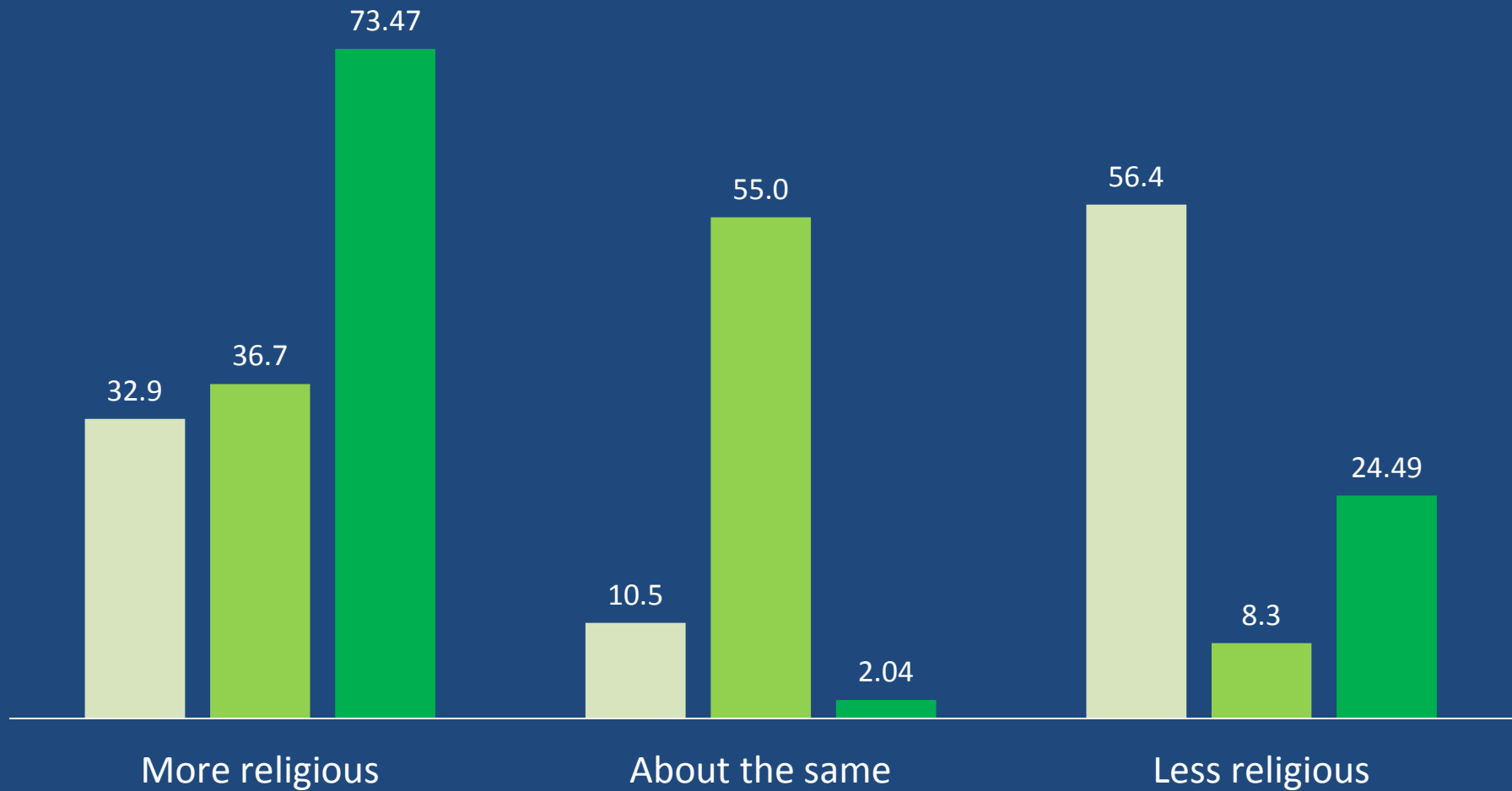


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## Change in Religiosity Since the Beginning of the War

Q: Since the war started do you think you have become more religious, less religious, or are about the same ?

■ Civilian ■ FSA ■ Islamist



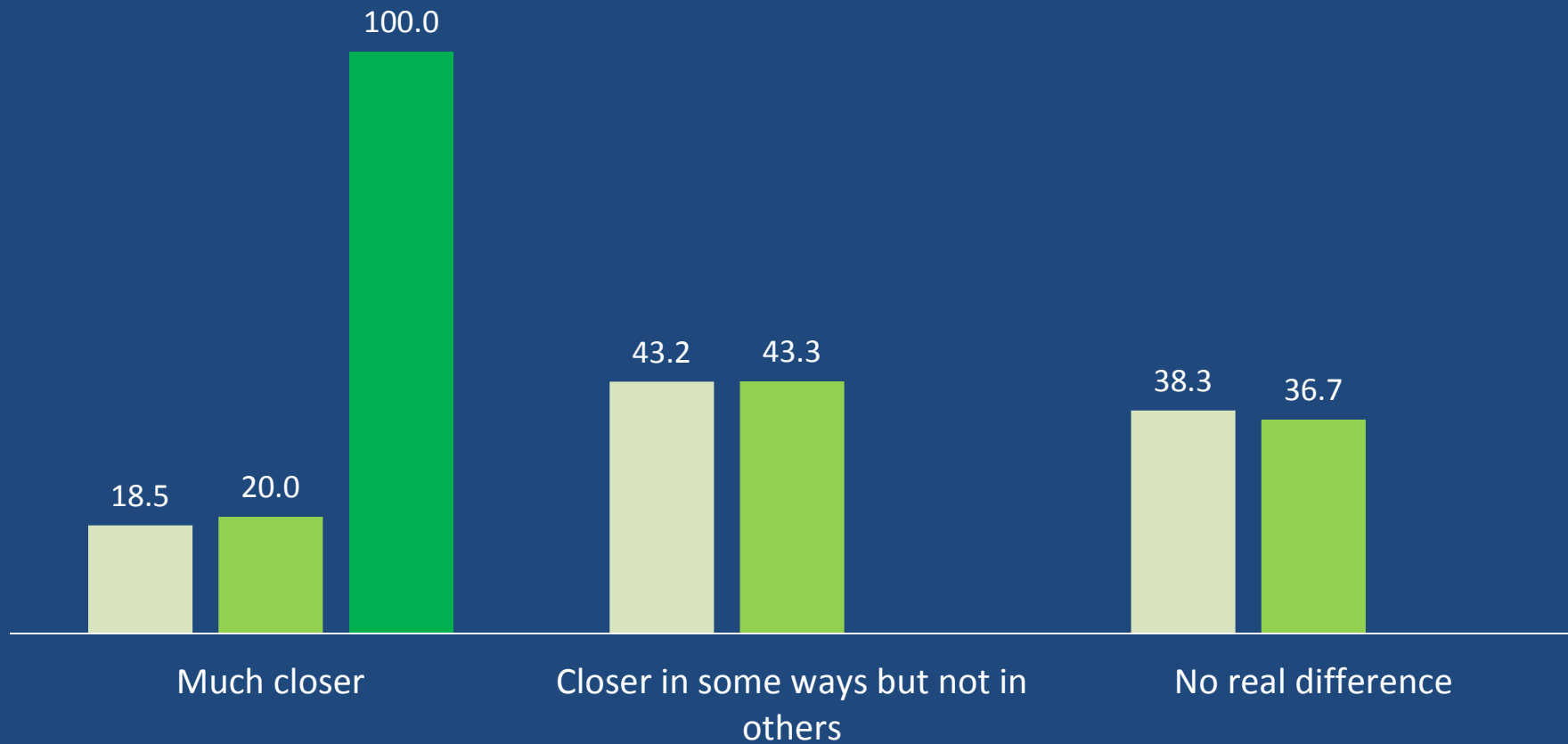
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## Saliency of Sectarian Divisions

*Q: In general, how close do you feel to people of your religion compared to other people in Syria ?*

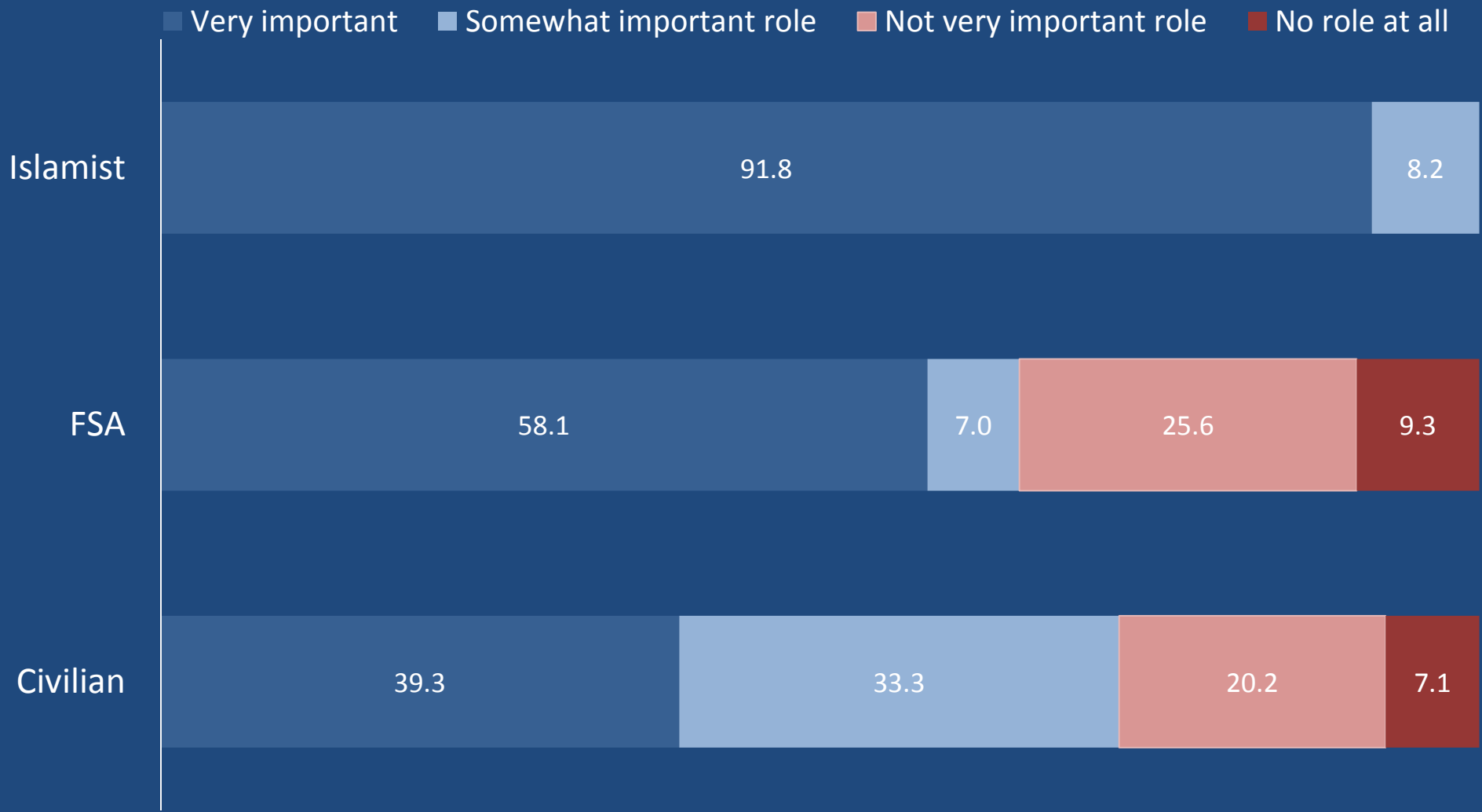
■ Civilian   ■ FSA   ■ Islamist



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## Role of Religion in Syria's Future Politics

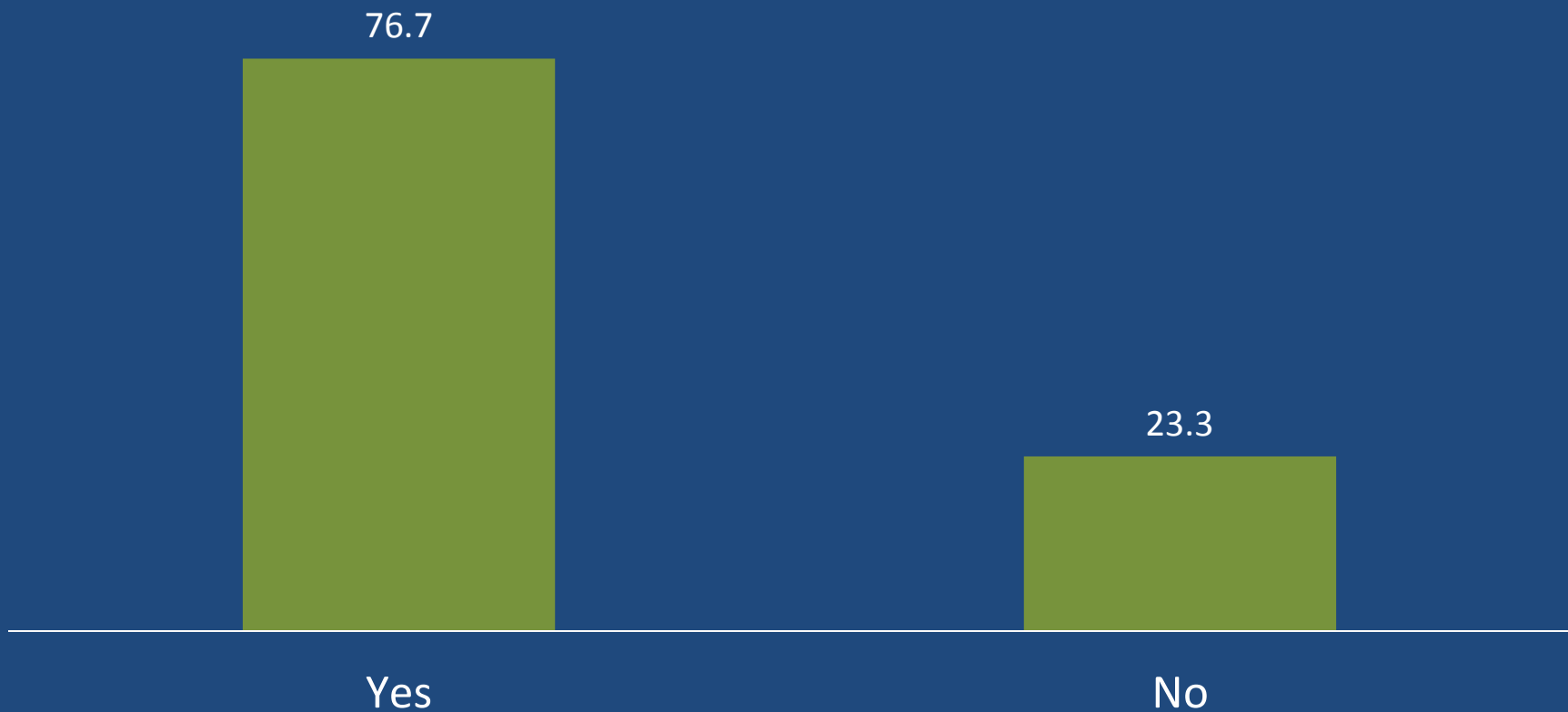
*Q: In your opinion, what role should religion play in Syrian politics in the future ?*



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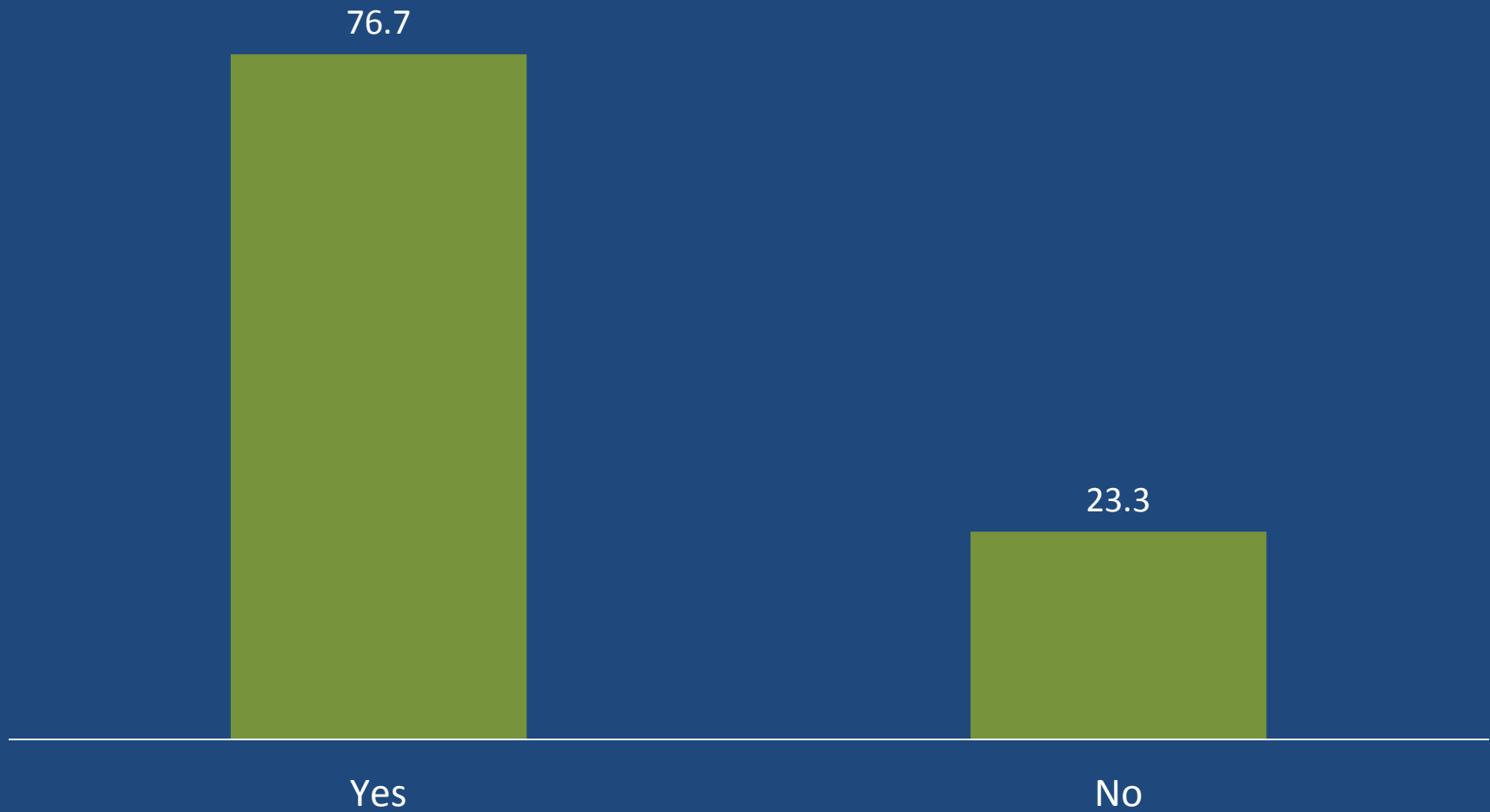
## Jihad and war in Syria (Islamists)

*Q: Do you believe that the war in Syria today is a Jihad according to Islamic law ?*



## Jihad Means Revenge (Islamists)

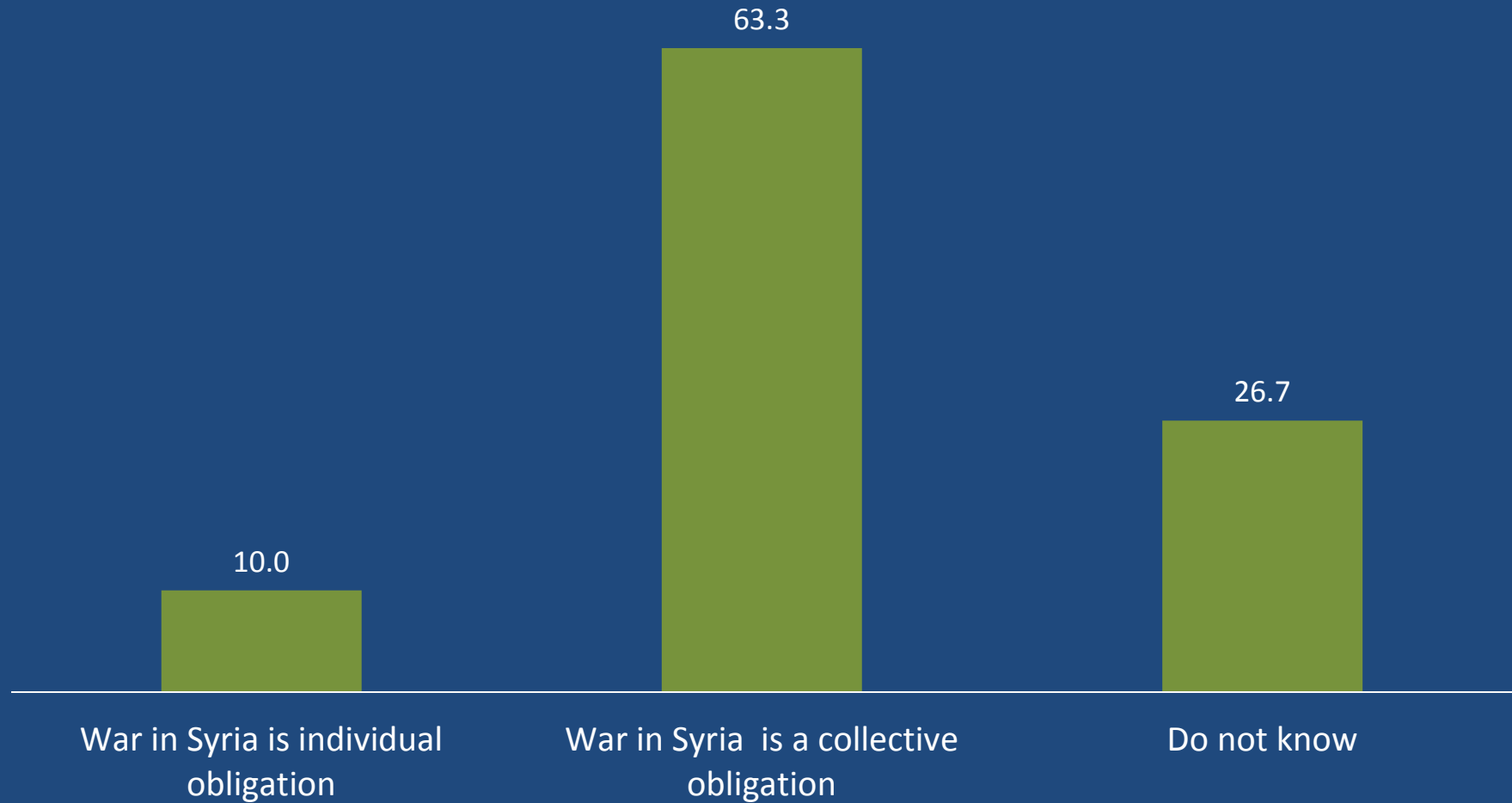
*Q: do you believe that Jihad is in some ways about taking revenge?*



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## Who has to fight in Syria (Islamists)

Q: *Is the Syrian Jihad fard ayin (an individual obligation) or fard kifayya (a collective obligation)?*



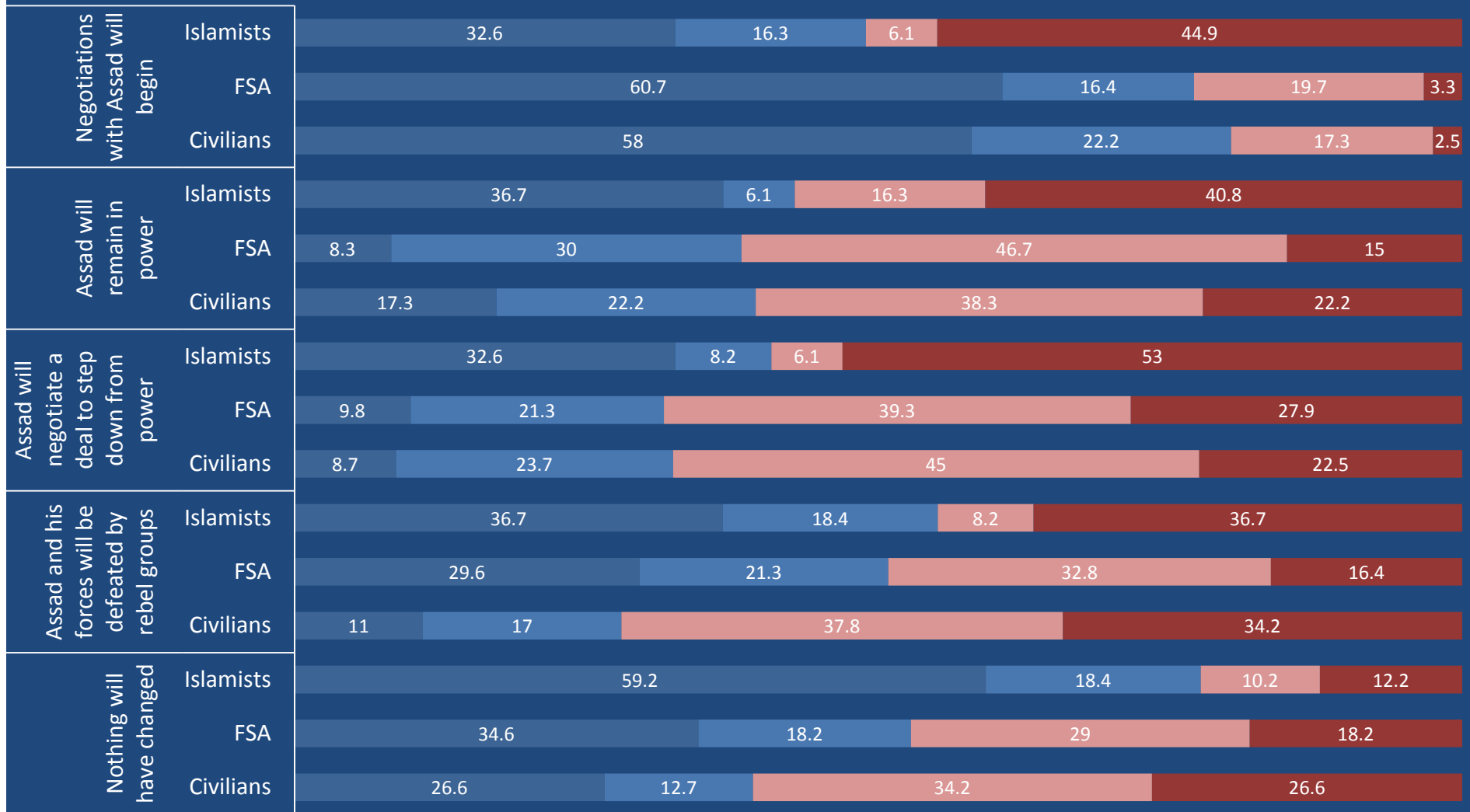
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# Political views

## Future Expectations

Q: How likely the following is to happen within the next year ?

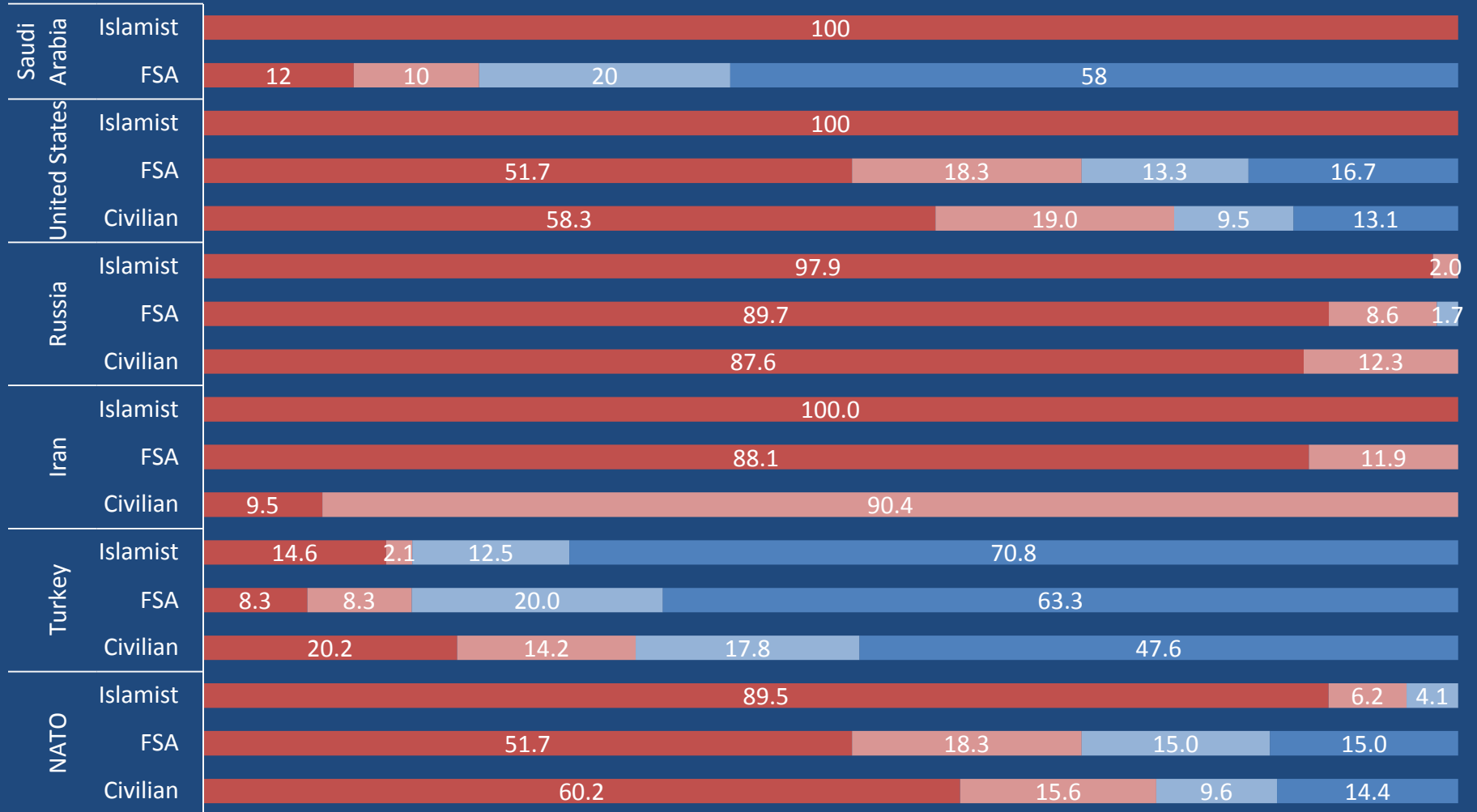
■ Very Likely  
 ■ Somewhat Likely  
 ■ Not Very Likely  
 ■ Not At All Likely



## Views of Other Countries

Q: Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable view of the following:

Very Unfavorable    Somewhat unfavorable    Somewhat favorable    Very Favorable

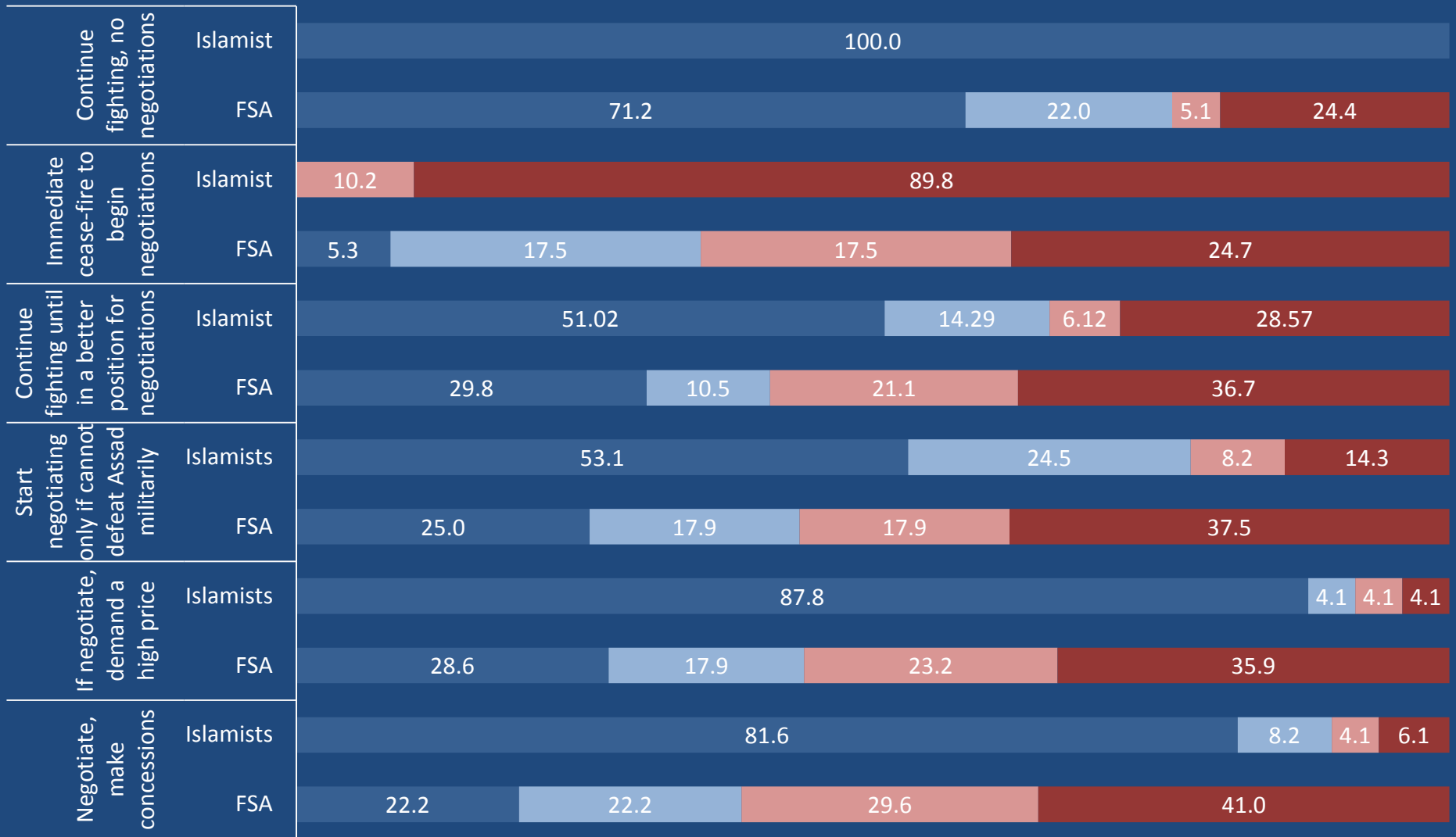




## Views on Negotiations with Assad

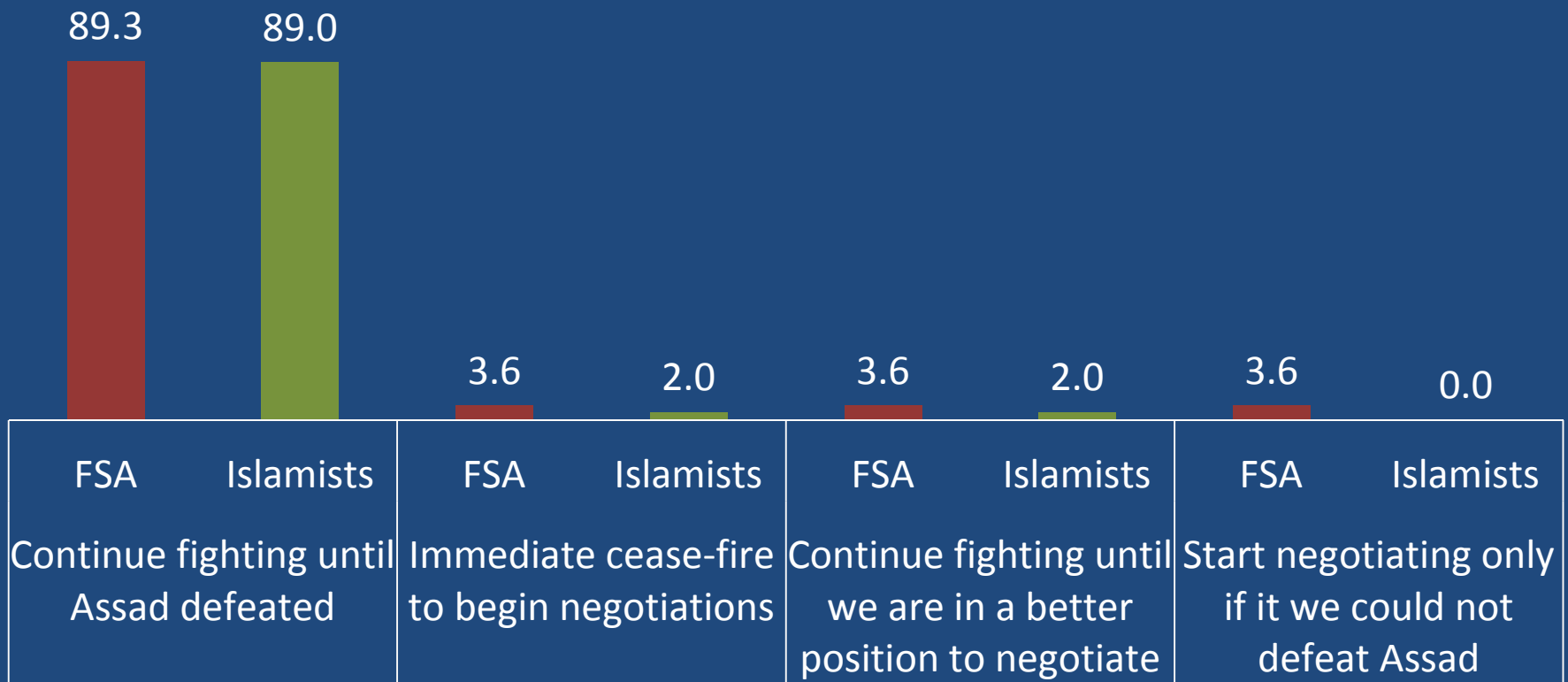
Q: Tell me whether you strongly support, somewhat support, or strongly oppose the following (%)

Strongly support    somewhat support    somewhat oppose    Strongly oppose



## Views on negotiations with Assad

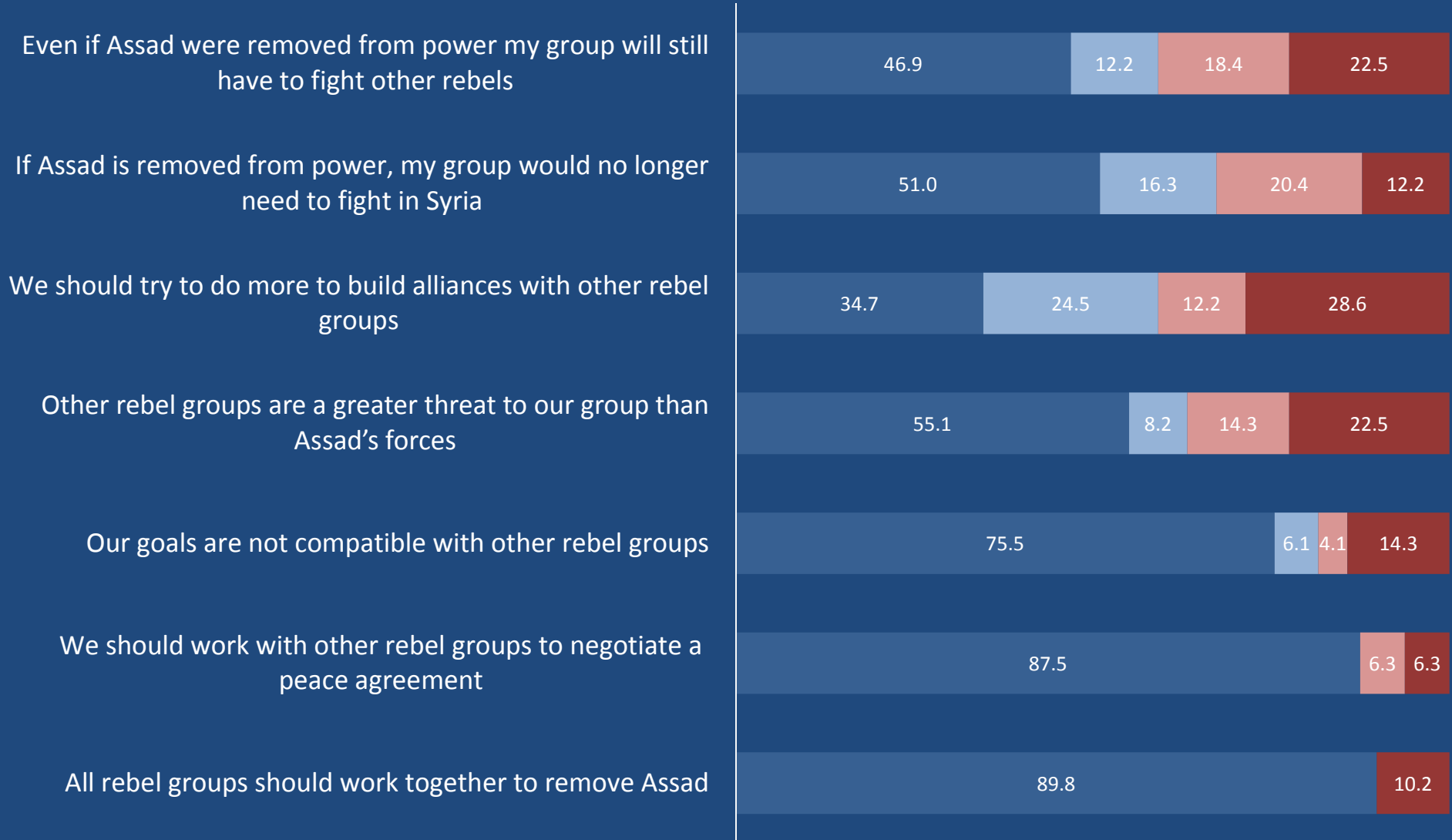
Q: Which of these options do you support the most



## Rebel Groups Cooperation (Islamists)

Q: Please tell me the extent to which you agree with the following statements

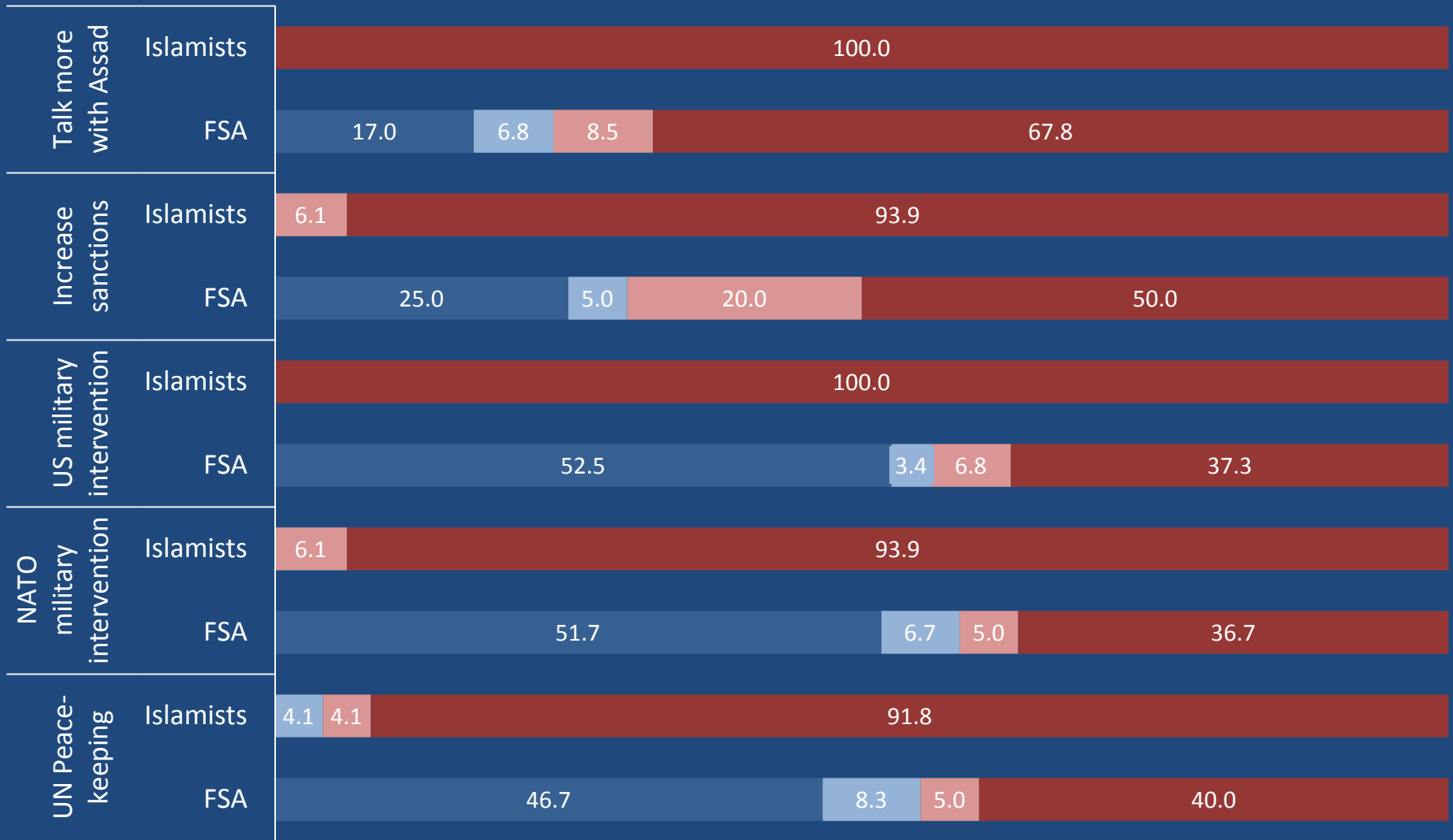
■ Strongly agree   
 ■ somewhat agree   
 ■ somewhat disagree   
 ■ strongly disagree



## Views on Outside Intervention in Syrian Conflict

Q: There is often discussion about the role of what other countries could do to bring an end to the Syrian conflict. To what extent do you support the following? (%)

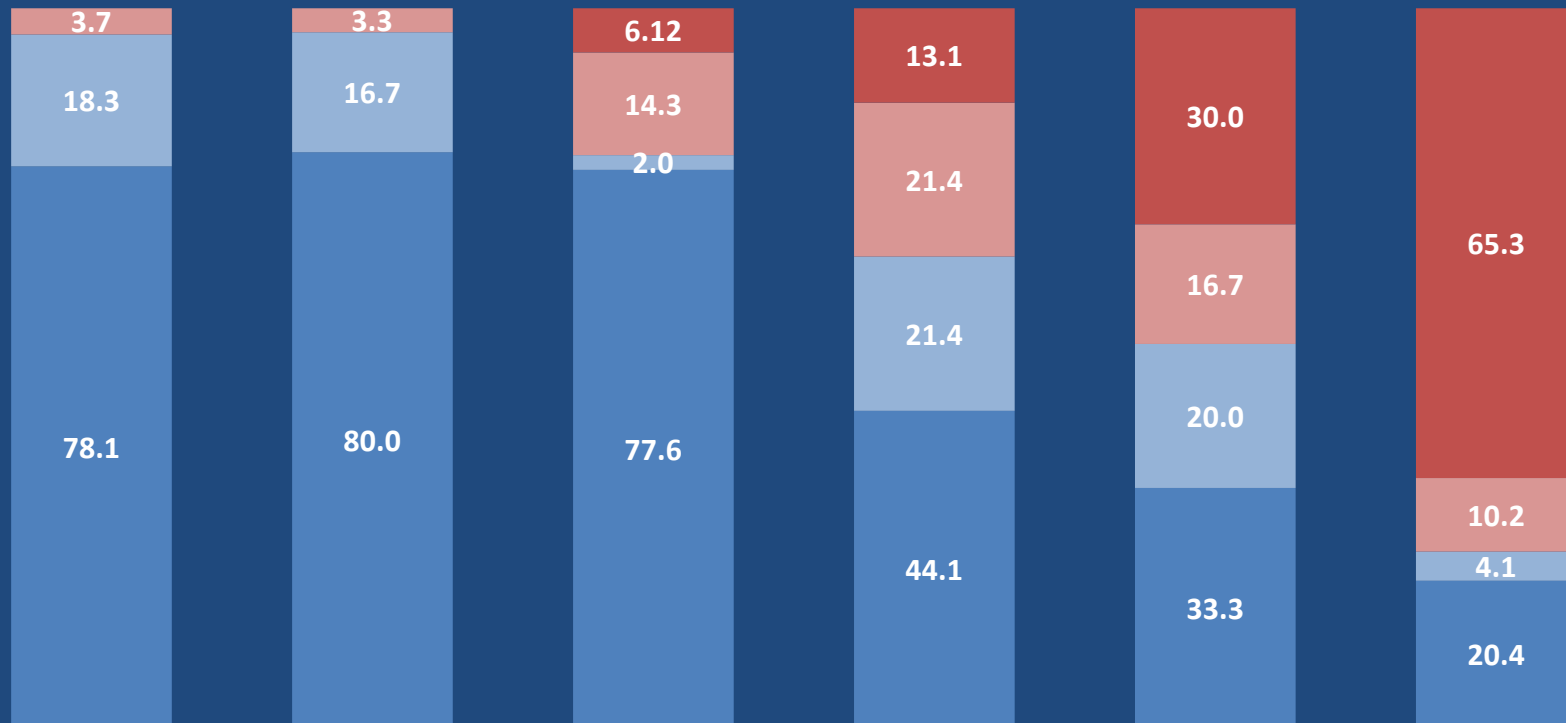
■ Strongly support   ■ somewhat support   ■ somewhat oppose   ■ strongly oppose



## Views on Syrian Unity

Q: To what extent do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree with the following statements

■ Strongly support   
 ■ somewhat support   
 ■ somewhat oppose   
 ■ strongly oppose



Civilians      FSA      Islamists

It is essential that Syria remains a unified state

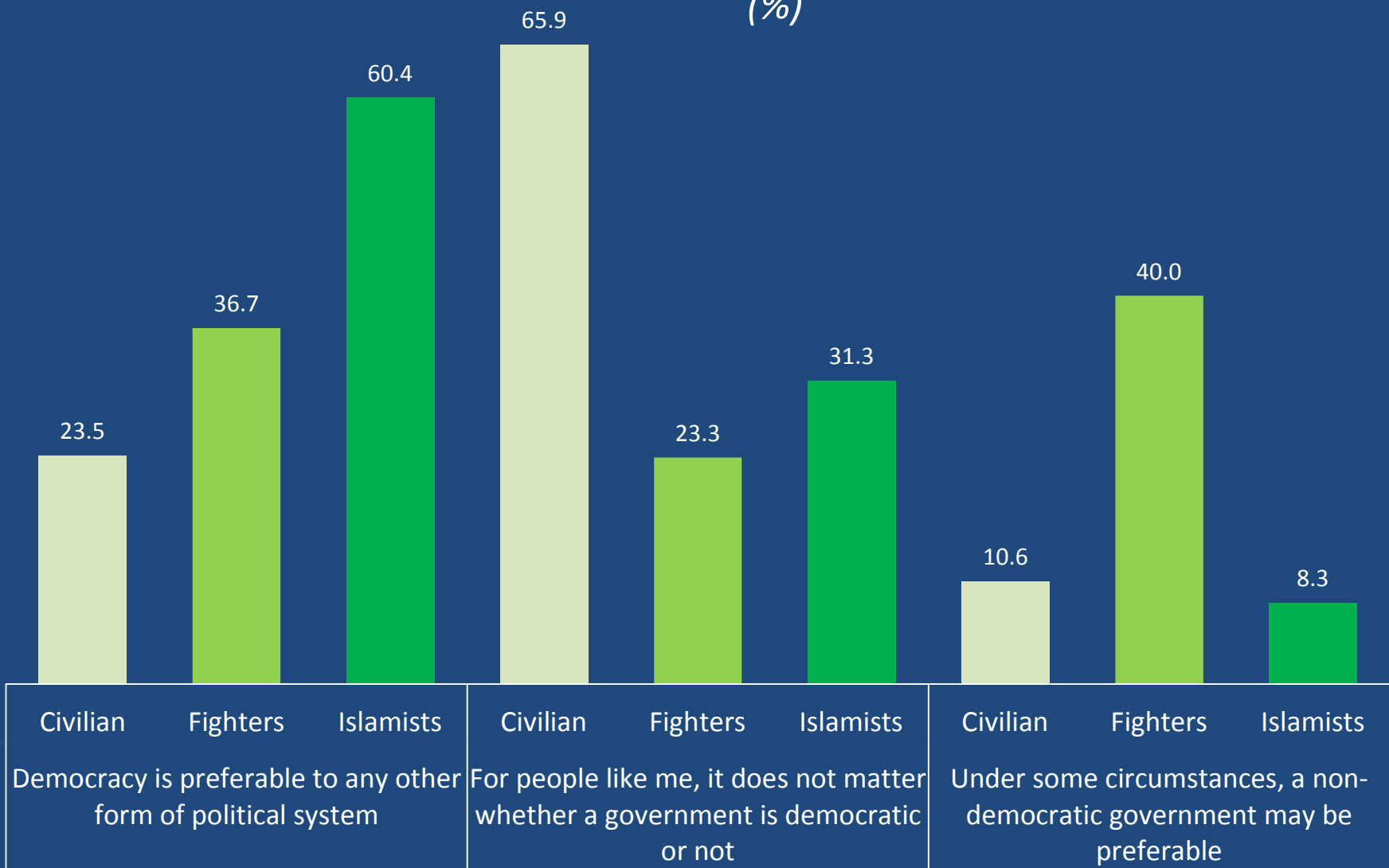
Civilians      FSA      Islamists

Parts of Syria should be allowed more regional autonomy

## Support for Democracy

Q: Which of these two statements comes closer to your own view?

(%)

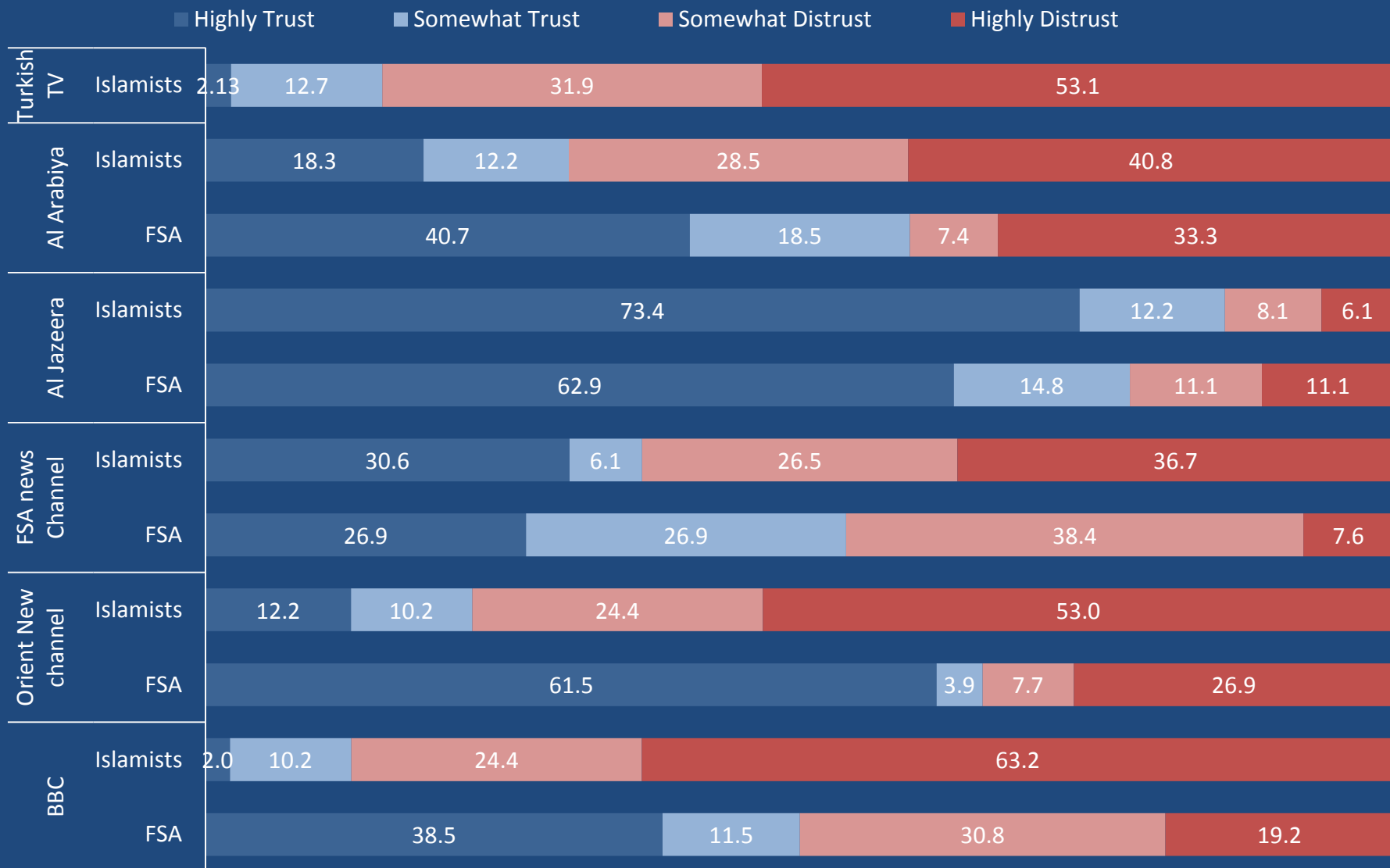


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# Mass Media

## Trust in Major Media Outlets' Syria Coverage

Q: How much do you trust the following news sources for objective reporting about what is happening daily in Syria? (%)



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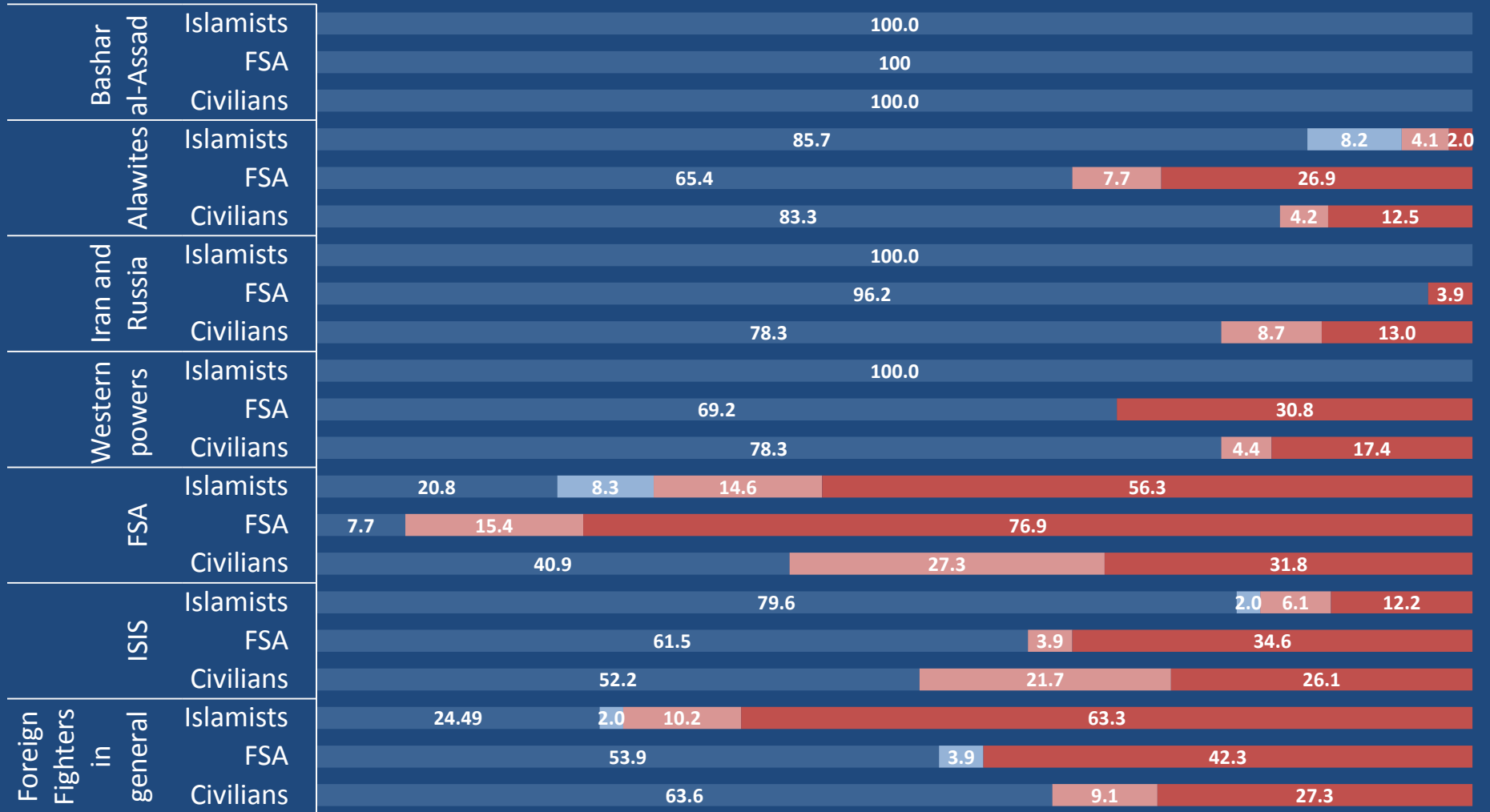


# Assigning Blame for the Conflict

## Assigning Blame for the Conflict

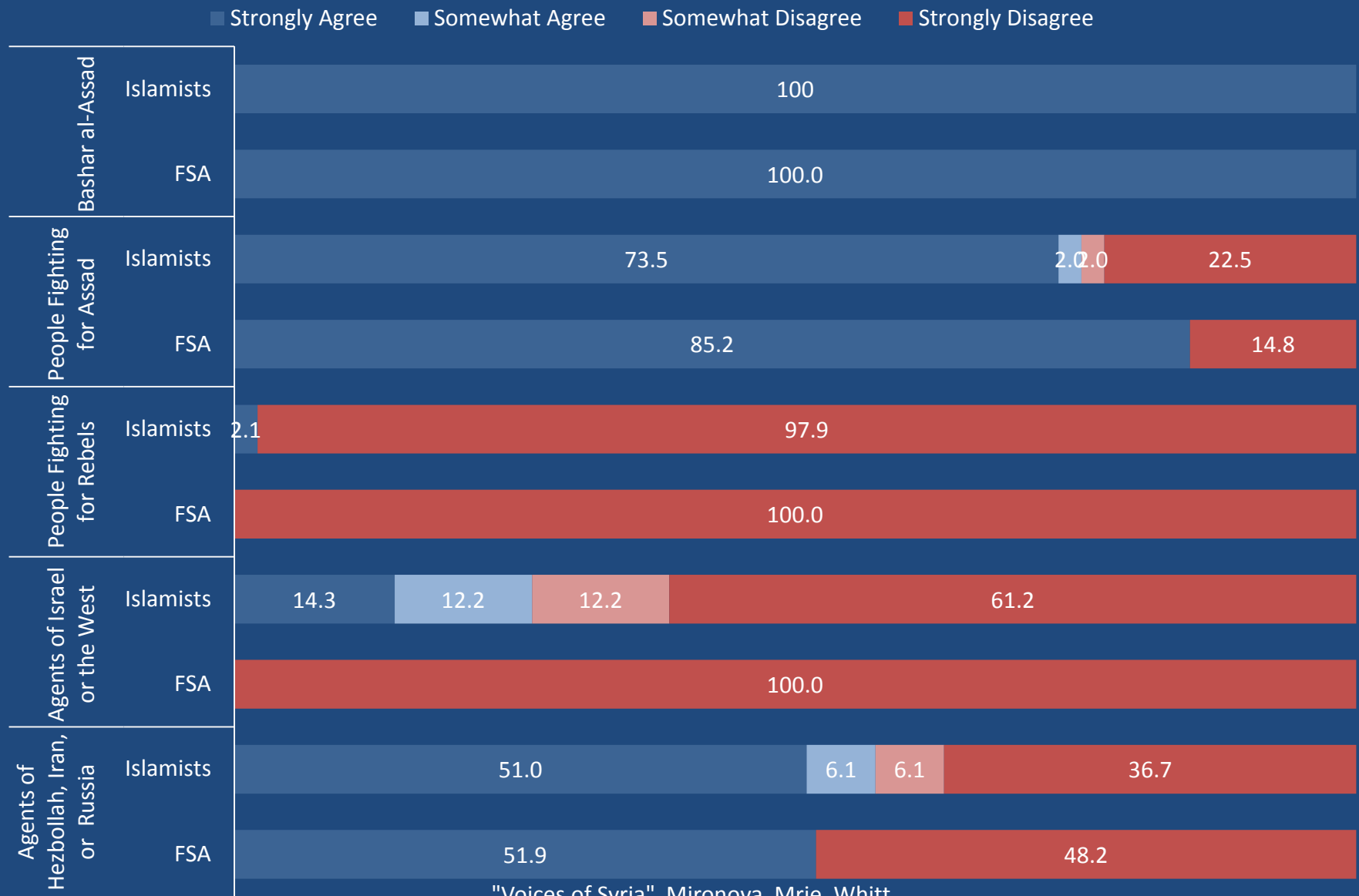
Q: In your opinion, who deserves the blame for the protracted conflict in Syria ?

■ Strongly Agree   
 ■ Somewhat Agree   
 ■ Somewhat Disagree   
 ■ Strongly Disagree



## Assigning Blame for Chemical Weapons Attacks

Q: In your opinion, who is responsible for the chemical attack in Ghouta?

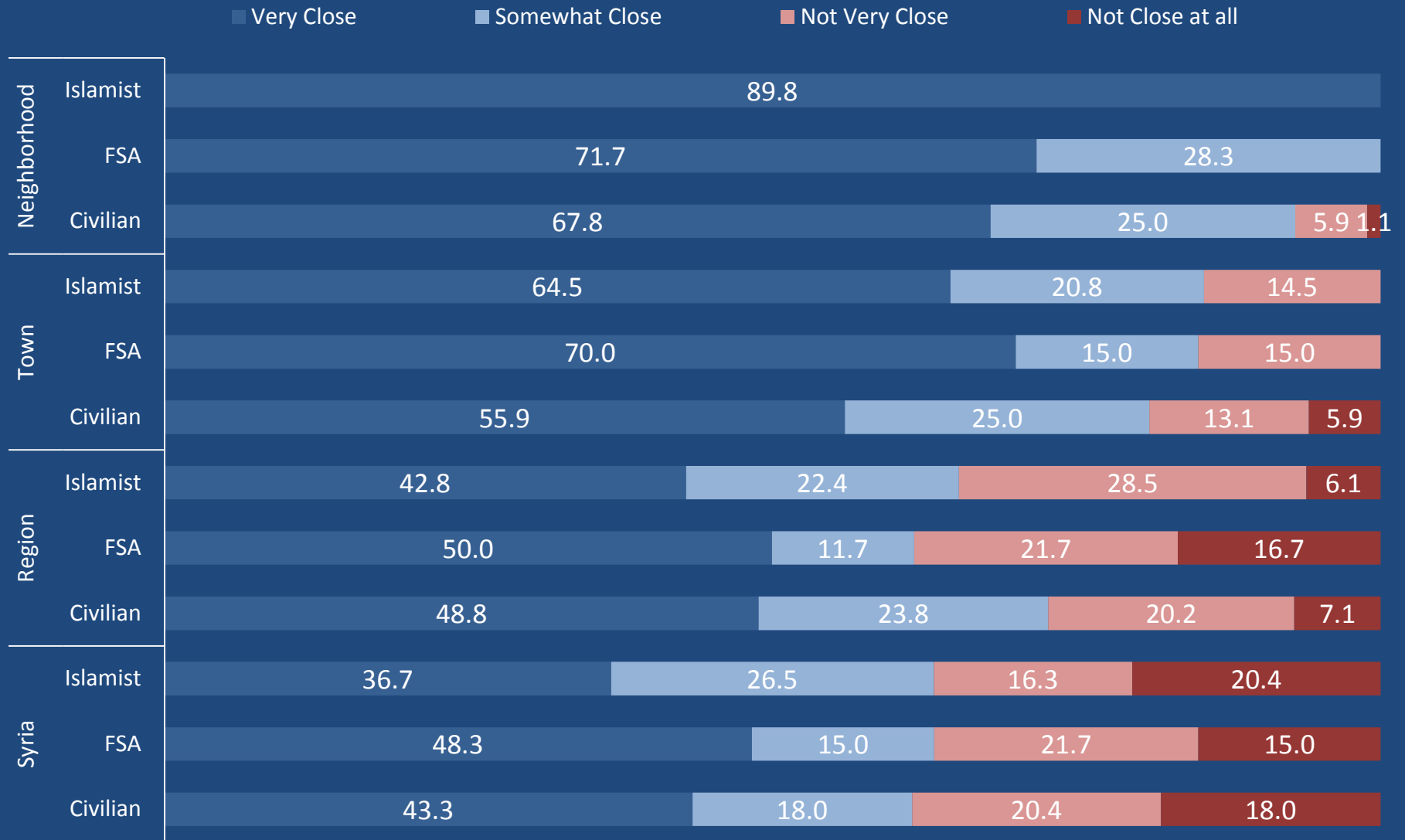


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# Social Capital

## Social Distance by Location

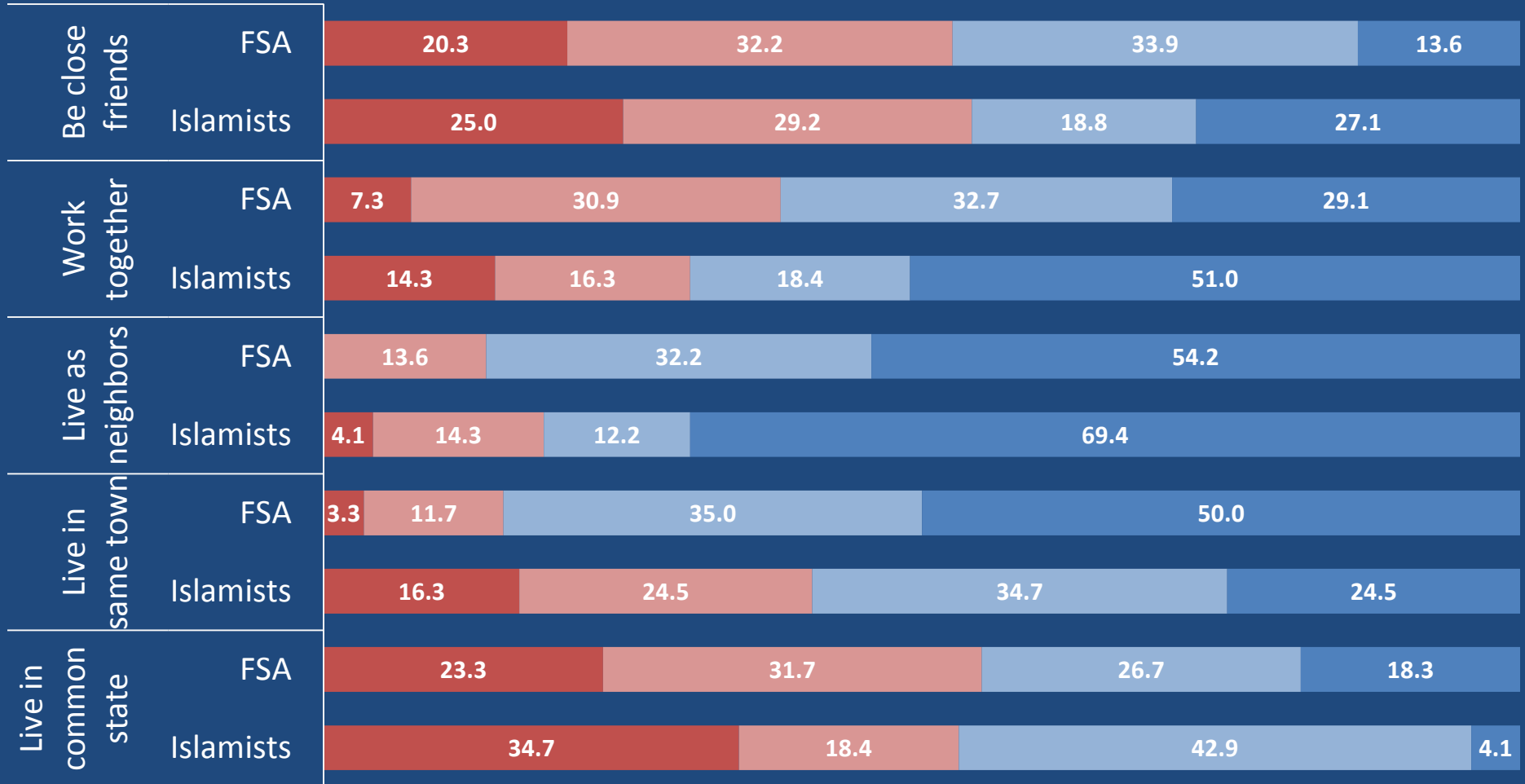
Q: In general, how close do you feel to other people in the following locations ?



## Views on Reconciliation After Violence I

Q: Giving the way things are now, to what extent do you think Syrians on different sides of this conflict will be able to do the following:

Definitely not   Probably not   Probably Yes   Definitely Yes



## Views on Reconciliation After Violence II

Q: Giving the way things are now, to what extent do you think Syrians on different sides of this conflict will be able to do the following:

Definitely not    Probably not    Probably Yes    Definitely Yes

